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House of Representatives

The House met at 10:30 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. COSTA).

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
May 14, 2007.

I hereby appoint the Honorable JIM COSTA to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

NANCY PELOSI,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 4, 2007, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning-hour debate. The Chair will alternate recognition between the parties, with each party limited to not to exceed 30 minutes, and each Member, except the majority leader, the minority leader, or the minority whip, limited to not to exceed 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Washington (Mr. MCDERMOTT) for 5 minutes.

WHAT HAPPENED ON OCTOBER 10, 2006, IN IRAQ?

Mr. MCDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, I rise to call for an explanation and a full accounting from the Department of Defense concerning an attack on Camp Falcon last year. This much is not in dispute: Under cover of darkness on October 10, 2006, Camp Falcon, America's largest military base in Iraq, which is 10 miles south of Baghdad, was attacked by insurgents, and the base was shelled with mortars and rockets. An enemy round struck an ammunition store which triggered massive explosions and huge fireballs that lit up the night sky in Baghdad.

News footage and amateur video were shown on television in the Middle East, and a BBC reporter described the explosions as immense. In the days following the attack, U.S. military officers in Iraq repeatedly said that the damage would not degrade U.S. military capacity and that the attack did not injure or kill anyone at the base.

In a briefing on October 12, 2006, Major General William Caldwell told reporters, ''Very fortunately, no coalition forces or Iraqi security forces were injured, nor civilian casualties that anyone is aware of at this point. We lost some munitions, but took no personnel casualties.'' That is the official line for the military.

But the questions are beginning to surface as to whether the official line is the truth. It was brought to my attention yesterday during a meeting in my congressional office with Mohammed al Deeni, an independent member of the Iraqi Parliament. He came to the U.S. to talk with Members of Congress about the realities of life in Iraq. At my invitation, other Members of Congress joined me in this face-to-face legislative exchange of information. They heard what I am about to share.

During our meeting, I asked Mr. al Deeni if Iraq was so unstable that a terrorist attack could claim a large number of Americans in one attack. As many of us remember, that is what happened in 1983 when a massive terrorist truck bomb struck and killed 241 U.S. Marines in Beirut. I wanted to know if such an attack was possible in Iraq. Without hesitation, Mr. al Deeni said such an attack had already occurred. He said—and others are saying online—that the attack on Camp Falcon killed 300 Americans, wounded another 200 Americans and killed or injured another 200 Iraqis.

The Pentagon says there were no casualties. But a member of the Iraqi Parliament and others claim there were significant casualties. Which story is true? Satellite images, aerial photographs, videos and written accounts that purport to be firsthand can be found online. I will enter into the RECORD a list of some of these sites so that people can see for themselves.

Internet sites which contains video, photographs, or written accounts of the attack on Camp Falcon on October 10, 2006:

http://www.cawa.fr/destruction-du-camp-americain-falcon-explosions-d-armes-a-l-ua-et-ou-d-armes-nucleaires-tactiques-article00913.html.

http://www.dailymotion.com/related/966319/video/xkpjv_base-falcon-irakexplosion-nucleaire/1.

http://abutamam.blogspot.com/2006/10/no-reported-casualties-at-camp-falcon.html.

http://zennobia.blogspot.com/2006/10/al-rashid-falcon-military-bases.html.

Here is one excerpt from a site written after the attack by French journalists: ''Nine big carriers marked by the Red Cross sign transporting the dead and injured were seen by journalists . . . Silence still wraps the whole event from the side of the American military as well as the Bush administration, since there remains only a few weeks before the legislative elections, with a public opinion more and more against the war.''

This happened just before the last elections, and it is unclear as to what happened. I don't know if these stories are credible. But these reports cannot be ignored. If we lost hundreds of U.S. soldiers and other Americans in one attack, Congress and the American people have a right to know about it.

I looked at the videos and the aerial photographs, and the damage appears quite extensive to buildings and military vehicles like tanks. Perhaps American soldiers and others miraculously escaped injury. That would be very good news. Or perhaps we don't know what really happened on the night of October 10, 2006 in an insurgent attack on Camp Falcon.

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The Pentagon should open all of its files to independent journalists. I call for a full accounting as soon as possible. Some are saying there's a cover-up in the military. I say it's time to put all the evidence out in the open.

RECESS

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

Accordingly (at 10 o'clock and 38 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess until noon.

□ 1200

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. CARNAHAN) at noon.

PRAYER

The Reverend Dr. Alan Keiran, Senate Chaplain's Office, Washington, D.C., offered the following prayer:

Lord Almighty, the heavens declare Your handiwork, and the majestic beauty of our world shows forth the splendor of Your creation.

We thank You for the unmerited favor You shower upon us each day. We thank You for family, friends, faith, and freedom. Most of all, we thank You for the sacrifice You made to bring us into Your family and give us eternal life.

O God, I pray today for our Nation's representatives, their families, and staffs. Grant them Your favor and wisdom as they pursue righteous ends and seek our Nation's highest good. Continue to equip them for these challenging times. Give them courageous spirits and eternal insights needed in their service to a grateful Nation.

We lift to You our Nation's law enforcement officers and their families, and we thank You for their tireless service. Bless as well our own Capitol Hill Police Department with Your divine blessing and protection.

You alone, O God, are our rock and our redeemer. May You in Your loving providence move in our midst to make Yourself known. I ask all this in the name that is above every name. Amen.

THE JOURNAL

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

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

Mr. SHADEGG 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.

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, May 11, 2007.

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

DEAR MADAM SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of Rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Clerk received the following message from the Secretary of the Senate on May 11, 2007, at 10:01 a.m.:

That the Senate agreed to S. Con. Res. 29.
That the Senate agreed to H. Con. Res. 68.

With best wishes, I am,

Sincerely,

LORRAINE C. MILLER,
Clerk of the House.

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.

EXTENDING DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA COLLEGE ACCESS ACT OF 1999

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1124) to extend the District of Columbia College Access Act of 1999.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1124

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

SECTION 1. 5-YEAR REAUTHORIZATION OF TUITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS.

(a) PUBLIC SCHOOL PROGRAM.—Section 3(i) of the District of Columbia College Access Act of 1999 (sec. 38–2702(i), DC Official Code) is amended by striking ''each of the 7 succeeding fiscal years'' and inserting ''each of the 12 succeeding fiscal years''.

(b) PRIVATE SCHOOL PROGRAM.—Section 5(f) of such Act (sec. 38–2704(f), DC Official Code) is amended by striking ''each of the 7 succeeding fiscal years'' and inserting ''each of the 12 succeeding fiscal years''.

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

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Illinois.

GENERAL LEAVE

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

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 1124, the District of Columbia College Access Act of 1999, will reauthorize funding for the District of Columbia Tuition Assistance Grant, the DCTAG program, which will help promote higher education for high school graduates in the District of Columbia.

DCTAG provides grants for District high school students to attend public colleges and universities nationwide at in-state tuition rates. Additionally, the bill provides smaller grants for District students to attend private institutions in the D.C. metropolitan area and to attend Historically Black Colleges and Universities nationwide.

The impact of this legislation on the community and in the lives of the students who receive the grants cannot be minimized. DCTAG reaches students and communities where there is no hope of being able to obtain a college education. This is particularly true for many of the students that participate in DCTAG. Fifty-eight percent of the students who participate in the program come from low-income households.

Furthermore, students that participate are attending educational institutions that are known to nurture students of color. Five of the top 10 schools these students attend are HBCUs: Hampton University, Morehouse College, Virginia Union University, St. Augustine's College, and Bennett College.

While students from all races participate in the program and attend over 270 institutions in 47 States, including nationally recognized public institutions like the University of Michigan at Ann Arbor, the University of Illinois, the University of California-Berkeley, and Ohio State University, this program serves a community that is lacking resources for students of color from low-income households.

Mr. Speaker, I want to commend the ranking minority member, Representative TOM DAVIS, and, of course, the distinguished gentlewoman from the District of Columbia for introducing and championing this legislation.

I urge all of my colleagues to support it.

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

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

This bill would simply reauthorize the DCTAG program for an additional 5 years and enable District residents to

continue to attend certain colleges and universities at in-state rates. President Bush, in his budget submission for fiscal year 2008, has included sufficient funds to make this happen. I know that Ranking Member DAVIS, Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, and Ms. NORTON have worked very hard to bring this bill to the floor.

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

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to yield such time as she may consume to the author of this legislation, the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia, Delegate ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON.

Ms. NORTON. I thank the gentleman for yielding, and I certainly thank him for his own hard work and strong support on this bill.

Mr. Speaker, I rise to speak in support of H.R. 1124, the bill that will reauthorize the District of Columbia Access Act of 1999 and extend the District of Columbia Tuition Assistance Grant program, which it authorizes, for an additional 5 years, and, of course, to thank the House for a bill that has afforded higher education to many students who would otherwise have not received it. I especially thank Chairman HENRY WAXMAN and Chairman DANNY DAVIS for facilitating early consideration of this noncontroversial bill on suspension. A very special thanks is particularly due to committee ranking member and co-author TOM DAVIS for his strong and indispensable leadership on this legislation when he was Chair of the full committee and for his continued strong support of DCTAG.

This legislation is already returning unusually large dividends for the Federal investment. DCTAG has increased college attendance of D.C. students by an astonishing 60 percent over 5 years. For the 2005–2006 school year, almost 5,000 students received funding from DCTAG to enroll in 646 universities and colleges in 47 States, the District of Columbia, and the U.S. Virgin Islands. Most of these students are the first in their families to attend college. These documented results represent the city's most important progress toward developing a workforce that can meet the increasing education requirements for employment at average wages in the region. Importantly, this legislation has been instrumental in reversing the steady flight of taxpayers from the District of Columbia, many of whom left the District in order to gain access to lower cost State colleges and universities in the region.

DCTAG acts as a proxy and a substitute for a State university system for the District, which has an open admissions State university, the University of the District of Columbia, but, unlike every State, has no unified system of several colleges and universities. UDC, supported entirely by the city and tuitions of students, is the university of choice for students who must get their education in the District and is itself indispensable to the city, and so much so that I used the opportunity provided by this bill to achieve funded historically black college status for the UDC that the city has long sought for its State university because the University of the District of Columbia is one of the oldest Historically Black Colleges and Universities in the United States. As a result, UDC has received an attractive annual HBCU payment since 1999. However, this bill provides higher education access to young people here equivalent to opportunities available in all the States, rather than only one university, and increases the number of choices necessary to meet today's D.C. student population. Maryland and Virginia, for example, each provide more than 30 different college options to residents. DCTAG provides up to $10,000 annually, which covers State college tuition at most public colleges, or provides up to $2,500 annually to attend private institutions in the city and region.

DCTAG has enjoyed strong bipartisan support since it was created in 1999. The President has shown his confidence in the program by including $35 million for DCTAG in his fiscal year 2008 budget request. The D.C. State Education Office deserves special credit for working diligently and successfully since the bill was enacted to maintain a very solid administration of the program. The District has even moved ahead of the curve to foreclose any future funding shortfalls by engaging in careful planning and calculations, measuring expected demand and costs and has made adjustments in offerings accordingly.

We are particularly grateful to business leaders in the region, led by Donald Graham, chairman of The Washington Post, who was instrumental in helping to convince Congress of the necessity for the bill. Mr. GRAHAM and the business leaders did not stop there, however. They established the College Access Program, which we call CAP, to provide additional financial support.

□ 1215

More important, CAP provides essential guidance and encouragement to students as they reach the critical time decision for college. We are also grateful to CAP for supplying a support network that has helped the District's TAG program receive excellent, excellent retention rates. For example, of the 1,091 DCTAG freshmen in 2001–2002, 72 percent returned as sophomores; of that, 79 percent returned as juniors; 82 percent as seniors, and 77 percent of the seniors graduated. This, I am sure Members recognize, is very enviable retention in college graduate rates compared with others around the country.

CAP's 100 percent private funding by business leaders, most from the region, not from the city, is nothing less than a vote of confidence in DCTAG that I believe is warranted by the legislation's documented results.

It is difficult to think of congressional legislation that has brought such immediate and positive results, or that is more appreciated by D.C. residents. To be sure, our D.C. homebuyer and business tax credits, unique to the District and reauthorized again last year, have had similar measurable and documented effects on increasing homeownership and keeping taxpaying residents and businesses in a city without a State tax base that instead must itself carry many State costs. However, if there are to be homeowners and taxpayers in the District of Columbia in the 21st century, many more of them must have college training.

The economy of this Federal city will always be tied to Federal jobs and jobs related to Federal jobs at the high end. The stability of the Federal sector here has been indispensable to many aspects of the city's economy, but too few of the public and private sector jobs go to District residents. For example, the District continues to be a virtual job machine for the region. The District created 8,500 jobs in the last 12 months, but its unemployment rate remains almost twice the rate in this region. This disparity represents an education and training mismatch that must be eliminated to assume a decent future for the city's young residents.

H.R. 1124 is one of the District's top priorities this year because of the program's proven benefits to the economy of the city and region, and especially to the city's residents and families. Families have been willing to make the necessary sacrifices to meet the costs of large annual increases in State tuition nationwide, even though the amount they receive from TAG has not increased at all and remains a maximum $10,000 annually, and this despite the modest family incomes of most of our students.

This immensely successful and popular higher education program has proven itself over and over again. It would be difficult, indeed, to think of a program that has returned so much to the city and the Federal Government for the modest amount of Federal funding. Of any measure that I will bring before the House this year, H.R. 1124 certainly ranks near the top in deserving continuing support.

I appreciate the strong bipartisan support and the support of the President of the United States that this vital Federal educational assistance program has received, and I ask for the continued support of the House. I believe the results fostered by the program have earned the support.

I strongly urge approval of 1124.

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

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, simply to close, let me just suggest that with more than 500,000 individuals who live in the District of Columbia, and they've only got one public institution of higher education, the University of the District of Columbia, one could really say that this program provides a level of equity that is a level playing field, and somwhat equal opportunity given the fact that it is not

a State. For the young people who live in the District, it is an excellent program. I would urge all of my colleagues to vote in favor of it.

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I've traveled a long road with the District of Columbia Access Act—from March 1, 1999, when it was introduced, until the present day.

That road took us through the predecessor subcommittee I chaired at the time, to the full Government Reform Committee, to the House and Senate floor, and then to the White House, where then-President Clinton signed the measure on November 12, 1999.

In all of its legislative approvals the College Access Act—also known as the Tuition Assistance Grant Program—was passed unanimously, by voice vote. President Clinton had included sufficient money in his budget submission that year, and a statement of administration policy endorsed the approach we had taken in authorizing use of those funds.

I am deeply proud of our hard, bipartisan effort in enacting this measure and in reauthorizing it 2 years ago.

My thanks to ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON, who was ranking member of the District of Columbia Subcommittee in 1999, and who has worked tirelessly to enhance this legislation ever since.

I would also like to thank my then-counterpart in the Senate, GEORGE VOINOVICH, for his continuing support, and Senators WARNER and DURBIN for working with us to improve this legislation.

I'm also grateful to my namesake Chairman DANNY DAVIS, chairman of the subcommittee, for holding a hearing on this bill March 22, ranking subcommittee member KENNY MARCHANT for his support, and Chairman WAXMAN for marking this bill up so expeditiously.

The 5-year reauthorizing legislation before us today will enable District residents to continue to attend colleges and universities at in-State rates. President Bush, in his budget submission for fiscal year 2008, has included sufficient funds to make this happen.

Then-Mayor Anthony Williams and now D.C. Mayor Adrian Fenty have both strongly supported this law as being very important for District high school graduates. The Tuition Assistance Program has doubled the total number of District students attending college since 1999–2000, the school year before the program started. We have incentivized getting a college education.

This law is a classic ''leveling of the playing field.'' No city or county in the country is required to supplement in-State rates with local funds, and neither should the taxpayers in the Nation's capital be saddled with this burden. Neither should the city be penalized for its own success in administering this program.

Back on March 4, 1999, when I first introduced this bill, I went to nearby Eastern High School with Ms. NORTON. I was deeply moved by the reaction of the students. I will never forget how so many took our hands, looked into our eyes, and thanked us for introducing the original bill.

I'm proud of all we have been able to do in the Nation's capital since 1995, when the city was literally bankrupt. Economic development, public safety, the real estate market, and so many other aspects of city life have changed for the better.

But nothing has given me more satisfaction than working to improve educational opportunity. Fighting for equal educational opportunity is one of the reasons I entered public life.

We need a healthy city to have a healthy Washington region.

Reauthorizing this law, which has expanded higher educational choices, is a strong part of our vision for the future.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. 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 Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1124.

The question was taken.

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

Mr. WESTMORELAND. 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 A NATIONAL DAY OF REMEMBRANCE FOR MURDER VICTIMS

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 223) supporting the goals and ideals of a National Day of Remembrance for Murder Victims.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 223

Whereas the death of a loved one is a devastating experience, and the murder of a loved one is exceptionally difficult;

Whereas the friends and families of murder victims cope with grief through a variety of support services, including counseling, crisis intervention, professional referrals, and assistance in dealing with the criminal justice system; and

Whereas the designation of a National Day of Remembrance for Murder Victims on September 25th of each year provides an opportunity for the people of the United States to honor the memories of murder victims and to recognize the impact on surviving family members: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) supports the goals and ideals of a National Day of Remembrance for Murder Victims; and

(2) recognizes the significant benefits of the organizations that provide services to the loved ones of murder victims.

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

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Illinois.

GENERAL LEAVE

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

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

There was no objection.

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

As a member of the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, I am pleased to join my colleague in the consideration of H. Res. 223, which supports the goals of a National Day of Remembrance for Murder Victims.

H. Res. 223, which has 59 cosponsors, was introduced by Representative JOHN SHADEGG from Arizona on March 7, 2007. H. Res. 223 was reported from the Oversight Committee on May 1, 2007 by a voice vote.

Mr. Speaker, in 2005, there were 16,692 murders and nine negligent manslaughters reported in our Nation. This is obviously too many murders. And so I support the National Day of Remembrance for Murder Victims and recognize all organizations that provide services, such as support, guidance and counseling, to the loved ones and friends of murder victims.

It is important that this day is not just a remembrance of those who tragically lost their lives, but a call to action. While some of us have not experienced acts of violence, we share responsibility to people who have lost their loved ones to murder. We should always reflect the moral virtues of respect and caring and sharing with one another, regardless of one's race, creed and national origin.

Of course, we remember the recent incidents that have just occurred at the university in Virginia. I also remember in my own neighborhood, where just last week a young man was killed on a bus. He turned out to be an absolute hero because he actually put himself in front of another student who was about to be shot. And of course that community and that family still grieves. So I urge that we all remember murder victims and their families by getting involved in our homes, communities, schools and businesses to prevent violence.

Mr. Speaker, I commend my colleague, Representative SHADEGG from Arizona, for seeking to honor the memories of murder victims and recognize the impact on surviving family members.

I urge swift passage of this bill.

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

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

With the recent tragedy of Virginia Tech fresh in our minds, we take this time to remember the many victims of needless violence in our country.

The devastation of families, victims and entire communities in which these tragedies occur is beyond calculation. Too often, victims' loved ones are left alone with their loss and feel overwhelmed with the devastating experience that has altered their lives forever.

No one should have to cope with that loss alone. In such crushing times as these, families and friends look for sources of strength to sustain themselves. They also need ongoing support in dealing with the criminal justice system, which can be especially overwhelming during this period of grief.

The need for sources of strength are often found through a variety of support services, including counseling, crisis intervention, professional referrals and assistance in dealing with the criminal justice system. These organizations play an essential role in preserving the memories of victims of murder.

After the story of the murder fades, victim's family and friends are often left to cope without their loved ones alone. Thankfully, these counseling organizations provide the necessary support to the families and friends of murder victims so they can continue with their daily lives.

These personal assaults on our citizens are also an assault on all of us. We must remain diligent in our efforts to curb violence. Our murder rate in this country is simply too high. People watch television, movies and play video games where murder is often glorified. Many of our youth engage in pastimes where they are exposed to violence at an early age. However, there is no age where it should be appropriate to introduce murder into anyone's life.

It is incumbent upon all of us to recognize the selfless support groups in our communities who work tirelessly to help the thousands of friends and families of murder victims in this country every year. For these reasons, Mr. Speaker, I urge all my colleagues to join me in supporting H. Res. 223.

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

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

Mr. WESTMORELAND. Mr. Speaker, I yield as much time as he may consume to my distinguished colleague from Arizona (Mr. SHADEGG).

Mr. SHADEGG. I thank the gentleman for yielding and I thank my colleague from Illinois for his strong words of support.

I rise today in support of H. Res. 223, a resolution supporting the goals and ideals of a National Day of Remembrance for Murder Victims.

I want to thank the gentleman from Illinois and the gentleman from Georgia for their support, as well as the chairman of the full committee and the ranking member of the full committee.

This legislation is in fact very important to very many Americans; indeed, to, sadly, too many Americans.

I, along with my colleague, Mr. CHABOT of Cincinnati, Ohio, introduced this resolution on behalf of murder victims and their families across our Nation. H. Res. 223 does two simple things. First, it recognizes the many organizations that provide services to the loved ones of murder victims. As the two speakers before me have acknowledged, a victim of crime suffers greatly over and over again, and there are many organizations across our country that help them. The second thing this resolution does is it supports the establishment and urges the establishment of a National Day of Remembrance for Murder Victims to be held on September 25th of each year.

I noted that in our prayer today we were called upon to thank God for our loved ones and our families. This bill is very much about those loved ones and those families who are left behind when a murder is committed and someone is taken from us as a result of violence.

On September 25, 1978, 19-year-old Lisa Hullinger was murdered by her boyfriend. Three months after her death, her parents formed the National Organization of Parents of Murdered Children, headquartered in Cincinnati, Ohio. Parents of Murdered Children earnestly advocates for the thousands of parents who have lost a child as a result of violence. Parents of Murdered Children is one of many organizations that do this work, that help the friends and that help the families to try to cope with the loss of a loved one.

Other organizations include the National Organization for Victim Assistance, Mothers Against Drunk Driving, as well as the National Crime Victim Law Institute. Each of these organizations plays a vital role, and there are so many others. This resolution not only honors Parents of Murdered Children, but all of the similar organizations providing support and assistance to the loved ones of murdered victims.

Mr. Speaker, since the introduction of this resolution I have received countless e-mails from all across the country, not just from my district, but from everywhere: from mothers, fathers, brothers, sisters, husbands, wives and children of murder victims.

□ 1230

All of them have contacted me to say how much they appreciate what the United States House of Representatives is doing for them today. This legislation is indeed important.

We all know that there are established days of remembrance for many dark days in our Nation's history. There is, of course, one for 9/11. There is another one for the day of the Oklahoma City bombing. These were both solemn times in our Nation's history, and yet people are murdered every single day.

On 9/11, almost 3,000 Americans were brutally murdered. It is worth noting that every 10 weeks in this Nation, another almost 3,000 Americans are murdered. That is why I believe we need to establish a day that not only honors them and recognizes them, but also recognizes and honors the victims they leave behind, the family members, the fathers, the sons, the daughters, all of the others who suffer so much.

Each of us has a list of tragedies that we know of personally. My colleague from Illinois recited several. There are way too many.

I cannot rise today without thinking of Duane Lynn and his wife, Nila. Duane and Nila lived in a retirement community in north Phoenix after Duane retired from the Arizona Highway Patrol. One day they chose to attend a homeowners' association meeting in their neighborhood. Tragically, a killer walked into that meeting and senselessly murdered Nila. Nila died in Duane's arms. That was a crushing blow to him and a pain that he suffers every day.

But Duane took that negative pain and became an advocate for other victims. With his help, this Congress passed the Scott Campbell, Stephanie Roper, Wendy Preston, Louarna Gillis, Nila Lynn Crimes Victims Act of 2004.

I also think of Sally Goelzer, whose brother, Hal, was murdered in a gang initiation killing. Sally took the pain of that incident and went to work to fight for tougher laws against gangs and against gang killers.

I am also reminded of the incredible story of Colleen Campbell and her tireless work on behalf of victims, as well as that of her husband, Gary. Colleen tragically has lost not one family member, but three family members on three separate occasions to murder.

First, her son, Scott, was murdered. Then later her brother, well-known and famous in America for his work in auto racing, Mickey Thompson, was murdered. And then still later, her sister-in-law, Trudy Thompson, was murdered.

Colleen has spent 22 years in and out of various courtrooms in America dealing with the pain inflicted upon her by the murder of these three loved ones. Again, she has turned that negative pain into being a tireless advocate for victims and for victims rights. She was essential to the creation of victims rights legislation in California and she established Force 100, one of the earliest advocates for victims' rights across this Nation. Force 100 sought to create organizations in every single State in America to advocate for victims of crime.

There are so many stories. There are too many stories. But these victims and their courageous survivors need to know that we in the Congress, and we as a Nation, remember their tragedy and their courage.

Today, this Congress, this House, can do its part. We can say that too many of us have been affected by the horrors of murder, by passing this simple, yet very important, resolution, acknowledging that murdered individuals are not the only victims; that those left behind to cope with the loss on a daily basis are victims also.

We can tell them, however, that those family members and loved ones are not alone. We can recognize the many organizations that do invaluable work to help them. That is why this resolution not only acknowledges the murder victims, but also honors the organizations and the people who devote

their lives to counseling, crisis intervention, assistance and other help in getting those victims through our criminal justice system. The work of these organizations is so invaluable to so many.

The last organization I want to talk about is the National Crime Victim Law Institute at Lewis & Clark College in Portland, Oregon. This organization, recently established, provides legal assistance to the victims of crime, and has established many programs in colleges across our country, and, I believe, in eight different law schools across our country, to help give legal assistance to the families and the loved ones of those murdered who are left behind.

H. Res. 223 lets victims, families and friends know that they are not alone, and that we remember their loved ones. I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this resolution and honoring all of those men and women who have devoted their lives to helping those among us who have to cope with the senseless violence of a murdered loved one.

Mr. WESTMORELAND. Mr. Speaker, I have no further speakers, and I yield back the balance of my time. I urge all my colleagues to vote for H. Res. 223.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. To close, Mr. Speaker, let me just commend the gentleman from Arizona once again for his introduction of this resolution and his passionate statement in favor of its passage. I would certainly concur with everything that he has said and urge passage.

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 Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 223.

The question was taken.

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

Mr. SHADEGG. 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.

CLAUDE RAMSEY POST OFFICE

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1260) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 6301 Highway 58 in Harrison, Tennessee, as the ''Claude Ramsey Post Office''.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1260

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

SECTION 1. CLAUDE RAMSEY POST OFFICE.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The facility of the United States Postal Service located at 6301 Highway 58 in Harrison, Tennessee, shall be known and designated as the ''Claude Ramsey Post Office''.

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

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

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Illinois.

GENERAL LEAVE

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

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, as a member of the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, I am pleased to join my colleague in consideration of H.R. 1260, which names a postal facility in Harrison, Tennessee, after Claude Ramsey.

H.R. 1260, which was introduced by Representative ZACH WAMP on March 1, 2007, was reported from the Oversight Committee on May 1, 2007, by a voice vote. This measure has been cosponsored by the entire Tennessee congressional delegation.

Mr. Claude Ramsey is currently serving his third term as mayor of Hamilton County, Tennessee. Prior to becoming county mayor, he was the assessor of property, served on the Hamilton County Board of Commissioners, and was a member of the Tennessee State Legislature.

Mr. Ramsey's career as a public servant exemplifies diligence, hard work, and dedication to the people of Hamilton County.

Mr. Ramsey plays a pivotal role in the economic progress of Hamilton County. As a manager and leader, he has distinguished himself with his openness and availability to both the business community and the public. He has been honored with numerous awards and offices that reflect his dedication and service to his community. As a fiscal conservative, Mr. Ramsey encourages progress in Hamilton County through responsible investments in the growth of business and industry.

Mr. Speaker, I commend my colleague Representative ZACH WAMP for introducing this legislation and urge swift passage of this bill.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, County Mayor Claude Ramsey has a long list of accomplishments to show for his three terms as leader of Hamilton County, Tennessee. From reforming the public education system to creating jobs in the area, Mayor Ramsey has constantly addressed the needs of both the business community as well as the general public.

Mayor Ramsey turned Hamilton County's public education system into a model for other counties to follow. Mayor Ramsey rallied support from the neighborhoods. Nine thousand people participated in an education summit and task force to identify the issues and challenges facing the department. Eight key initiatives, including target graduation and reading rates, increased technology, and early education programs, were formed. When fully implemented, the county's public education system will be one of the very best in the country.

Mayor Ramsey is constantly looking for new business and industrial recruitment and has made economic expansion a priority during his administration. He was able to secure almost $3 million in grant funds for expansion of local industries, which led to hundreds of millions of private investment and the creation of 2,000 jobs. He was also able to receive funding for the Center for Entrepreneurial Growth, a program started by Mayor Ramsey, to create more technology-based jobs in the community.

Hamilton County has received high praise for the changes that have been made, for instance receiving an AA+ rating from Finch, Inc. In 2003, Mayor Ramsey was presented Chattanooga Area Manager of the Year, an award presented annually to an executive whose management skills have profoundly influenced the outstanding performance of a key element of American business, industry, government, or nonprofit activity.

Mayor Ramsey has also addressed important topics such as literacy, obesity, public littering, and the creation of parks.

Making himself open and available to the community, Mayor Ramsey is very active in local agencies, such as the Orange Grove Center and the chairman of the Board of Associates at Chattanooga State Technical Community College.

As Mayor Ramsey rounds out his third term as county mayor, he continues to be an active and committed leader to the citizens of Hamilton County. The programs which he has put into place will be his legacy. They will continue to provide for the community for decades in the future.

Mr. Speaker, at this time I would like to point out that the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. WAMP) would like to be here today to make a statement, but he had to remain home for a family emergency. We wish Mr. WAMP and his family the best.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all Members to support the passage of H.R. 1260, which honors Mayor Ramsey for his admirable public service to the people of

Hamilton County and the State of Tennessee.

Mr. WAMP. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to support legislature, H.R. 1260, to designate the facility of the U.S. Postal Service, located at 6301 Highway 58 in Harrsison, TN, as the "Claude Ramsey Post Office." This legislature would rename the City of Harrison Post Officer after one of Hamilton County's most notable leaders, Mayor Claude Ramsey.

As he serves his fourth term as County Mayor, Claude Ramsey continues to set a high standard as a dedicated manager and leader in the community. Prior to his term as County Mayor, he was the Assessor of Property, served on the Hamilton County Board of Commissioners, and was a member of the Tennessee State Legislature. Claude Ramsey's career as a public servant exemplifies diligence, hard work, and tremendous results for the people of Hamilton County.

During his tenure, Mayor Ramsey fought to strengthen public education in Hamilton County. He recently rallied the community to participate in an education summit to create solid initiatives to address the issues and challenges facing the public education system. Mayor Ramsey created six task forces and presented their findings and recommendations to the community. He then organized the introduction of eight key initiatives, including early education programs and a greater supply of laptop computers, to strengthen the public education system and increase graduation rates of students.

In addition, Mayor Ramsey has been a true leader in promoting economic development in Hamilton County. Mayor Ramsey's vision of creating more technology-based jobs in Hamilton County has shown strong results. His administration has secured Federal funding for the development of the Center for Entrepreneurial Growth, which provides local entrepreneurs assistance in developing new advanced-technology companies. Mayor Ramsey also secured over $2.8 million in grant funds for local businesses, which have helped create over 2,000 jobs, and played a vital role in the transfer of the 1200–acre Enterprise South Industrial Park property from the U.S. Army.

For his dedicated service and results, Mayor Ramsey was named "Chattanooga Area Manager of the Year" in 2003, which is the largest local awards program in the Nation.

Mayor Ramsey also has contributed to the community by serving on the boards of numerous agencies, including the Orange Grove Center, the Chattanooga Neighborhood Enterprise, the RiverCity Company, and the United Way. Claude Ramsey also served on the Board of Trustees at Erlanger Medical Center and was Chairman of the Board of Associates at Chattanooga State Technical Community College.

Most importantly, Claude Ramsey is a loving husband to his wife, Jan; a proud father to his son, Rich, and his daughter, Stacy; and a doting grandfather to his grandchildren Madison, Meredith, Macy, John Ross, and Claudia.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all Members to support the passage of this legislation that honors Mayor Claude Ramsey for his commendable public service to the people of Hamilton County and the State of Tennessee.

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

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I urge passage of this resolution, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1260.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

HARRIETT F. WOODS POST OFFICE BUILDING

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1617) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 561 Kingsland Avenue in University City, Missouri, as the "Harriett F. Woods Post Office Building".

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1617

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

SECTION 1. HARRIETT F. WOODS POST OFFICE BUILDING.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The facility of the United States Postal Service located at 561 Kingsland Avenue in University City, Missouri, shall be known and designated as the "Harriett F. Woods Post Office Building".

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

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

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Illinois.

GENERAL LEAVE

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

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

There was no objection.

□ 1245

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to yield such time as he may consume to the sponsor of this legislation, Representative RUSS CARNAHAN from the State of Missouri.

Mr. CARNAHAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 1617, which would name a post office after a true pioneer in Missouri politics and especially for women in politics, Harriett F. Woods.

Ms. Woods passed away in February. It would be a fitting tribute to name a post office in her honor in the very town where her storied political career began, University City, Missouri. This was also the post office that Ms. Woods used for over 50 years.

Her political career began in the 1960s as a member of the University City Council where she became the first woman appointed to the State Highway Commission. She was elected to the Missouri State Senate in 1976, where she sponsored an equal rights amendment to the State Constitution. While in the State Senate, she also passed landmark legislation which led to drunk driving laws and nursing home reform which became national models adopted throughout the country.

In 1984, she was elected Lieutenant Governor, becoming the first woman elected to statewide office in Missouri history. She was a trailblazer for women in politics even after she left elected office. She served 4 years as President of the nonpartisan National Women's Political Caucus. During her tenure, the number of women elected to Congress increased dramatically, including the historic "Year of the Woman" election of 1992.

Vivian Eveloff, Director of the nonpartisan Sue Shear Institute for Women in Public Life in St. Louis, described Ms. Woods as a strong advocate "to encourage women of all ages, walks of life and political views to step forward and take on policymaking positions."

Harriett Woods was a role model and inspiration to young people, but especially young women. I am proud to have introduced this legislation to name her hometown post office in her honor, ensuring that her memory and inspiration will continue to be a visible part of our community.

The last time I saw our former Lieutenant Governor Woods was in Washington. She was here this past January. Even though she was not feeling well, she made an extraordinary effort to be here for the historic occasion of our new female U.S. Senator, Senator MCCASKILL, when she was sworn in, and also see the historic occasion of the first woman Speaker sworn into this House. It was very fitting she was here as part of those historic events.

I want to make a special thanks to the many cosponsors of this bill honoring Lieutenant Governor Woods, including nearly all women Members of Congress from both sides of the aisle and the Missouri delegation.

I urge all Members of this body to support the legislation.

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

Harriett Woods, a devoted mother, wife, grandmother, politician, author and community activist, passed away at her home in University City, Missouri, this February of leukemia. Born in Cleveland, Ohio, and raised in Chicago, Illinois, she went on to attend the University of Michigan. It was there that she became the first female editor of the school's highly esteemed student newspaper.

In later years, her career and political life proved to be an uphill battle

against more popular-known male politicians. Her political career began as a stay-at-home mom. She went to the city council with a complaint about a noisy manhole cover. When they ignored her, she pushed forward launching a successful petition to have the street closed. Causing the attention of the local press, she earned a job to run a community public affairs panel. Soon after, she was elected to the University City Council where she served for 8 years. She followed that up with two terms in the Missouri State Senate.

Harriett Woods ran unsuccessfully for the Senate in 1982, but her name became well known throughout the State. It helped her 2 years later to become the first female elected to statewide office in Missouri when she held the office of Lieutenant Governor. It was a post she held until 1989.

She remained active in politics and her local community throughout the rest of her life, focusing primarily on women's issues. From 1991 to 1995, she was President of the National Women's Political Caucus. Her dedicated work even earned her a spot on the St. Louis Walk of Fame.

It is with great pleasure that we honor her today with this post office naming, and I ask all Members to support H.R. 1617 in honor of this great lady.

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, as a member of the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, I am pleased to join with my colleague in consideration of H.R. 1617, which names a postal facility in University City, Missouri, after Harriett F. Woods.

H.R. 1617, which was introduced by Representative RUSS CARNAHAN on March 21, 2007, was reported from the Oversight Committee on May 1, 2007, by a voice vote. This measure has been cosponsored by 74 Members and has the entire support of the Missouri delegation.

Ms. Harriett F. Woods was elected from the 13th District of Missouri in St. Louis County to the Missouri State Senate in November of 1976. She was reelected for a second term in November of 1980. She was the first woman to win statewide offices in Missouri, becoming Lieutenant Governor in 1984. She ran for the U.S. Senate twice in the 1980s, and while both attempts failed, it inspired other women to run for and win political office. Ms. Woods was an activist who promoted women politicians. She served two terms as President of the National Women's Political Caucus and led the Clinton administration's Coalition for Women Appointments in 1993.

Before becoming an elected official, Ms. Woods was an independent film producer and served 10 years as the Public Affairs Director at KPLR–TV in St. Louis. At KPLR, she produced many noted documentaries, among them the award-winning film on child abuse, ''Broken Children,'' ''Don't Go to Jail in Missouri'' and ''Piedmont UFO.''

Mr. Speaker, I commend my colleague RUSS CARNAHAN for introducing this legislation and urge its swift passage.

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

Mr. WESTMORELAND. Mr. Speaker, I have no further speakers, I urge all my colleagues to vote in favor of H.R. 1617, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, let me share my support for legislation to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 561 Kingsland Avenue in University City, MO, as the "Harriett F. Woods Post Office Building." Harriet Woods will long be remembered as a pioneer in American politics.

Born in Cleveland, OH, Harriet Woods received a bachelor of arts degree in philosophy from the University of Michigan. She married Jim Woods on January 2, 1953. Before beginning her career in politics, Woods worked as a journalist and television producer.

Woods' political career began in 1962, when she became a member of the University City Council. In 1976, she was elected to the Missouri State Senate and was re-elected in 1980. Dedicated to women's participation in government, Woods was the first woman to win statewide office in Missouri when she was elected Lieutenant Governor in 1984. While she was not successful in the two Senate races in which she was a candidate, her actions and leadership inspired hundreds of women nationwide to participate in politics.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I simply join with my colleague from Georgia in urging passage of this resolution, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1617.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

WILLYE B. WHITE POST OFFICE BUILDING

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2025) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 11033 South State Street in Chicago, Illinois, as the ''Willye B. White Post Office Building''.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 2025

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

SECTION 1. WILLYE B. WHITE POST OFFICE BUILDING.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The facility of the United States Postal Service located at 11033 South State Street in Chicago, Illinois, shall be known and designated as the ''Willye B. White Post Office Building''.

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

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

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Illinois.

GENERAL LEAVE

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

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

There was no objection.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the sponsor of this legislation, the distinguished gentleman from the Second Congressional District of Illinois, Representative JESSE JACKSON, Jr.

Mr. JACKSON of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 2025, naming a post office building in the Roseland community of Chicago, Illinois, as the Willye B. White Post Office Building.

Willye B. White was born to run. She was a five-time Olympic track and field athlete from Money, Mississippi. She was the best female long jumper of the time. She made Chicago her home in 1960 until her untimely death in February, 2007.

She wasn't a household name, but she should have been, especially if your household happens to be one of the millions that includes a female athlete. Or an athlete of color. Or a once or future Olympian. She was better known for her actions than her name, better known for her deeds than her medals.

At 16, she competed in the 1956 Melbourne Olympic Games and became the first American woman to ever medal in the long jump, earning a silver medal. She participated in the next four Olympiads as well, and is the first American to compete on five Olympic track and field teams. She won another silver medal in the 1964 Tokyo Games in the 4-by-100-meter relay. Ms. White competed in more than 150 nations as a member of 39 different international track and field teams.

Over the years, White remained active in the field of sports. She represented track and field on the U.S. Olympic Committee, coached athletes in the National Sports Festival in 1979 and 1981, coached and managed at the 1981 World Cup Track and Field Championship Games in Brussels and Rome, and served as the head coach for the 1994 Olympic Sports Festival.

Born on December 31, 1939, in Money, Mississippi, and raised by her grandparents, White discovered her talent

for running and jumping at age 10. In 1959, White graduated from Broad Street High School in Greenwood, Mississippi, the same year she set an American record for the long jump, which stood for 6 years. Breaking loose from the poverty of the racially segregated delta, she attended Tennessee State from 1959 to 1962, and achieved national acclaim with the Tigerbelle team that produced Wilma Rudolph. She moved to Chicago in 1960 and began working as a nurse in 1963, first at Chicago's Cook County Hospital and then at the Greenwood Medical Center. In 1965, White became a public health administrator at the Chicago Health Department. She graduated with a B.A. in public health administration from Chicago State University in 1976.

White was one of 21 people on President Ford's Commission on Olympic Sports, a panel that restructured the U.S. Olympic movement. She lobbied extensively for Title IX and raised money for the Women's Sports Foundation. She worked for nearly four decades for the City of Chicago, devoting much of her time to children's recreation and creating sports programs for girls.

In 1990, White found WBW Hang on Productions, a sports and fitness consultancy. A year later, she founded the Willye B. White Foundation helping children develop self-esteem and become productive citizens through such initiatives as the Robert Taylor Girls Athletic Program. This program taught sports and teamwork to children living in the Nation's largest housing project and provided summer day camp and health care in the form of immunizations and dental and medical checkups.

White was the first American to win the world's highest sportsmanship award, the UNESCO Pierre de Coubertin International Fair Play Trophy. She is a member of 11 sports halls of fame, including the National Association of Sport and Physical Education, Black Sports, Women's Sports Foundation, and National Track and Field. She was chosen by Sports Illustrated for Women in 1999 as one of the 100 greatest athletes of the century and by Ebony in 2002 as one of the 10 greatest black female athletes.

Ms. White passed away from pancreatic cancer on Tuesday, February 6, 2007. It is with great pleasure that the U.S. House of Representatives acknowledges Willye B. White not only for her outstanding athletic abilities, but for her tireless service to the community and to the young girls on the South Side of Chicago, indeed young women everywhere.

Finally, I would like to thank my staff, especially my legislative assistant, Ms. Megan Moore, for her hard work on this bill.

□ 1300

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

Willye B. White was quoted as saying, ''A dream without a plan is just a wish.'' It was this belief that led her to become the first American to have competed in five Olympic track and field teams, a feat still unchallenged.

Willye White competed in five consecutive Olympic games between 1956 and 1972. At the young age of 16, she won a silver medal in the long jump competition at the games in Melbourne, Australia, historically marking the first time an American woman ever medaled in that event. She earned her second silver medal in the 1964 Tokyo, Japan, games by participating in the 4-by-100-meter relay.

Born in Money, Mississippi, she was raised by her grandparents and fought through the daily struggles of the civil rights movement. Her love of sports emerged around age 10 when she discovered the joy of running and jumping. Overall, she competed in 39 international teams, four Pan-American Games teams and five consecutive U.S. Olympic track and field teams.

After her competitive career ended, she stayed active in the sport through coaching and other activities. She represented track and field on the U.S. Olympic Committee, coached athletes in the National Sports Festival in 1979 and 1981, coached and managed at the 1981 World Cup Track and Field Championship Games in Brussels and Rome, and she served as head coach for the 1994 Olympic Sports Festival.

Beyond coaching, she also founded the Willye White Foundation which helps children develop self-esteem and become active members of their communities through athletic participation. She has earned numerous awards throughout the years and is a member of eleven sports halls of fame.

She sadly lost her battle with pancreatic cancer in February. So, today, we proudly honor her life with the naming of this post office in her hometown of Chicago, Illinois.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all my colleagues to vote in the affirmative on H.R. 2025.

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, as a member of the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, I am pleased to join my colleague in consideration of H.R. 2025, which names a postal facility in Chicago, Illinois, after Willye B. White.

H.R. 2025, which was introduced by Representative JESSE L. JACKSON, Jr., on April 25, 2007, was reported from the Oversight Committee on May 1, 2007, by a voice vote. This measure, which has been cosponsored by 18 Members, has the support of the entire Illinois congressional delegation.

Ms. Willye White was born December 31, 1939, in Money, Mississippi, and raised by her grandparents. At 16 she competed in the 1956 Melbourne Olympic Games and became the first woman representing the United States to win a medal in the long jump, earning silver behind Elizabeth Krzeszinska of Poland. Ms. White competed in every Olympics from 1956 through 1972, and only an injury kept her off the 1976 team.

She was America's best female long jumper for almost two decades, with a career best of 21 feet and 6 inches. She won nine consecutive United States outdoor championships, set seven American records and competed in more than 150 nations. Ms. White is the first and only track and field athlete to compete in five Olympics for the United States.

Ms. White moved to Chicago in 1960 and lived there for 46 years. She worked as a nurse and then as a public administrator. She mentored hundreds of young women living in Chicago's public housing projects through the Willye White Foundation.

The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, UNESCO, recognized her humanitarian efforts by awarding her the Pierre de Coubertin International Fair Play trophy, named after the founder of the modern Olympic Games.

Ms. White died on February 6, 2007, of pancreatic cancer.

Mr. Speaker, I commend my colleague Representative JACKSON for introducing this legislation.

Ms. White happened to be someone that I have known practically all of my life. As a matter of fact, she did grow up and finish high school in Greenwood, Mississippi, where my grandfather lived, and we knew of her exploits. As a matter of fact, we were close to the same age so we were attending high school at the same time. Then, of course, she went on to Tennessee State, that famous institution with the Tigerbelles, and at the same time I was attending another HBCU university, and we would compete with Tennessee State. They always won. Occasionally, we may have an opportunity but not often.

Then I actually worked closely with Ms. White up until the time that she died. Every year, I would look forward to contributing to her foundation for the programs that she had, especially in the Robert Taylor and the Henry Horner homes, but especially Robert Taylor housing projects which is also a part of my congressional district.

As a matter of fact, she even ran for public office. Although she was not elected, she kept running and did, in fact, run.

I commend my colleague Representative JACKSON again for seeking to honor this great lady by naming a post office in her honor. I would urge passage of this resolution.

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

Mr. WESTMORELAND. Mr. Speaker, I have no further speakers, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, urge

passage of this resolution, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2025.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

S/SGT LEWIS G. WATKINS POST OFFICE BUILDING

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1335) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 508 East Main Street in Seneca, South Carolina, as the ''S/Sgt Lewis G. Watkins Post Office Building''.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1335

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

SECTION 1. S/SGT LEWIS G. WATKINS POST OFFICE BUILDING.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The facility of the United States Postal Service located at 508 East Main Street in Seneca, South Carolina, shall be known and designated as the ''S/Sgt Lewis G. Watkins Post Office Building''.

(b) REFERENCES.—Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the facility referred to in subsection (a) shall be deemed to be a reference to the ''S/Sgt Lewis G. Watkins Post Office Building''.

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

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Illinois.

GENERAL LEAVE

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

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

There was no objection.

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

As a member of the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, I am pleased to join my colleague in consideration of H.R. 1335, which names a postal facility in Seneca, South Carolina, after Lewis G. Watkins.

H.R. 1335, which was introduced by Representative J. GRESHAM BARRETT on March 6, 2007, was reported from the Oversight Committee on May 1, 2007, by a voice vote. This measure has been cosponsored by the five members of the South Carolina congressional delegation, which represents the delegation indeed.

Staff Sergeant Lewis G. Watkins served in action during the Korean conflict. He heroically sacrificed his life in combat on October 7, 1952, in Korea. He was a recipient of the Congressional Medal of Honor for his conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his life beyond the call of duty while serving as a guide of a rifle platoon of Company I, 3rd Battalion, 7th Marines, 1st Marine Division.

Staff Sergeant Watkins' extraordinary heroism, inspiring leadership, and resolute spirit of self-sacrifice reflected the highest credit upon himself and enhances the finest traditions of the U.S. naval service. He gave his life for his country.

So, Mr. Speaker, I commend my colleague Representative BARRETT for introducing this legislation and urge swift passage.

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

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

We often come to the floor to talk about our brave soldiers fighting in Iraq and Afghanistan; but today I am proud to speak about a hero, a highly decorated Korean War veteran, Lewis G. Watkins.

Staff Sergeant Lewis G. Watkins was born in Seneca, South Carolina, on June 6, 1925. After graduating from Greenville High School, he joined the Greenville Police Department. Furthering his public service, he enlisted in the United States Marine Corps in 1950. After his training in Camp Lejeune and Camp Pendleton, he was sent to serve in Korea.

Staff Sergeant Watkins fought valiantly during his only tour of duty. On October 7, 1952, his unit was attempting to take an outpost from the enemy. While leading his men up a hill and fighting off heavy small-arms fire and grenades, he was severely injured. Pushing through the pain, he successfully led his team further up the hill.

It was then that he noticed a grenade had landed nearby. Pushing his comrades aside to protect them, he instinctively grabbed the grenade to throw it out of harm's way. Unfortunately, the bomb exploded in his hand and he was mortally wounded. His heroic actions on that hill saved the lives of his fellow soldiers; and it was for this act of bravery and courage he deservedly, albeit posthumously, was awarded the Nation's highest military decoration, the Medal of Honor. His other awards include the Purple Heart, the United Nations Service Medal, and the Korean War Service Medal with two bronze stars.

Staff Sergeant Lewis G. Watkins' life and military achievements are to be commended. He fought and died for his country; and today we honor his heroism, his self-sacrifice, and his inspiring leadership by naming this post office after him.

I commend my colleague Mr. BARRETT for bringing this to our attention.

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

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

Mr. WESTMORELAND. Mr. Speaker, I yield as much time as he may consume to my very distinguished colleague from the great State of South Carolina (Mr. BARRETT).

Mr. BARRETT of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Georgia for yielding and also for Representative DAVIS today.

I would also like to thank Chairman Henry Waxman and Ranking Member TOM DAVIS of the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee for facilitating such swift consideration of this bill that recognizes such an honorable man.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 1335, a bill that honors the life and sacrifices of Staff Sergeant Lewis Watkins who gave his life for his country in the Korean War. Lewis Watkins was born on June 6, 1925, in Seneca, South Carolina. He graduated from Greenville High School in South Carolina in 1949.

He was a member of the Greenville Police Department where he enlisted in the United States Marine Corps on September 12, 1950. After training at Parris Island, South Carolina, he served at Camp Lejeune, North Carolina, and Camp Pendleton, California, before being deployed to Korea.

On October 7, 1952, Sergeant Watkins' platoon was assigned to retake an outpost from the enemy. Even though Sergeant Watkins had been wounded during the fight, he continued to lead his men and return gunfire on the enemy machine gun position holding up the assault. At one point, an enemy grenade landed among his men. Selflessly and without thinking, he pushed his men out of harm's way and picked up the grenade. While attempting to throw the grenade back toward the enemy, it exploded in his hand, fatally wounding him.

Sergeant Watkins heroically sacrificed his life to save the lives of his fellow marines under his command, and in doing so, helped contribute to the overall success of his unit's mission during the Korean War.

I thank Sergeant Watkins and his family for his service. Every American owes a debt of gratitude for his service and his sacrifice.

In addition, every member of the South Carolina delegation cosponsored this legislation as a way to say thank you and honor a man who gave his life for his country.

Mr. Speaker, Staff Sergeant Lewis Watkins is the only known native Oconee County resident to receive a Medal of Honor. To designate the post office facility located at 508 East Main Street in Seneca, South Carolina, as the S/Sgt Lewis G. Watkins Post Office Building is one way we can pay tribute to his life. It will allow all who enter the post office and view the dedication plaque a unique opportunity to be

mindful of the sacrifices our military have made and continue to make today.

In addition to the Medal of Honor, Watkins' decorations include the Purple Heart Medal; Korean Service Medal with two bronze stars; and the United Nations Service Medal.

□ 1315

Lewis Watkins made the ultimate sacrifice for his country, and I am honored that this country is about to bestow upon his memory and his family yet another recognition.

There is a verse that says, ''No greater love hath he,'' and Lewis Watkins proved that.

Mr. Speaker, I urge swift passage of H.R. 1335.

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

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

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Let me say that it has, indeed, been a pleasure to work with the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. WESTMORELAND) and I thank him, and I urge swift passage of this resolution.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1335.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

NATIONAL AMERICORPS WEEK

Mr. YARMUTH. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 385) recognizing National AmeriCorps Week.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 385

Whereas the AmeriCorps national service program, since its inception in 1994, has proven to be an effective way to engage Americans in service to the Nation that meets a wide range of local and national needs and promotes the ethic of service and volunteerism;

Whereas the AmeriCorps program, working closely with its Nationwide network of Governor-appointed state service commissions, has strengthened America's nonprofit sector community nonprofit groups, in every State in our Nation;

Whereas the AmeriCorps programs across our Nation have leveraged additional funds and in-kind donations from other sources to further service and volunteerism in America;

Whereas each year AmeriCorps provides opportunities for 75,000 citizens to serve in and work to improve communities in our Nation;

Whereas since 1994 a total of 500,000 citizens across the Nation have taken the AmeriCorps pledge to ''get things done for America'' by becoming AmeriCorps members;

Whereas those same individuals have served a total of more than 630,000,000 hours in service to our Nation, helping to improve the lives of our Nation's most vulnerable citizens, protect our environment, contribute to our public safety, respond to disasters, and strengthen our educational system;

Whereas AmeriCorps members last year recruited and supervised more than 1,400,000 community volunteers, serving as a powerful volunteer catalyst;

Whereas AmeriCorps members, in return for their service, have earned nearly $1,300,000,000 to further their own education at our Nation's colleges and universities;

Whereas AmeriCorps members, after their terms of service end, remain engaged in our communities as volunteers, teachers, and nonprofit professionals in disproportionately high levels; and

Whereas the inaugural National AmeriCorps Week, May 13–20, 2007, is an opportune time for the people of the United States to recognize current and former AmeriCorps members for their service to our Nation; thank AmeriCorps' community partners who make the program possible; and bring more Americans into service: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) encourages all citizens to join in a national effort to salute AmeriCorps members and alumni to raise awareness about the importance of national and community service;

(2) acknowledges the significant accomplishments of the AmeriCorps members, alumni and community partners;

(3) recognizes the important contribution to the lives of our citizens by AmeriCorps members; and

(4) encourages citizens of all ages to participate in service opportunities in their communities, including in AmeriCorps programs.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. YARMUTH) and the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. BOUSTANY) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Kentucky.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. YARMUTH. Mr. Speaker, I request 5 legislative days during which Members may insert material relevant to H. Res. 385 into the RECORD.

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

There was no objection.

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

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

Mr. YARMUTH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H. Res. 385, which recognizes National AmeriCorps Week.

Since Congress created AmeriCorps in 1994, the program has generated numbers that are impressive by any measure. In 13 years, AmeriCorps has mobilized 1.5 million volunteers in every State in the Union, accumulating nearly 700 million hours of service, a value of $12 billion.

In addition, AmeriCorps volunteers have earned more than $1 billion in scholarships for that service. My home State of Kentucky has benefited from 7 million of the service hours from nearly 5,000 volunteers.

Few Federal programs can quantify this type of success across the board, but the numbers would be meaningless were it not for the tremendous impact these hours and all those volunteers have made on countless lives throughout our communities. In my district in Louisville, that impact can be felt throughout the community.

I see it on the optimistic face of a young girl who recently found new reasons to smile, thanks to her mentor from Big Brothers/Big Sisters of Kentuckiana. We feel it walking through a Portland neighborhood, freshly cleaned and painted by volunteers participating in the second annual Martin Luther King Season of Service. You hear it in the voice of a boy proudly reading his first book to his mother, who would not have been able to provide adequate education if not for the AmeriCorps Every 1 Reads program.

There can be no doubt that in our world, the ways these lives have been touched is exceptional. But in AmeriCorps, by providing resources to Court Appointed Special Advocates, Habitat For Humanity, Kentucky Domestic Violence Association, and other educational and non-profit services, these successes are the norm.

They happen every day all across the country over and over again, because this unique and ambitious government initiative provides the catalyst for selfless Americans of all backgrounds to push the limits for our capacity of service, and turn awareness into action, compassion and commitment.

AmeriCorps members live every day with the understanding that when we act as one for progress, we progress together. Yet all too often, these life-changing individuals and community building programs go unrecognized. So I ask all my colleagues to join me for the next 7 days in honoring all AmeriCorps members and alumni, to say thanks for all that they have done and continue to do and to encourage more people to get involved.

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

Mr. BOUSTANY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of House Resolution 385, which recognizes National AmeriCorps Week. This first ever National AmeriCorps Week gives us an opportunity to acknowledge the impact of AmeriCorps members, alumni and community partners around the country.

As we recognize National AmeriCorps Week, we are reminded of the spirit of service that is such an integral part of our national character. Throughout our country, countless individuals of all backgrounds and ages engage in community service every day to address the common concerns of our neighborhoods, communities, Nation and the world.

Our community has seen the inspiring example of citizens' willingness to serve others in the wake of tragedies large and small that touch our lives

every day. But community service is also about lifting a hand to help a neighbor, teaching a child to read, restoring a neglected park and other numerous acts of goodwill that reaffirm our common humanity.

Last month, we celebrated National Volunteer Week and learned that more than a quarter of this country's population volunteered in some capacity from September 2005 to September 2006, at an estimated value of $280 billion. These numbers are a clear indication of our commitment to service.

AmeriCorps is part of that commitment. As this resolution says, AmeriCorps provides 75,000 citizens of this country opportunities to engage in work to improve our communities each year. In total, 500,000 individuals have become AmeriCorps members since the program began and have engaged in 630 million hours of work to help improve the lives of their fellow citizens.

AmeriCorps works closely with a number of community partners across the country, and I also want to express my thanks to those organizations and their leaders. These organizations capture the spirt of service and bring that spirit to bear in a concentrated way to relieve suffering, provide opportunities to the needy, clean up our communities and bring hope to millions. These organizations and the public and private partners that support them provide the needed infrastructure to support the energy of our community service providers.

As this resolution states, National AmeriCorps Week will continue our efforts to raise awareness of the importance of service in local, national and international communities, and the commitment of our community service providers to improving lives, strengthening communities and fostering civic engagement.

I thank my colleague from Kentucky for introducing this resolution, and I urge its passage.

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

Mr. YARMUTH. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to yield 4 minutes to the gentlelady from California, and cochair of the National Service Caucus, the distinguished Ms. MATSUI.

(Ms. MATSUI asked and was given permission to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. MATSUI. I want to thank my good friend from Kentucky (Mr. YARMUTH) for yielding me time.

I also want to thank Chairwoman MCCARTHY and Ranking Member PLATTS for their leadership in the committee and their tireless efforts to reauthorize and strengthen the program.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to be part of those standing up in support of the first ever AmeriCorps Week. I believe strongly that the AmeriCorps program embodies the spirit of the American people, and it's important for Members of Congress to acknowledge the work accomplished by AmeriCorps members.

As a cochair of the National Service Caucus, it's a pleasure to highlight and honor the tremendous work of those involved at every level and every program of AmeriCorps.

AmeriCorps is a national service program that engages Americans of all ages and backgrounds in service. Since AmeriCorps was established in 1994, AmeriCorps members have performed over 630 million hours of service addressing a critical need in education, housing, public safety, disaster response and recovery and environmental preservation.

The AmeriCorps National Civilian Community Corps, popularly known as NCCC, has a campus in my congressional district in Sacramento. I have had the opportunity to see firsthand how the experience positively influences the communities served by the team members and how it also enriches the lives of the participants.

Nearly everywhere I go in Sacramento someone stops me and tells me about how amazing and committed the NCCC members are to their mission. Most recently I have heard from AmeriCorps members about their experiences in the gulf coast recovery efforts. These participants all remarked that they are not just rebuilding communities, they are, quite literally, rebuilding people's lives.

It is because of all of the great work of AmeriCorps members that extraordinary things are happening all around America. Just last week, I learned that the Child Abuse Prevention Council, an important program in my district, will receive support from AmeriCorps. AmeriCorps members will serve as home visitors, resource aides and community coordinators.

There is nothing more important than our children, and I appreciate the Corporation for National and Community Service and for providing the program with 96 AmeriCorps members to help them carry out their mission. I know that we will be hearing more about the great work of AmeriCorps as the 110th Congress proceeds, and we consider reauthorization and funding.

AmeriCorps members are a vital part of our communities. With very little funding, they leverage millions of dollars and perform crucial work, whether in a classroom, in a national park, or rebuilding houses on the gulf coast. I truly hope that my colleagues will continue to support AmeriCorps programs.

The spirit of service that is so important in our communities is one that should be encouraged. I want to extend my greatest appreciation to those who have served and continue to serve in the AmeriCorps programs throughout the country.

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

Mr. YARMUTH. Mr. Speaker, I yield as much time as he may consume to the distinguished gentleman from Iowa (Mr. LOEBSACK).

Mr. LOEBSACK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of House Resolution 385, a bill to recognize National AmeriCorps Week, and the importance of the contributions made by AmeriCorps volunteers across the country.

The goal of AmeriCorps is one of the most noble. AmeriCorps enables each and every individual who is interested in giving of their time and talents to do just that. AmeriCorps members provide service to address our country's most pressing needs, including improving education, working to protect our environment, fighting poverty, ending homelessness and much more.

Margaret Meade said, ''Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has.'' Since 1994, AmeriCorps has supported over 500,000 people who have contributed nearly 700 million hours of service to local communities. These are individuals who truly embody Margaret Meade's words.

These are committed individuals who are helping to change our world for the better. The dedication and passion of these volunteers is admirable. I am proud that there are so many Americans who believe that volunteerism is important and necessary. In fact, it's the very foundation of our democracy.

Iowa is lucky to have a strong AmeriCorps presence. Iowa nonprofits rely heavily on volunteers to carry out their missions. Between 2003 and 2005, Iowa volunteers contributed nearly 300 million hours of volunteer service to organizations in the State. In 2005 alone, the economic impact of volunteer service to Iowa charitable organizations was over $1.78 billion.

My district is lucky to have Senior Corps programs, AmeriCorps programs and Learn and Serve in both Iowa City and Van Buren Community School Districts. The Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service wants to increase volunteer presence across the State, and I fully support this goal.

This resolution is both necessary and important. Congress and the Nation should be proud of AmeriCorps members and alumni. We must also raise awareness about the importance of national and community service and encourage individuals to participate in service opportunities in their communities, including in AmeriCorps programs.

I strongly urge my colleagues to support this resolution.

Mr. BOUSTANY. It has been a pleasure working with the gentleman from Kentucky on this resolution.

Mr. Speaker, I urge its passage and yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. YARMUTH. Mr. Speaker, we have just heard many ways in which AmeriCorps has benefited our communities and touched so many lives within them. Still, these are just a few of the many stories that illustrate the spectacular influence that AmeriCorps has had on our Nation in a little over a decade.

□ 1330

The outstanding individuals who have contributed over the years deserve our thanks and recognition.

And so I am proud to stand here today and urge the passage of H. Res. 385 and ask my colleagues to join me these next 7 days in honoring all that AmeriCorps has already accomplished and encourage others to join in their commitment to continue that work in the years to come.

I would also like to commend both Congresswoman MATSUI and Congressman PLATTS of Pennsylvania, the co-chairs of the National Service Caucus, for their leadership in these efforts.

Mr. SHAYS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res. 385, which supports the goals and ideals of National AmeriCorps Week.

This week AmeriCorps celebrates its 500,000th member and we celebrate the achievement of all the members of AmeriCorps from around the country who have given 637 million hours of their time and energy to their communities.

AmeriCorps members have made important contributions addressing our Nation's most pressing needs and set an example of selfless service and giving in support of our country's most vulnerable residents—the homeless, hungry, elderly, at-risk youth and disabled. Their work not only supports their communities, but encourages others to do the same.

I still remember how I felt as a 14-year-old watching the 1960 Presidential election between Vice President Richard Nixon and Senator John Kennedy. I felt energized listening to Senator Kennedy when he spoke of the Peace Corps and making the world a better and safer place.

I wanted to be part of his vision—I wanted to give to the world community. Years later, that dream was fulfilled when my wife Betsi and I served 2 years in the Peace Corps.

The same powerful emotion—the same sense of energy and eagerness we felt in the sixties—is alive today and expressed through those who give back to their communities.

In my own state of Connecticut, over 7,000 resident have served in AmeriCorps. Those members serving in AmeriCorps in Connecticut have earned over $17 million in Segal AmeriCorps Education Award scholarships to use for college or to pay off student loans. Nationwide, over $1.2 billion has been earned.

Over 8.5 million hours of service have been performed by the residents of Connecticut to assist community nonprofits groups. Those hours equate to nearly $200 million in value.

I am grateful we are considering this resolution and urge its adoption.

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, during the first ever AmeriCorps week I would like to extend my support to the oranization and all of the great things that its members have done. Since AmeriCorps was created in 1994, Texas has benefited from over 22,000 young people serving a year or more in our communities.

Nearly 72 AmeriCorps volunteers have tutored 691 youths in the State of Texas including the Dallas Habitat for Humanities and the YMCA of Dallas Oak Cliff Branch.

In Texas, as in other States, AmeriCorps volunteers provide a host of services including building affordable housing, teaching computer skills to youth and seniors, and managing after-school programs aimed at youngsters who might otherwise drop out of school. Through programs such as the "National Civilian Community Corps" or "City Year," AmeriCorps volunteers address critical Texas needs in education, public safety, disaster response and recovery, and environment preservation.

These programs serve an important role as they provide an outlet for people to serve their country in a manner that they previously had not be afforded. The AmeriCorps program has done great things for Texas and the country as a whole, as the Corps members promise to do in the pledge they take every day, they "get things done."

Mr. Speaker, we will not find common ground or reach higher ground if we turn national service into a partisan playground.

I will continue to work hard and do everything I can to strengthen this program, and I ask my House colleagues to do everything as well.

Mr. YARMUTH. 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 Kentucky (Mr. YARMUTH) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 385.

The question was taken.

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

Mr. YARMUTH. 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.

COMMENDING THE JUNIATA COLLEGE VOLLEYBALL TEAM FOR WINNING THE NCAA DIVISION III WOMEN'S VOLLEYBALL CHAMPIONSHIP

Mr. YARMUTH. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 216) commending the Juniata College volleyball team for winning the NCAA Division III Women's Volleyball Championship.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 216

Whereas the Juniata College volleyball team is one of the great little-known dynasties in college sports;

Whereas the Juniata College volleyball program has a remarkable 1,100 win and 172 loss record over 30 seasons;

Whereas Head Coach Larry Bock has the most wins of any coach in the history of NCAA women's volleyball;

Whereas during this past season, senior Stephanie Kines was named the Division III Women's Volleyball Player of the Year, just the second Juniata player to earn that honor;

Whereas Juniata College did not lose a match in 2006 to a Division III opponent all season, and the team's only 2006 loss was to Division I Princeton University;

Whereas Juniata College's 41 win and 1 loss record during 2006 tied the program record for the fewest losses in a season, and was the team's first 40-win season since 1997; and

Whereas Juniata defeated long-time rival Washington University-St. Louis in a thrilling five-game championship match that many described as the best championship match in the history of Division III volleyball: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) commends the Juniata College volleyball team for winning the 2006 NCAA Division III Women's Volleyball National Championship; and

(2) recognizes the achievements of the players, coaches, students, and staff whose hard work and dedication made the Championship possible.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. YARMUTH) and the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. BOUSTANY) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Kentucky.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. YARMUTH. Mr. Speaker, I request 5 legislative days during which Members may insert material relevant to H. Res. 216 into the RECORD.

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

There was no objection.

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

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

Mr. YARMUTH. Mr. Speaker, I want to congratulate Juniata College for winning the NCAA Division III Women's Volleyball Championship.

On November 18, 2006, the Juniata College women's volleyball team won the 2006 NCAA Division III championship by beating the Washington University-St. Louis Bears in Salem, Virginia.

I want to extend my congratulations to head coach Larry Bock, assistant coach Heather Pavlik, Juniata College president Thomas Kepple, Jr., and the student athletes on a wonderful season.

The Eagles had an exceptional record of 41 wins with just one loss. They were undefeated in Division III competition, with their only loss coming to a Division I school. The team also had an exceptional player in Stephanie Kines who was named Division III women's volleyball player of the year. Coach Larry Bock also added to his extraordinary record of 1,100 wins and 172 losses over 30 years of coaching, the most wins of any coach in NCAA women's volleyball history.

I also want to extend my congratulations to the Washington University-St. Louis Bears. The Bears had a record of 38 wins and 2 losses. The Bears won the University Athletic Association title for 2006 and had four women receive AVCA All-America honors.

Winning the Division III national championship and finishing the season with a 41–1 record has brought positive national attention to Juniata College, and I know the fans of the university will cherish this moment as they look forward to the 2007 season.

Mr. Speaker, once again I congratulate Juniata College for their success.

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

Mr. BOUSTANY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of House Resolution 216, commending Juniata College for winning the NCAA Division III Women's Volleyball Championship.

On November 18, 2006, the Juniata College women's volleyball team defeated their longtime rival, Washington University of St. Louis, in a thrilling five-game championship match that might possibly be described as the best championship match in the history of Division III volleyball.

The Juniata College women's volleyball team is one of the great little-known dynasties in college sports today. The program has a remarkable record of 1,100 wins to only 172 losses over 30 seasons.

In fact, during the 2006 season, Juniata College did not lose a single match to any of their Division III opponents all season and the team's only 2006 loss was to Division I's Princeton University. The 41 win-1 loss record tied the program record for the fewest losses in a season and was the team's first 40-win season since 1997.

During the season, senior Stephanie Kines was named the Division III women's volleyball player of the year, making her only the second Juniata player in the college's history to earn that honor.

Sophomore Amber Thomas also played a vital role in Juniata's second Division III national championship. Thomas was chosen as the tournament's most outstanding player as she piled up 54 kills in the final three tournament matches, 25 of which came in the championship victory.

I would also like to recognize head coach Larry Bock who is one of the most recognizable names in collegiate volleyball. His list of accomplishments and awards places him among the most successful volleyball coaches in the country at any level.

I extend my congratulations to head coach Larry Bock, all of the hard-working players, the fans and to Juniata College. I am happy to join my good friend and colleague, Representative YARMUTH, in honoring this exceptional team and all of its accomplishments and wish all involved continued success.

I ask my colleagues to support this resolution, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. YARMUTH. I thank the gentleman from Louisiana.

With that, I strongly urge my colleagues to pass this important resolution and recognize the Juniata College women's volleyball team for their great achievement. We should all join these great athletes in celebration of a hard-fought 2006 NCAA Division III championship.

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Lady "screaming eagles" of Juniata College on winning the 2006 NCAA Division ill Woman's Volleyball Championship.

In a thrilling win, the Eagles found themselves down two games to one to Washington University. Down, but not out the Lady Eagles came storming back with a brilliant offensive effort to capture the Title 3–2. The Eagles found their momentum in the fourth game where the team went on a 4 to 1 run. After claiming the lead, the Eagles never looked back. At the end of the day, the Eagles walked away with 90 kills and a championship.

Juniata College's Volleyball Team's championship is a great example of sportsmanship and achievement in college sports. Over 30 seasons, Juniata's volleyball program has built a 1,100 win and 172 loss record. The team's coach, Larry Bock, has the most wins of any coach in the history of NCAA women's volleyball. Also, during their championship season, senior player Stephanie Kines was named Division III Women's Volleyball Player of the Year. Stephanie is the second Juniata player to earn that honor.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate all of the players and coaches of the Juniata College Women's Volleyball Team: Erin Albert, Brittany Carr, Cassie Dickmann, Kristi Fitzsimmons, Jess Fox, Paige Johnston, Stephanie Kines, Beth Kozak, Megan Lamens, Mariel Little, Michelle Morchesky, Aly Pompeani, Jessica Ritchey, Rachael Schatz, Megan Sollenberger, Molly Sollenberger, and Amber Thomas Head Coach Larry Bock, and assistant Coaches Heather Pavlik, Casey Dale and Erin Dodson. To all of the Screaming Eagles, congratulation on most successful season and a well earned championship.

Mr. YARMUTH. 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 Kentucky (Mr. YARMUTH) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 216.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) 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 1 o'clock and 36 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess until approximately 6:30 p.m.

□ 1833

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. CAPUANO) at 6 o'clock and 33 minutes p.m.

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. 1124, by the yeas and nays;

H. Res. 223, by the yeas and nays;

H. Res. 385, by the yeas and nays.

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

EXTENDING DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA COLLEGE ACCESS ACT OF 1999

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1124, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1124.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 268, nays 100, not voting 64, as follows:

[Roll No. 342]

YEAS—268

Abercrombie
Ackerman
Aderholt
Allen
Altmire
Andrews
Arcuri
Baca
Bachus
Baird
Baldwin
Barrow
Bartlett (MD)
Becerra
Berkley
Berry
Biggert
Bilbray
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (NY)
Blumenauer
Blunt
Boehner
Bono
Boozman
Boswell
Boucher
Boyd (FL)
Boyda (KS)
Brady (TX)
Braley (IA)
Brown-Waite, Ginny
Buchanan
Butterfield
Calvert
Cannon
Capito
Capps
Capuano
Carnahan
Carson
Castle
Castor
Chandler
Clarke
Clay
Cleaver
Clyburn
Cohen
Cole (OK)
Conyers
Cooper
Costa
Courtney
Cramer
Crowley
Cuellar
Cummings
Davis (CA)
Davis (IL)
Davis, Tom
DeFazio
DeGette
Delahunt
DeLauro
Dent
Diaz-Balart, L.
Diaz-Balart, M.
Dicks
Dingell
Doggett
Donnelly
Edwards
Ehlers
Ellison
Ellsworth
Emanuel
Emerson
Eshoo
Etheridge
Fallin
Farr
Filner
Fortenberry
Frelinghuysen
Giffords
Gilchrest
Gillibrand
Gillmor
Gonzalez
Goodlatte
Gordon
Green, Al
Hall (NY)
Hare
Harman
Hastings (FL)
Hayes
Heller
Herseth Sandlin
Higgins
Hill
Hinchey
Hinojosa
Hirono
Hobson
Hodes
Holt
Honda
Hooley
Hoyer
Hulshof
Inslee
Israel
Issa
Jackson (IL)
Jackson-Lee (TX)
Johnson (GA)
Johnson, E. B.
Jones (NC)
Kagen
Kanjorski
Kaptur
Keller
Kennedy
Kildee
Kilpatrick
Kind
Kirk
Klein (FL)
Knollenberg
Kucinich
Langevin
Lantos
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Latham
LaTourette
Lee
Levin
Lewis (CA)
Lewis (GA)
Linder
LoBiondo
Loebsack
Lofgren, Zoe
Lowey
Lucas
Lynch
Mahoney (FL)
Maloney (NY)
Manzullo
Marchant
Markey
Marshall
Matheson
Matsui
McCaul (TX)
McCollum (MN)
McCrery
McDermott
McGovern
McHugh
McIntyre
McKeon
McNerney
McNulty
Meek (FL)
Melancon
Michaud
Miller (NC)
Miller, Gary
Miller, George
Mitchell
Mollohan
Moore (KS)
Moore (WI)
Moran (KS)
Murphy (CT)
Murphy, Patrick
Napolitano
Oberstar
Obey
Olver

Ortiz
Pallone
Pascrell
Pastor
Payne
Perlmutter
Petri
Pickering
Pomeroy
Porter
Price (GA)
Price (NC)
Rahall
Rangel
Regula
Reichert
Renzi
Reyes
Rodriguez
Ros-Lehtinen
Roskam
Ross
Roybal-Allard
Ruppersberger
Rush
Ryan (OH)
Salazar
Sanchez, Loretta
Sarbanes
Saxton
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schwartz
Scott (GA)
Scott (VA)
Serrano
Sestak
Shays
Shea-Porter
Sherman
Shuler
Simpson
Sires
Skelton
Slaughter
Smith (NJ)
Snyder
Solis
Souder
Space
Spratt
Stupak
Sutton
Tanner
Tauscher
Taylor
Terry
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Tiahrt
Towns
Turner
Udall (NM)
Van Hollen
Velázquez
Visclosky
Walsh (NY)
Walz (MN)
Waters
Watson
Watt
Waxman
Welch (VT)
Weller
Wicker
Wilson (NM)
Wilson (OH)
Wilson (SC)
Wolf
Woolsey
Wu
Wynn
Yarmuth
Young (FL)

NAYS—100

Akin
Alexander
Bachmann
Baker
Barrett (SC)
Barton (TX)
Bean
Bilirakis
Bishop (UT)
Blackburn
Boustany
Brown (SC)
Burgess
Burton (IN)
Buyer
Camp (MI)
Campbell (CA)
Cantor
Carter
Chabot
Coble
Conaway
Davis (KY)
Davis, David
Deal (GA)
Drake
Dreier
Duncan
English (PA)
Feeney
Flake
Forbes
Fossella
Foxx
Franks (AZ)
Garrett (NJ)
Gerlach
Gingrey
Gohmert
Goode
Granger
Graves
Hall (TX)
Hastings (WA)
Hensarling
Herger
Hoekstra
Inglis (SC)
Johnson, Sam
Jordan
King (IA)
King (NY)
Kingston
Kline (MN)
Kuhl (NY)
Lamborn
Lungren, Daniel E.
Mack
McCarthy (CA)
McCotter
McHenry
Mica
Miller (FL)
Miller (MI)
Myrick
Neugebauer
Nunes
Paul
Pearce
Pence
Peterson (MN)
Platts
Poe
Putnam
Radanovich
Ramstad
Rehberg
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rogers (MI)
Rohrabacher
Royce
Ryan (WI)
Sali
Schmidt
Sensenbrenner
Sessions
Shadegg
Shuster
Smith (NE)
Smith (TX)
Stearns
Thornberry
Tiberi
Upton
Walberg
Walden (OR)
Weldon (FL)
Westmoreland
Young (AK)

NOT VOTING—64

Berman
Bonner
Boren
Brady (PA)
Brown, Corrine
Cardoza
Carney
Costello
Crenshaw
Cubin
Culberson
Davis (AL)
Davis, Jo Ann
Davis, Lincoln
Doolittle
Doyle
Engel
Everett
Fattah
Ferguson
Frank (MA)
Gallegly
Green, Gene
Grijalva
Gutierrez
Hastert
Holden
Hunter
Jefferson
Jindal
Johnson (IL)
Jones (OH)
LaHood
Lampson
Lewis (KY)
Lipinski
McCarthy (NY)
McMorris Rodgers
Meehan
Meeks (NY)
Moran (VA)
Murphy, Tim
Murtha
Musgrave
Nadler
Neal (MA)
Peterson (PA)
Pitts
Pryce (OH)
Reynolds
Rothman
Sánchez, Linda T.
Shimkus
Smith (WA)
Stark
Sullivan
Tancredo
Tierney
Udall (CO)
Wamp
Wasserman Schultz
Weiner
Wexler
Whitfield

□ 1859

Mr. DEAL of Georgia and Ms. BEAN changed their vote from ''yea'' to ''nay.''

Messrs. EHLERS, LINDER, McCRERY, WILSON of South Carolina, BACHUS and Ms. KAPTUR changed their vote from ''nay'' to ''yea.''

So (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

Stated for:

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 342, had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

Mr. LAMPSON. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 342, had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

SUPPORTING THE GOALS AND IDEALS OF A NATIONAL DAY OF REMEMBRANCE FOR MURDER VICTIMS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 223, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 223.

This will be a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 369, nays 0, not voting 63, as follows:

[Roll No. 343]

YEAS—369

Abercrombie
Ackerman
Aderholt
Akin
Alexander
Allen
Altmire
Andrews
Arcuri
Baca
Bachmann
Bachus
Baird
Baker
Baldwin
Barrett (SC)
Barrow
Bartlett (MD)
Barton (TX)
Bean
Becerra
Berkley
Berry
Biggert
Bilbray
Bilirakis
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (NY)
Bishop (UT)
Blackburn
Blumenauer
Blunt
Boehner
Bono
Boozman
Boswell
Boucher
Boustany
Boyd (FL)
Boyda (KS)
Brady (TX)
Braley (IA)
Brown (SC)
Brown-Waite, Ginny
Buchanan
Burgess
Burton (IN)
Butterfield
Buyer
Calvert
Camp (MI)
Campbell (CA)
Cannon
Cantor
Capito
Capps
Capuano
Carnahan
Carson
Carter
Castle
Castor
Chabot
Chandler
Clarke
Clay
Cleaver
Clyburn
Coble
Cohen
Cole (OK)
Conaway
Conyers
Cooper
Costa
Courtney
Cramer
Crowley
Cuellar
Cummings
Davis (CA)
Davis (IL)
Davis (KY)
Davis, David
Davis, Lincoln
Davis, Tom
Deal (GA)
DeFazio
DeGette
Delahunt
DeLauro
Dent
Diaz-Balart, L.
Diaz-Balart, M.
Dicks
Dingell
Doggett
Donnelly
Drake
Dreier
Duncan
Edwards
Ehlers
Ellison
Ellsworth
Emanuel
Emerson
English (PA)
Eshoo
Etheridge
Fallin
Farr
Feeney
Filner
Flake
Forbes
Fortenberry
Fossella
Foxx
Franks (AZ)
Frelinghuysen
Garrett (NJ)
Gerlach
Giffords
Gilchrest
Gillibrand
Gillmor
Gingrey
Gohmert
Gonzalez
Goode
Goodlatte
Gordon
Granger
Graves
Green, Al
Green, Gene
Hall (NY)
Hall (TX)
Hare
Harman
Hastings (FL)
Hastings (WA)
Hayes
Heller
Hensarling
Herger
Herseth Sandlin
Higgins
Hill
Hinchey
Hinojosa
Hirono
Hobson
Hodes
Hoekstra
Holt
Honda
Hooley
Hoyer
Hulshof
Inglis (SC)
Inslee
Israel
Issa
Jackson (IL)
Jackson-Lee (TX)
Johnson, E. B.
Johnson, Sam
Jones (NC)
Jordan
Kagen
Kanjorski
Kaptur
Keller
Kennedy
Kildee
Kilpatrick
Kind
King (IA)
King (NY)
Kingston
Kirk
Klein (FL)
Kline (MN)
Knollenberg
Kucinich
Kuhl (NY)
Lamborn
Lampson
Langevin
Lantos
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Latham
LaTourette
Lee
Levin
Lewis (CA)
Lewis (GA)
Linder
LoBiondo
Loebsack
Lofgren, Zoe
Lowey
Lucas
Lungren, Daniel E.
Lynch
Mack
Mahoney (FL)
Maloney (NY)
Manzullo
Marchant
Markey
Marshall
Matheson
Matsui
McCarthy (CA)
McCaul (TX)
McCollum (MN)
McCotter
McCrery
McDermott
McGovern
McHenry
McHugh
McIntyre
McKeon
McNerney
McNulty
Meek (FL)
Melancon
Mica
Michaud
Miller (FL)
Miller (MI)
Miller (NC)
Miller, Gary
Miller, George
Mitchell
Mollohan
Moore (KS)
Moore (WI)
Moran (KS)
Murphy (CT)
Murphy, Patrick
Myrick
Napolitano
Neugebauer
Nunes
Oberstar
Obey
Olver
Ortiz
Pallone
Pascrell
Pastor
Paul
Payne
Pearce
Pence
Perlmutter
Peterson (MN)
Petri
Pickering
Platts
Poe
Pomeroy
Porter
Price (GA)
Price (NC)
Putnam
Radanovich
Rahall
Ramstad
Rangel
Regula
Rehberg
Reichert
Renzi
Reyes
Rodriguez
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rogers (MI)
Rohrabacher
Ros-Lehtinen
Roskam
Ross
Roybal-Allard
Royce
Ruppersberger
Rush
Ryan (OH)
Ryan (WI)
Salazar
Sali
Sanchez, Loretta
Sarbanes
Saxton
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schmidt
Schwartz
Scott (GA)
Scott (VA)
Sensenbrenner
Serrano
Sessions
Sestak
Shadegg
Shays
Shea-Porter
Sherman
Shuler
Shuster
Simpson
Sires
Skelton
Slaughter
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Snyder
Solis
Souder
Space
Spratt
Stearns
Stupak
Sutton
Tanner
Tauscher
Taylor
Terry
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Thornberry
Tiahrt
Tiberi
Towns
Turner
Udall (NM)
Upton
Van Hollen
Velázquez
Visclosky
Walberg
Walden (OR)
Walsh (NY)
Walz (MN)
Waters
Watson
Watt
Waxman
Welch (VT)
Weldon (FL)
Weller
Westmoreland
Wicker
Wilson (NM)
Wilson (OH)
Wilson (SC)
Wolf
Woolsey
Wu
Yarmuth
Young (AK)
Young (FL)

NOT VOTING—63

Berman
Bonner
Boren
Brady (PA)
Brown, Corrine
Cardoza
Carney
Costello
Crenshaw
Cubin
Culberson
Davis (AL)
Davis, Jo Ann
Doolittle
Doyle
Engel
Everett
Fattah
Ferguson
Frank (MA)
Gallegly
Grijalva
Gutierrez
Hastert
Holden
Hunter
Jefferson
Jindal
Johnson (GA)
Johnson (IL)
Jones (OH)
LaHood
Lewis (KY)
Lipinski
McCarthy (NY)
McMorris Rodgers
Meehan
Meeks (NY)
Moran (VA)
Murphy, Tim
Murtha
Musgrave
Nadler
Neal (MA)
Peterson (PA)
Pitts
Pryce (OH)
Reynolds
Rothman
Sánchez, Linda T.
Shimkus
Smith (WA)
Stark
Sullivan
Tancredo

Tierney
Udall (CO)
Wamp
Wasserman Schultz
Weiner
Wexler
Whitfield
Wynn

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (during the vote). Members are advised there are 2 minutes left in this vote.

□ 1906

So (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the resolution was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

MOMENT OF SILENCE IN MEMORY OF FORMER REPRESENTATIVE MENDEL DAVIS OF SOUTH CAROLINA

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

Mr. SPRATT. Mr. Speaker, it is my sad responsibility as the dean of the South Carolina delegation to advise the House of the death of a former Member, Representative Mendel Davis, who passed away after several years of respiratory problems this weekend.

I would now like to yield to the gentleman from Charleston, South Carolina, Mr. HENRY BROWN, who holds his seat, to say a word of respect and remembrance.

Mr. BROWN of South Carolina. I certainly appreciate the gentleman for yielding.

Mendel Davis was a close friend of mine. He was born in and was a resident of North Charleston, South Carolina, which is part of my congressional district.

Mendel Davis entered Congress after a special election in 1971 to replace his godfather, former Representative Mendel Rivers. Mendel Davis was reelected to Congress an additional four more times. He was a graduate of the College of Charleston and received his law degree from the University of South Carolina School of Law.

Mendel Davis was one of the major reasons that the USS *Yorktown* now calls Patriot's Point in Mount Pleasant, South Carolina its home.

He was a champion for the little guy, and he was always known for his timely and efficient service to his constituents who loved and respected him.

I know we will all miss Mendel Davis very much. During his time serving the people in the House of Representatives, he made it a better place to be.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the House to observe 1 minute of silence in honor of our former colleague, Representative Mendel Davis.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, 5-minute voting will continue.

There was no objection.

NATIONAL AMERICORPS WEEK

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 385, in which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. YARMUTH) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 385.

This will be a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 346, nays 21, answered ''present'' 1, not voting 64, as follows:

[Roll No. 344]

YEAS—346

Abercrombie
Ackerman
Aderholt
Akin
Alexander
Allen
Altmire
Andrews
Arcuri
Baca
Bachmann
Bachus
Baird
Baker
Baldwin
Barrett (SC)
Barrow
Barton (TX)
Bean
Becerra
Berkley
Berry
Biggert
Bilirakis
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (NY)
Bishop (UT)
Blackburn
Blumenauer
Blunt
Boehner
Bono
Boozman
Boswell
Boucher
Boustany
Boyd (FL)
Brady (TX)
Braley (IA)
Brown (SC)
Buchanan
Burgess
Burton (IN)
Butterfield
Calvert
Camp (MI)
Campbell (CA)
Cannon
Cantor
Capito
Capps
Capuano
Carnahan
Carson
Castle
Castor
Chabot
Chandler
Clarke
Clay
Cleaver
Clyburn
Coble
Cohen
Cole (OK)
Conaway
Conyers
Cooper
Costa
Courtney
Cramer
Crowley
Cuellar
Cummings
Davis (AL)
Davis (CA)
Davis (IL)
Davis (KY)
Davis, David
Davis, Lincoln
Davis, Tom
Deal (GA)
DeFazio
DeGette
Delahunt
DeLauro
Dent
Diaz-Balart, L.
Diaz-Balart, M.
Dicks
Dingell
Doggett
Donnelly
Drake
Dreier
Duncan
Edwards
Ehlers
Ellison
Ellsworth
Emanuel
Emerson
English (PA)
Eshoo
Etheridge
Fallin
Farr
Feeney
Filner
Forbes
Fortenberry
Fossella
Frelinghuysen
Garrett (NJ)
Gerlach
Giffords
Gilchrest
Gillibrand
Gillmor
Gohmert
Gonzalez
Gordon
Granger
Graves
Green, Al
Green, Gene
Hall (NY)
Hall (TX)
Hare
Harman
Hastings (FL)
Hastings (WA)
Hayes
Heller
Herger
Herseth Sandlin
Higgins
Hill
Hinchey
Hinojosa
Hirono
Hobson
Hodes
Hoekstra
Holt
Honda
Hooley
Hoyer
Hulshof
Inglis (SC)
Inslee
Israel
Issa
Jackson (IL)
Jackson-Lee (TX)
Johnson (GA)
Johnson, E. B.
Johnson, Sam
Jones (NC)
Jordan
Kagen
Kanjorski
Kaptur
Keller
Kennedy
Kildee
Kilpatrick
Kind
King (NY)
Kirk
Klein (FL)
Kline (MN)
Knollenberg
Kucinich
Kuhl (NY)
Lampson
Langevin
Lantos
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Latham
LaTourette
Lee
Levin
Lewis (CA)
Lewis (GA)
Linder
LoBiondo
Loebsack
Lofgren, Zoe
Lowey
Lucas
Lungren, Daniel E.
Lynch
Mack
Mahoney (FL)
Maloney (NY)
Manzullo
Marchant
Markey
Marshall
Matheson
Matsui
McCarthy (CA)
McCaul (TX)
McCollum (MN)
McCotter
McCrery
McDermott
McGovern
McHenry
McHugh
McIntyre
McKeon
McNerney
McNulty
Meek (FL)
Melancon
Mica
Michaud
Miller (FL)
Miller (MI)
Miller (NC)
Miller, George
Mitchell
Moore (WI)
Moran (KS)
Murphy (CT)
Murphy, Patrick
Myrick
Napolitano
Neugebauer
Nunes
Oberstar
Obey
Olver
Ortiz
Pallone
Pascrell
Pastor
Payne
Pearce
Perlmutter
Peterson (MN)
Petri
Pickering
Platts
Poe
Pomeroy
Porter
Price (GA)
Price (NC)
Putnam
Radanovich
Rahall
Ramstad
Rangel
Regula
Rehberg
Reichert
Renzi
Reyes
Rodriguez
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rogers (MI)
Ros-Lehtinen
Roskam
Ross
Roybal-Allard
Ruppersberger
Rush
Ryan (OH)
Ryan (WI)
Salazar
Sanchez, Loretta
Sarbanes
Saxton
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schmidt
Schwartz
Scott (GA)
Scott (VA)
Sensenbrenner
Serrano
Sessions
Sestak
Shays
Shea-Porter
Sherman
Shuler
Shuster
Simpson
Sires
Skelton
Slaughter
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Snyder
Solis
Souder
Space
Spratt
Stearns
Stupak
Sutton
Tanner
Tauscher
Taylor
Terry
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Thornberry
Tiahrt
Tiberi
Towns
Turner
Udall (NM)
Upton
Van Hollen
Velázquez
Visclosky
Walberg
Walden (OR)
Walsh (NY)
Walz (MN)
Waters
Watson
Watt
Waxman
Welch (VT)
Weldon (FL)
Weller
Westmoreland
Wicker
Wilson (NM)
Wilson (OH)
Wilson (SC)
Wolf
Woolsey
Wu
Yarmuth
Young (AK)
Young (FL)

NAYS—21

Bartlett (MD)
Bilbray
Buyer
Carter
Flake
Foxx
Franks (AZ)
Gingrey
Goode
Goodlatte
Hensarling
King (IA)
Kingston
Lamborn
Miller, Gary
Paul
Pence
Rohrabacher
Royce
Sali
Shadegg

ANSWERED ''PRESENT''—1

Brown-Waite, Ginny

NOT VOTING—64

Berman
Bonner
Boren
Boyda (KS)
Brady (PA)
Brown, Corrine
Cardoza
Carney
Costello
Crenshaw
Cubin
Culberson
Davis, Jo Ann
Doolittle
Doyle
Engel
Everett
Fattah
Ferguson
Frank (MA)
Gallegly
Grijalva
Gutierrez
Hastert
Holden
Hunter
Jefferson
Jindal
Johnson (IL)
Jones (OH)
LaHood
Lewis (KY)
Lipinski
McCarthy (NY)
McMorris Rodgers
Meehan
Meeks (NY)
Mollohan
Moore (KS)
Moran (VA)
Murphy, Tim
Murtha
Musgrave
Nadler
Neal (MA)
Peterson (PA)
Pitts
Pryce (OH)
Reynolds
Rothman
Sánchez, Linda T.
Shimkus
Smith (WA)
Stark
Sullivan
Tancredo
Tierney
Udall (CO)
Wamp
Wasserman Schultz
Weiner
Wexler
Whitfield
Wynn

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (during the vote). Members are advised there are less than 2 minutes remaining on this vote.

□ 1915

So (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the resolution was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

Stated for:

Mrs. BOYDA of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 344, had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. GUTIERREZ. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably absent from this Chamber today. I would like the RECORD to show that, had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall votes 342, 343, and 344.

EXPRESSING CONCERN AND SUPPORT FOR TROOPS IN IRAQ

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

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, let me express my deep concern for the three soldiers who are now missing in Iraq and applaud their brothers-in-arms for never giving up on their search, for we as Americans will never leave our comrades, our brothers and sisters, in battle or never leave them on the battlefield. That is why this Congress, with the leadership of NANCY PELOSI, believes that we can craft a resolution and a solution, and that is that we begin to redeploy our troops and focus on the Iraqi Government, to have them stand up and to have them ensure the safety of the Iraqi people and also Americans to ensure the safety of their soldiers.

Our soldiers have been successful on the battlefield. They can claim victory. It is time now for the President, the White House, the leadership to get together and to be able to solve these untenable problems.

Why are we allowing our young people to be on the battlefield without the support, the full support, of a reasoned White House? Let us work together.

TO RENT OR NOT TO RENT TO ILLEGALS

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

Mr. POE. Mr. Speaker, on Saturday, the citizens of Farmers Branch, Texas, voted overwhelmingly to make it a crime for landlords to rent to people illegally in the United States, fining landlords $500 a day. The people have spoken. They want only citizens and legal immigrants to live in the city.

Oh, but some landlords object. I find this odd. It is illegal to be in the United States without permission. It is illegal to hire illegals that are in the United States without permission. So if illegals aren't supposed to be here in the first place or work here, it is only logical they shouldn't be able to rent here.

In spite of this new law, some landlords want to take this American city to court and demand that they, these money-grabbing landlords, be able to rent to the illegals.

This is perplexing. The Federal Government doesn't adequately protect the border or prosecute or deport illegals, so cities like Farmers Branch, Texas, are simply trying to make their city a sanctuary city for Americans and legal immigrants. And good for them.

But who knows what the Supreme Court will do. Let's see if in the name of the almighty dollar these rogue businessmen will convince the Supreme Court that illegals should be able to rent property, even though they are illegally on the land they are renting.

And that's just the way it is.

APRIL REVENUE SHOWERS

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

Mr. MCHENRY. Mr. Speaker, April revenue showers. That is what the Wall Street Journal called the large government revenues received by this Federal Government in the month of April. It was $70 billion over revenue in 2006. It shows that tax cuts work. The Democrats, on the other hand, want to raise taxes. They want to raise the taxes that American people pay.

What we believe in and what the President has done in just the five short years he has been in office is to actually cut taxes that the American people pay, which, in the end, through greater economic growth, will lead to more government revenue.

A case in point: the capital gains tax cut and the dividends tax cut, those two things have resulted in a 30 percent increase in revenue under those two provisions. It shows that tax cuts work.

They are good for the economy and they are good for the American people, and we need to extend the tax cuts.

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. AL GREEN of Texas). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 18, 2007, 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 Illinois (Mr. EMANUEL) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. EMANUEL 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 Texas (Mr. POE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. POE 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 gentlewoman from California (Ms. WOOLSEY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

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

GETTING JUSTICE FOR MURDERED WOMEN IN CIUDAD JUAREZ

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

Ms. SOLIS. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to voice my strong support for the families and women who have been murdered in Ciudad Juarez and Chihuahua City in Mexico. I have always believed that violence against women anywhere is an attack on women everywhere. Just 5 minutes from the U.S. border in Ciudad Juarez in the State of Chihuahua, Mexico, over 400 women and girls have been brutally murdered over the last 14 years.

In today's Washington Post, which I will submit for the RECORD, I read the story of mothers of victims whose fight for justice has lasted well over a decade. Because of the gross negligence and failure of local law enforcement to investigate and prosecute the murders, the statute of limitations is starting to run out on some of the earlier murders of women in Ciudad Juarez. What a disgrace, if we cannot solve the murders of these over-450 women.

Women and young girls from all parts of Mexico moved to Ciudad Juarez in hopes of finding work, including jobs at American-owned companies known in Spanish as maquiladoras. These jobs involve late hours, forcing women to travel home in the dark, alone, leaving them vulnerable to attack.

Many of these young women are under the age of 25. They are the sole earners and income earners for their families. Their brothers and fathers are not employed by maquilas, because the maquiladores choose to hire these young women, who they know will not speak out about their rights or condemn the treatment of these women in the workplace.

That is why I introduced a resolution to address the murders of women and girls in Ciudad Juarez some 3 years ago, and I am happy to report that H.R. 90 was passed by this Congress and there is recognition now on the value and faith that we have in the families in Ciudad Juarez.

I bring that out because I say to you and to the public, when we can fight for the rights of women in the Taliban and the Middle East, why can't we fight also honorably for the women who live 5 minutes from this border, many of whom are relatives to us, our constituents, related to families that we represent? It is about time that we change the discussion and direction about this debate that we have with our friends south of the border.

I am proud to be a descendant of friends south of the border, but I also

have to say that there has to be some changes in terms of how we deal with women who are being abused, attacked, and mutilated. It is time that our governments come together.

I ask that Condoleezza Rice and our President weigh in, as well as the new President of Mexico, Mr. Calderon, the President of Mexico, who says this is a priority for him to combat violence against women. I hope that we can do that.

In 2003 and 2004, I organized a congressional delegation trip to Ciudad Juarez with families of victims, government officials, human rights advocates, newspaper reporters and indeed also the FBI. It was in these trips that my dedication to helping the women of Ciudad Juarez was solidified. Families of violence deserve answers and closure instead of either being ignored or harassed for asking for justice to find out where their daughters' bodies lay and where those remains are.

I am sad to report that even though we have asked for assistance from outside of our Nation through the OAS, through a forensic group in Argentina to help identify the bodies and remains of these young women, that it hasn't been as successful as I would have hoped.

I would ask our government to please weigh in again to provide the technical support that is needed to help identify the remains of these young women so that families can have some closure.

Again, any assault on a woman, murder, mutilation or what have you, is an assault on all mankind; and we as Members of Congress should no less have any interest into what happens south of the border.

The convictions in many cases of these individuals that were so-called blamed for these murders were overturned. There wasn't a judge or anyone that would convict anyone of doing these heinous crimes.

I have to say to myself and to the public and to this Congress, why have 450 women who have disappeared from their families, from their homes, somehow not found justice? I just want to remind individuals that the work goes on, that we need help to solve the murders in Ciudad Juarez, and ask our government, both governments, Mexico and the U.S., to find some resolution here.

[From the Washington Post, May 14, 2007]

WANING HOPES IN JUAREZ

(By Manuel Roig-Franzia)

CIUDAD JUAREZ, MEXICO.—For 13 years, June 14 has brought tears, tortured memories and enduring pain to Griselda Salas.

It was on that date, in 1993, that her 16-year-old sister, Guadalupe Ivonne Salas, disappeared. Guadalupe Ivonne's body turned up less than a week later in a park in this dusty, wind-swept industrial city near the U.S.-Mexico border.

Guadalupe Ivonne, who was raped and strangled, was one of the first victims in Mexico's grisliest modern-day crime mystery—the murders of more than 400 women in the past 14 years in Ciudad Juarez, many of the bodies dumped in the desert, horribly mutilated. The killings, mostly of poor young factory workers, have inspired two Hollywood motion pictures and enraged human rights groups, which have filled volumes with accusations of corruption, botched investigations and official negligence.

Yet the mystery remains unsolved.

Now the earliest of these cases are quietly slipping off legal dockets because Mexico, unlike the United States and many European countries, has a statute of limitations for murder. At a time when U.S. prosecutors are resurrecting civil rights-era murder cases—some more than 40 years old—Mexico is closing murder cases forever after 14 years. With each passing day, it appears likely that a legal technicality may end a quest to unravel a string of slayings that shocked the world.

''It is totally and absolutely grotesque to think that murderers could be enjoying their freedom because of this law,'' said Jaime Garcia Chávez, a Chihuahua state legislator who is pressing to abolish Mexico's statute of limitations. ''It is inexcusable.''

Once filled with optimism, buoyed by support from the likes of actresses Jane Fonda and Sally Field, feminists and lawmakers here are demoralized. Esther Chávez Cano, founder of Juarez's first rape and domestic violence counseling center, laments ''a worrying silence'' about cases that once commanded banner headlines. Few here are optimistic, even though the looming deadlines for dozens of Juarez cases have set off a last-minute race to revive long-dormant investigations.

An Argentine forensics team commissioned to look into the murders, drawing on experience from investigations of Argentina's ''dirty war'' and the Salvadoran civil war, is expected to release a damning report later this year that will illustrate the almost impossible task faced by prosecutors. The Argentines have found body parts carelessly left for years on the floors of medical examiner's offices, heads with no matching bodies, bodies with no matching heads and a mishmash of unlabeled corpses tossed into mass graves at paupers' cemeteries.

''It's basically a huge mess,'' forensic archaeologist Mercedes Doretti, the team leader, said in an interview.

Garcia Chávez's effort to give investigators more time to untangle that mess by extending the statute of limitations, a gambit he considers a long shot, has already come too late for Jesica Elizalde, a slain journalist whose murder case expired March 14. The case of a factory worker, Luz Yvonne de la O Garcia, went off the books April 21, as did the murder of an unidentified woman on May 12. Dozens more will follow in the coming months and years.

The next could be Guadalupe Ivonne Salas, though prosecutors say they may be closing in on a suspect—a promise that her family is reluctant to believe after years of dashed hopes.

Salas, a petite 16-year-old, shared a single bed in a cinder-block shack with her infant daughter and her mother, Vicky Salas. The family, like thousands of others, was drawn to Ciudad Juarez by the maquiladoras—assembly plants, most of them owned by U.S. companies—that sprang up blocks from the border because of an abundance of cheap labor and that transformed the town into the fourth-most-populous city in Mexico.

Young women were especially prized by factory supervisors because they were considered more reliable and less rowdy than men. Almost overnight, women were making money while men were still struggling to find jobs, leading to resentment in the local macho culture that activists cite as a social undercurrent to the slayings.

Salas walked each day down a treeless dirt road, past piles of rotting garbage and shacks with sagging walls, to catch a bus that took her to a television part manufacturer. She made about $35 a week, sometimes pulling night shifts and returning home to a neighborhood with no streetlights.

The day that she disappeared should have been joyous; she was getting ready to celebrate her daughter's first birthday. Griselda Salas remembers her sister saying that a friend was going to lend her money to buy presents and party supplies.

''She's probably gone off with some stud,'' Griselda Salas remembers being told by police when her sister did not return home. ''You watch, she'll come back pregnant with a fat belly in a few months.''

Vicky Salas was on a religious retreat at the time of her daughter's disappearance. When she returned several days later, members of her church were in tears.

''They've found a dead girl,'' she remembers her friends telling her. ''They think it's Ivonne.''

A car accident delayed Vicky Salas's trip to the morgue, which was closed when she arrived. An unsmiling police officer told her, ''You'll have to come back tomorrow,'' and no amount of pleading by a panic-stricken mother could change his mind, she recalled.

Even as the death toll rose, victims' families continued to complain about insensitive investigators. One state attorney general suggested that the women encouraged their attackers by dressing provocatively. Other officials implied that the victims were prostitutes, living ''double lives,'' though their mothers insisted they were poor factory workers.

''They called them the morenitas,'' Juarez police criminologist Oscar Maynez said in an interview, invoking a derogatory term that was in vogue at the time and roughly translates to ''little brown ones.'' No one cared about investigating their deaths. There was clear sexism and classism.''

Mexican federal authorities and international human rights organizations that have investigated the cases have accused local authorities in Ciudad Juarez and the state of Chihuahua of covering up evidence and failing to properly investigate crimes for a decade and a half.

The Washington Office on Latin America, or WOLA, a Washington-based human rights organization, has said the true killers may have been protected by authorities who tortured innocents to confess to the killings. Victims' families have been subjected to harassment.

''One relative of a murder victim received a threatening voicemail message warning her to drop the case; the caller ID showed the call had come from the state judicial police,'' a WOLA report said.

Flor Rocío Munguía González, the special prosecutor for what has become known as the femicides in Juarez, said in an interview that such offenses are ''things of the past'' and that she has more than tripled her investigative staff to solve old cases before the time limits expire and to track down those responsible for the ongoing killings of women in Juarez.

''I take great satisfaction in our efforts—we're doing everything we can,'' said Munguía González, who has been in office since February 2006.

After seeing eight special prosecutors come and go with no results, local activists are not impressed. Maureen Meyer, a WO–LA analyst, said that a special federal investigator had found that 130 public officials had either been negligent or abused their authority during the murder investigations, but none has been disciplined.

''There's a real failure to hold them accountable,'' Meyer said in an interview.

Maynez, the criminologist, said he believes a powerful network of police, municipal officials and organized crime figures still protects the killers. He resigned from the job for a short time, after being asked to help frame two bus drivers in one of the cases. He refused, but the two men were arrested anyway. One died in suspicious circumstances during a jailhouse surgery. The other was released after testifying that he had been tortured by police into confessing.

An attorney for the bus drivers was killed by Chihuahua state police in a drive-by shooting in 2005, four days after vowing to file a corruption complaint. The police said the shooting was a case of mistaken identity.

Skepticism is growing as the Argentine forensics team nears the conclusion of its inquiry. The team has discovered that forensics officials in Ciudad Juarez boiled the corpses of some victims, destroying crucial DNA. The group also has found that the families of at least three victims received the wrong bodies for burial.

''The authorities just sealed the coffins and told the families not to ask any questions,'' said Doretti, the lead forensics investigator.

The Juarez families, Doretti said, have insisted that no evidence be sent to Mexican laboratories. Instead, Doretti has sent samples to a U.S. lab; she is expecting results soon.

The new forensic evidence and the approach of the statute of limitations deadlines are the sorts of developments that once would have prompted demonstrations in downtown Juarez. But the mothers who for years have pleaded for justice are exhausted, aging and in poor health.

The case of Silvia Morales, who was killed when she was 16, will expire in less than two years. Her mother, Ramona Morales, had been one of the most vocal critics in a protest movement of victim relatives, but is now suffering from diabetes and a bad knee.

''I can't do it anymore,'' she said one recent afternoon, tears trickling down her face.

Eva Arce, whose daughter Silvia Arce disappeared in 1998, was twice beaten by thugs after demonstrations demanding justice. She spends her days clipping newspaper articles about a new generation of murdered women in Juarez and writing poems.

''A tortured soul pours from a river of blood,'' she said one recent afternoon, reading from her notebook.

That same day, the newspaper El Norte of Ciudad Juarez carried a photograph of a pretty, dark-haired young woman. She didn't look so different from Silvia Arce or Silvia Morales or Guadalupe Ivonne Salas. The caption read: ''Edith Aranda Longoria, 729 days since she was last seen.''

□ 1930

RENAMING DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

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

Mr. JONES of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, this week the House will consider the 2008 defense authorization bill. For the sixth year in a row, the bill contains language to rename the Department of the Navy to be the Department of the Navy and Marine Corps.

I want to thank House Armed Services Chairman IKE SKELTON and Ranking Member DUNCAN HUNTER for their continued support for this change because the need to recognize the coequal status of the Navy and the Marine Corps team is long overdue. I have continued to introduce legislation to rename the department. I hope this year the Senate will support the House position and join in bringing the proper respect to the fighting team of the Navy and Marine Corps.

Over the years, this name change has received not only the support of the full House Armed Services Committee but also the support of former Navy Secretaries and Marine Corps Commandants.

The Honorable Wade Sanders, Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Reserve Affairs, 1993 to 1998, voiced his support for the change when he stated: ''As a combat veteran and former Navy officer, I understand the importance of the team dynamics and the importance of recognizing the contribution of team components. The Navy and Marine Corps team is just that, a dynamic partnership, and it is important to symbolically recognize the balance of that partnership.''

General Carl Mundy, the 30th Commandant of the Marine Corps stated: ''I believe the changes you propose will do much to clarify the relationship, responsibilities, and functions of the appointed civilian authority over the United States naval services. I believe that any Secretary, present, past or future, will be very proud to bear the title 'Marine' as well as 'Navy.' ''

Admiral Stansfield Turner, United States Navy, Retired, former Director of Central Intelligence, stated: ''I think this change in title enhances the prestige and pride of the people in the Marine Corps. And it does not necessarily take anything away from the Navy in that process.''

Mr. Speaker, last year an editorial in the Chicago Tribune on April 21, 2006, also supported the change stating: ''No service branch shows more respect for tradition than the United States Marine Corps does, which makes it all the more ironic that tradition denies the Corps an important show of respect: Equal billing with the other services and the branches.''

Mr. Speaker, as I begin to close, I want to show the Members of the House, these are the orders from the Secretary of the Navy. Sergeant Michael Bitz, United States Marine Corps, was killed for this country 2 years ago and his family received in his memory the Silver Star for Valor. And yet, Mr. Speaker, you can see that the title of the order says the Secretary of the Navy, Washington, D.C. and the Navy flag. This was a Marine who gave his life for this country.

Isn't it proper that the orders for the Silver Star should look like this and say at the top the Secretary of the Navy and Marine Corps, Navy flag, Marine flag, they are one fighting team and they should be recognized as a fighting team.

It is about time, after 40-some years, the House, with the Goldwater-Nichols bill, said there are four separate branches: The Marine Corps, the Navy, the Air Force, and the Army, and it is time that the Marine Corps be recognized as one of the strongest fighting teams in this country.

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

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

HONORING SHERIFF JOE GOODSON

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

Mr. MCCAUL of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to tell the Nation about one of the finest and most dedicated members of America's law enforcement community, and one of the best sheriffs to ever have served in the 10th Congressional District of Texas.

For 29 years, the good people of Lee County, Texas, trusted Joe Goodson to be their sheriff. He passed away last month, but left those he protected with a safe, friendly and God-fearing community.

Sheriff Joe, as he was known to the thousands of people who called him a friend, worked hard, not just for the people of his county, but for all Texans and for all Americans.

His fellow Texas sheriffs chose him to lead the Sheriffs' Association of Texas. He was a member of the Auto Theft Task Force, the Narcotics Task Force, and he was the head of the cold case review people team.

But it wasn't just that he was among the finest lawmen in Texas that made Sheriff Joe so well liked and so respected. Sheriff Goodson always treated others the same way he wanted to be treated, and the thousands of people who knew him respected him for it.

Law enforcement ran in Sheriff Joe's blood. His dad, Vernon Goodson, served as sheriff in Lee County for 25 years before his son Joe was elected and took over the position. And as Buddy Price, the editor of the Giddings Times and News in Lee County, will tell you, they were both dedicated to their jobs and loved the people they served. While they both enforced the law vigorously, they also used commonsense and resolved situations peacefully whenever they could.

One of the things Sheriff Joe is best known for is a responsible, some would even say the conservative way in which he ran his sheriff's office. He saw the money entrusted to him and his deputies as the people's money. He ran a tight ship and accounted for every dollar his department spent.

But once again, I have to go back to who Sheriff Goodson was as a person.

As his family will tell you, one of the things he loved most was leading the Blue Santa Program to provide gifts for needy families during the Christmas season. He helped raise money for Blue Santa with auctions, and he even served as an auctioneer.

To Joe's wife, Robyn, and Joe's entire family, and to the good people of Lee County, you have the thanks of a grateful Nation. We are indebted to you, and we mourn your loss.

So to the good Lord above, I hope you are ready for one more angel up there because Sheriff Joe is on his way.

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 of New York addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from 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.)

LEADERSHIP NEEDED IN THE HOUSE

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

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. Speaker, I rise tonight to discuss the topic of leadership. The American people are demanding action from this Congress and so far they have really seen very little.

A recent Wall Street Journal-NBC poll shows that more than 60 percent of Americans think that this Congress has done little or nothing since the leadership change took place in November. And you know what, Mr. Speaker, they are right. Not one piece of the liberal agenda has been signed into law. Instead of crafting legislation that can be implemented, this Congress has wasted the last 4 months and taxpayer dollars as a stage for political theater, and they have nothing to show for it.

When I go home to my district, like I did this weekend, and visit with my constituents, what I am hearing from them is really a lot of frustration. They are getting tired of the political grandstanding. What they want to see, Mr. Speaker, is action. They want us to be problem solvers on the problems they face every day.

The people of the Seventh District want us to hold the line and to not raise taxes. They want to keep more of their hard-earned money. They don't want government to have first right of refusal on that money. They want first right of refusal, and they want to keep those paychecks in their pocket. I believe that the American taxpayer knows how to better spend his own money than the Federal Government.

In my district, we hear a lot of people talk about keeping that money. I have said many times, if 10 percent is good enough for God, 10 percent ought to be good enough for the government. My constituents agree with that.

The people of Tennessee want to win in the war on terror. They want us to support our men and women in uniform by giving them the supplies they need to win. Anything less than that is insulting to the men and women who stand to protect us every day. The liberal leadership of this Congress says the war is lost. It is time to give up. They also claim to support the troops. In my district, Mr. Speaker, we believe you can't have it both ways. You don't support the troops by threatening to withhold critical funding. You don't support the troops by imposing artificial deadlines and taking control of battlefield operations out of the hands of the men and women and the commanders in the field. And you don't support the troops by telling them that you think the war is lost.

The people of Tennessee want our borders secure and they want us to enforce the immigration laws on the books. Granting illegal immigrants amnesty is insulting and unrealistic. It is insulting to all of our constituents who have spent years of time and money entering the country the legal and right way. It devalues all of their hard work and their efforts, and if anyone thinks that granting amnesty to illegal immigrants that are already here will stop more people from crossing the border in the middle of the night, well, they are just fooling themselves.

All of this talk of amnesty will only increase illegal immigration and the traffic that it brings at our borders because it is setting a precedent for the future. We know that. We have seen history repeat itself. Do they actually think that those who are illegally here will voluntarily go back to their home country, stand at the back of the line, and pay a fine when they are already here? And if they are caught, it is rare that they are deported. That is the incentive to integrate the right way, to come into this country through legal channels.

The law should be enforced, Mr. Speaker. That is what people want to see. No amnesty, enforce the laws on the book, not reward those that have illegally entered the country, be certain that people immigrate to this Nation the right way.

It is also a matter of national security. In this post-9/11 era, it is against our national security interest to allow an open border. For instance, three of the six people that are charged in plotting to attack U.S. Army post, Fort Dix, were in the country illegally. Records show there is no record of them ever entering this country. Many of the 9/11 hijackers were in the country with expired visas. Yet, several of them still had their driver's license.

It is evident that radical terrorists whose sole purpose is to destroy this Nation and our way of life are here living among us. It is time that we stand in the gap. It is time that we do our job, that we lead, and we do it to protect the American people. They are watching.

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.)

COMMENDING WE THE PEOPLE WINNERS

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

Mr. DAVIS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, last month more than 1,200 students from across the country visited Washington to participate in the national finals of We the People: The Citizen and the Constitution.

This program is the most extensive educational program in the country, developed to educate young people about the U.S. Constitution and the Bill of Rights.

It is with great pride that I recognize a class from my own Highlands High School of Fort Thomas, Kentucky, in the Fourth District for their accomplishment in this competition.

These outstanding students, using knowledge of the U.S. Constitution, won their statewide competition and earned the chance to come to our Nation's capital and compete at the national level. At the national level, these dedicated students won the Unit One: Foundations of Democracy Award.

I would like to take a moment to recognize the names of these outstanding young people from Highlands High School: Alex Adams, Evan Bush, Kara Dyer, Jessica Earlywine, Jessica Federle, Maria Gurren, John Holloway, Alan Hutchinson, Marjorie Kimball, Connie Kremer, Sam Laskey, Heather Moyer, Emily Nordling, Anna Remley, Lauren Runk, Andrea Spencer, and Corwyn Wyatt.

I also wish to commend the teacher of the class, Julie Kuhnhein, who is responsible for preparing these young constitutional experts for the national finals. Also worthy of special recognition are Rachel Bingham and Robin Winkfield, the State coordinators, and Glenn Manns, the district coordinator, who are among those responsible for implementing the We the People program in my State.

I congratulate these students on their exceptional achievement at the We the People national finals. One thing we can all remember is that

there is no substitute for participating in the governmental process, no substitute for the investment of our lives and our time. I commend all of you for your hard work and for the long hours of preparation, and commend you for a victory well earned, well deserved and bringing honor and credit to the Fourth District of Kentucky.

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

(Mrs. MALONEY of New York addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

□ 1945

IMMIGRANT SOLDIERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 18, 2007, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GONZALEZ) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. GONZALEZ. Mr. Speaker, I welcome this opportunity today to rise and speak on a subject that has been conspicuously absent from legislative debate over the issue of immigration reform. Over the length of this debate, the proponents of the enforcement-only approach, some of which you heard earlier this evening, have repeatedly referred to immigrants as dangerous to the American economy, as dangerous to our society and dangerous to our culture.

A number of my colleagues argue that immigrants take away jobs from American citizens and that immigration has a net effect of shrinking the middle class. They suspect immigrants generally of bringing crime, drugs, and even terrorism into our country. And they suggest that immigrants weaken our patriotic culture by failing to assimilate into American society.

Fear characterizes all of these sentiments and arguments. Fear of change, both economic and social change. Fear of new contributions to the fabric of American culture. Generally, a fear of the ''other.''

Fear can be a powerful and dangerous force. It can motivate hate. It can impede toleration and understanding. Fear can paralyze us with paranoia and blind us to reasoned and logical argument. Fear in the media and in the Halls of Congress have distorted the image of immigrants in this country.

Much as sensationalist TV programming can make us believe that our communities are more dangerous than they really are, sensationalist characterizations of the immigrant population based on anecdotal examples or predictions of worst-case scenarios can falsely lead us to negative, reactionary, and unfounded opinions about immigrants.

I can no longer tolerate the blanket generalizations used to cast our Nation's immigrant population in a universally negative and threatening light. They do not reflect reality. They misrepresent our national interest with respect to immigration. These arguments polarize the public and prevent reasoned and productive dialogue, and they promote a legislative climate that distracts us from our national interest in reforming our broken immigration policies.

We can all agree that we need comprehensive immigration reform, but we must also come to an understanding that demonizing immigrants will not get us there. Ostracizing immigrants in this country with venomous and inapt rhetoric will not move us toward the integration of newcomers into our economy, or the promotion of safe streets for our children to play in, or assimilation of the immigrant population into American society.

It can only delay the time when the immigrant population becomes a fully functional and participatory component of our American society. It can only set back the day when we can guarantee the security of our borders and documentation of all individuals that cross those borders.

Like my colleagues that emphasize tough border enforcement, I, too, believe in reform that provides security for our country and documentation for all the individuals that enter American territory. I think that we speak with a common voice regarding our homeland security goals. Our approaches to talking about the issues of immigration and the methods for solving the problem may differ, but we share common goals in promoting our national and economic security. Debate over approaches to immigration reform is a topic for responsible legislative discourse.

Today, my colleagues and I speak on a related topic about some of the immigrants that are the subjects of our larger debate over immigration. The immigrants we want to talk about are not threats to our national security, they are not threats to our economy, and they are not threats to our people. They, in fact, have demonstrated their solidarity with our Nation. Unquestionably, they wish to contribute to our security and to our economy. And the individuals we speak of cannot be considered separately as friend or foe to the American people, because they demonstrate daily that they are, in fact, Americans in their own right.

The individuals we rise to speak of today are the tens of thousands of brave men and women in the American Armed Forces that were not born in the United States. Like the courageous sons and daughters born and raised in my home State of Texas and throughout this country, these individuals have taken an oath to defend the United States of America with their very lives if necessary.

These immigrant soldiers may differ from their native-born brothers and sisters in terms of location of their birth and even in their citizenship status; however, on the battlefield, they are united by a common purpose.

Among the soldiers in the United States military, there is no distinction between those that are born in Texas, in the Philippines, or in Mexico. They all take an oath. They all assume the same risks. They all make the same sacrifice. All are worthy of honor and distinction, and we must thank them all equally for giving so generously that we, living in communities across this great Nation, may do so peacefully.

Mr. Speaker, it is my great privilege tonight and a true honor that the first member of the United States Armed Services that we are about to honor is Lance Corporal Jose Antonio Gutierrez, and this is the photo of Jose Antonio when he was a little boy, an orphan and I will be a little more specific in a minute, to the time he put on this uniform of the United States Marine.

He was the first member of the United States Armed Forces killed in Iraq. He was not a citizen of this country.

Marine Lance Corporal Jose Antonio Gutierrez, like most Guatemalans, was born into poverty. He was orphaned in 1983 at the age of 9 and taken in by Casa Alianza, or Covenant House, in Guatemala City. The causes and dates of his parents' deaths are unknown to us today.

For the next 10 years, Lance Corporal Gutierrez led a tragic and tumultuous life, bouncing from the orphanage to the street and back again. His adulthood, like his childhood, was characterized by hardship. He worked for a time in a maquila plant, a sweatshop, operating a sewing machine. Even as a single person, making ends meet at such a job was incredibly difficult for this young man.

In early 1997, Lance Corporal Gutierrez made a decision to travel to the United States to seek a better life. He arrived in California an undocumented immigrant. He attended North High School in Torrance, California.

In March 2002, Lance Corporal Gutierrez enlisted in the United States Marine Corps because he wanted to become a citizen of this great country. He was assigned to the 2nd Battalion of the Expeditionary Forces of the United States Marines 1st Division.

Lance Corporal Gutierrez was killed a year later, close to the city of Umm al Qasr in southern Iraq, on March 21, 2003. He was 28 years old.

This man's sacrifice, the first life laid down in the sands of Iraq on behalf of the United States, is testament to the belief of immigrants in the promise of America. It is a symbol of patriotism, of commitment to defending a dream that we all share.

In May of last year, according to the United States Citizenship and Immigration Service, nearly 69,000 foreign-born soldiers, 5 percent of the entire military, are on active duty. Five percent are foreign born.

Can it be said of these immigrants that they are a threat to our national security? Clearly, no. They ensure our national security.

Can it be said that these immigrants threaten American workers? Clearly, no. They ensure that American workers can go to their jobs in peace.

Can it be said of these immigrants that they threaten the safety of our communities with drugs or violence? Again, clearly, no. They are the pillars of their communities when home and defenders of their communities when abroad.

Why then have so many in this debate over immigration missed the contributions these brave individuals make to the peace, the prosperity, and the security of our country? Do examples of immigrants' courage and sacrifice occur as seldom as those acts of violence some use to characterize an entire immigrant population? Is their heroic service anecdotal in the larger discussion about the contributions of immigrants to our society?

Once again, I hardly believe so. One out of every 20 soldiers in the United States military was born outside the United States. Two members of an average platoon immigrated to this country and now serve us all honorably.

What more can we ask of these young people? Lance Corporal Gutierrez not only gave his life for his adopted country; he was the first to do so in this war.

What more can we ask of immigrant parents when they have already given up their brave sons and daughters for the defense of an adopted homeland?

Mr. Speaker, these immigrant soldiers are among the most prominent faces of immigration today, but they are not uncharacteristic of the larger immigrant population. They represent the honest work ethic, the ambition and the patriotism characteristic of immigrants of all national origins and across all eras.

They represent the frontier spirit that built our country and continues to bring the best the world has to offer here to our shores, to the United States, in pursuit of our common American Dream.

At this time I would like to recognize a dear friend, a colleague, the dean of the Texas delegation, Congressman Solomon Ortiz of Texas.

Mr. ORTIZ. Thank you, Charlie, for allowing me some time to speak tonight, and I would like to acknowledge your leadership in bringing this to the forefront.

Mr. Speaker, as we continue the national discussion of immigration and the value of immigrants to our Nation, we must not forget the immigrant men and women who populate our Armed Forces, who fight for freedoms that we all enjoy each day, yet who in the current debate are cast aside as unworthy for citizenship. Yes, more than 70,000 of them serve our military today.

Now, they have a unique love of America. They consider this great Nation as a beacon of light that drew them here, with a promise of freedom, of democracy and opportunity.

The voices of these immigrant soldiers are remarkably missing from the debate on the value of immigrants in this Nation. I would like to add their voices today. For them, the United States is their only chance to make a new life. Like all soldiers, they don't want our Nation to be harmed. This is their brass ring, the key to the rest of their lives.

They are willing to risk their life for this country because it is the promise of what working hard can give you. They come to the United States longing for a better life than they had in their homeland. Their last light of hope resides in what this Nation promises in terms of honoring our soldiers and supporting our troops.

Many have said that they would rather fight and die for the United States because they so desperately want their home countries to emulate, to copy, their adopted Nation. They hope beyond hope that their public service in our military will someday influence their home countries, the ones in which they were born, so their families will someday have similar living conditions promised by this Nation and the same economic opportunities.

They fear that if America's beacon of light is extinguished, the long-lasting effect of that would inspire great fear, in this hemisphere and around the world.

One of the most heartbreaking exercises for me is going to military funerals, as it is for all of us. One of the most heartbreaking moments is with a family after losing a loved one and bestowing citizenship upon the lost soldier after he's buried.

At this point, I would like my colleagues to join me in commending the service of Private First Class Rey Cuervo, killed in Baghdad by an IED just before New Year's Eve in 2003. He left behind a young wife, pregnant with his first child, a child of immigrants who will never see his father again, who died for this Nation.

I still remember the moment I was there for the ceremony granting Rey his citizenship in 2004 after his death.

□ 2000

Tears in the eyes of all who attended the funeral spoke volumes. Yes, so far to the price of citizenship, now so close to God, so that you and I and the rest of the citizens of this great country could enjoy the freedoms and privileges and liberties that we have today.

Mr. GONZALEZ. I yield at this time to my colleague from Colorado, an Army veteran himself. I do want to point out, without his permission, but knowing this particular fact, that the Salazar family, I know that he lost his uncle during World War II, and that was incredible and brave service by the Salazar family, Congressman JOHN SALAZAR of Colorado.

Mr. SALAZAR. I want to thank the gentleman from Texas for yielding, Mr. GONZALEZ, and I want to thank your leadership for bringing this very important issue to the forefront.

Tonight, I would like to tell the story of Christopher Herrera. Lance Corporal Evenor Christopher Herrera was just 9 years old when his family came to the United States from Honduras in search of opportunity. He found that opportunity for himself in the United States serving in the Marine Corps, which he joined a year after graduating from Gypsum's Eagle Valley High School in Colorado.

He figured that enlisting he could pave the way to a better future, or, as he told his family, the 22 year-old would be considered a hero if he should die while serving his adopted country. Fate chose him the latter. On August 10, 2005 while manning a machine gun during a clash near Ar Ramadi in Iraq, an improvised explosive device detonated. Herrera was killed in combat with a month and a half left before he was to return home.

From the time his family immigrated from Honduras, he began talking about joining the Army. Christopher, as he was known to his family and friends, was not naive about the dangers he faced in Iraq. His brother, who was also a Marine, said that Christopher was happy to fight for the country that he loved. He would rather die over there as a hero and be remembered as doing something good, as opposed to being here and not remembered at all.

His mother, Blanca, said that he joined because he wanted to have more opportunity in this country. He wanted a career in the Marines. The stories about Christopher come easily. His sister recalled about how shy he was, but yet he was fearless, and once drove a 4-wheel-drive vehicle down a muddy hill, nearly flipping it over. Christopher enjoyed typical mountain activities like most young men in Colorado, like fishing and snowboarding.

The brothers often went camping. The brothers were close, but because they were both deployed Balmore Herrera hadn't seen his brother in 7 months. When Christopher was killed, Balmore was called to act as official military transport as his brother's body was transported from Maryland to Colorado.

There have been 3,396 servicemembers killed in Iraq and Afghanistan, and over 25,000 Americans wounded. This evening, members of the Hispanic Caucus rise to recognize immigrant servicemembers because these brave men and women didn't have the privilege of being born in this country. They chose to live here, and also made the choice to serve the country they loved in the Armed Forces.

Many immigrants, like Christopher, have paid the ultimate sacrifice for their country. Each of them has a story. Each story is filled with struggle and a hope for opportunity. Like Christopher, each story is also filled with sacrifice.

There is an Internet blog set up as a memorial for Lance Corporal Herrera. Whiskey 3, Red 2, left these words for him:

''To my fellow brother Evenor, I had the great privilege of serving with you in the good and the bad times.

''I'll keep fighting the good fight, and one day I'll see you again . . . and together we can guard the gates of heaven as we once guarded each other in Iraq.

''You will never be forgotten.''

Mr. GONZALEZ. At this time I would yield to my dear friend, a fellow Texan, the gentleman from Texas, Mr. Ciro Rodriguez.

Mr. RODRIGUEZ. I want to thank my friend and colleague from San Antonio, Congressman Charlie Gonzalez, for taking this opportunity tonight for us to recognize those soldiers that have served our country and that have been immigrants and are noncitizens of this country. I want to personally thank him for allowing this opportunity for us to be able to do that.

There are approximately 69,300 foreign-born men and women who serve in the United States Armed Forces, roughly 5 percent of the total active duty force. Of those 43 percent, which is 29,800, are not U.S. citizens. I repeat, of those that are serving our country, of those 69,000, 43 percent, or 29,800, are non-U.S. citizens.

The Pentagon says more than 100 immigrant soldiers have died in combat in Iraq and Afghanistan in the last 5 years. I want to repeat that again, that over 100 immigrant soldiers have died both in the war in Iraq and Afghanistan.

This evening, I join my colleagues in paying tribute and recognizing the service of these men and women who, out of the desire to become citizens of the United States, enlist and fight proudly and bravely for our country. They display the ultimate symbol of patriotism and of commitment to defending a dream that we all share.

The service and sacrifice of these brave immigrants is often lost in our debate over immigration reform. That is why I am here this evening to share the story of immigrant soldiers from the 23rd Congressional District. The story and life of the soldier is of great significance to the State of Texas and the Nation.

Earlier this year, Texas State Representative Chente Quintanilla of Texas introduced a resolution to the Texas House of Representatives paying tribute to the life of Sergeant Israel Devora Garcia. Sergeant Garcia of Clint, Texas, died in Iraq on April 1, 2006, at the age of 23.

Sergeant Garcia was attached to the Headquarters Company, 2nd Battalion, 6th Infantry, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Armored Division, based in Baumholder, Germany, and was serving his second tour of duty in Iraq. He was mortally wounded while conducting a dismounted patrol in Baghdad.

He was born in Zacatecas, Mexico. Sergeant Garcia came to the United States at the age of 6 and graduated in 2001 from Clint High School in Texas, where he was an honor student. Although he completed all of his required courses ahead of schedule and was told that he only needed to attend school part-time, he insisted on attending a full day and, in his spare time, helped tutor other kids.

Drawn to the military at an early age, Sergeant Garcia spent 4 years in the Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps and demonstrated a notable capacity for leadership. In addition to winning first and second place medals during week-long camps at Ft. Bliss, Texas, he attained the rank of major and served in the executive office of these units.

Family and friends will forever remember Sergeant Garcia for his cheerful nature, his great zest for life and his strong desire to help others. In his leisure time, he enjoyed playing the guitar with friends, and he had a special passion for soccer.

After fulfilling his commitment to the Army, Sergeant Garcia's plan was to study law enforcement at Texas A&M University and hopefully apply for the FBI in the Border Patrol. Sergeant Garcia earned United States citizenship shortly before he died, and he was officially proclaimed a citizen at the cemetery in Clint, Texas.

Notwithstanding the dangerous nature of his mission, this courageous soldier performed his mission with dedication and professionalism. He was awarded the Bronze Star and the Purple Heart. Through his unfaltering devotion to duty, honor and his country, Sergeant Israel Devora Garcia embodied the highest ideals of the United States Armed Forces, and his valiant efforts in the memorable sacrifice are deserving of honor by every American.

Sergeant Garcia is survived by his mother and his father, Frances and Lorenzo Sandoval; his sister, Rosa Sandoval; and his brothers, Adrian Sandoval and Lorenzo Sandoval, Jr. Sergeant Garcia's story may not seem like that of other veterans, but this represents part of the American history that has too often been overlooked.

His story, like the stories my colleagues are sharing tonight, are stories of immigrants in this country. This evening we share those stories of individuals that are out there giving their all. More notably, the American public must understand and recognize that noncitizens have served and have died for our country, not only during the Iraq and Afghanistan war, but during every single war during this country's struggle.

I take this opportunity to once again thank CHARLIE GONZALEZ for allowing us to have this opportunity.

Mr. GONZALEZ. Thank you very much for your attention and for your story of Israel Garcia.

At this time I would like to yield to the gentlelady, Congresswoman GRACE NAPOLITANO, from the great State of California.

Mrs. NAPOLITANO. Thank you, Congressman GONZALEZ. Thank you for allowing the Hispanic Caucus to speak today on this very important issue of Hispanic veterans and the problems that we have seen them face.

I would like to relate a story of SGT Henry Meraz, an Army veteran of the Vietnam War, who lives in my district. Sergeant Meraz grew up in El Paso, Texas, moved to California at age 17, registered with the Selective Service and was drafted into the Army in 1967.

He served honorably on the special forces team in Vietnam, receiving five distinguished medals and a Purple Heart before being honorably discharged in October of 1969. He has lived a full, normal, law abiding, average American life with his family. He is married, he has retired from his job. He has one child currently in the university and a second one who is a Los Angeles deputy sheriff.

In 2003, Mr. Meraz, Sergeant Meraz, went to renew his driver's license, whereupon he was shocked to learn that he was not a U.S. citizen, that his Social Security was not being recognized and the administration had listed him as a Mexican national.

Upon checking into this further, he could not find his birth certificate in the city he grew up in in El Paso. He then immediately applied for United States citizenship based upon his exemplary military service and quickly relinquished, gave up his voting rights he thought he had the right to exercise since his 18th birthday.

His application for citizenship was denied on the grounds of failure to show good moral character, citing his illegal voting history as bad moral character, even though he was and convinced he was a U.S. citizen. His DD214, the military discharge, lists him as a U.S. citizen.

Then Henry appealed the decision so he could legally become what he thought he was always, a U.S. citizen. He signed a statement and swore under penalty of perjury that the votes he cast under his sincere belief of citizenship were true. Psychiatrists provided letters attesting to Henry's good moral character and the sincerity of his prior belief in his citizenship, because he was undergoing psychiatric treatment for Vietnam War related PTSD, post traumatic stress disorder.

Thankfully, Henry won his appeal and will be taking his citizenship oath in my district at the City of Pomona, California, on May 30. I hope to be there to help him celebrate. This is not necessarily a unique story. Henry is but one of many, of many immigrants, who have served and continue to serve loyally and bravely in our Armed Services.

As you have heard, there are currently nearly 69,000 immigrants in the United States Armed Services, which account, as you have heard again, for roughly 5 percent of our total Armed Forces. Any soldier will tell you, race, color, religion, et cetera, it does not

matter when you are fighting the enemy shoulder to shoulder. These brave men and women risk their lives for this country.

We should, we must embrace them. What matters is there is loyalty to our country and their undying love for it, evidenced by their willingness to die for it.

□ 2015

They have earned and should receive the same benefits, the same rewards and the same recognitions, and they should be welcomed for the patriotic and brave dedicated service to our country through the small measure of granting them their citizenship. It is overdue and high time Congress addressed this issue. Just ask any veteran. It's the right thing to do.

Our Congressional Hispanic Caucus is working on what we call the STRIVE Act, H.R. 1645, which addresses immigrants in our Armed Forces. The act, among other things, grants citizenship immediately after combat zone service, grants citizenship after 2 years of active duty, and creates a naturalization information telephone service for armed service members. We can do no less than to honor and respect the many immigrants who have served, those who are currently serving, and those who will continue to serve our country ensuring our country's freedom.

Thank you Congressman GONZALEZ, and thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. GONZALEZ. Mr. Speaker, it's my pleasure at this time to yield to my colleague and chairman of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus, the gentleman from California (Mr. BACA).

Mr. BACA. Thank you very much, Mr. GONZALEZ, for carrying this issue this afternoon, and thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

I rise to honor the more than 69,300 legal permanent residents who are currently serving in the United States Armed Services, which represents 43 percent noncitizens and 5 percent of the armed services who are serving now.

Their courage, their honor and their sacrifices prove what we've always known, that you don't have to be born in America to love America. Each and every person who serves in the Armed Forces generally loves his country and is willing to give their ultimate sacrifice. And these individuals gave their ultimate sacrifice for this country, for a dream of coming here.

Each individual was prepared to lay down his or her life to protect what is sacred to all of us, hope, freedom and opportunity, not only for them, but for all of us who believe in this country, because we know ultimately every person who has served in our military has been willing to lay down their lives so that we can enjoy the freedoms, the freedoms that we have today. And the 69,300, 43 percent noncitizens, or 5 percent of the United States, believed in the same sacrifice as other individuals who have served us. They know that our freedom comes from men and women who are willing to serve this great Nation.

When I look at the names of immigrant soldiers who've died in Iraq and Afghanistan, it makes me realize why America is the greatest country in the world. And when we look at those individuals who served in World War II, the 500-some thousand, how many of those were noncitizens and immigrants?

And when we look at my district, or the State of California, 26 foreign-born soldiers from my State have given their lives in Iraq and Afghanistan. And they come from all over the world. But whether they come from El Salvador, Korea, Mexico, Jamaica or Honduras, when they put on that United States military uniform, they do it as Americans and with pride.

Douglas Jose Marencoreyes, a young man from my district, was an immigrant to this country from Nicaragua. Corporal Marencoreyes came to this country with his family in search of opportunity and hope. Yet he was willing to serve in the Armed Forces when many others were not even willing to serve. And yet he found that by serving in the military that it was an honor.

The same goes for Sergeant Jorge Alberto Molinabautista, an immigrant from Mexico who lived in my hometown of Rialto, California. Both of these young men died while serving in the global war on terror. And they did so proudly, with honor, with honor for what they believed and what this country stands for, for the freedoms, so they know that their children and others can enjoy the freedoms that we have, because this is the greatest Nation, the greatest country; and they knew it and they served for this country.

Both men were posthumously awarded citizenship for their service to this Nation. Why? Because nothing would have honored the sacrifices more than to be recognized and acknowledge their love for this country.

Mr. Speaker, our country is currently engaged in a great debate regarding immigration. And there are many who want to diminish or even deny the great contributions of immigrants to our Nation's history, economy, and culture. And many of these have contributed and continue to contribute to our country because they believe in this country. They come here for hope, for freedom and opportunity and are willing to serve and die for this country.

But as we move forward in this debate, let us not forget the 69,300 immigrants soldiers out there in the battlefields, those who are willing to risk their lives every day to protect the same people who are criticizing them, the same people who are criticizing, they're willing to stand up and defend those individuals because they believe in the principles and the freedoms and opportunities of this country.

I urge the American people to support all troops, all individuals and the sacrifices of every one of our soldiers, regardless of where they were born, because at the end of the day they are willing to give their lives for this country and to sacrifice for this country. Each one of them are patriots and are true American heroes.

Mr. GONZALEZ. Thank you very much, Mr. BACA.

There is another individual that I want to recognize tonight, an extraordinary individual from an extraordinary family. This is Specialist Rodrigo Gonzalez-Garza. He comes from San Antonio. He died on February 25, 2003, when the Black Hawk helicopter in which he was riding crashed during a night mission 30 miles north of the Kuwaiti border. He was 26 years young.

Specialist Gonzalez-Garza was born in Sabinas Hidalgo, Nuevo Leon, Mexico and was brought to the United States by his parents as an infant.

He graduated from San Antonio's Fox Tech High School in 1996 and joined the Army in 1998. Specialist Gonzalez-Garza, like many other casualties of the Iraq war, did not die an American citizen. He died defending the United States and pursuing a dream to become a citizen of this country. Only in death was his goal finally achieved. After he gave his life, Specialist Gonzalez-Garza was awarded posthumous citizenship.

Specialist Gonzalez-Garza's sacrifice on our behalf is remarkable and perhaps only matched by the contribution that his parents have made to this great country. Specialist Gonzalez-Garza's parents, Ramiro and Orelia Gonzalez, have three other sons in the military, Staff Sergeant Ramiro Gonzalez, PVT Roland Gonzalez, and PVT Ricardo Gonzalez, Rodrigo's twin brother.

One would find it difficult to find a family more devoted to the United States and our American way of life than the Gonzalez family. Specialist Gonzalez-Garza has given his life. His three brothers continue to defend our security and liberty with their lives, and the parents, they have given not one, not two, but all four of their sons to the service of their adopted country.

I would like to share some of the sentiments posted on fallenheroesmemorial.com, a Web site devoted to the memory of soldiers killed in Iraq and Afghanistan during operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom.

The following are postings from fellow Americans who apparently did not know Specialist Gonzalez-Garza, but wished to express their gratitude for his service.

From Grayslake, IL: ''Thank you Rodrigo Gonzalez-Garza. You will not be forgotten. Your bravery goes beyond words. I want to express my deepest gratitude for your sacrifice. To the family and friends, my prayers and deep condolences on your loss. May God strengthen you from knowing that fellow Americans and people around

the world care about you and grieve with you in your loss. God bless you all. Signed, a very appreciative fellow American.''

From Wells, NV: ''To the family and friends of Specialist Rodrigo Gonzalez-Garza, may God's grace be with you during your time of grief. Please know that our thoughts and prayers are with you and we feel your loss and share your sorrow. Bless Rodrigo for his sacrifice he has made to make a better life for the rest of us in this country.''

From Montrose, ME: ''Thanks for stepping forward when America needed you. To the family, thank you for your contribution to our liberty and to our freedom. I'm so sorry for your tremendous loss.''

From Houston, TX: ''Specialist Gonzalez-Garza, goodbye soldier, and thank you. You are my hero.''

All those individuals that didn't know Specialist Rodrigo Gonzalez-Garza, they didn't know about his background. They didn't know about an undocumented family that came to this country and made the grandest sacrifice of all with four sons in the armed services, and one of those that gave his life in service of this country, their adopted country.

Did any of these individuals that posted those sentiments on that Web site ask is he documented or undocumented?

Had they known he was undocumented, or that the family had been undocumented, it would not have mattered, because we are united in purpose. We are united in spirit. And this is what the whole immigration reform debate is all about. Not what separates us. Not that which differentiates us, but rather, what binds us as a country, a country of immigrants, each making his unique contribution, wanting to be part of this country.

I want to join all those individuals that posted on the Web site to share my gratitude for Specialist Rodrigo Gonzalez-Garza's service and sacrifice.

Thank you, Specialist Gonzalez-Garza. Thank you also to Ramiro and Orelia Gonzalez, the parents, for the service of your sons. You emigrated from Mexico, but you have devoted yourselves and your family to the United States of America. We owe you comprehensive immigration reform. We owe you the opportunity to make your contribution in this country.

Before we took the floor here tonight to highlight the lives of these individuals, you may have heard previous speakers. One felt great pride that a town in the State of Texas had passed a law that will make it an offense to rent accommodations to undocumented individuals that may find themselves in that particular township.

What pride can be derived from a law of that nature? Who are you shutting the door to? In whose face are you slamming that door? I'll tell you. You are slamming it in the faces of Lance Corporal Gutierrez, Specialist Gonzalez-Garza, Lance Corporal Evenor Herrera, Sergeant Israel Devora-Garcia, SGT Henry Meraz, Corporal Douglas Jose Marencoreyes, and PFC Rey Cuervo. Those are the individuals.

What is it that binds us, truly? Is it the color of our skin, our appearance, our ethic origin? No, it's what beats within us all.

We are a Nation of laws. Our obligation as Members of Congress is to pass just and fair laws, and that's what we are seeking. Not those that will demonize, criminalize and punish individuals that are coming to this country at our behest. And make no mistake about that. They are coming because we are asking them to come and to be employed by fine, upstanding Americans.

□ 2030

And so they come, not to take but to give, to contribute.

What we are attempting to do tonight is put a human face on this immigrant that so often is criticized, demonized, characterized as a threat to our way of life. Do not be so concerned. People are so concerned: Is the face of America changing? That should not be our concern. Is the heart and the spirit and the soul of America changing? That should be our concern. And I am here to tell you and we give testament tonight that it is not.

For the next few weeks, my colleagues and I will take this floor, and we will demonstrate to you over and over again the contribution of the immigrant to this country, that their sons and daughters have donned this uniform. We have placed them in harm's way, and they have performed honorably and with great courage. There is no difference in that courage or the contribution that they make because of their ethnicity or undocumented status of a parent.

You saw the face of that young boy from Guatemala who was an orphan who came to the United States illegally. Now, he wasn't good enough, brave enough, strong enough to maybe deserve getting an apartment in a certain town in Texas; but he was good enough and brave enough to serve as a United States Marine and give his life up defending this country. Where is the justice and fairness?

Our soldiers are dying and protecting a way of life. And it is our obligation that that way of life is reflected in our laws, fair and just laws. That is what this debate is all about.

So I ask that my colleagues give careful thought as we debate this issue, and at the conclusion of this debate we will have a meeting of the minds and come up with a plan that doesn't accommodate those that are breaking the law, but rather allows them an opportunity to redeem themselves and to serve this country in a capacity that will utilize their unique talents and contributions, and I look forward to that time.

PERMISSION FOR COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES TO FILE SUPPLEMENTAL REPORT ON H.R. 1585, NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2008

Mr. GONZALEZ. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Armed Services be allowed to submit a supplemental report on H.R. 1585, the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2008.

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

There was no objection.

PEAK OIL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 18, 2007, the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. BARTLETT) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. BARTLETT of Maryland. Mr. Speaker, this is really a very important day in our history. Exactly 50 years ago today in St. Paul, MN, Admiral Hyman Rickover gave a very famous speech. In a few moments, I will have here a copy of that speech, and I want to spend most of the hour that we have this evening going over that speech, because he was amazingly prophetic. This was a speech given to a group of physicians, and it was about energy. Of course, his primary interest was nuclear energy, and this was a speech about energy in general.

As I said, he was amazingly prophetic. He understood some relationships, which today, with 50 years of history behind us, he couldn't have seen. He was amazingly more cognizant of some realities than many of our people today.

We, of course, recognize that for several reasons we need to be moving away from fossil fuels. There are several groups of people with different interests who have really a common goal in their desire to move away from fossil fuels to renewables. And these several groups find common cause, and I hope that there will be less discussion of the potential limitations of the other groups' premise and more focus on a common goal, and that is to help our country and our world move away from fossil fuels to renewables.

The groups that have common cause in this are, first of all, environmentalists, and there are two groups in the environmentalists who are concerned about this. One is a group which is large and growing, and that is a group that believes that our excessive use of fossil fuels releasing carbon dioxide that was sequestered a very long time ago, perhaps millions of years ago, with subtropical seas and plumes of organisms like our algae today, which then fell to the bottom and were covered by sediment washed in from the adjoining hills and then later submerged by movements of tectonic

plates and with time and pressure became what we know today as gas and oil. Coal is a little simpler. It wasn't buried so deep, and you can see in the broken block of coal the ancient fern leaves from which the coal was produced. I saw that many times as a little child in western Pennsylvania, coal country, when I broke lumps of coal to feed our coal furnace. And what we are doing today, of course, is releasing that carbon dioxide very fast. It took maybe millions of years to sequester, but we are releasing it very fast; and so it is producing greenhouse gases, which are warming the Earth and producing temperature changes.

For those who may wonder what difference does it make, a degree here and a degree there. I would like to remind them that during the last Ice Age about 10, 12,000 years ago, our world was only 5 degrees centigrade colder than it is today. That is 9 degrees Fahrenheit. And what this says is that very small temperature changes can make huge changes in our weather.

A second group of environmentalists who have common cause in wanting to move away from fossil fuels are those who believe that our air is polluted enough and why would we want to pollute it further.

Then there are those who yearn for the day when America was a leading exporter, and they believe that moving from fossil fuels to renewables, sustainable renewables, that we can develop technologies which will be saleable world-around.

And then there is a growing group of people who have major concerns that, with only 2 percent of the known reserves of oil and using 25 percent of the world's oil and importing almost two-thirds of what we use, that this represents a totally unacceptable national security risk, and so their desire is to move from fossil fuels, which we have very little of, to renewables, which we hopefully could produce more of.

And then there is the last group of these five, and by the way, I subscribe in varying degrees to all of these other goals, but the last one is particularly significant because we might somehow make it through, luckily, the other crises that may be there. But the peak oil crisis is one we won't make it through, and that is one that Hyman Rickover talked a good deal about.

Here is his speech. It was for delivery at a banquet of the Annual Scientific Assembly of the Minnesota State Medical Association, St. Paul, MN, May 14, 1957. That is exactly 50 years ago today, and I am very pleased that in the gallery with us is the widow of Admiral Hyman Rickover.

Mrs. Rickover, welcome.

And we are here to celebrate a great American who gave a really, really prophetic speech. And I am going to spend most of the time pretty much reading this speech, and I will put up here some charts from particularly significant quotes from his speech and some others which will help illuminate what he said. The title of his speech was ''Energy Resources and Our Future.'' He starts out by saying:

''I am honored to be here tonight, though it is no easy thing, I assure you, for a layman to face up to an audience of physicians. A single one of you, sitting behind his desk, can be quite formidable.

''My speech has no medical connotations. This may be a relief to you after the solid professional fare you have been absorbing. I should like to discuss a matter which will, I hope, be of interest to you as responsible citizens: the significance of energy resources in the shaping of our future.''

Now, all of this is 50 years ago. I want you to listen to how profound his statements were and how completely he recognized the problems that we would be facing.

''We live in what historians may some day call the Fossil Fuel Age. Today coal, oil, and natural gas supply 93 percent of the world's energy; water power accounts for only 1 percent; and the labor of men and domestic animals the remaining 6 percent.'' Now, those figures have changed somewhat since then.

''This is a startling reversal of corresponding figures for 1850, only a century ago. Then fossil fuels supplied 5 percent of the world's energy, and men and animals 94 percent. Five-sixths of all the coal, oil, and gas consumed since the beginning of the Fossil Fuel Age has been burned up in the last 55 years.'' Now if you were to bring that forward, it would be a bigger percentage than that.

''These fuels have been known to man for more than 3,000 years. In parts of China, coal was used for domestic heating and cooking, and natural gas for lighting as early as 1000 B.C. But these early uses were sporadic and of no economic significance. Fossil fuels did not become a major source of energy until machines running on coal, gas, or oil were invented. Wood, for example, was the most important fuel until 1800, when it was replaced by coal. Coal, in turn, has only recently been surpassed by oil in this country.

''Once in full swing, fossil fuel consumption'' had been ''accelerated at phenomenal rates. All the fossil fuels used before 1900 would not last 5 years at today's rate of consumption.'' And that was 50 years ago. What would it be today?

''Nowhere are these rates higher and growing faster than in the United States. Our country, with only 6 percent of the world's population,'' today a bit less than 5, ''uses one-third of the world's total energy input.'' Today it is about 25 percent because much of the rest of the world is catching up with us, but, still, 25 percent for less than 5 percent of the world's population is very significant.

''This proportion would be even greater except that we use energy more efficiently than other countries.'' Still true today, only we use 25 percent of the world's energy. We use it more efficiently than most of the rest of the world.

''Each American has at his disposal, each year, energy equivalent to that obtainable from eight tons of coal.'' This was just 50 years ago. It would be more than that today.

Time magazine, a little while back, had on its cover, and you may remember that, a pile of coal that they said was a quarter of a ton, and that was the amount of coal that would be saved for power production if you unscrewed that incandescent light and put in it one of the little fluorescent bulbs that you can screw into a regular socket.

□ 2045

This is six times the world's per capita energy consumption, what we were using in this country. Though not quite so spectacular, corresponding figures for other highly industrialized countries also show above average consumption figures. The United Kingdom, for example, uses more than three times as much energy as the world average.

I want you to look at this first chart while I am reading this because you have to look at the colors and what each of the men stand for and each of those different colors to understand this. But this was in his day, 50 years ago. What would these numbers be today?

With high energy consumption goes a high standard of living. Thus the enormous fossil fuel energy which we in this country control feeds machines which make each of us master of an army of mechanical slaves. Man's muscle power is rated at 35 watts continuously, or 120th horsepower. That is on a 24/7 basis. It's a bit more than that. I generally think of about a 70 watt bulb if you're awake and not working much. Machines therefore furnish every American industrial worker with energy equivalent to that of 244 men, while at least 2,000 men push his automobile along the road and his family is supplied with 33 faithful household helpers. Each locomotive engineer, as you can see on the chart, controls energy equivalent to that of 100,000 men, each jet pilot of 700,000 men. Truly, he says, the humblest American enjoys the services of more slaves than were once owned by the richest nobles and lives better than most ancient kings. In retrospect, and despite wars, revolutions and disasters, the hundred years just gone by may well seem like a Golden Age. And we have continued that Golden Age another 50 years, until today. And then he says, whether this Golden Age will continue depends entirely upon our ability to keep energy supplies in balance with the needs of our growing population.

Before I go into this question, let me review briefly the role of energy resources and the rise and falls of civilizations. And as I read, you may look at the next chart because some of the quotes in the next couple of paragraphs are in this chart.

I would like for you to pay particular attention to this because he describes very well the contribution that energy has made to the development of civilization. And if we understand how energy contributed to the development of civilization, we will get some clue as to what will happen when we start down the other side of this curve.

He mentions a little later that 8,000 years of recorded history in the age of oil will span but a brief time, probably about 300 years. We are about 150 years through the age of oil. So, concentrate on what he is saying about the contribution of energy to the development of civilization, because unless we are really clever and using the new technologies we have found, it is possible that we will see a reversal of this as energy becomes less and less available. Will civilization decline with decreasing energy as it increased with increasing energy?

Possession of surplus energy is of course a requisite for any kind of civilization. For if man possesses only the energy of his own muscles, he must expend all of his strength, mental and physical, to obtain the bare necessities of life.

Surplus energy provides a material foundation for civilized living, a comfortable and tasteful home instead of a bare shelter; attractive clothing, instead of mere covering to keep warm; appetizing food, instead of anything that suffices to appease hunger. It provides the freedom from toil without which there can be no art, music, literature or learning.

There is no need to belabor the point. What lifted man, one of the weaker mammals, above the animal world was that he could devise with his brain ways to increase the energy at his disposal and use the leisure so gained to cultivate his mind and spirit. He refers to us as one of the weaker mammals, and that is true. We cannot run nearly as fast as many. We have nowhere near the strength. A chimpanzee our size has several times our strength. Our sense of smell is really very poor compared to a dog, and a dog very poor compared to male moth that can detect the presence of a female 10 kilometers away and detect the concentration gradient so that he knows which direction to fly to find her. We are indeed one of the weaker mammals, but we have dominated the world because of our ability to control energy.

Where man must rely solely on the energy of his own body, he can sustain only the most meager existence. Man's first step on the ladder of civilization dates from his discovery of fire and his domestication of animals. With these energy resources, he was able to build a pastoral culture. To move upward to an agricultural civilization he needed more energy. In the past this was found in the labor of dependent members of large patriarchal families, augmented by slaves obtained through purchase or as war booty. There are some backward communities which to this day depend on this type of energy.

Now, some of the things he says here you are going to have to relate to 50 years ago. He talks about India and China in a few moments. And clearly they now have entered the industrialized part of the world and are growing very rapidly. But what he said about them then was very true of them then and true of other just beginning to develop countries today.

Slave labor was necessary for the city-states and the empires of antiquity. They frequently had slave populations larger than their free citizenry. As long as slaves were abundant and no moral censure attached to their ownership, incentives to search for alternative sources of energy were lacking. And this is a really interesting statement. ''This may well have been the single most important reason why engineering advanced very little in ancient times.'' Through all of the Dark Ages, centuries, civilization advanced very little because engineering advanced very little, and he thinks this may have been because of the availability of slave labor.

The next chart. A reduction of per capita energy consumption has always, in the past, led to a decline in civilization and a reversion to a more primitive way of life. And he gives some fascinating examples. For example, exhaustion of wood fuel is believed to have been the primary reason for the fall of the Mayan civilization on this continent and the decline of once fourishing civilizations in Asia. India and China once had large forests, as did much of the Middle East. Deforestation not only lessened the energy base, but had a further disastrous effect; lacking plant cover, soil washed away. And with soil erosion, the nutritional base was reduced as well.

Another cause of declining civilization comes with pressure of population on available land. A point is reached where the land can no longer support both the people and their domestic animals. Horses and mules disappear first. Finally, even the versatile water buffalo is displaced by man, who is 2.5 times as efficient an energy converter as are draft animals. It must always be remembered that while domestic animals and agricultural machines increase productivity per man, maximum productivity per acre is achieved only by intensive manual cultivation. And as he points out, the press of populations will eventually lead to this state in much of the world.

It is a sobering thought that the impoverished people of Asia, who today seldom go to sleep with their hunger completely satisfied, and remember, this is 50 years ago, were once far more civilized and lived better than the people of the West. And not so very long ago either. It was the stories brought back by Marco Polo of the marvelous civilization in China which turned Europe's eyes to the riches of the East and induced adventurous sailors to brave the high seas in their small vessels searching for a direct route to the fabulous Orient. The ''wealth of the Indies'' is a phrase still used, but whatever wealth may have been there is certainly not evident in the life of the people today. This is 50 years ago. They are now using energy, very large amounts of it. China probably has a greater percent increase in energy than about any other country and their economy is growing; the last quarter for which I saw data, 11.4 percent.

Asia failed to keep technological pace with the needs of her growing population and sank into such poverty that in many places man has become again the primary source of energy since other energy converters have become too expensive. This must be obvious to the most casual observer. What this means is quite simply a reversion into a more primitive stage of civilization with all that it implies for human dignity and happiness. But very fortunately, technology is moving into this part of the world and the quality of their life is now increasing.

Anyone who has watched a sweating Chinese farm worker, and again, this is 50 years ago, strain at his heavily laden wheelbarrow, creaking along a cobblestone road, or who has flinched as he drives past an endless procession of human beasts of burden moving to market in Java, the slender women bent under mountainous loads heaped on their heads, anyone who has seen statistics translated into flesh and bone realizes the degradation of man's stature when his muscle power becomes the only energy source he can afford. Civilization must wither when human beings are so degraded.

Where slavery represented a major source of energy, its abolition had the immediate effect of reducing energy consumption. Thus, when this time-honored institution came under more censure by Christianity, civilization declined until other sources of energy could be found. Slavery is incompatible with Christian belief in the worth of the humblest individual as a child of God.

As Christianity spread through the Roman empire and masters freed their slaves in obedience to the teaching of the church, the energy base of Roman civilization crumbled. This, some historians believe, may have been a major factor in the decline of Rome and the temporary reversion to a more primitive way of life during the Dark Ages.

Slavery gradually disappeared throughout the Western world, except in its milder form of serfdom. That it has revived a thousand years later merely shows man's inability to stifle his conscience, at least for a while, when his economic needs are great. Eventually, even the needs of overseas plantation economies did not suffice to keep alive a practice so deeply repugnant to Western man's deepest convictions.

It may well be that it was unwillingness to depend on slave labor for their energy needs which turned the minds of medieval Europeans to search for alternative sources of energy, thus

sparking the Power Revolution of the Middle Age which, in turn, paved the way for the Industrial Revolution of the 19th century.

When slavery disappeared in the West, engineering advanced. Men began to harness the power of nature by utilizing water and wind as energy sources. The sailing ship, in particular, which replaced the slave-driven galley of antiquity, was vastly improved by medieval shipbuilders and became the first machine enabling man to control large amounts of inanimate energy.

The next important high-energy converter used by Europeans was gunpowder, an energy source far superior to the muscular strength to the strongest bowman or lancer. With ships that could navigate the high seas and arms that could outfire any hand weapon, Europe was now powerful enough to preempt for herself the vast empty areas of the Western hemisphere into which she poured her surplus populations to build new nations of European stock. With these ships and arms, she also gained political control over populous areas in Africa and Asia from which she drew the raw materials needed to speed her industrialization, thus complementing her naval and military dominance with economic and commercial supremacy.

And then he notes, when a low-energy society comes in contact with a high-energy society, the advantage always lies with the latter. The Europeans not only achieved standards of living vastly higher than those of the rest of the world, but they did this while their population was growing at rates far surpassing those of other peoples. In fact, they doubled their share of total world population in the short span of three centuries. From one-sixth in 1650, the people of European stock increased to almost one-third of world population by 1950. Clearly, with the industrialization of other parts of the world today, their populations are growing so that the European percentage of the world is not as high as it was 50 years ago.

Meanwhile, much of the rest of the world did not even keep energy sources in balance with population growth. Per capita energy consumption actually diminished in large areas. It is this difference in energy consumption which has resulted in an ever-widening gap between the one-third minority who live in high-energy countries and the two-thirds majority who live in low-energy areas. These so-called underdeveloped countries are now finding it far more difficult to catch up with the fortunate minority than it was for Europe to initiate transition from low energy to high-energy consumption. For one thing, their ratio of land to people is much less favorable. And we see this in much of Africa, Darfur, for instance, where the arable land is really very small compared to the people. And you see what that has done to their standard of living and to their culture.

For one thing, the ratio of land to people is much less favorable. For another, they have no outlet for surplice populations to ease the transitions since all the empty spaces have already been taken over by people of European stock.

□ 2100

This was a correct observation 50 years ago.

''Almost all of today's low energy countries have a population density so great that it perpetuates dependence on intensive manual agriculture, which alone can yield barely enough food for their people. They do not have enough acreage per capita to justify using domestic animals or farm machinery, although better seeds, better soil management and better hand tools could bring some improvement.''

I think he would be very pleased that today that has happened and they can live better, even with this high population density per arable land than they could then.

''A very large part of their working population must nevertheless remain on the land, and this limits the amount of surplus energy that can be produced. Most of these countries must choose between using this small energy surplus to raise their very low standard of living or postpone present rewards for the sake of future gain while investing the surplus in new industries.''

A very good explanation of how difficult it is for some of these undeveloped countries to enter the march of the developing countries.

''The choice is difficult because there is no guarantee that today's denial may not prove to have been in vain. This is so because of the rapidity with which public health measures have reduced mortality rates, resulting in population growth as high or even higher than that of the high energy nations. Theirs is a bitter choice. It accounts for much of their anti-Western feeling and may well portend a prolonged period of world instability.''

That is quite prophetic, isn't it? We see a period of world instability now, and how much has this energy imbalance contributed to it?

''How closely energy consumption is related to the standard of living can be illustrated by the example of India.''

Then he goes back to the India of 50 years ago, where the people lived really a hand-to-mouth existence, where their infant mortality rate was four times ours and life expectancy for people less than one-half of that of industrialized nations. Fortunately, India is now industrializing, and these numbers are changing.

He says, ''I think no further elaboration is needed to demonstrate the significance of energy resources for our future. Our civilization rests upon a technological base which requires enormous quantities of fossil fuels.''

And this is a really significant statement. ''What assurance do we then have that our energy needs will continue to be supplied by fossil fuels.''

Let me repeat the question again. What assurance do we then have that our energy needs will continue to be supplied by fossil fuels? ''The answer is, in the long run, none.''

He saw this 50 years ago. There are a lot of people today in our country and in others also who, with the 50 years of history since Hyman Rickover, still don't understand that in the long run, there is no assurance that fossil fuels will meet our energy needs.

Then he goes on to say, ''The Earth is finite. Fossil fuels are not renewable. In this respect, our energy base differs from that of all earlier civilizations.''

A major report done by SAIC called the ''Hirsch Report on Energy and the Energy Future'' says that the world has never faced a problem like this, and Hyman Rickover understood that 50 years ago.

''In this respect, our energy base differs from that of all earlier civilizations. They could have maintained their energy supply by careful cultivation. We cannot. Fuel that has been burned is gone forever. Fuel is even more evanescent than metals. Metals too are non-renewable resources threatened with ultimate extinction, but something can be salvaged from scrap. Fuel leaves no scrap and there is nothing man can do to rebuild exhausted fossil fuel reserves.''

Some of these quotes appear in the next chart.

''They were created by solar energy 500 million years ago and took eons to grow to their present volume. In the face of the basic fact that fossil fuel reserves are finite, the exact length of time these reserves will last is important in only one respect.''

Wow, I wish that our leaders could read this.

''The longer they last, the more time that we have to invent ways of living off renewable or substitute energy sources and to adjust our economy to the vast changes which we can expect from such a shift.''

And in spite of increasing evidence from the engineering and scientific world, a large percent of our people and, unfortunately, of our leadership, are effectively in denial of this.

Then this next paragraph is just priceless: ''Fossil fuels resemble capital in the bank. A prudent and responsible parent will use his capital sparingly in order to pass on to his children as much as possible of his inheritance. A selfish and irresponsible parent will squander it in riotous living and care not one whit how his offspring will fare.''

He is using this and talking about energy and our relationship to energy and how we are using it.

When we found this incredible wealth under the ground, and Admiral Rickover understood how incredible it was, we really should have stopped and asked ourselves the question, what can we do with this to provide the most good for the most people for the longest time? That clearly is not what we did. With no more responsibility than the kids who found the cookie jar or

the hog who found the feed room door open, we just have been pigging out, and we want to continue to do that.

They asked me to vote to drill offshore and in ANWR, and I asked them, if you could pump ANWR tomorrow, what would you do the day after tomorrow? And there will be a day after tomorrow. I have 10 children, 15 grandchildren and two great grandchildren, so I really relate to this description of a selfish and irresponsible parent.

One of the writers has noted that future generations looking back on us may ask themselves, how could the monsters have done that? How could they have taken this incredible wealth without any thought for tomorrow and just gone through it?

Now the urge is just to find what little remains as quickly as we can. Where is the moral responsibility for our kids and our grandkids? Where is the moral responsibility for generations yet unborn?

''Engineers whose work familiarizes them with energy statistics; far-seeing industrialists who know that energy is the principal factor which must enter into all planning for the future; responsible governments who realize that the well-being of their citizens and the political power of their countries depend on adequate energy supplies; all these have begun to be concerned about energy resources.''

Boy, if that was true then, why, something happened, because far too few people today are concerned about energy resources.

''In this country,'' he says, then 50 years ago, ''in this country especially, many studies have been made in the last few years seeking to discover accurate information on fossil fuel reserves and foreseeable fuel needs. Statistics involving the human factor, of course, are never exact. The size of useable reserves depends on the ability of engineers to improve the efficiency of fuel extraction and use.''

The next chart is one that I will spend just a moment on, because it really amplifies what he is saying. This is referred to as the oil chart, and you can get a very large one if you do a Google search for that, and this is simply an insert in it.

What this shows in the bars is the discovery of oil, and anyone who has been through a seventh grade math class knows that if you add up all of these little bars, you will have determined the total amount of oil that we have found. Indeed, if you make a smooth curve over them, the area under that curve will be the total amount of oil that we have discovered. The heavy black line here represents the oil that we have used.

Now, one thing is certain: You cannot use oil that you haven't found. So what will the future look like?

You can extrapolate from this chart, which shows that ever since about 1980 we have progressively used more and more oil than we have found. The discoveries of oil have been falling off. You see they started back there in the 1960s or 1970s. There were very large discoveries, and they have fallen off ever since then.

Now, there are those who would have you believe that we are going to find much more oil as all the oil which still exists, all the recoverable oil which still exists, and that is about half of what was ever found. This represents all the oil that was ever found, and the area under this use curve up, until this point, represents about half of that area under the curve.

So we have used about half of all the oil we have found, and there are some who would have you to believe that we will find as much more oil as all the oil which still exists that is recoverable.

''The size of usable reserves depends on the ability of engineers to improve the efficiency of fuel extraction and use. It also depends on discovery of new methods to obtain energy from inferior resources at cost which can be borne without unduly depressing the standard of living. Estimates of future needs in turn rely heavily on population figures, which must always allow for a large element of uncertainty, particularly as man reaches a point where he is more and more able to control his own way of life.''

The next chart shows the estimates made by a number of different sources as to when we will reach that point where we can no longer increase the amount of oil that we are producing per day. As you can see, some of them have enormous uncertainties. Some have very little uncertainty. They are pretty sure when it is going to occur.

As you notice, the vast majority of them believe it is going to occur before 2020. Indeed, 35, I think, of the 45 oil-producing nations in the world have already peaked, and you may have noted an interesting article, upper right hand of the Wall Street Journal a week or two ago that the big oil field, the second largest oil field in the world, in Mexico, has declined 20 percent in production in the last 2 years.

''Current estimates of fossil fuel reserves vary to an astonishing degree.''

It was true then; it is true now.

''In part this is because the results differ greatly if cost of extraction is disregarded; or if in calculating how long reserves will last, population growth is not taken into consideration; or, equally important, not enough weight is given to increased fuel consumption required to process inferior substitute metals. We are rapidly approaching the time when exhaustion of better grade metals will force us to turn to poorer grades, requiring in most cases greater expenditure of energy per unit of metal.''

That really hasn't seemed to matter, simply because we have had so much energy available. The best iron ores in our country today I understand are the taconite ores with one-half of one percent iron. In years gone by, our iron ores were so rich in iron that you could literally smelt them in a backyard smelter. If you drive up into Frederick County just a few miles above my home, you will come to Catoctin Furnace and the hills up there in northern Frederick County were denuded making charcoal for that furnace. But we couldn't do that today, because the grade of iron is much too poor to smelt in a furnace like that.

The next chart shows a very interesting one, and I just want to read his comments relative to this:

''But the most significant distinction between optimistic and pessimistic fuel reserve statistics is that the optimists generally speak of the immediate future, the next 25 years or so, while the pessimists thinks in terms of a century from now. A century or even two is a short span in the history of a great people. It seems sensible to me to take a long view, even if this involves facing unpleasant facts.''

What we have here is a very interesting chart. A little later, if time permits, we will read his discussion of the growth of civilization and how it is rapidly expanding now.

Actually, if this were a chart of the growth of civilization, it would not look much different than this, because civilizations have grown as energy has become available. This goes back only about 400 years. We could extend this line back here, this is burning of wood for fuel, we could extend it back another couple of centuries and you would still have about the same population. Very low population.

Then we discovered the industrial age with wood, and then coal, and then look what happened when we found gas and oil? The energy production just exploded, and, with that, the population. He has a very interesting discussion of population in a moment or two.

I want you to note on this graph what happened in the 1970s. The rate of rise of that curve before the 1970s gave us a stunning statistic. Each decade, the world was using as much oil as it had used in all of previous history. If you think about that, what that means is when you have used half your oil, just 10 years of oil at that use rate remains.

Now we are doing much better than that now, and you can see how this has tipped over and is following a different curve.

''For it is an unpleasant fact that according to our best estimates, total fossil fuel reserves recoverable at not over twice today's unit cost are likely to run out at sometime between the years 2000 and 2050.''

So he was predicting that we would reach this point sometime in this half a century.

□ 2115

If present standard of living and population growth rates are taken into account, oil and natural gas will disappear first, coal last. There will be coal left in the Earth, but it will be so difficult to mine that energy costs will rise to economically intolerable

heights so that it would then become necessary either to discover new energy sources or to lower standards of living drastically.

For more than 100 years, we have stoked ever growing numbers, and this is a poetic the way explains this. For more than 100 years, we have stoked ever-growing numbers of machines with coal; for 50 years we have pumped gas and oil into our factories, cars, trucks, ships, planes and homes without giving a thought to the future. Occasionally, the voice of a Cassandra has been raised only to be quickly silenced when a lucky discovery revised estimates of our oil reserves upward or a new coal field was found in some remote spot. Fewer such lucky discoveries can be expected in the future, especially in industrialized countries where extensive mapping of resources has been done. Yet the popularizers of scientific news would have us believe there is no cause for anxiety, that reserves will last thousands of years, and that before they run out, science will have produced miracles. Our past history and security have given us the sentimental belief that the things we fear will never really happen, that everything turns out right in the end, but prudent men will reject these tranquilizers, he says, and prefer to face the facts so they can plan intelligently for the needs of their posterity. Wouldn't it be nice if we were doing that?

Looking to the future from the mid-20th century, we cannot feel overly confident that present high standards of living will of a certainty continue through the next century and beyond. Fossil fuel costs will begin to rise as the best and most accessible reserves are exhausted, and more effort will be required to obtain the same energy from remaining reserves.

I suspect oil was $2 or $3 a barrel when he wrote this. Today it is over $60 a barrel.

It is likely also that fossil fuel costs will soon definitely be more expensive. Can we feel certain when economically recoverable fossil fuels are gone, science will have learned how to maintain a high standard of living on renewable energy sources?

I believe it would be wise to assume that the principal renewable fuel sources which we can expect to tap before fossil fuels run out will supply only 7 to 15 percent of our energy needs.

I would like to look at the next chart because he was really prophetic in what he said in 1957.

Here we have a chart that shows where we get our energy from. I use the analogy of a couple whose grandparents have died and left them a large inheritance and they now have established a quite lavish lifestyle where 85 percent of the money they spend comes from the inheritance and only 15 percent earnings. They note with their age and the amount of inheritance and the way they are spending it, it is going to run out before they retire. They either have to spend less or make more or a combination. I use that 85–15 because it is pretty precisely where we are relative to energy. So 85 or 86 percent of our energy comes from fossil fuels: Coal, petroleum and natural gas. And only 15 percent of it comes from what they call renewables, something other than these fossil fuels. More than half comes from nuclear here. So it leaves only 7 percent to come from the true renewables. And those that we will have to increasingly depend on in the future, and this is a 2000 chart, solar was 1 percent of 7 percent. That is 0.07 percent. So today it is 5 or 6 times bigger. Big deal. It is still less than 1 percent.

Wood waste products is from paper industry and lumbering. Waste energy is a really great idea, but remember that these enormous piles of waste are the result of profligate use of fossil fuels. In a fossil fuel deficient world, there will be diminished piles of waste. Wind can produce electricity at 2.5 cents a kilowatt hour, growing roughly at 30 percent a year, but when you start at 0.07 percent, it takes a lot of years to matter much.

Nearly half of all of this renewable comes from something we cannot increase in our country, that is major hydro. Micro hydro, where you are using energy from small streams, with small turbines, some guess it may produce as much as this, but that is thousands of these streams and energy produced locally for a home or a couple of homes. We cannot increase conventional hydroelectric because we have probably dammed up all the rivers we should have and maybe some we shouldn't have.

Alcohol fuel 1 percent, 0.07 percent. I would like to note a recent article in the Washington Post and I think I have a chart. Let's put that chart up.

This is the energy produced from corn by converting it into ethanol. I refer to the bottom first because this points out something that very few people know. Farmers know it because they are paying an enormous amount for nitrogen fertilizer. It is almost all produced from natural gas. Almost half of the energy used to produce a bushel of corn comes from nitrogen fertilizer, ordinarily produced from natural gas and little of it is in this country. It is produced where natural gas is stranded; that is, there is natural gas but not very many people to use it, and it is hard to transport. So they are using it to produce nitrogen fertilizer.

This shows a comparison what you get from petroleum and what you get from corn ethanol. They are noting here that you get 0.75 million Btus for every one that went in. This recent article in the Washington Post said if we use all of our corn to produce ethanol, that is no tortillas for Mexicans and no corn for our pigs and chickens, all of it for ethanol, and you discounted for the fossil fuel input, which this says is 75 percent, they used 80 percent, some would say it is 100 percent, we use as much energy if you cost all of the energy that goes into producing as you get out of it, but the article assumed 80 percent, that it would replace 2.4 percent of our gasoline. That is discounting it for the fossil fuel input. And they noted if you tuned up your car and put air in the tires, you would save as much gas.

So this points out some of the challenges we have. This is because of the enormous energy density in these fossil fuels.

One barrel of oil has the energy equivalent of the work output of 12 people for a year. That means in terms of work output, the energy you get from these fossil fuels from oil, represents hiring a man for $10 for a whole year. No wonder we have such a magnificent quality of life with energy this relatively cheap. Gas at $3 a gallon is still cheaper than water in the grocery store if you buy water in small bottles.

My next chart is one that Hyman Rickover referred to as more promise for nuclear fuels. I want to spend just a moment on some of his concerns for the sources of energy that we are lauding today. He says wood fuel and foreign waste are dubious as substitutes because of growing food requirements to be anticipated. He anticipated the tension between food and energy. In just 2 months last year, corn almost doubled from $2.11 a bushel to $4.08 a bushel, and tortillas went up in price for the Mexicans and my dairy farmers are going bankrupt because of the price of feed for their cattle.

Land is more likely to be used for food production than for tree crops. He was thinking of biomass. Farm waste may be more urgently needed to fertilize the soil than to fuel machines.

There is a lot of hype today about biomass, and it is worth noting that you will never get more energy from any biological source than you can by burning it. What we do in the other ways of using it is sometimes just a slow process of burning it, but you end up with the same product. You end up with carbon dioxide and water.

Our topsoil is our topsoil because of organic material, and his caution was if you keep removing this organic material, you are mining the soil and you will end up with poorer soil and not enough food production.

Wind and water power can furnish only a very small percentage of our energy needs. That was true then because we didn't have the big wind machines we have today that produce electricity at 2.5 cents a kilowatt hour, but that is such a tiny percentage of the total production it will take a long time to ramp up.

More promising is the outlook for fossil fuels. These are not properly speaking renewable energy sources, and let's take a look at this chart. We have finite sources here, and actually the second bullet looks at nuclear energy which is not really finite. Fissionable uranium may be. There is a limited supply of that in the world. That

fuels the light water reactors that essentially every nation today uses for its electricity production. In France, it is 75 percent of their electricity.

In spite of that, we are still the largest nuclear energy producer in the world. It is only 20 percent of our electricity, while in France it is 75 percent of their electricity. We are so much bigger economy than France, quantity-wise, we are the biggest producer of energy from nuclear today.

Let's look at the finite resources which he talks about. The tar sands, the oil shales, coal. There is more potential energy in the tar sands in Canada than all the oil reserves in the world. So why then aren't we complacent about the future because there is potentially so much energy there? And there may be more energy in the tides. The Moon lifts the whole ocean 2 feet a day. The problem is harnessing the energy, and we have a similar problem harnessing the energy in the tar sands. They are getting about a million barrels a day, a bit over 1 percent of the 84–85 million barrels a day of oil production. They have a shovel which lifts 100 tons. It dumps it into a truck that hauls 400 tons. They haul it to a cooker which I am told uses more energy from natural gas than they get out of the oil. The gas is stranded so it is not worth much in dollars and cents, and they are producing oil at about $18 to $25 a barrel and it is selling for over $60, so it is economically productive to do. But they know this is not sustainable because they will run out of the gas, and now they are thinking of building a nuclear power plant. But if you think of this as a vein, it is largely surface and they can do surface mining. But it will shortly duck under a heavy overlay, and they will have to develop a technology to develop it in situ, and they don't know how doable that is. There has been some experiments in doing that by Shell Oil Company. They believe it will be several years before they know if it is economically feasible for getting energy. So there are potentially huge amounts of oil available in the tar sands and the oil shales, but the big problem is the difficulty in getting them out.

We have a chart that I would like to look at that looks at coal because everybody is going to tell you not to worry about nature because we have got so much coal. Okay, we don't have that chart.

Let me talk about the coal chart. We have 250 years of coal. That is true at current use rates. But if you increase the use of coal only 2 percent, that 250 years drops to 85 years.

□ 2130

Well, a 2 percent increase doubles in 35 years. It's four times bigger in 70 years, and it's eight times bigger in 105 years, and we're talking about 250 years. So now our 250 years of coal shrinks to only 85 years if we are increasing its use only 2 percent, and we will certainly have to increase the use more than that as we find less and less readily available oil and gas.

But for most uses, coal is not very convenient. So we are going to have to convert it to a liquid or a gas, and that will use some of the energy of coal. So now it shrinks to 50 years, but the reality in today's world is that energy is fungible, particularly liquid fuel energy, and we're going to have to share that with the world. There's not much of a way not to share that with the world. If you do that, since we use 25 percent of the world's energy, that now reduces it to 12½ years.

Be very cautious when somebody tells you about a resource that will last so many years at current use rates. It was Albert Einstein I think who said that the most powerful force in the universe was the power of compound interest.

We are running out of time, and I wanted to get to another quote here from Admiral Rickover's speech because he was so prophetic in his speech. ''In the 8,000 years from the beginning of history to the year 2000 A.D. world population will have grown from 10 million to 4 billion.'' He kind of missed that. We are what, over 6 billion today, but that is an enormous growth. ''With 90 percent of that growth taking place during the last 5 percent of that period.'' It would be more than 95 percent because we are now over 6 billion rather than 4 billion. ''It took the first 3,000 years of recorded history to accomplish the first doubling of population, 100 years for the last doubling, but the next doubling will require only 50 years.'' Matter of fact, it occurred in less than 50 years.

And then another chart from Admiral Rickover's talk: ''One final thought I should like to leave with you. High-energy consumption has always been a prerequisite of political power. The tendency is for political power to be concentrated in an ever-smaller number of countries. Ultimately, the Nation which controls the largest energy resources will become dominant. If we give thought to the problem of energy resources, if we act wisely and in time to conserve what we have and prepare well for necessary future changes, we shall insure this dominant position for our own country.''

Mr. Speaker, I wonder if Admiral Rickover would think that we have done that. ''If we give thought to the problem of energy resources, if we act wisely and in time to conserve what we have and prepare well for necessary future changes, we shall insure this dominant position for our own country.'' That's the dominant position where you control a lot of the energy. We have only 2 percent of the world's energy. We use 25 percent of the world's energy. In a chart which shows the 10 largest oil containing countries we're not even near that.

Our oil companies, which pump a fair amount of oil, own very little oil. They are pumping somebody else's oil. The oil resources which we own in this country are very small. The largest, 70 percent, of all the resources of course are in the Middle East and northern Africa.

As I read this talk from Admiral Rickover, I was reminded of how wise and farseeing he was. He says, for instance, ''It will be wise to face up to the possibility of the ultimate disappearance of automobiles, trucks, buses and tractors.''

Let me read that paragraph. That's a pretty interesting paragraph. ''Transportation, the lifeblood of all technically advanced civilizations, seems to be assured, once we have borne the initial high cost of electrifying railroads and replacing buses with streetcars or interurban electric trains.''

He's talking about nuclear energy, which could be huge, compared to the rate at which we are using now which produces electricity. Of course, today we don't have much that runs on electricity. We have torn out all of our streetcar lines. We're now replacing what we call light rail, I think that's what streetcars were, and we are using railroads. Very little for transportation of people.

''But, unless science can perform the miracle of synthesizing automobile fuel from some energy source as yet unknown,'' and I thought here of our corn ethanol and we were going to get so much from that. That article says if we turn all the corn into ethanol, discounted it for fossil fuel input, it would displace 2.4 percent of our gasoline.

Well, I commend this reading of Admiral Hyman Rickover's speech to anyone who's interested in energy. He was really farseeing.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. ARCURI). All Members of the House are reminded to refrain from bringing to the attention of the House occupants of the galleries.

HEALTH CARE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 18, 2007, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BURGESS) is recognized for 60 minutes.

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I come to the floor tonight to talk a little bit about the Nation's health care system, some of the challenges that face us and some of the successes that have happened in spite of the fact that they aren't generally noticed by the people who report on things.

Mr. Speaker, my career prior to coming to Congress was that of a physician. A lot of people will ask me how did we end up with the situation that we have, how did we end up with the system of health care that we have in this country? After all, Western Europe, we are not that much different from our Western European friends, and yet they have largely single-payer,

double-fund systems, and why is the American system so different?

Mr. Speaker, there are a lot of reasons for that, but at the risk of oversimplification, if we look back to the days when the country was involved in the Second World War, of course President Roosevelt at that time had put in place wage and price controls in order to keep down trouble from inflation. Employers who were anxious to keep their employees working, and there was competition for the workforce that remained behind and was not called off to fight, in order to keep that workforce employed and to keep that workforce interested in working, and not being able to expand wages like an employer might like to do, they offered benefits.

They actually sought an opinion, and the United States Supreme Court ruled that health insurance benefits could be provided and would be outside of the wage and price controls. And in fact, a tax advantage was given for employer-derived health insurance, and it made the program popular, not only during the war years but in the years immediately after the Second World War.

While this country was undergoing a significant economic expansion, this type of insurance policy remained in effect.

Now, contrast that with Europe, and even though some countries in Europe had emerged victorious, others were vanquished. Their backyard was the site where that war was fought. They faced significant humanitarian issues if they did not quickly stand up health care systems and other social systems in order to take care of their citizenry. So, it was an entirely different landscape presented to the people who represented constituents in this Congress during the war years and immediately thereafter.

I reference an article from Health Affairs from December 2006, just a few months ago, an article by Dr. Einthoven who's been a prolific writer. I don't always agree with him but a prolific writer on health issues, and he talked about employer-based health insurance past, present and future.

Talking about the past, the most familiar aspect of employment-based insurance past is its rapid growth in the first three decades after World War II, the relative stability that followed for about a decade.

And then he talks about the declining coverage that has occurred since the late 1980s, the exemption of employer payments for health insurance from employees' taxable income, combined with substantial efficiency advantages of group over individual insurance, fueled a rapid expansion.

And he goes on to cite that by the mid-1950s, 45 percent of the population had hospital insurance. Coverage increased to 77 percent by 1963, and coverage peaked sometime during the early 1980s and, as he points out, declined in the late 1980s.

Lest anyone think that I'm in complete agreement with the article, he does end up his piece that the most likely trajectory in the near term is continued erosion of employer-based health insurance. In the long term, we think that the likely and most desirable income is replacement of job-based insurance with some form of universal health insurance that encompasses choice competition.

Again, we may disagree with his conclusion, and I will go through during the course of this hour some of the reasons why I do disagree with that conclusion, there are a number of things that would need to be taken into account.

But other things that we need to consider with this balance of the hybrid system that we have, the public and private, we do need to talk a little bit about the uninsured in this country, what's happening with the reauthorization of the State Children's Health Insurance Program, what's going to happen with the reauthorization of federally qualified health centers, a bill we took up last year but didn't complete before the end of the 109th Congress and will have to face again this year.

I'd like to talk a little bit about health savings accounts and some about association health plans. Of course, it is hard for me to talk about health care without addressing medical liability reform, and I do want to spend a few minutes on that in the hour that we have ahead of us.

One of the most pressing needs and one of the issues that is brought to my attention with increasing regularity is the whole issue of maintaining our physician workforce. We have a problem in the Medicare system as to how we reimburse physicians. So certainly physicians who are in practice are feeling that burden right now. We also have physicians in graduate education and young people who are perhaps thinking about whether or not they want to go into medicine as a career, and all of those aspects of the physician workforce I think require some of our attention.

Some of the things that the States are doing right now, things that are happening in Massachusetts, California, some recent developments in Illinois, indicate some of the efforts that are going on at the State level, and largely that's because of flexibility we provided to State governors when we passed the Deficit Reduction Act in December of 2005.

Other health care issues, if time permits, I'll try to get into. We talked a little bit about the trauma bill that was recently signed into law by President Bush 2 weeks ago, some aspects of transparency within the health care system, and how we are going to approach coverage for long-term care, particularly as the so-called baby boomers continue to move along in the demographic chain in this country.

Again, we talked about how we got this system that looks the way it does, the hybrid system that is a combination of both public and private systems. I referenced the activity that was going on right after the end of the Second World War.

Fast forward 20 years and a new system into effect in 1965 that was called the Medicare system primarily focused on coverage for hospitalization and some doctor services for elderly Americans.

In 1965, my dad was a doctor when Medicare came into being in 1965, and I used to tease him that in 1965 you only had two medicines, penicillin and cortisone, and you used those interchangeably. So it didn't really matter that you didn't have a prescription drug coverage when Medicare was first passed. I know he didn't think that was very funny either, but that is a discussion we have had on several occasions.

Now, 40 years later, 40 years after the enactment of Medicare, how different the world looks just from the standpoint of the pharmaceutical agents that are available in the physician's armamentarium to not only treat disease when it strikes but to prevent the disease from ever manifesting itself in the first place, for keeping that patient in the state of relatively good health and not coming in, sweeping in at the end stage when the disease has already struck and caused the heart attacks or caused some of the problems that happens with untreated or poorly controlled diabetes over a lifetime.

To be able to reach in and control those medical conditions on a chronic, ongoing basis ahead of time results in a reduction in the overall health expenditure for that particular disease for that particular individual, and you don't have to take my word for it.

The Medicare Trustees Report that came out about a week-and-a-half ago pointed out that in the year 2005 there were about 600,000 hospital beds that were not filled that were expected to be filled, and they were not filled because America's physicians are doing a better job of diagnosing conditions early and treating them early and keeping people out of the hospital when the full-blown effects of the disease might be manifest that in many cases can, in fact, be avoided all together.

□ 2145

So when we did the Medicare prescription drug plan back in 2003, it was a fairly lengthy and involved debate. I remember the President of the United States standing in this very Chamber during his State of the Union during 2003. Remarkable for me, because it was the first State of the Union that I got to see here as a new Member of Congress at the time. He said the issues facing Medicare are too important to be left to another President. The issues facing Medicare are too important to be left to another Congress.

So, this Congress, at that time the 108th Congress, was going to tackle the problem of providing prescription drug benefits to America's seniors. Heretofore, prior to that time, they had not been available. Arguably, there were

some ups and downs with that, but the fact is today more American seniors have more access to coverage than at any time in Medicare's history. The coverage that is available to them is certainly vast and extensive.

Generally there are at least two medications in every one of the six major disease categories. I know Administrator McClellan worked on that very diligently in the years between the time the Medicare bill was passed and the actual rollout of the Medicare prescription drug plan. But that was simply setting the stage for the debate that continues today.

Who is better suited, is it the public sector or the private sector? Who is better suited to handle the health care of this Nation? Now, currently, the Federal Government pays for roughly half of health care in this country. I know I am oversimplifying, but the numbers actually back me up on this, the gross domestic product last year was approximately $11 trillion, and we spent $1.4 trillion on health care.

The Health and Human Services budget for Medicare and Medicaid alone was in excess of $600 billion. Add the Federal expenditure for the VA system, for the Indian Health Service, the Federal prison system, and you can see we are quickly going to be at that mark. It is about half of the health care expenditures in this country.

The other half is broken down with a significant amount, the lion's share, being covered by people who have traditional insurance, commercial insurance, HMO coverage and all the things that we generally associate with insurance in the private market, and then smaller amounts would be attributable to individuals who simply pay for their care out of their pocket, and are uninsured, but are available to pay for their care.

There is no question that there is some care rendered in this country, no doubt about it, given by the good graces of either the hospital or the doctor involved, so-called charitable care or uncompensated care, which does account for a significant amount of the care given in this country.

Well, what is the best way, this tension between public and private. Should we expand the public sector? We are going to have that debate in a big way, probably in the months to come regarding the expansion of the public sector, the public side of health care.

Certainly we can look to Canada as an example of a country that has done, essentially done away with the private practice of medicine and put a publicly funded payment plan in place. But even the Canadian Supreme Court a few years ago said that, you know what, access to a waiting list is not the same thing as access to health care. They acknowledge some of the problems that exist in the system, some of the problems that exist within the Canadian system.

The British National Health Service, again, I go back to my comments earlier about the time during World War II and its immediate aftermath, the British National Health Insurance came on the scene earlier in the last century, and has evolved essentially into a two-tier system. You have patients who are taken care of in the National Health Service, to be certain, and everyone has coverage to the National Health Service. But, again, there may be issues with waiting times, there may be an issue to waiting to see the practitioner or the specialist that you wish to see. As a consequence, some of the most expensive health care available today is in the private system that exists, that coexists, with the British National Health Service.

Another aspect to that that is troubling to some people because of the wait. How long is it reasonable to ask someone to wait for an artificial hip replacement, for example? Certainly some of the studies done at the National Institutes of Health have shown that with today's minimally invasive surgery, and the in-joint replacement surgery, the savings to the economy are significant because of the minimization of the lost days of work, the lost productivity by a worker who is having a problem.

But, if you have to wait, as in some systems you do, if you have to wait 1 month, 2 months, 3 months, is that such a big deal; 6 months, going on a year? Well, I would submit that if a patient is in their 70s or 80s, that length of time is a significant electricity of time and, in fact, may increase the morbidity and, in fact, the mortality of people who are suffering from those types of diseases. So those systems are not inherently fair if someone is in their seventh or eighth decade of life, or they may not survive the wait for the care that is involved. So, expanding the private sector, is that the answer? I don't know if it's the entire answer, but it's certainly a big part of what must be the ultimate answer that we come to.

I would reference what has happened with medical savings accounts. They just turned 10 years old last year. The Kennedy-Kassebaum Act was passed in 1996. I was a practicing physician at the time with no thought of ever running for Congress, but I knew I wanted a medical health savings account as soon as I could get one.

In fact, 750,000 policies was the cap placed under the Kennedy-Kassebaum legislation. I was significantly concerned that I would not be able to get signed up for one before the cap was reached and no more were available. Turns out, I needn't have worried, because the cap was never fully prescribed because of some of the restrictions that were placed on the old medical savings accounts that were the original type of policy that was available.

In my home State of Texas, because of the restrictions placed on insurance carriers, only two carriers were really interested in providing what might be regarded as an account, a high deductible account, that could be coupled with a medical IRA or a medical savings account, which would continue to earn interest, be available to pay that high deductible if someone got sick, but in the event that it was not required to be used, would grow over time.

These were pretax dollars that were put away into the savings account, again, much like an IRA, but the only difference being that these dollars would be earmarked, and I realize that's a bad word, but these dollars would be sequestered only for paying for medical care.

Well, that changed in 2003 with the advent of the health savings accounts, as we passed the Medicare Modernization Act. Health savings accounts today are accounting for a significant number of policies, and I don't have the most recent statistics at hand, but 3- to 4 million policies that have now been obtained, and about 40 percent of the people who have a health savings account today previously lacked health insurance coverage.

Now, one of the great things that I tell, particularly younger audiences, when I address them about health insurance, 1994, trying to buy a health insurance policy for someone who was not employed, someone who didn't get their insurance through their employer, just wanted to go out on their own and get a policy that would provide them coverage, if they needed it, and pay for it themselves.

Number one, they are paying for it with aftertax dollars, so that's a more expensive way to go about getting insurance, but the other thing was, in 1994, you couldn't get it at any price. It just was not available. I know this, because I attempted to buy a policy for a family member who was not working at the time, but I thought needed insurance coverage.

Well, fast forward by 10 years. A young American getting out of college today, 24, 25 years old, now not able to be carried on his parents' insurance any longer, wants to go into business for himself or herself, wants to be a entrepreneur, wants to take part in the American dream but also wants to do the responsible thing and have health insurance. That individual can go to the Internet, go to the search engine of choice and type in ''health savings account.''

Very quickly, they will find a vast array of insurance products that are available to them at a high deductible, PPO product, may cost in the range, in my home State of Texas, for a male, age 25, nonsmoker, those premiums are going to be in the range of about $65 a month. It is eminently affordable for someone just getting out of college who wants to do the right thing and have that insurance coverage. Moreover, if they want to further do the right thing and save some money towards that high deductible, should they ever be called on to make that expenditure, those monies can go into

that account as pretax expense, and they will grow tax deferred over the life of the account.

Now, why is that significant? It's significant in that, correct, it's a high deductible policy. So if that person needs a flu shot, their insurance is not going to cover it. That is going to be contained within the deductible. Yes, they will, in all likelihood, either pay for it out of the money they have held in the health savings account, or they may just choose to pay for it out of pocket.

But, if they have a motorcycle accident some night and wind up with an evening in the emergency room, and 3 or 4 days in the intensive care unit, and face a hospital bill of $15- to $25,000, guess what, that bill is going to be covered. That is a significant difference from what was available in this country in 1994.

I would also reference the expansion of, well, you think, gosh, that high deductible policy, if you need anything more than a flu shot, who is going to want that because the cost of health insurance is so high, or the cost of health care is so high?

In today's Wall Street journal on the back page, the op ed page, there's an article about customer health care. One of the things it talks about is the growth of so-called minute clinics or urgent care centers. Quoting from the article now, written by Grace-Marie Turner, these new retail health clinics are opening in big box stores and local pharmacies around the country to treat common maladies at prices lower than a typical doctor's visit, and much lower than the emergency room, no appointment necessary, open daytime, open evenings, open weekends, most do take insurance.

Prices vary from services like from flu shots from $15- to $30 to care for allergies, poison ivy, pinkeye, $50- to $60 and tests for cholesterol, diabetes, less than $50. Competition is already starting to drive these prices down.

So there we have some good news. We have the health savings accounts, which are now available and sold on the Internet, and that competition has driven those premiums down, and we have the growth of people who are providing care for someone who is willing to pay for it out-of-pocket, whether they be someone who just wants to have the convenience of a walk-in clinic, or someone who perhaps has one of the consumer oriented products, one of the high deductible products, and wants to, is shopping around for that bargain in health care. Now there are other options available that weren't there before.

Other things to talk about within the private sector, association health plans, that's legislation that we have passed before in this House, both in the 108th and 109th Congress. Clearly, we need to take a look at that again in this Congress.

Association health plans allow groups of employers who have a similar business model to band together and buy insurance in the larger group market to take advantage of some of those economies of scale that may be gleaned by a larger employer, make those available to small businesses as well. Again, we have passed that legislation twice in the House of Representatives, in the 108th and 109th Congress, and something that we do need to consider taking up again this year.

When I talk about consumer oriented health care, when I talk about the health savings accounts or the growth in health savings accounts, one of the things that is so important for consumers, if they are going to be educated consumers, if they are going to make informed decisions about when and how they purchase their health care, we are going to have to make more information available to people to rationally make those decisions.

Information about cost, price and quality is going to have to be more generally available, and I recognize that there is a value in opacity, or it wouldn't have developed in the first place, but more information available to the health care consumer. In fact, in my home State of Texas, this recently has happened with hospital charges.

In all except for the smallest of hospital markets, an individual can go to a Web site, txpricepoint.org, and find out information about the hospitals in their area for given classes of hospital care, childbirth, for example, fixing a broken leg, for example, with or without complications, all listed there. Very quickly you can get information about how hospitals in the area compare and how the hospitals compare with other hospitals statewide that are of similar size and have a similar patient mix.

This is just the first step in providing that information. I recognize there is only so much that can be gained from looking at the overall hospital charge for a particular diagnosis, but as more information becomes available, and as more information is placed up and available on these Web sites, consumers are going to be able to make more informed choices about how they spend their health care funds.

One of the biggest problems ahead us and one of the biggest problems we have to tackle is the uninsured.

□ 2200

Currently the United States Census Bureau says that there are over 46 million people who lack health insurance in this country. And I know we can have the arguments about who is represented in that 46 million and that there are some people who lack insurance only during part of the year. But they're still counted toward the total number. But the reality is it is a significant number of Americans who lack health insurance.

As a physician, first, I will be the first to point out that having no insurance does not equate to having no access to health care because every physician can tell you about cases they've had where reimbursement either never arrived or they just simply did the case knowing that the person was uninsured and no reimbursement would be forthcoming.

But I think we also recognize that delivering care in that manner, it is not always delivered in the most timely of fashions, and you don't always get your best health outcome.

Now, one of the solutions that we will have to deal with in Congress is the reauthorization of the Children's Health Insurance Program. Again, that program is 10 years old and had a 10-year reauthorization requirement upon it.

It's not different from Medicaid. It's not an entitlement. It is a block grant to States to provide coverage for uninsured children within that State. It does provide flexibility for the States to determine standards and providing health care funding for those children who are not eligible for Medicare, but whose parents truly cannot afford health insurance.

The bill, when we work on that in committee, there are several things that I think are important that we do need to look at. One the problems of course we have run into with S-CHIP is that some States have found themselves in a shortfall situation. And one of the things that is troubling about the reason some States are in a shortfall situation is that they are covering adults and not just children.

Now, providing health care insurance or providing health insurance for children is less expensive than providing health insurance for adults because children obviously, are younger, they tend to be healthier, they tend to get better quicker. And although there are some illnesses that are particular to children, in general, the children's population in this country tends to be very healthy. And if you provide a modicum of health insurance and a modicum of prevention on top of that population, they are going to be even healthier still.

So States that cover adults as well as children, if a State is not covering all of the children that it could cover under its S-CHIP program, perhaps it's not a good idea to be covering adults, non-pregnant adults. Pregnancy should rightfully be covered under an S-CHIP program.

And, in fact, Mr. Speaker, there are four States that cover more adults than children. And I do hope we will look at this when we take up our S-CHIP reauthorization in our Energy and Commerce Committee, in the Subcommittee on Health, I certainly hope we will look at that.

One of the ongoing arguments with the Children's Health Insurance Program is, do we tend to drive out the private sector by the State taking on the burden of insurance children whose parents make too much money for Medicaid but not enough money to provide them health insurance.

If an individual has insurance through their employer, but they cannot afford the dependent coverage that the employer offers, and therefore don't take advantage of that dependent coverage that the employer offers, we should allow the flexibility for S-CHIP funds to be used to purchase that, or at least buy down the cost of that dependent coverage. We'll leverage our S-CHIP dollars so that they go so much further if we will do that.

Indeed, we heard testimony in a hearing the other day from an individual who said that as much as 10 percent of a State's S-CHIP funding may be used for so-called premium support. And if that is the case, I think we need to, but most States find that that is a program that is not well subscribed to. So we need to get that information out there. And if we need to make more dollars available for that type of premium support, then, indeed we should do that.

Now, that's not going to take care of all the problems within S-CHIP, but we certainly don't want to crowd the private sector out with a Federal program or a State program because there is value, I believe, in keeping the private sector involved and invested in providing health care for children.

A number of other things we could do during the authorization of that bill, it's a great opportunity to perhaps expand some of the health information technology that everyone talks about but no one ever seems to be able to get done, and the opportunity for providing some demonstration projects in, say, two or three States, a large State, a small State and one somewhere in between might provide us some of the background, some of the tools, some of the data that we need to be able to make rational decisions when it comes to health information technology, and to also get some of the advantages that's going to come from a well-functioning information system that provides almost instantaneous feedback on what things are working, what things aren't, where can we best spend our health care dollars so we maximize the return on the taxpayers' investment.

These are just a few things that I hope we'll take up when we have the opportunity to look at that bill in committee. It will be of necessity. That has to be reauthorized before the end of the fiscal year, and I feel certain that Congress will do that.

Federally qualified health centers I've already referenced. We did do the reauthorization last year, but that did not get completed before the end of the 109th Congress. I trust that we will take that up again this year. That is an important program that does provide a medical home and does provide an insurance equivalent to 15 million Americans. 15 million uninsured individuals actually have a medical home and continuity of care and identified provider through a federally qualified health center.

And one of the things that we talk about, relief of mandates on private insurance, one of the things that always gets my attention is that we seem to have so much difficulty when we sit down and talk. And we saw this last year in our Health Subcommittee. When a bill was put forward to allow insurance companies to sell insurance that didn't have all the mandates that some States will put on an insurance policy, and we had a dreadful fight about that one, it went late into the night. And a lot of hard feelings were expressed during the debate on that bill.

But the fact is, not in this Congress, not in the last Congress, but several years ago, Members of Congress came together and agreed on the types of benefits that should be covered in a basic package, and those benefits are the benefits that are mandated to be covered under a federally qualified health center. Any community that wants to petition for a federally qualified health center will have to show that they are going to provide at least this level of care for an identified number of illnesses or ailments.

And it seems to me, if we could extrapolate that experience from the federally qualified health center legislation that, again, is almost 35 years old, if we could extrapolate that cooperation that had to have been required to get that legislation up and moving over 3 decades ago, perhaps we could come together on the basic package of benefits that should be available in an insurance policy that's going to be sold in the private market.

I have trouble understanding that a private insurance company would not look at 46 million people as potentially market share if they had a product that people could afford to buy. And I do think that's one thing that this Congress does need to take up.

Health savings accounts I've already talked about. There are some additional improvements that we can make to health savings accounts, although they have been improved significantly in 2003 with the Medicare Modernization Act.

The HSA, the so-called flexible spending account or the health reimbursement arrangement that an employer may provide, a flexible spending account of course is money that an employee may sequester, pre-tax, and use that money on health care expenditures, but if they don't use it by the end of the year it goes away. It disappears, the so-called use it or lose it phenomenon.

Similar situation with the health reimbursement arrangement. If an employer is willing to provide additional dollars to take care of an employee's health care, why not allow those dollars, if they're not used at the end of the year, to become a part of that employee's health savings account, to become part of that medical IRA, to be able to grow over time?

We already heard the previous speaker reference Einstein's comment about the miracle of compound interest. And this is exactly the type of power that we could tap into if we were to be able to increase the amount of money that either the employee or the employer could put into that savings account that will be dedicated exclusively for that person's health expenditures.

Some of the other improvements that we could make in health savings accounts would be allow individuals to purchase their health savings account with pre-tax dollars. That would leverage so much more, the purchase of so much more insurance, even for someone in a relatively modest 15 or 20 percent tax bracket. They'd still be buying their insurance with 80-cent dollars, and that means that their insurance, that part of their budget that they allow for insurance, would go a great deal farther.

Perhaps we could allow early retirees to pay some of their continued premiums out of money they've saved in a health savings account. There is lots of flexibility that we could build into the program, and I believe that we've only just started to tap into the power that is available, the power that we can put in the health care consumers hands to be able to provide for themselves and their families with this type of insurance.

Again, I had a medical savings account when they first became available back in 1996. The reason I did it wasn't because I got to have an additional IRA, though that was a great benefit. But the main reason I did it was because it left me in charge of health care decisions. I didn't have to dial 1–800–California and talk to an HMO director somewhere. I was in charge of the expenditure of those medical dollars, and I made the decisions for myself and my family. And realistically, that is a lot of power that we should put back in the hands of the health care consumer.

Well, a lot of the things that we've talked about so far, about the public and private, the creative tension, if you will, that exists between the public and private aspects of providing for health care in this country. But one of the things that I've referenced before, and I think we do need to spend a few minutes on, is we've got to be careful we don't put the cart before the horse, because if we are not careful, this country could face a significant shortage or a significant crisis in manpower, in physicians, in nurses, in other health care providers, other people that we rely upon to give us the health care that we need when we need it.

We need to ensure that doctors in practice today, those at the peak of their clinical abilities, aren't driven out of the system by decisions that we make here in this Congress. And we need to make certain that the best and brightest that are in training programs now, and those that may be looking at going into medicine or nursing as a career, that we don't, because of our decisions in this Congress, that we don't drive them out of, we don't drive them away from their career goals.

Now, about a year and a half ago, Alan Greenspan, just before he retired as the Chairman of the Federal Reserve Board, was talking to a group of us one morning and talked about, someone asked him a question about the, being able to afford Medicare in the future. And he said, yes, he was concerned about that. But he felt certain that when the correct time came, Congress would deal with how to pay for Medicare.

He said, what concerned him more was, is there going to be anyone there to deliver the services when you want them. And those were words that really stuck with me, because I'm afraid if we don't take some steps to acknowledge and encourage the health care work force in this country, we may find we get to that point where a substantial number of baby boomers have retired and we face manpower shortages, and then it's going to be very difficult to deal with the situation. So I do encourage us in this Congress, just like the President said when he talked about Medicare. It's too important to wait for another Congress. We need to take up those issues in this Congress and deal with them.

Now, perhaps one of the most striking things that we have to deal with every year since I've come to Congress is in the Medicare system we get toward the end of the year, and physicians in part B of Medicare face a 5 percent pay reduction. And every year, they become very concerned about that. And every year, except 2002, we've come in at the last minute and done something to help.

Now, it may be nothing more than just holding off the cuts for that year, but we come in at the 11th hour and do something to help.

Last year, in an effort to prevent that from being an 11th hour decision, I introduced a bill, 5866, to do away with the formula under which physicians are paid. And not to go into too much detail, Mr. Speaker, but when you look at Medicare part A, part C and part D, hospitals, HMOs drug companies, each year get, if you will, a cost of living adjustment, a market basket update that increases the reimbursement for each of those three entities.

□ 2215

Physicians, for whatever reason, are treated differently, and there is a finite number of dollars allocated for the part B expenditure; and the more people who put claims in against that finite number of dollars, the thinner the slices of pie are that are ultimately distributed to the providers.

So Congress's attempt many years ago to control Medicare expenditures by controlling volume and intensity of services has created this system, which every year causes a significant amount of strife not only for Members of Congress, not only for practicing physicians, but just tension in general in the medical profession that, since Congress doesn't value the work that we do, maybe we ought not to work for Congress any longer. And I hear that frequently when addressing groups of physicians. And, of course, this time of year, Mr. Speaker, as you know there are a large number of physician groups through town.

So last year I introduced 5866 that said let's do away with the SGR; let's replace it with the Medicare economic index. That is not some formula that I was smart enough to think up. That is basically a market basket index, a cost-of-living update that would occur for expenditures under part B of Medicare. And this formula was worked out by the MED PAC folks many, many years ago. And a lot of physicians asked why we don't use the Medicare economic index. The main problem with going from the SGR to the Medicare economic index is it scores as an extremely high expense when the Congressional Budget Office looks at the bill and says this is how much it costs to do it. In fact, last year when I introduced 5866, the cost of going from an SGR formula to the Medicare economic index minus 1 percent was about $180 billion, and it was just a bridge too far, a hill too high, and we didn't get that done.

This year, for me, it is not just about looking at the Medicare payment problems but also looking at physicians at the beginning of their time in the workforce as well.

But getting the Medicare payment policy right has to be one of the main pillars, one of the main things that we do to effect reform that stabilizes the physician workforce. So paying doctors fairly will increase the career of many physicians who will either opt out of the Medicare system altogether or perhaps seek early retirement, or you never know. They might run for Congress. But principles of the bill that I am introducing this Congress will eliminate the SGR, but it is going to eliminate it in 2 years' time rather than this year. And I know that is a point of contention for a lot of people, but the reality is we are not allowed to look at dynamic scoring.

The Congressional Budget Office simply looks at a static model and tries to make predictions on the future with that static model, and by law we are not allowed to use dynamic scoring. And yet in the Medicare Trustees Report that I earlier referenced, 600,000 hospital beds were not filled in this country because of the things that doctors are doing in their offices, in their ambulatory surgery centers, in their outpatient imaging centers. These were dollars that were savings to part A; but, actually, the reimbursement for those was drawn from part B. So if we could somehow gather and collect and sequester those savings that are happening every day from part A and offsetting the cost of the ultimate repeal of the SGR formula, perhaps we could get to a number that would be much more workable.

Additionally, there is the audit enforcement that has increased lately. The Inspector General of Health and Human Services came and talked to our Oversight and Investigations Committee earlier this year, and they talked about the dollars that they were recovering in various areas of Medicare. These dollars that are recovered were stolen from part B; so these are not dollars that go to the Department of Justice or the Department of Health and Human Services in some other form. They go to part B to offset the expenditure for repealing the SGR. And I think if we will collect and allocate and sequester those funds and use those against the scoring for repealing the SGR, within 2 years' time we should have a significant dollar amount to be able to use to offset the expense of the SGR repeal.

Now, in the meantime, yes, it is necessary to protect physicians who are practicing against the cuts that are already programmed to happen in the SGR formula for 2008 and 2009, and I would propose voluntary reporting, voluntary health information technology upgrades, and if a doctor or medical group is willing to do that, they could achieve as much as a 6 percent bonus payment for those 2 years to offset the reduction in payment that would come about as a result of the SGR formula. But the reality is that if we don't put a premium on prevention, if we don't put a premium on timely treatment of disease, and if we continue to drive mature physicians out of the workforce, we are probably not going to get our best fiscal results with the Medicare program, not to mention our best medical results.

Well, what about the other aspects of the physician workforce? What about graduate medical education? And currently we know we are going to need more physicians in primary care, OB/GYN, pediatrics, those specialties that are devoted to treatment of aging individuals. And it only makes sense to increase the number of residencies, particularly in or near communities where the need is the highest. So high-need areas with high-need physician specialties is something that we could bring together and allow hospitals that haven't previously offered a residency program the ability to do that.

We know, for example, in Texas that a physician who trains is likely to practice within 100 miles of where that training occurred. We are losing Texas-educated medical students who are going to other parts of the country for their training and they are not coming back to Texas, and the same thing is happening in other States as well. In an effort to deal with that, if we were to allow medium-size hospitals to start up residency programs, provide some Federal grants and loans for these residency programs to start up, it would encourage physicians to be in practice in high-need specialties in medically underserved areas for those high-need specialties.

Now, further expanding that to the younger individual who is perhaps

thinking about a career in medicine, if we expanded the old health profession scholarship loan concept and provided loan forgiveness, provided tax forgiveness for individuals in medical school, in training, who are willing to go and serve after their training is complete in a medically underserved area in a high-needs specialty, and again, family practice, pediatrics, OB/GYN, and gerontology would be the specialties that immediately come to mind; so all three aspects, keeping the physician workforce of today involved and providing care to arguably that group of the population that is our most challenging, our senior citizens, providing help to physicians who are in training today, and providing some additional help for young people who are looking at medicine as a career but might be concerned about their ability to deal with the large number of dollars that they would owe at the end of that training, to provide some loan forgiveness and some tax incentives for these individuals to, indeed, practice in medically underserved areas in high-need specialties.

Well, I almost can't talk about reform in the Nation's health care system without at least talking briefly about medical liability reform. We have passed medical liability reform in both the 108th and 109th Congresses. We passed it, in fact, a couple of times in each Congress. And this medical liability reform, H.R. 5, that we passed in this Congress in my first months here, in March of 2003, was legislation that put a cap on noneconomic damages in medical liability lawsuits. Modeled after the 1975 Medical Injury Compensation Reform Act from California, this legislation was scored by the Congressional Budget Office as a savings of $15 billion over 5 years back in 2003 when this was first proposed by Congressman Greenwood of Pennsylvania. A savings, Mr. Speaker, and we held many hours to spend looking for savings that the Congressional Budget Office would allow us to credit against additional spending. Well, here was savings that we essentially just walked away from.

Now, in my home State of Texas, we passed a medical liability reform in 2003 for the State of Texas that has been enormously effective in keeping physicians in the State. Previously, physicians were leaving the State. Keeping insurance companies providing the coverage in state. We had gone from 17 insurers down to two the year I first ran for Congress in 2002. And now we are back up to 13 and 14. And, most importantly, those insurance companies that stayed and those that have come back to the State have done so without increasing their rates. And over all, Texas Medical Liability Trust, my last insurer of record before I left my practice at the end of 2002, has dropped their premiums for their medical liability insurance by 22 percent since this law was passed in September of 2003. And mind you Texas Medical Liability Trust in the State of Texas was increasing my premiums by 20 to 50 percent each year for the 3 years preceding 2003. So a real victory as far as providing some relief in medical liability premiums.

The real beneficiary of this law when it passed has been the smaller or the midsize community not-for-profit hospital, and these hospitals, largely self-insured, have now found millions of dollars that have come back to their bottom line that they are able to use to reinvest in capital expansion, to pay nurses' salaries, exactly the type of thing that you want your smaller community not-for-profit hospital to be doing.

So this is important legislation that passed in Texas. I have drafted legislation that essentially copies the Texas law. The Texas law was a little different from what we passed in this House that never got through the other body. The cap on noneconomic damages in the House-passed bill, H.R. 5 in 2003, was a $250,000 cap on noneconomic damages. The Texas plan actually trifurcates the cap. There is a $250,000 cap on noneconomic damages in regards to the physician, a $250,000 cap for noneconomic damages for the hospital, and an additional $250,000 cap for a second hospital or a nursing home if one is involved. So basing off the Texas plan, I think, could give us at least room for discussion about how we might provide some stability, some fairness in our medical justice system in this country.

□ 2230

Other things that we have talked about in our committee, we have had hearings on concepts like arbitration and mediation, the concept of an early offer, where a medical entity, be it a doctor or hospital, could make an early offer to an injured party or a family that would put the reimbursement or the cash in the hands of the person who is injured much more quickly. The current system that we have doesn't do a good job of delivering dollars to people who are injured. And the time it takes, average 8 years time, between the injury and the time of any payment or any settlement is further injury to the person who has already suffered something.

Now, we do need to look at how we structure reporting to the National Practitioner Data Bank if we were to have the concept of an early offer. But again, it's something we talked about and had testimony about in our Subcommittee on Health and I think is something that is worthwhile for us to consider.

One of the other things that I just want to bring up because it is so important, we passed the Deficit Reduction Act in December of 2005. A lot of stuff has been written about the Deficit Reduction Act, but one of the little noticed things about the Deficit Reduction Act was it did allow of State Governors a good deal more flexibility to do things within their State if they thought they had a plan that would provide more people with insurance coverage. And of course the prototype is the Massachusetts plan that has been talked about so much. And I recognize that there are plenty of things that you can talk about in Massachusetts that would not extrapolate to my home State of Texas, but still it is a significant feat where a Republican Governor working with a Democratic legislature and State senate could get this legislation through. Now, the proof is going to be in July, when the program actually takes effect and we will see how well it works. But you have also seen California and Governor Schwarzenegger talk about providing a similar sort of plan in his State. Jeb Bush, before he left office in the State of Florida, had additionally a plan for covering more people and providing people more coverage with the dollars that were being spent under the State's Medicare program; again, all because of the flexibility that was brought by the Deficit Reduction Act.

We recently saw in Illinois where a bold attempt at universal coverage did not pass the State legislature. And there I think the issue was largely because of the gross receipts tax and not so much the health care aspects. But nevertheless, many States are tentatively trying to see if there may be some system that works better in their State. Again, the one-size-fits-all philosophy may not be in the best interest of every citizen in every State.

The States taking the lead in crafting new approaches I think are reasonable attempts, and I think these are attempts that should be encouraged by this Congress and not discouraged by this Congress.

Mr. Speaker, I realize that the information that I've been talking about tonight, some of it is technical and complex, some of it is confusing, there are some topics that some people do not even want to think about, but we are in a debate this year, next year, the year after that will forever change how health care is delivered in this country. The decisions we make in this body over the next 12 months, 36 months time are going to affect the health care of our children, of our children's children. And it is important to talk about it, it is important to debate it and it is important to get it right. We must understand the things that are working in our system and the things that are not. Fix the things that are not, and encourage the things that are working.

The only way, I believe, is to keep the public private partnership that has developed in this country since the end of the Second World War, to keep that working for providing health care for the American people; plenty of places where it can be improved, and we are obligated to work on those improvements. But to simply scuttle the system because someone thinks they have a different idea, well, we saw what happened back in 1993, the enormous upheaval that happened in this country

where people really got concerned about whether or not their doctor would be there and able to see them if they got sick. We want to reassure the American people that, indeed, their doctor will be there, their hospital will be there. And keep the thriving private sector, keep the growing public sector and allow that creative tension that exists between the two to expand coverage for more Americans, and most importantly, so that we keep it affordable for our children, our children's children and into the future.

Mr. Speaker, it has been a long day. Many of us traveled today. And I appreciate your indulgence. I am going to yield back whatever time is remaining.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. CARNEY (at the request of Mr. HOYER) for today.

Mr. ENGEL (at the request of Mr. HOYER) for today and the balance of the week on account of a family medical emergency.

Mr. GUTIERREZ (at the request of Mr. HOYER) for today and until 3:00 p.m. May 15.

Mr. CULBERSON (at the request of Mr. BOEHNER) for today on account of personal business.

Mr. WHITFIELD (at the request of Mr. BOEHNER) for today on account of attending a funeral.

Mr. CRENSHAW (at the request of Mr. BOEHNER) for today on account of business in his district.

Mr. WAMP (at the request of Mr. BOEHNER) for today on account of family health reasons.

Mr. EVERETT (at the request of Mr. BOEHNER) for today on account of business in his district.

Mr. PITTS (at the request of Mr. BOEHNER) for today and May 15 on account of attending a funeral.

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. SOLIS) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. EMANUEL, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. WOOLSEY, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. WELCH of Vermont, for 5 minutes, today.

Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. DEFAZIO, for 5 minutes, today.

Mrs. MALONEY of New York, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. SOLIS, for 5 minutes, today.

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. DAVIS of Kentucky) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. MCCAUL of Texas, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. FORTENBERRY, for 5 minutes, May 15.

Mr. POE, for 5 minutes, May 21.

Mr. BURTON of Indiana, for 5 minutes, today and May 15, 16, 17, and 18.

Mr. DAVIS of Kentucky, for 5 minutes, today.

Mrs. BLACKBURN, for 5 minutes, today.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 10 o'clock and 34 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Tuesday, May 15, 2007, at 9 a.m., for morning-hour debate.

EXPENDITURE REPORTS CONCERNING OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL

Reports concerning the foreign currencies and U.S. dollars utilized for speaker-authorized official travel during the fourth quarter of 2006 and the first quarter of 2007, pursuant to Public Law 95–384 are as follows:

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, CINDY M. BUHL, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN MAR. 2 AND MAR. 5, 2007

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem [1]		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]
Hon. James P. McGovern (MA–3)	3/2	3/5	Colombia	1,845,600	828.00		1,590.00			1,845,600	$2,418.00
Committee total											

[1] Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.
[2] If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.

CINDY M. BUHL, Mar. 22, 2007.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, HON. FRANK R. WOLF, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN MAR. 29 AND APR. 4, 2007

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem [1]		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]
Hon. Frank Wolf		3/29	USA				9,176				
	3/30	4/1	Syria		500						
	4/1	4/1	Jordan [3]								
	4/1	4/3	Israel		794						
	4/4		USA								
Committee total					1,294		9,176				10,470

[1] Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.
[2] If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.
[3] Pass through.
NOTE: Airline ticket price includes flight from Syria to Istanbul that was changed and then Istanbul to Israel.

FRANK R. WOLF.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, DANIEL F. SCANDLING, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN MAR. 29 AND APR. 4, 2007

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem [1]		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]
Daniel Scandling		3/29	USA				9,176				
	3/30	4/1	Syria		500						
	4/1	4/1	Jordan [3]								
	4/1	4/3	Israel		794						
	4/4		USA								
Committee total					1,294		9,176				10,470

[1] Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.
[2] If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.
[3] Pass through.
NOTE: Airline ticket price includes flight from Syria to Istanbul that was changed and then Instansbul to Israel.

DANIEL SCANDLING, Apr. 23, 2007.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, HON. YVETTE D. CLARKE, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN APR. 14 AND APR. 16, 2007

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem [1]		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]
Yvette D. Clarke	4/14	4/15	Grenada								842.16
	4/15	4/16	Trinidad								
Committee total											842.16

[1] Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.
[2] If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.

YVETTE D. CLARKE, Apr. 30, 2007.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, DELEGATION TO NATO PARLIAMENTARIAN ASSEMBLY WINTER MEETING IN BRUSSELS, BELGIUM, FOLLOWED BY ORGANIZATION FOR ECONOMIC COOPERATION AND DEVELOPMENT (OECD) MEETING IN PARIS, FRANCE; AND BILATERAL MEETING IN ROME, ITALY AND RAMSTEIN AIR FORCE BASE, GERMANY, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN FEB. 17 AND FEB. 25, 2007

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem [1]		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]
Hon. John Tanner	2/17	2/20	Belgium		1,671.06		(3)				4,129.05
	2/20	2/22	France		1,069.03						
	2/22	2/24	Italy		1,172.96						
	2/24	2/25	Germany		216.00						
Hon. Melissa Bean	2/17	2/20	Belgium		1,671.06		(3)				4,129.05
	2/20	2/22	France		1,069.03						
	2/22	2/24	Italy		1,172.96						
	2/24	2/25	Germany		216.00						
Hon. John Boozman	2/17	2/20	Belgium		1,671.06		(3)				4,129.05
	2/20	2/22	France		1,069.03						
	2/22	2/24	Italy		1,172.96						
	2/24	2/25	Germany		216.00						
Hon. Ben Chandler	2/17	2/20	Belgium		1,671.06		(3)				4,129.05
	2/20	2/22	France		1,069.03						
	2/22	2/24	Italy		1,172.96						
	2/24	2/25	Germany		216.00						
Hon. Jo Ann Emerson	2/17	2/20	Belgium		1,671.06		(3)				4,129.05
	2/20	2/22	France		1,069.03						
	2/22	2/24	Italy		1,172.96						
	2/24	2/25	Germany		216.00						
Hon. Paul Gillmor	2/17	2/20	Belgium		1,671.06		(3)				4,129.05
	2/20	2/22	France		1,069.03						
	2/22	2/24	Italy		1,172.96						
	2/24	2/25	Germany		216.00						
Hon. Dennis Moore	2/17	2/20	Belgium		1,671.06		(3)				4,129.05
	2/20	2/22	France		1,069.03						
	2/22	2/24	Italy		1,172.96						
	2/24	2/25	Germany		216.00						
Hon. Mike Ross	2/17	2/20	Belgium		1,671.06		(3)				4,129.05
	2/20	2/22	France		1,069.03						
	2/22	2/24	Italy		1,172.96						
	2/24	2/25	Germany		216.00						
Hon. David Scott	2/17	2/20	Belgium		1,671.06		(3)				4,129.05
	2/20	2/22	France		1,069.03						
	2/22	2/24	Italy		1,172.96						
	2/24	2/25	Germany		216.00						
Ms. Melissa Adamson	2/17	2/20	Belgium		1,671.06		(3)				7,190.56
	2/20	2/22	France		1,069.03		2,691.02				
	2/22	2/25	Italy		1,759.45						
Ms. Kathy Becker	2/17	2/20	Belgium		1,671.06		(3)				4,129.05
	2/20	2/22	France		1,069.03						
	2/22	2/24	Italy		1,172.96						
	2/24	2/25	Germany		216.00						
Mr. Lee Cohen	2/16	2/20	Belgium		2,024.08		7,381.12				11,647.19
	2/20	2/22	France		1,069.03						
	2/22	2/24	Italy		1,172.96						
Dr. Paul Gallis	2/16	2/20	Belgium		2,024.08		6,633.12				11,485.68
	2/20	2/22	France		1,069.03						
	2/22	2/24	Italy		1,172.96						
Dr. Kay King	2/16	2/20	Belgium		2,024.08		6,633.12				11,485.68
	2/20	2/22	France		1,069.03						
	2/22	2/25	Italy		1,759.45						
Ms. Susan Olson	2/16	2/20	Belgium		2,024.08		6,633.12				11,485.68
	2/20	2/22	France		1,069.03						
	2/22	2/25	Italy		1,759.45						
Ms. Marilyn Owen	2/16	2/20	Belgium		2,024.08		6,633.12				11,485.68
	2/20	2/22	France		1,069.03						
	2/22	2/25	Italy		1,759.45						
Mr. Mark Wellman	2/16	2/20	Belgium		2,024.08		6,633.12				11,485.68
	2/20	2/22	France		1,069.03						
	2/22	2/25	Italy		1,759.45						

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, DELEGATION TO NATO PARLIAMENTARIAN ASSEMBLY WINTER MEETING IN BRUSSELS, BELGIUM, FOLLOWED BY ORGANIZATION FOR ECONOMIC COOPERATION AND DEVELOPMENT (OECD) MEETING IN PARIS, FRANCE; AND BILATERAL MEETING IN ROME, ITALY AND RAMSTEIN AIR FORCE BASE, GERMANY, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN FEB. 17 AND FEB. 25, 2007—Continued

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem [1]		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]
Delegation Expenses:											
—Representational Functions									13,283.33		13,283.33
—Miscellaneous									238.00		238.00
Committee total					74,318.91		43,237.74		13,521.33		131,077.98

[1] Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.
[2] If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.
[3] Military air transportation.

JOHN TANNER, Chairman, Mar. 27, 2007.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, OSCE PA WINTER MEETING, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN FEB. 20 AND FEB. 25, 2007

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem [1]		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]
Hon. Alcee L. Hastings, M.C.		2/19	United States				7,875.50				7,875.50
	2/20	2/24	Austria	Euro	1,390.40						1,390.40
Hon. Mike McIntyre, M.C.		2/20	United States				4,086.39				4,086.39
	2/21	2/24	Austria	Euro	1,042.80						1,042.80
Hon. Hilda Solis, M.C.		2/20	United States				7,991.39				7,991.39
	2/21	2/24	Austria	Euro	1,042.80						1,042.80
Fred L. Turner		2/20	United States				5,246.61				5,246.61
	2/21	2/25	Austria	Euro	1,390.40						1,390.40
Shelly Han		2/20	United States				6,180.39				6,180.39
	2/21	2/24	Austria	Euro	867.80						867.80
Robert Hand		2/20	United States				6,180.39				6,180.39
	2/21	2/24	Austria	Euro	742.80						742.80
Delegation Expenses			Austria					Euro	2,187.48		2,187.48
Committee total					6,477.00		37,560.67		2,187.48		46,225.15

[1] Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.
[2] If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.

ALCEE L. HASTINGS, Apr. 30, 2007.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, CONGRESSIONAL BLACK CAUCUS DELEGATION TO GHANA, WEST AFRICA, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN MAR. 3 AND MAR. 6, 2007

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem [1]		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]
Hon. Carolyn C. Kilpatrick	3/3	3/6	Ghana	3,840.500	417.00		(3)				
Hon. G.K. Butterfield											
Hon. Donna Christensen											
Hon. Danny Davis											
Hon. Sheila Jackson-Lee											
Hon. Eddie Bernice Johnson											
Hon. Kendrick Meek											
Hon. Gregory Meeks											
Hon. Bobby Rush											
Hon. Stephanie Tubbs-Jones											
Kimberly Rudolph											
Dr. Joe Leonard											
Committee total					5,004.00						

[1] Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.
[2] If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.
[3] Military air transportation.

CAROLYN C. KILPATRICK, Apr. 9, 2007.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, DELEGATION TO JORDAN, IRAQ AND ITALY, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN MAR. 2 AND MAR. 5, 2007

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem [1]		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]
Hon. Loretta Sanchez	3/2	3/3	Jordan		273.00		(3)				273.00
Hon. Allyson Schwartz	3/2	3/3	Jordan		273.00		(3)				273.00
Hon. Hilda Solis	3/2	3/3	Jordan		273.00		(3)				273.00
Hon. Nancy Boyda	3/2	3/3	Jordan		273.00		(3)				273.00
Hon. Carol Shea-Porter	3/2	3/3	Jordan		273.00		(3)				273.00
Ms. Debra Wada	3/2	3/3	Jordan		273.00		(3)				273.00
Hon. Loretta Sanchez	3/3	3/4	Italy		447.00		(3)				447.00
Hon. Allyson Schwartz	3/3	3/4	Italy		447.00		(3)				447.00
Hon. Hilda Solis	3/3	3/4	Italy		447.00		(3)				447.00
Hon. Nancy Boyda	3/3	3/4	Italy		447.00		(3)				447.00
Hon. Carol Shea-Porter	3/3	3/4	Italy		447.00		(3)				447.00
Ms. Debra Wada	3/3	3/4	Italy		447.00		(3)				447.00
Committee total											4,320.00

[1] Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.
[2] If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.
[3] Military air transportation.

LORETTA SANCHEZ, Mar. 26, 2007.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, DELEGATION TO GREECE, SUDAN, EGYPT AND GERMANY, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN MAR. 31 AND APR. 7, 2007

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem [1]		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]
Hon. Steny Hoyer	4/1	4/2	Greece		371.00		(3)				371.00
Hon. Ileana Ros-Lehtinen	4/1	4/2	Greece		371.00		(3)				371.00
Hon. Jerry Moran	4/1	4/2	Greece		371.00		(3)				371.00
Hon. Bob Goodlatte	4/1	4/2	Greece		371.00		(3)				371.00
Hon. Ray LaHood	4/1	4/2	Greece		371.00		(3)				371.00
Hon. Barbara Lee	4/1	4/2	Greece		371.00		(3)				371.00
Hon. Jim Costa	4/1	4/2	Greece		371.00		(3)				371.00
Hon. Gregory Meeks	4/1	4/2	Greece		371.00		(3)				371.00
Hon. Brad Miller	4/1	4/2	Greece		371.00		(3)				371.00
Hon. John Barrow	4/1	4/2	Greece		371.00		(3)				371.00
Hon. G.K. Butterfield	4/1	4/2	Greece		371.00		(3)				371.00
Mariah Sixkiller	4/1	4/2	Greece		371.00		(3)				371.00
Yleem Poblete	4/1	4/2	Greece		371.00		(3)				371.00
Sudafi Henry	4/1	4/2	Greece		371.00		(3)				371.00
Hon. Steny Hoyer	4/2	4/4	Sudan		696.00		2,028.00				2,724.00
Hon. Ileana Ros-Lehtinen	4/2	4/4	Sudan		696.00		2,028.00				2,724.00
Hon. Jerry Moran	4/2	4/4	Sudan		696.00		2,028.00				2,724.00
Hon. Bob Goodlatte	4/2	4/4	Sudan		696.00		2,028.00				2,724.00
Hon. Ray LaHood	4/2	4/4	Sudan		696.00		2,028.00				2,724.00
Hon. Barbara Lee	4/2	4/4	Sudan		696.00		2,028.00				2,724.00
Hon. Jim Costa	4/2	4/4	Sudan		696.00		2,028.00				2,724.00
Hon. Gregory Meeks	4/2	4/4	Sudan		696.00		2,028.00				2,724.00
Hon. Brad Miller	4/2	4/4	Sudan		696.00		2,028.00				2,724.00
Hon. John Barrow	4/2	4/4	Sudan		696.00		2,028.00				2,724.00
Hon. G.K. Butterfield	4/2	4/4	Sudan		696.00		2,028.00				2,724.00
Mariah Sixkiller	4/2	4/4	Sudan		696.00		2,028.00				2,724.00
Yleem Poblete	4/2	4/4	Sudan		696.00		2,028.00				2,724.00
Sudafi Henry	4/2	4/4	Sudan		696.00		2,028.00				2,724.00
Hon. Steny Hoyer	4/4	4/6	Egypt		580.00		(3)				580.00
Hon. Ileana Ros-Lehtinen	4/4	4/6	Egypt		580.00		(3)				580.00
Hon. Jerry Moran	4/4	4/6	Egypt		580.00		(3)				580.00
Hon. Bob Goodlatte	4/4	4/6	Egypt		580.00		(3)				580.00
Hon. Ray LaHood	4/4	4/6	Egypt		580.00		(3)				580.00
Hon. Barbara Lee	4/4	4/6	Egypt		580.00		(3)				580.00
Hon. Jim Costa	4/4	4/6	Egypt		580.00		(3)				580.00
Hon. Gregory Meeks	4/4	4/6	Egypt		580.00		(3)				580.00
Hon. Brad Miller	4/4	4/6	Egypt		580.00		(3)				580.00
Hon. John Barrow	4/4	4/6	Egypt		580.00		(3)				580.00
Hon. G.K. Butterfield	4/4	4/6	Egypt		580.00		(3)				580.00
Mariah Sixkiller	4/4	4/6	Egypt		580.00		(3)				580.00
Yleem Poblete	4/4	4/6	Egypt		580.00		(3)				580.00
Sudafi Henry	4/4	4/6	Egypt		580.00		(3)				580.00
Hon. Steny Hoyer	4/6	4/7	Germany		289.00		(3)				289.00
Hon. Ileana Ros-Lehtinen	4/6	4/7	Germany		289.00		(3)				289.00
Hon. Jery Moran	4/6	4/7	Germany		289.00		(3)				289.00
Hon. Bob Goodlatte	4/6	4/7	Germany		289.00		(3)				289.00
Hon. Barbara Lee	4/6	4/7	Germany		289.00		(3)				289.00
Hon. Jim Costa	4/6	4/7	Germany		289.00		(3)				289.00
Hon. Ray LaHood	4/6	4/7	Germany		289.00		(3)				289.00
Hon. Gregory Meeks	4/6	4/7	Germany		289.00		(3)				289.00
Hon. Brad Miller	4/6	4/7	Germany		289.00		(3)				289.00
Hon. John Barrow	4/6	4/7	Germany		289.00		(3)				289.00
Hon. G.K. Butterfield	4/6	4/7	Germany		289.00		(3)				289.00
Mariah Sixkiller	4/6	4/7	Germany		289.00		(3)				289.00
Yleem Poblete	4/6	4/7	Germany		289.00		(3)				289.00
Sudafi Henry	4/6	4/7	Germany		289.00		(3)				289.00
Committee total											$55,496.00

[1] Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.
[2] If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.
[3] Military air transportation.

STENY H. HOYER, Apr. 30, 2007.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMISSION ON SECURITY AND COOPERATION IN EUROPE, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN JAN. 1 AND MAR. 31, 2007

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem [1]		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]
Clifford Bond		1/16	United States			Dollar	7,513.18				7,513.18
	1/17	1/23	Serbia	Dinar	1,952.00						1,952.00
		3/7	United States			Dollar	6,619.00				6,619.00
	3/8	3/13	Bosnia & Herzegovina	Marka	400.00						400.00
Robert Hand		1/16	United States			Dollar	2,440.18				2,440.18
	1/17	1/23	Serbia	Dinar	1,221.25						1,221.25
Shelly Han		1/20	United States			Dollar	5,180.28				5,180.28
	1/21	1/24	Austria	Euro	897.00						897.00
		3/10	United States			Dollar	9,195.64				9,195.64
	3/11	3/14	Spain	Euro	750.00						750.00
Janice Helwig		1/17	United States			Dollar	5,200.53				5,200.53
	1/18	3/31	Austria	Euro	13,068.26						13,068.26
Committee total					18,288.51		36,148.81				54,437.32

[1] Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.
[2] If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.

ALCEE L. HASTINGS, Apr. 26, 2007.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN JAN. 1 AND MAR. 31, 2007

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem [1]		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]
Hon. Randy Neugebauer	3/9	3/10	Kuwait		426.00						426.00

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN JAN. 1 AND MAR. 31, 2007—Continued

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem [1]		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]
	3/10	3/11	Iraq		0.00						0.00
	3/11	3/12	Germany		424.00						424.00
Committee total					850.00						850.00

[1] Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.
[2] If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.

———, Apr. 26, 2007.

(AMENDED) REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN JAN. 1 AND MAR. 31, 2007

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem [1]		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]
Hon. Randy Neugebauer	3/9	3/10	Kuwait		155.00						155.00
	3/10	3/11	Iraq		0.00						0.00
	3/11	3/12	Germany		328.00						328.00
Committee total					483.00						483.00

[1] Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.
[2] If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.

———, Apr. 27, 2007.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN JAN. 1 AND MAR. 31, 2007

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem [1]		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]
Visit to China, Shanghai, Guam, December 27, 2006–January 3, 2007:											
Hon. Roscoe Bartlett	12/30	1/1	China		302.00						302.00
	1/1	1/2	Shanghai		174.00						174.00
Hon. Thelma Drake	12/30	1/1	China		302.00						302.00
	1/1	1/2	Shanghai		174.00						174.00
Hon. Madeleine Z. Bordallo	12/30	1/1	China		302.00						302.00
	1/1	1/2	Shanghai		174.00						174.00
Hon. Steve Israel	12/30	1/1	China		302.00						302.00
	1/1	1/2	Shanghai		174.00						174.00
Hon. Rick Larsen	12/30	1/1	China		302.00						302.00
	1/1	1/2	Shanghai		174.00						174.00
Ms. Stephanie Sanok	12/30	1/1	China		302.00						302.00
	1/1	1/2	Shanghai		174.00						174.00
Ms. Lynn Williams	12/30	1/1	China		302.00						302.00
	1/1	1/2	Shanghai		174.00						174.00
Mr. William Natter, III	12/30	1/1	China		302.00						302.00
	1/1	1/2	Shanghai		174.00						174.00
Visit to Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Pakistan, Afghanistan, Germany With Codel Bayh, January 11–17, 2007:											
Hon. John McHugh	1/12	1/13	Kuwait		146.00						146.00
	1/13	1/13	Iraq		0.00						0.00
	1/13	1/14	Pakistan		126.00						126.00
	1/14	1/14	Afghanistan		0.00						0.00
	1/14	1/17	Germany		328.00						328.00
Ms. Jeanette James	1/12	1/13	Kuwait		146.00						146.00
	1/13	1/13	Iraq		0.00						0.00
	1/13	1/14	Pakistan		126.00						126.00
	1/14	1/14	Afghanistan		0.00						0.00
	1/14	1/17	Germany		328.00						328.00
Visit to Germany, Kosovo With Codel Lieberman; February 8–11, 2007:											
Hon. Ellen Tauscher	2/9	2/11	Germany		364.00						364.00
	2/9	2/9	Kosovo		0.00						0.00
Hon. Mark Udall	2/9	2/11	Germany		364.00						364.00
	2/9	2/9	Kosovo		0.00						0.00
Visit to Iraq, Kuwait, Israel With Codel Kyl, February 16–20, 2007:											
Hon. Gabrielle Giffords	2/17	2/18	Kuwait		19.19						19.19
	2/18	2/18	Iraq		0.00						0.00
	2/18	2/20	Israel		0.00						0.00
Visit to Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Belgium, February 17–22, 2007:											
Hon. Marty Meehan	2/18	2/19	Kuwait		146.00						146.00
	2/19	2/20	Iraq		0.00						0.00
	2/20	2/21	Jordan		273.00						273.00
	2/21	2/22	Belgium		204.00						204.00
Hon. Robert E. Andrews	2/18	2/19	Kuwait		146.00						146.00
	2/19	2/20	Iraq		0.00						0.00
	2/20	2/21	Jordan		273.00						273.00
	2/21	2/22	Belgium		204.00						204.00
Hon. Dave Loebsack	2/18	2/19	Kuwait		146.00						146.00
	2/19	2/20	Iraq		0.00						0.00
	2/20	2/21	Jordan		273.00						273.00
	2/21	2/22	Belgium		204.00						204.00
Hon. W. Todd Akin	2/18	2/19	Kuwait		146.00						146.00
	2/19	2/20	Iraq		0.00						0.00
	2/20	2/21	Jordan		273.00						273.00
	2/21	2/22	Belgium		204.00						204.00
Hon. Michael R. Turner	2/18	2/19	Kuwait		146.00						146.00
	2/19	2/20	Iraq		0.00						0.00
	2/20	2/21	Jordan		273.00						273.00
	2/21	2/22	Belgium		204.00						204.00
Dr. Lorry Fenner	2/18	2/19	Kuwait		146.00						146.00

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN JAN. 1 AND MAR. 31, 2007—Continued

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem [1]		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]
	2/19	2/20	Iraq		0.00						0.00
	2/20	2/21	Jordan		273.00						273.00
	2/21	2/22	Belgium		204.00						204.00
Ms. Stephanie Sanok	2/18	2/19	Kuwait		146.00						146.00
	2/19	2/20	Iraq		0.00						0.00
	2/20	2/21	Jordan		273.00						273.00
	2/21	2/22	Belgium		204.00						204.00
Delegation Expenses	2/18	2/19	Kuwait				230.10		2,842.57		3,072.67
Visit South Korea, China, India With Staffdel Farkus, February 18–25, 2007:											
Ms. Aileen Alexander	2/19	2/21	Korea		772.00						772.00
	2/21	2/22	China		296.00						296.00
	2/23	2/24	India		536.00						536.00
Visit to Turkey, Kuwait, Iraq, Pakistan, Afghanistan, Germany With Codel Dicks, February 19–26, 2007:											
Hon. Patrick Murphy	2/19	2/20	Turkey		396.00						396.00
	2/20	2/22	Pakistan		340.00						340.00
	2/21	2/21	Afghanistan		0.00						0.00
	2/22	2/23	Kuwait		406.00						406.00
	2/23	2/24	Iraq		0.00						0.00
	2/24	2/25	Kuwait		406.00						406.00
	2/25	2/26	Germany		374.00						374.00
Visit to Kuwait With Staffdel Sutey, March 1–5, 2007:											
Ms. Vickie Plunkett	3/2	3/5	Kuwait		91.00						91.00
Commerical airfare							7,603.58				7,603.58
Ms. Lynn Williams	3/2	3/5	Kuwait		267.00						267.00
Commerical airfare							7,623.58				7,623.58
Visit to Iraq, Kuwait, March 8–12, 2007:											
Hon. Dan Boren	3/9	3/10	Kuwait		155.00						155.00
	3/10	3/11	Iraq		0.00						0.00
	3/11	3/12	Germany		328.00						328.00
Hon. Duncan Hunter	3/9	3/10	Kuwait		155.00						155.00
	3/10	3/11	Iraq		0.00						0.00
	3/11	3/12	Germany		328.00						328.00
Hon. Ken Calvert	3/9	3/10	Kuwait		155.00						155.00
	3/10	3/11	Iraq		0.00						0.00
	3/11	3/12	Germany		328.00						328.00
Mr. Robert L. Simmons, II	3/9	3/10	Kuwait		155.00						155.00
	3/10	3/11	Iraq		0.00						0.00
	3/11	3/12	Germany		328.00						328.00
Mr. Jesse Tolleson	3/9	3/10	Kuwait		155.00						155.00
	3/10	3/11	Iraq		0.00						0.00
	3/11	3/12	Germany		328.00						328.00
Committee total					16,415.19		15,457.26		2,842.57		34,715.02

[1] Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.
[2] If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.

IKE SKELTON, Apr. 30, 2007.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON THE BUDGET, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN JAN. 1 AND MAR. 31, 2007

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem [1]		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]
Hon. Paul Ryan	2/18	2/19	Kuwait		146.00		(3)				146.00
	2/19	2/20	Iraq				(3)				0.00
	2/20	2/21	Jordan		273.00		(3)				273.00
	2/21	2/22	Belgium		204.00		(3)				204.00
Committee total					623.00		(3)				623.00

[1] Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.
[2] If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.
[3] Military air transportation.

JOHN M. SPRATT, JR., Apr. 18, 2007.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND LABOR, HOUSE REPSENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN JAN. 1 AND MAR. 31, 2007

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem [1]		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]

HOUSE COMMITTEES

Please Note: If there were no expeditures during the calendar quarter noted above, please check the box at right to so indicate and return. ☒

[1] Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.
[2] If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.

GEORGE MILLER, Apr. 17, 2007.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND COMMERCE, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN JAN. 1 AND MAR. 31, 2007

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem [1]		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]
Hon. Jane Harman MC:											
February 8–11, 2007			Germany								
			Kosovo								

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND COMMERCE, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN JAN. 1 AND MAR. 31, 2007—Continued

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem [1]		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]
February 18–26, 2007			Israel								
			Turkey								
			Pakistan								
			Afghanistan								
			Kuwait								
			Iraq								
			Germany								
			Qatar								
			Jordan								

[1] Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.
[2] If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.
[3] Per diem and other travel expenses not available. Amended report to follow.

JOHN D. DINGELL, Apr. 30, 2007.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN JAN. 3 AND MAR. 31, 2007

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem [1]		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]
Manpreet Anand	2/17	2/20	India (New Delhi)		1,330.19						1,330.19
	2/20	2/22	Nepal		248.51		180.00				428.51
	2/22	2/24	India (Mumbai)		462.41						462.41
	2/17	2/24					[3] 7,900.26				7,900.26
M. Pope Barrow	2/20	2/24	Kenya		952.00		8,780.35				9,732.35
Michael Beard	2/18	2/21	Russian Federation		543.00						543.00
	2/21	2/23	Denmark		786.00						786.00
	2/23	2/24	Romania		0.00						0.00
	2/24	2/26	Hungary		542.00						542.00
	2/26	2/27	The Netherlands		373.00						373.00
	2/18	2/27					[3] 8,913.19				8,913.19
Hon. Berman	2/9	2/11	Germany, Kosovo		239.00		(4)				239.00
Hon. Boozman	2/21	2/21	Italy				1,346.78				1,346.78
Joan Condon	2/18	2/21	Kenya		976.00						976.00
	2/21	2/24	Ethiopia		900.00						900.00
	2/18	2/24					[3] 8,819.16				8,819.16
Hon. Chabot	2/18	2/20	The Philippines		448.00						448.00
	2/20	2/21	Taiwan		262.00						262.00
	2/21	2/23	Bangladesh		333.00						333.00
	2/18	2/23					[3] 8,642.58				8,642.58
Hon. Faleomavaega	2/19	2/21	Fiji		255.00						255.00
	2/21	2/23	Tonga		610.00						610.00
	2/23	2/23	Samoa		285.00						285.00
	2/19	2/23					[3] 5,031.05				5,031.05
David Fite	2/17	2/20	India (New Delhi)		1,363.00						1,363.00
	2/20	2/22	Nepal		314.00		180.00				494.00
	2/22	2/24	India (Mumbai)		722.00						722.00
	2/17	2/24					[3] 7,900.26				7,900.26
Kirsti Garlock	2/18	2/24	Thailand		1,302.00		8,154.37				9,456.37
Hon. Jackson-Lee	2/19	2/22	Venezuela		975.00		4,341.08		[5] 480.00		5,796.08
Eric Jacobstein	3/16	3/19	Guatemala		588.00		2,008.20				2,596.20
Eric Johnson	1/14	1/16	Belgium		789.94		5,461.42				6,251.36
	2/18	2/21	Germany		1,284.00		6,507.15				7,791.15
Jonathan Katz	1/14	1/16	Belgium		789.94		5,461.42				6,251.36
	2/18	2/21	Germany		1,284.00		6,527.15				7,811.15
Hon. Lantos	2/18	2/21	Russian Federation		543.00						543.00
	2/21	2/23	Denmark		786.00						786.00
	2/23	2/24	Romania		142.00						142.00
	2/24	2/26	Hungary		250.00						250.00
	2/26	2/27	The Netherlands		199.00						199.00
	2/18	2/27					[3] 8,773.46				8,773.46
John Mackey	2/18	2/21	Peru		714.00						714.00
	2/21	2/22	Argentina		220.00						220.00
	2/18	2/22					[3] 7,044.70				7,044.70
Pearl-Alice Marsh	2/18	2/19	United Kingdom								0
	2/19	2/21	Kenya		931.00						931.00
	2/21	2/25	Ethiopia		837.00						837.00
	2/18	2/25					[3] 9,153.76				9,153.76
James McCormick	2/17	2/20	India		1,458.00						1,458.00
	2/20	2/22	Nepal		314.00		180.00				494.00
	2/22	2/24	Thailand		436.00						436.00
	2/17	2/24					[3] 8,351.13				8,351.13
Francis Miko	2/22	2/24	Haiti		460.00		1,361.20				1,821.20
Sheri Rickert	2/19	2/20	Italy		437.00						437.00
	2/20	2/22	Nigeria (Abuja)		354.00						354.00
	2/22	2/24	Nigeria (Lagos)		715.00		89.00				804.00
	2/19	2/24					[3] 9,755.47				9,755.47
Robin Roizman	2/18	2/21	Peru		607.00						607.00
	2/21	2/23	El Salvador		282.00				[5] 255.00		537.00
	2/18	2/23					[3] 2,393.20				2,393.20
Doug Seay	2/17	2/20	India (New Delhi)		1,358.00						1,358.00
	2/20	2/22	Nepal		289.00		180.00				469.00
	2/22	2/24	India (Mumbai)		722.00						722.00
	2/17	2/24					[3] 10,236.26				10,236.26
Hon. Smith	2/19	2/20	Italy		437.00						437.00
	2/20	2/22	Nigeria (Abuja)		354.00						354.00
	2/22	2/24	Nigeria (Lagos)		715.00		89.00				804.00
	2/19	2/24					[3] 9,755.47				9,755.47
Jason Steinbaum	2/21	2/23	El Salvador		382.00		2,284.20				2,666.20
Mark Walker	2/18	2/21	Peru		714.00						714.00
	2/21	2/23	El Salvador		382.00						382.00
	2/18	2/23					[3] 3,518.20				3,518.20
Lynne Weil	2/18	2/21	Peru		612.00						612.00
	2/21	2/23	El Salvador		292.00						292.00
	2/18	2/23					[3] 3,518.20				3,518.20
Kristen Wells	2/18	2/24	Thailand		1,302.00		9,154.85		[5] 4,681.01		15,137.86
Hon. Wexler	1/14	1/16	Belgium		789.94		6,855.61				7,645.55
	2/19	2/20	Germany		428.00		6,507.15				6,935.15

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN JAN. 3 AND MAR. 31, 2007—Continued

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem [1]		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]
Committee total					37,418.93		195,355.28		5,416.01		238,190.22

[1] Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.
[2] If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.
[3] Round trip airfare.
[4] Military air transportation.
[5] Indicated delegation costs.

TOM LANTOS, Apr. 27, 2007.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN JAN. 1 AND MAR. 31, 2007

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem [1]		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]
Hon. Christopher Carney	2/20	2/20	Turkey		303.00		(3)				303.00
	2/21	2/22	Pakistan		287.00		(3)				287.00
	2/22	2/25	Kuwait		292.00		(3)				292.00
	2/25	2/26	Germany		278.00		(3)				278.00
Hon. Dave Reichert	2/9	2/11	Germany		856.32		(3)				856.32
	2/29	2/9	Kosovo		0		(3)				0
Committee total					2,016.32						2,016.32

[1] Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.
[2] If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.
[3] Military air transportation.

BENNIE G. THOMPSON, Apr. 30, 2007.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN JAN. 1 AND MAR. 31, 2007

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem [1]		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]
Bobby Vassar	2/17	2/25	Thailand		1,302.00		9,174.85				10,476.85
Keenan Keller	2/22	2/24	Haiti		460.00		1,366.20				18,262.00
Committee total					1,762.00		10,541.05				28,738.85

[1] Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.
[2] If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.

JOHN CONYERS, Jr., Apr. 30, 2007.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN JAN. 1 AND MAR. 31, 2007

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem [1]		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]
Hon. Stevan Pearch	2/17	2/18	Kuwait		146.00						146.00
	2/18	2/20	Israel		334.00						334.00
Committee total					480.00						480.00

[1] Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.
[2] If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.

NICK J. RAHALL II, Apr. 27, 2007.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND GOVERNMENT REFORM, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN JAN. 1 AND MAR. 30, 2007

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem [1]		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]

HOUSE COMMITTEES

Please Note: If there were no expenditures during the calendar quarter noted above, please check the box at right to so indicate and return. ☒

[1] Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.
[2] If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.

HENRY A. WAXMAN, Apr. 26, 2007.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON RULES, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN JAN. 1 AND MAR. 31, 2007

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem [1]		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]
Hon. James P. McGovern	3/31	4/3	Ethiopia	1,007.76 Bur	114.00					1,007.76 Bur	114.00
					1,086.00						1,086.00
	4/03	4/04	Kenya	19840 Shilling	300.83					19,840 Shilling	300.83
	4/04	4/05	Ethiopia		160.00						160.00

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON RULES, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN JAN. 1 AND MAR. 31, 2007—Continued

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem [1]		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]
	4/05	4/07	Chad	191,590 CFA	391.00					191,590 CFA	391.00
	3/30	4/08					[3] 11.567.94				11.567.94
Miles Lackey	3/31	4/03	Ethiopia	1,007.76 Bur	114.00					1,007.76 Bur	114.00
					1,086.00						1,086.00
	4/03	4/04	Kenya	19,840 Shilling	300.83					19,840 Shilling	300.83
	4/04	4/05	Ethiopia		160.00						160.00
	4/05	4/07	Chad	191,590 CFA	391.00					191,590 CFA	391.00
	3/30	4/08					[3] 11,567.94				11,567.94
Cindy Buhl	3/31	4/03	Ethiopia	1,007,76 Bur	114.00					1,007.76 Bur	114.00
					1,086.00						1,086.00
	4/03	4/04	Kenya	19,840 Shilling	300.83					19,840 Shilling	300.83
	4/04	4/05	Ethiopia		160.00						160.00
	4/05	4/07	Chad		391.00						391.00
	3/03	4/08					[3] 11,547.94				11,547.54
Hon. James P. McGovern	3/02	3/05	Colombia		828.00						
							[3] 2,418.00				2,418.00
Hon. Phil Gingrey	12/30	1/01	China		302.00						
	1/01	1/02	Shanghai		174.00						
Committee total					7,459.49		37,121.82				44,581.31

[1] Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.
[2] If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used enter amount expended.
[3] Round trip air fare.

LOUISE M. SLAUGHTER, Apr. 30, 2007.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN JAN. 1 AND MAR. 31, 2007

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem [1]		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]

HOUSE COMMITTEES
Please Note: If there were no expenditures during the calendar quarter noted above, please check the box at right to so indicate and return. ☒

[1] Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.
[2] If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.

BART GORDON, Apr. 9, 2007.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON STANDARDS OF OFFICIAL CONDUCT, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN JAN. 1 AND MAR. 31, 2007

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem [1]		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]
Ken Kellner	1/23	1/27	Belize		312.00		1,431.20		150.00		1,893.20
Committee total					1,893.20						

[1] Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.
[2] If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.
[3] All funding for this trip was provided by the Department of State Bureau of International Information Programs.

STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES, Apr. 20, 2007

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN JAN. 1 AND MAR. 31, 2007

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem [1]		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]

HOUSE COMMITTEES
Please Note: If there were no expenditures during the calendar quarter noted above, please check the box at right to so indicate and return. ☒

[1] Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.
[2] If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.

JIM OBERSTAR, Apr. 27, 2007.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON VETERANS' AFFAIRS, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN JAN. 1 AND MAR. 31, 2007

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem [1]		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]

HOUSE COMMITTEES
Please Note: If there were no expenditures during the calendar quarter noted above, please check the box at right to so indicate and return. ☒

[1] Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.
[2] If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.

BOB FILNER, Apr. 17, 2007.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN JAN. 1 AND APR. 30, 2007

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem [1]		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]
HOUSE COMMITTEES											
Please Note: If there were no expenditures during the calendar quarter noted above, please check the box at right to so indicate and return. ☒											

[1] Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.
[2] If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.

CHARLES B. RANGEL, Apr. 30, 2007

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, PERMANENT SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN OCT. 1 AND DEC. 31, 2006

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem [1]		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]
Hon. Heather Wilson	12/28	12/31	Middle East		812.00						
Commercial airfare							8,143.85				8,955.85
Hon. Rick Renzi	12/28	12/31	Middle East		812.00						
Commercial airfare							8,143.85				8,955.85
Kathleen Reilly	12/28	12/31	Middle East		812.00						
Commercial airfare							8,143.85				8,955.85
Frank Garcia	12/28	12/31	Middle East		812.00						
Commercial airfare							8,143.85				8,955.85
Hon. Michael Rogers	11/27	11/28	Europe		530.00						
	11/29	12/3	Europe		1,210.00						
							9,887.94				11,627.94
Fred Fleitz	11/27	11/28	Europe		530.00						
	11/29	12/3	Europe		1,210.00						
Commercial airfare							9,887.94				11,627.94
Hon. Peter Hoekstra	12/12	12/13	Europe		308.00						
	12/13	12/15	Europe		1,060.00						
Commercial airfare							8,031.76				9,399.76
Michael Meermans	12/12	13/13	Europe		308.00						
	12/13	12/15	Europe		1,060.00						
Commercial airfare							8,804.25				10,172.25
Hon. Darrell Issa	12/13	12/15	Europe		1,060.00						
Commercial airfare							10,055.93				11,115.93
Hon. Peter Hoekstra	11/27	11/28	Europe		558.46						
	11/28	12/2	Europe		1,156.00						
Commercial airfare							8,385.12				10,099.58
Hon. Darrell Issa	11/28	12/2	Europe		1,156.00						
Commercial airfare							8,343.12				9,499.12
James Lewis	11/28	12/2	Europe		1,156.00						
Commercial airfare							8,343.12				9,499.12
	12/18	12/19	Europe		530.00						
	12/19	12/20	Europe		390.00						
	12/21	12/23	Middle East		470.00						
							6,788.13				8,178.13
Jody Houck	12/18	12/19	Europe		530.00						
	12/19	12/20	Europe		390.00						
	12/21	12/23	Middle East		470.00						
Commercial airfare							6,788.13				8,178.13
Jacob Abel	12/18	12/19	Europe		530.00						
	12/19	12/20	Europe		390.00						
	12/21	12/23	Middle East		470.00						
Commercial airfare							6,788.13				8,178.13

[1] Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.
[2] If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 8 of rule XII, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

1703. A letter from the Under Secretary, Research, Education and Economics, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule — Small Business Innovation Research Grants Program (RIN: 0524-AA31) received May 2, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

1704. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Office of Legislative and Intergovernmental Affairs, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's report on the Critical Skills Retention Bonus (CSRB) program, pursuant to 37 U.S.C. 323 (h) Public Law 106-398, section 633 (a); to the Committee on Armed Services.

1705. A letter from the Under Secretary for Personnel and Readiness, Department of Defense, transmitting a letter on the approved retirement of Lieutenant General Joseph R. Inge, United States Army, and his advancement to the grade of lieutenant general on the retired list; to the Committee on Armed Services.

1706. A letter from the Principal Deputy Under Secretary for Personnel and Readiness, Department of Defense, transmitting a report to Congress on the use of Aviation Continuation Pay (ACP) for Fiscal Year 2006, pursuant to 37 U.S.C. 301b(i); to the Committee on Armed Services.

1707. A letter from the Chairman, Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, transmitting The Board's report pursuant to Section 837 of the Transportation, Treasury, Housing and Urban Development, the Judiciary, and Independent Agencies Appropriations Act of 2006; to the Committee on Financial Services.

1708. A letter from the Chief Counsel, FEMA, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Final Flood Elevation Determinations — received April 23, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.

1709. A letter from the Chief Counsel, FEMA, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Changes in Flood Elevation Determinations — received April 23, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.

1710. A letter from the Chief Counsel, FEMA, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Changes in Flood Elevation Determinations — received April 23, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.

1711. A letter from the Chief Counsel, FEMA, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Changes in Flood Elevation Determinations [Docket No. FEMA-B-7712] received April 23, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.

1712. A letter from the General Deputy Assistant Secretary for Congressional and Intergovernmental Relations, Department of Housing and Urban Development, transmitting the Department's first annual Homeless Assessment Report; to the Committee on Financial Services.

1713. A letter from the Chairman and President, Export-Import Bank, transmitting a report on transactions involving U.S. exports to Ghana pursuant to Section 2(b)(3) of the Export-Import Bank Act of 1945, as amended; to the Committee on Financial Services.

1714. A letter from the Assistant General Counsel for Regulations, Department of Education, transmitting the Department's final rule — Title 1-Improving the Academic Achievement of the Disadvantaged; Individuals With Disabilities Education Act (IDEA)-

Assistance to States for the Education of Children With Disabilities (RIN: 1810-AA98) received May 2, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Education and Labor.

1715. A letter from the Chairman, National Endowment for the Arts, National Foundation on the Arts & the Humanities, transmitting the Federal Council on the Arts and the Humanities' thirty-first annual report on the Arts and Artifacts Indemnity Program for Fiscal Year 2006, pursuant to 20 U.S.C. 959(c); to the Committee on Education and Labor.

1716. A letter from the Interim Director, Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation, transmitting the Corporation's final rule — Benefits Payable in Terminated Single-Employer Plans; Allocation of Assets in Single-Employer Plans; Interest Assumptions for Valuing and Paying Benefits — received May 2, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Education and Labor.

1717. A letter from the Acting Chief Financial Officer, Department of Energy, transmitting the Department's operating plan for fiscal year 2007, pursuant to Public Law 110-5, section 113; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

1718. A letter from the Director, Regulations Policy and Mgmt. Staff, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's final rule — Blood Vessels Recovered With Organs and Intended for Use in Organ Transplantation [Docket No. 2006N-0051] (RIN: 0910-AF65) received April 23, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

1719. A letter from the Director, Regulations Policy and Mgmt. Staff, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's final rule — Blood Vessels Recovered With Organs and Intended for Use in Organ Transplantation [Docket No. 2006N-0051] received April 23, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

1720. A letter from the Director, Regulations Policy and Mgmt. Staff, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's final rule — Dandruff, Seborrheic Dermatitis, and Psoriasis Drug Products Containing Coal Tar and Menthol for Over-the-Counter Human Use; Amendment to the Monograph [Docket No. 2005N-0448] (RIN: 0910-AF49) received April 23, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

1721. A letter from the Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Anthropomorphic Test Devices; SID-IIs Side Impact Crash Test Dummy 5th Percentile Adult Female [Docket No. NHTSA 25442] (RIN: 2127-AJ16) received April 23, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

1722. A letter from the Principal Deputy Associate Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Source-Specific Federal Implementation Plan for Four Corners Power Plant; Navajo Nation [EPA-R09-OAR-2006-0184; FRL-8308-6] (RIN: 2009 AA01) received May 3, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

1723. A letter from the Principal Deputy Associate Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Revisions to the Nevada State Implementation Plan, Washoe County [EPA-R09-OAR-2006-0677a FRL-8303-2] received May 3, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

1724. A letter from the Principal Deputy Associate Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Revisions to the Arizona State Implementation Plan, Maricopa County Environmental Services Department [EPA-R09-OAR-2006-0827; FRL-8302-9] received May 3, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

1725. A letter from the Principal Deputy Associate Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of State Plans for Designated Facilities and Pollutants; States of Iowa, Kansas, and Missouri [EPA-R07-OAR-2007-0258; FRL-8310-8] received May 3, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

1726. A letter from the Principal Deputy Associate Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; West Virginia; Redesignation of the Parkersburg, West Virginia Portion of the Parkersburg-Marietta, WV-OH 8-Hour Ozone Nonattainment Area to Attainment and Approval of the Maintenance Plan [EPA-R03-OAR-2006-0817; FRL-8309-9] received May 3, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

1727. A letter from the Principal Deputy Associate Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; State of Missouri [EPA-R07-OAR-2007-0095; FRL-8309-3] received May 3, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

1728. A letter from the Principal Deputy Associate Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; Revisions to the Nevada State Implementation Plan; Visible Emissions and Particulate Matter Rules [EPA-R09-OAR-2006-0635; FRL-8308-2] received May 3, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

1729. A letter from the Principal Deputy Associate Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; Missouri; Interstate Transport of Pollution [EPA-R07-OAR-2007-0249; FRL 8310-6] received May 3, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

1730. A letter from the Principal Deputy Associate Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans and Designation of Areas for Air Quality Planning Purposes: California [EPA-R09-OAR-2007-0101; FRL-8308-4] received May 3, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

1731. A letter from the Principal Deputy Associate Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Ambient Air Monitoring Regulations: Correcting and Other Amendments [EPA-HQ-OAR-2004-0018; FRL-8308-7] (RIN: 2060-AO06) received May 3, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

1732. A letter from the Principal Deputy Associate Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Delegation of National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants for Source Categories; State of Arizona, Arizona Department of Environmental Quality; State of Nevada, Nevada Division of Environmental Protection [EPA-R09-OAR-2007-0322; FRL 8309-7] received May 3, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

1733. A letter from the Executive Director, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — annual update of Commission filing fees. [Docket No. RM07-12] received April 27, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

1734. A letter from the Secretary of the Commission, Federal Trade Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — Test Procedures and Labeling Standards for Recycled Oil — received April 23, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

1735. A letter from the Office Director, Office of Congressional Affairs, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — Relief from Fingerprinting and Criminal History Records Checks (RIN: AI04) received April 17, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

1736. A letter from the Deputy Director, Defense Security Cooperation Agency, transmitting pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended, Transmittal No. 07-14, concerning the Department of the Navy's proposed Letter(s) of Offer and Acceptance to France for defense articles and services, pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 2776(a); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

1737. A letter from the Director, Defense Security Cooperation Agency, transmitting pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended, Transmittal No. 07-18, concerning the Department of the Navy's proposed Letter(s) of Offer and Acceptance to Turkey for defense articles and services, pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 2776(a); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

1738. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting a copy of the Department's ''Country Reports on Terrorism: 2006,'' pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 2656f; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

1739. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting a report pursuant to Section 804 of the PLO Commitments Compliance Act of 1989 (title VIII, Foreign Relations Authorization Act, FY 1990 and 1991 (Pub. L. 101-246), and Sections 603-604 (Middle East Peace Commitments Act of 2002) and 699 of the Foreign Relations Authorization Act, FY 2003 (Pub. L. 107-228), including a copy of Presidential Determination No. 2007-12 on the Implementation of Sections 603 and 604 of the Foreign Relations Authorization Act of Fiscal Year 2003; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

1740. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting a report concerning methods employed by the Government of Cuba to comply with the United States-Cuba September 1994 ''Joint Communique'' and the treatment by the Government of Cuba of persons returned to Cuba in accordance with the United States-Cuba May 1995 ''Joint Statement,'' together known as the Migration Accords, pursuant to Public Law 105-277, section 2245; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

1741. A letter from the Architect of the Capitol, transmitting a written statement in response to the Government Accountability Office report, ''Architect of the Capitol: Committed, Sustained, Leadership Needed to Continue Progress,'' pursuant to 31 U.S.C. 720; to the Committee on House Administration.

1742. A letter from the Inspector General, U.S. House of Representatives, transmitting the final report on the post-implementation audit of HR-Paylinks; to the Committee on House Administration.

1743. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Fish, Wildlife and Parks, Department of the Interior, transmitting the Department's final rule — Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Designation of Critical Habitat for Cirsium hydrophilum var. hydrophilum (Suisun thistle) and Cordylanthus mollis ssp. mollis (soft bird's-beak) (RIN: 1018-AU44) received April 13, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

1744. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs, Department of the Interior, transmitting a copy of draft legislation entitled, ''To provide for the use and distribution of the funds awarded to the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe, et al., by the United States Court of Federal Claims in Docket Nos. 19 and 188, and for other purposes''; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

1745. A letter from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — List of Fisheries for 2007 [Docket No. 061106290-7059-02, I.D. 101706C] (RIN: 0648-AV01) received April 23, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

1746. A letter from the Administrator, General Services Administration, transmitting a report and recomendation concerning the claim of Mr. Patrick Truver, pursuant to 31 U.S.C. 3702(d); to the Committee on the Judiciary.

1747. A letter from the Director, Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts, transmitting the annual report on applications for court orders made to federal and state courts to permit the interception of wire, oral, or electronic communications during calendar year 2006, pursuant to 18 U.S.C. 2519(3); to the Committee on the Judiciary.

1748. A letter from the Director, Administrative Office of the United States Courts, transmitting the second annual report to Congress on victims' rights, pursuant to 18 U.S.C. 3771; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

1749. A letter from the Director, Federal Judicial Center, transmitting the Federal Judicial Center's Annual Report for the 2006 calendar year, pursuant to 28 U.S.C. 623(b); to the Committee on the Judiciary.

1750. A letter from the Deputy General Counsel, Small Business Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Liquidation and Debt Collection (RIN: 3245-AE83) received April 27, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Small Business.

1751. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule — Limitations on Benefits and Contributions Under Qualified Plans [TD 9319] (RIN: 1545-BD52) received April 10, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES ON PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XIII, reports of committees were delivered to the Clerk for printing and reference to the proper calendar, as follows:

[Filed on May 11, 2007]

Mr. SKELTON: Committee on Armed Services. H.R. 1585. A bill to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2008 for military activities of the Department of Defense, to prescribe military personnel strengths for fiscal year 2008, and for other purposes; with amendments (Rept. 110–146). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union.

[Filed on May 14, 2007]

Mr. SKELTON: Committee on Armed Services. Supplemental report on H.R. 1585. A bill to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2008 for military activities of the Department of Defense, to prescribe military personnel strengths for fiscal year 2008, and for other purposes (Rept. 110–146 Pt. 2). Committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union and ordered to be printed.

Mr. OBERSTAR: Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure. H.R. 1773. A bill to limit the authority of the Secretary of Transportation to grant authority to motor carriers domiciled in Mexico to operate beyond United States municipalities and commercial zones on the United States-Mexico border; with an amendment (Rept. 110–147). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union.

Mr. CONYERS: Committee on the Judiciary. H.R. 916. A bill to provide for loan repayment for prosecutors and public defenders; with an amendment (Rept. 110–148). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union.

Mr. CONYERS: Committee on the Judiciary. H.R. 1615. A bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to provide penalties for aiming laser pointers at airplanes, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 110–149). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union.

Mr. CONYERS: Committee on the Judiciary. H.R. 1700. A bill to amend the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 to enhance the COPS ON THE BEAT grant program, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 110–150). 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. YARMUTH (for himself, Mr. PLATTS, Mr. BOYD of Florida, Mr. CHANDLER, Mr. HINOJOSA, Mr. MCGOVERN, Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas, Mr. ROGERS of Alabama, Mr. BONNER, Mr. REGULA, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. ALTMIRE, and Ms. HIRONO):

H.R. 2289. A bill to establish an adolescent literacy program; to the Committee on Education and Labor.

By Mr. SCHIFF (for himself, Mr. CHABOT, Mr. DELAHUNT, Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California, Mr. DAVIS of Alabama, Ms. CARSON, Mr. GOODLATTE, Ms. ESHOO, Mr. WEXLER, Mr. ISSA, Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California, Mr. MCCAUL of Texas, and Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi):

H.R. 2290. A bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to better assure cyber-security, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. PEARCE (for himself, Mr. KING of New York, Mr. SHUSTER, Mr. BLUNT, Mr. SAXTON, Mrs. MCMORRIS RODGERS, Mr. FEENEY, and Mr. KLINE of Minnesota):

H.R. 2291. A bill to grant immunity from civil liability to any person who voluntarily notifies appropriate security personnel of suspicious activity believed to threaten transportation safety or security or takes reasonable action to mitigate such activity; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. HALL of New York (for himself, Mr. SPACE, Mr. DONNELLY, Mr. WALZ of Minnesota, Ms. HOOLEY, Ms. BEAN, Mr. MCNERNEY, Mr. HARE, Mr. COURTNEY, Mr. MAHONEY of Florida, Mr. ALTMIRE, and Mr. KAGEN):

H.R. 2292. A bill to prohibit the payment of bonuses to certain officers of the Department of Veterans Affairs unless fewer than 100,000 disability compensation claims are pending before the Department; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, and in addition to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. ACKERMAN (for himself, Mr. PENCE, and Mr. LANTOS):

H.R. 2293. A bill to require the Secretary of State to submit to Congress a report on efforts to bring to justice the Palestinian terrorists who killed John Branchizio, Mark Parson, and John Marin Linde; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida:

H.R. 2294. A bill to amend the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 to revise the definition of ''violent offender'' for the purpose of participation in drug courts; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. ENGEL (for himself, Mr. TERRY, Mr. WAXMAN, Mr. UPTON, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. WHITFIELD, Mr. TOWNS, Mr. SHIMKUS, Mr. RUSH, Mr. FOSSELLA, Mr. WYNN, Mrs. BONO, Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas, Mr. FERGUSON, Mrs. CAPPS, Mrs. MYRICK, Mr. DOYLE, Mr. ALLEN, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Ms. SOLIS, Mr. GONZALEZ, Mr. INSLEE, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. ROSS, Mr. WEINER, Mr. MATHESON, Mr. BUTTERFIELD, Mr. BARROW, Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN, Mr. RANGEL, Mr. MCCRERY, Mr. STARK, Mr. GOODE, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. GERLACH, Mr. ROTHMAN, Mr. BURTON of Indiana, Mr. EMANUEL, Mr. SHAYS, Mr. HIGGINS, Ms. FALLIN, Mr. COHEN, Mr. BOUSTANY, Mr. PATRICK MURPHY of Pennsylvania, Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, Mr. MCDERMOTT, Mr. BROWN of South Carolina, Ms. NORTON, Mrs. MCMORRIS RODGERS, Mr. PRICE of North Carolina, Mr. MCHUGH, Mr. ABERCROMBIE, Mr. EHLERS, Mr. MCNULTY, Mr. GALLEGLY, Mr. MCINTYRE, Mr. PEARCE, Mr. NADLER, Ms. CARSON, Mr. OLVER, Mr. TIERNEY, Mr. KANJORSKI, Mr. BISHOP of New York, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. CROWLEY, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mrs. LOWEY, Mr. SHERMAN, Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California, Mr. MURTHA, Mr. ETHERIDGE, Mr. CAPUANO, Ms. KAPTUR, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York, Ms. MCCOLLUM of Minnesota, Mr. BERMAN, Mr. SIRES, Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, Mr. CRAMER, Ms. HIRONO, Ms. BORDALLO, Mr. BOSWELL, and Mr. KIND):

H.R. 2295. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to provide for the establishment of an Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis Registry; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. GERLACH:

H.R. 2296. A bill to reduce the Nation's oil dependence and enhance the Nation's ability to produce alternative fuels; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committees on Ways and Means, and Transportation and Infrastructure, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. GIFFORDS (for herself and Mr. RENZI):

H.R. 2297. A bill to amend the National Trails System Act to designate the Arizona

National Scenic Trail; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. GORDON (for himself, Mr. COOPER, and Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California):

H.R. 2298. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to make geothermal heat pump systems eligible for the energy credit; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. HELLER (for himself, Ms. BERKLEY, and Mr. PORTER):

H.R. 2299. A bill to direct the Secretary of the Interior to convey to the City of Henderson, Nevada, certain Federal land located in the City, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. JOHNSON of Illinois (for himself, Mr. RUSH, Mr. JACKSON of Illinois, Mr. LIPINSKI, Mr. GUTIERREZ, Mr. EMANUEL, Mr. ROSKAM, Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, Ms. BEAN, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. KIRK, Mr. WELLER, Mr. COSTELLO, Mrs. BIGGERT, Mr. HASTERT, Mr. MANZULLO, Mr. HARE, Mr. LAHOOD, and Mr. SHIMKUS):

H.R. 2300. A bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 127 East Locust Street in Fairbury, Illinois, as the ''Dr. Francis Townsend Post Office Building''; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Mr. KING of Iowa:

H.R. 2301. A bill to establish a Livestock Identification Board to create and implement a national livestock identification system; to the Committee on Agriculture.

By Mr. KING of Iowa (for himself, Mr. AKIN, Mr. FLAKE, Mr. MILLER of Florida, Mrs. MUSGRAVE, Mr. PENCE, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. GOHMERT, Mr. MACK, Mr. PAUL, Mr. PLATTS, Mr. TERRY, and Mr. WESTMORELAND):

H.R. 2302. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow a deduction for premiums for high deductible health plans required with respect to health savings accounts; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. KING of New York (for himself, Mr. MARSHALL, Mr. SOUDER, Mrs. MALONEY of New York, Mr. WALSH of New York, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. KUHL of New York, Mr. HIGGINS, Mr. LAHOOD, Mr. CUMMINGS, Mr. BRALEY of Iowa, Mr. BILIRAKIS, Mr. EMANUEL, Mr. HALL of New York, Mr. FOSSELLA, Mr. RANGEL, Mr. DONNELLY, Mr. MCCOTTER, Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida, Mr. WOLF, Mrs. LOWEY, Mr. CROWLEY, Mr. WICKER, Mr. MCNULTY, Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York, Mr. WALBERG, Mr. HINOJOSA, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN, Mr. HOLT, Mr. BOSWELL, Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania, Ms. FALLIN, Mr. FEENEY, Mr. SESTAK, Mr. PAUL, Ms. SHEA-PORTER, Mrs. CAPITO, Ms. BORDALLO, Mr. FORTENBERRY, Mrs. DAVIS of California, Mr. CONAWAY, Mr. TAYLOR, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. PRICE of North Carolina, and Mr. WAMP):

H.R. 2303. A bill to provide for the issuance of a ''forever stamp'' to honor the sacrifices of the brave men and women of the armed forces who have been awarded the Purple Heart; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Mr. MCNERNEY (for himself, Mr. GORDON, and Mr. LAMPSON):

H.R. 2304. A bill to direct the Secretary of Energy to conduct a program of research, development, demonstration, and commercial application for geothermal energy, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Science and Technology.

By Mr. NUNES (for himself and Mr. THOMPSON of California):

H.R. 2305. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide a five-year applicable recovery period for depreciation of qualified energy management devices; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. PETERSON of Minnesota:

H.R. 2306. A bill to provide for the use and distribution of the funds awarded to the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe, et al., by the United States Court of Federal Claims in Docket Numbers 18 and 188, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Ms. SCHWARTZ (for herself, Mrs. LOWEY, Mr. GRIJALVA, and Ms. HIRONO):

H.R. 2307. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide broader and more informed protection to Medicare eligible individuals from abusive marketing practices of Medicare prescription drug plans and MA-PD plans to permit enrollees under Medicare prescription drug plans that have been sanctioned to elect to enroll under other plans; 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 Mr. TANCREDO:

H.R. 2308. A bill to repeal the amendment made by section 796 of the Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2006, exempting from harboring sanctions compensation for alien volunteers for certain religious organizations; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. WESTMORELAND (for himself, Mr. PRICE of Georgia, Mr. GINGREY, Mr. KINGSTON, Mr. LINDER, Mr. DEAL of Georgia, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr. BARROW, Mr. LEWIS of Georgia, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Mr. SCOTT of Georgia, Ms. FALLIN, Mr. SHUSTER, Mr. TERRY, Mr. MCHENRY, Mr. CANTOR, Mr. BARRETT of South Carolina, Mr. PENCE, Ms. FOXX, and Mr. MICA):

H.R. 2309. A bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 3916 Milgen Road in Columbus, Georgia, as the ''Frank G. Lumpkin, Jr. Post Office Building''; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Mrs. WILSON of New Mexico:

H.R. 2310. A bill to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to permit certain E-2 nonimmigrant investors to adjust status to lawful permanent resident status; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. LEE (for herself, Mr. FATTAH, Mr. BURTON of Indiana, Mr. PASCRELL, Mrs. JONES of Ohio, Mr. SERRANO, Mr. ENGEL, Mr. HONDA, Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York, Mrs. CHRISTENSEN, Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. GUTIERREZ, Mr. FORTUÑO, Mr. GRIJALVA, Ms. BORDALLO, Mr. WEXLER, Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas, Ms. CARSON, Mr. MEEKS of New York, Mr. CONYERS, Mr. HINCHEY, Ms. CLARKE, Ms. KILPATRICK, Mr. SIRES, Mr. TOWNS, Mr. AL GREEN of Texas, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Mr. MEEK of Florida, Mr. WYNN, Mr. RANGEL, Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida, Mr. JEFFERSON, Mr. DELAHUNT, Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California, and Ms. NORTON):

H. Con. Res. 148. Concurrent resolution recognizing the significance of National Caribbean-American Heritage Month; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Mr. BOUSTANY:

H. Res. 398. A resolution recognizing the long and mutually-beneficial relationship between the United States and France and congratulating France's President-elect Nicolas Sarkozy on his victory in the May 6, 2007, Presidential election; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. FORTENBERRY (for himself, Mr. TERRY, and Mr. SMITH of Nebraska):

H. Res. 399. A resolution supporting the goals and ideals of Mother's Day; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Mr. MORAN of Kansas (for himself, Mr. TIAHRT, Mr. MOORE of Kansas, and Mrs. BOYDA of Kansas):

H. Res. 400. A resolution expressing the sympathy of the House of Representatives to the citizens of Greensburg, Kansas, over the devastating tornado of May 4, 2007; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. THOMPSON of California:

H. Res. 401. A resolution supporting the goals and ideals of National Trails Day; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

PRIVATE BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 3 of rule XII,

Mr. RAMSTAD introduced a bill (H.R. 2311) for the relief of Grace Dufia Gana; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.

ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions as follows:

H.R. 17: Mr. HALL of Texas and Mr. TURNER.

H.R. 21: Ms. HERSETH SANDLIN, Mr. BERMAN, Mr. MARSHALL, and Mr. THOMPSON of California.

H.R. 78: Mr. DAVID DAVIS of Tennessee.

H.R. 174: Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts.

H.R. 175: Mr. PALLONE.

H.R. 176: Mr. DAVIS of Illinois.

H.R. 180: Mr. LOEBSACK and Ms. ESHOO.

H.R. 278: Mr. LOEBSACK.

H.R. 358: Mr. COHEN, Ms. NORTON, Mr. MCCOTTER, Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York, Ms. CARSON, and Mr. NADLER.

H.R. 368: Mr. COURTNEY, Mr. CLAY, Mr. FERGUSON, Mr. DEFAZIO, Mr. BUCHANAN, and Mr. LOBIONDO.

H.R. 380: Mr. ALTMIRE and Mr. HALL of New York.

H.R. 464: Mr. DELAHUNT.

H.R. 471: Mr. ELLSWORTH.

H.R. 480: Mrs. MYRICK, Mr. ROGERS of Alabama, and Mr. GINGREY.

H.R. 522: Mr. VAN HOLLEN.

H.R. 539: Mr. TURNER.

H.R. 552: Mr. MURTHA, Mr. LOEBSACK, Mr. ARCURI, and Mr. CLAY.

H.R. 555: Mr. JACKSON of Illinois and Ms. SCHAKOWSKY.

H.R. 592: Mr. LARSEN of Washington and Mr. MEEKS of New York.

H.R. 610: Mr. TURNER.

H.R. 632: Mr. MARIO DIAZ-BALART of Florida.

H.R. 695: Mr. PALLONE.

H.R. 697: Mr. TANCREDO, Mr. COBLE, and Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas.

H.R. 711: Ms. SHEA-PORTER and Mr. KIND.

H.R. 741: Mr. MEEKS of New York.

H.R. 743: Ms. MATSUI, Mr. PAUL, Mr. DOOLITTLE, Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN, and Mr. BUCHANAN.

H.R. 748: Mrs. JONES of Ohio.

H.R. 772: Ms. SCHWARTZ and Mr. BURGESS.
H.R. 773: Mr. ELLISON.
H.R. 782: Mr. PLATTS and Mr. OLVER.
H.R. 811: Ms. GIFFORDS, Mr. MCGOVERN, and Mr. MARKEY.
H.R. 821: Mr. GERLACH and Mr. CLAY.
H.R. 822: Mr. NADLER.
H.R. 829: Mrs. DAVIS of California.
H.R. 876: Mr. FRANKS of Arizona.
H.R. 882: Mr. DOYLE, Ms. SLAUGHTER, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. GILCHREST, Mr. PRICE of North Carolina, and Mr. CULBERSON.
H.R. 916: Mr. CUMMINGS, Mr. BECERRA, and Mr. COHEN.
H.R. 943: Mr. WOLF.
H.R. 945: Mr. YOUNG of Florida.
H.R. 947: Mr. UDALL of New Mexico.
H.R. 977: Ms. CARSON.
H.R. 1004: Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California.
H.R. 1014: Mr. WALSH of New York, Mr. KUHL of New York, Mr. KANJORSKI, Mr. LIPINSKI, Mr. MILLER of North Carolina, Mr. FORTENBERRY, and Mr. GRAVES.
H.R. 1031: Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD.
H.R. 1058: Mr. POE.
H.R. 1076: Mr. TIM MURPHY of Pennsylvania and Mr. MICHAUD.
H.R. 1078: Mr. ALLEN and Mr. UPTON.
H.R. 1088: Mr. RYAN of Ohio.
H.R. 1110: Ms. SLAUGHTER, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. MCHUGH, Mr. PITTS, Mr. HONDA, Mr. SIMPSON, Mr. MCNULTY, Mr. BACA, and Mr. HINCHEY.
H.R. 1134: Mr. BUTTERFIELD, Mr. KIND, and Ms. BALDWIN.
H.R. 1157: Mr. ELLSWORTH, Mr. LIPINSKI, Mr. HODES, Mr. SNYDER, Mrs. WILSON of New Mexico, Mr. PERLMUTTER, Ms. WOOLSEY, Mr. MAHONEY of Florida, Mr. CHANDLER, and Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California.
H.R. 1192: Ms. CARSON.
H.R. 1193: Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr. CLAY, Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California, Mr. WOLF, Mrs. MCMORRIS RODGERS, Mr. ALTMIRE, Mr. TOWNS, Mr. BURGESS, and Mr. FILNER.
H.R. 1194: Mr. KAGEN, Mr. DAVIS of Alabama, Mr. MICHAUD, Mr. HINOJOSA, Mr. SCOTT of Georgia, Mr. PATRICK MURPHY of Pennsylvania, and Mr. ENGEL.
H.R. 1198: Mr. UPTON, Mr. RAHALL, and Mr. ETHERIDGE.
H.R. 1199: Mr. UDALL of New Mexico.
H.R. 1200: Mr. PAYNE, Mr. BERMAN, and Mr. TIERNEY.
H.R. 1222: Mr. BUTTERFIELD, Mr. Payne, and Mrs. JONES of Ohio.
H.R. 1223: Mr. BUTTERFIELD, Mr. Payne, and Mrs. JONES of Ohio.
H.R. 1225: Mr. MOORE of Kansas, and Mr. SIRES.
H.R. 1230: Mr. CRAMER and Ms. SCHAKOWSKY.
H.R. 1237: Mr. PITTS and Mr. YOUNG of Alaska.
H.R. 1246: Mrs. CHRISTENSEN and Ms. KILPATRICK.
H.R. 1252: Mr. SPACE, Mr. CARDOZA, Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. ROTHMAN, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, and Ms. SLAUGHTER.
H.R. 1279: Mr. LOEBSACK, Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, Mr. ENGLISH of Pennsylvania, and Ms. HIRONO.
H.R. 1280: Mr. SHERMAN and Mr. DELAHUNT.
H.R. 1304: Mr. GARY G. MILLER of California, Mr. GORDON, Mr. FILNER, and Mr. MARSHALL.
H.R. 1314: Mr. ENGLISH of Pennsylvania and Mr. MCCOTTER.
H.R. 1320: Mr. COHEN.
H.R. 1344: Mr. RAHALL and Mr. DAVIS of Illinois.
H.R. 1394: Mr. MEEKS of New York.
H.R. 1400: Mr. FARR, Mr. HENSARLING, Mr. VISCLOSKY, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. MARIO DIAZ-BALART of Florida, Mr. KING of New York, Mr. ELLSWORTH, Mr. SMITH of Texas, Mr. MARCHANT, Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, Mr. PRICE of Georgia, Mr. BARRETT of South Carolina, Mr. CULBERSON, Mr. DONNELLY, Mr. CONAWAY, Mr. JORDAN, Ms. CASTOR, Mr. BOYD of Florida, Mr. BUCHANAN, and Mr. FILNER.
H.R. 1406: Mr. TERRY, and Mr. SOUDER.
H.R. 1410: Ms. CLARKE, Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas, and Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi.
H.R. 1411: Ms. CLARKE, Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas, and Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi.
H.R. 1412: Ms. CLARKE, Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas, and Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi.
H.R. 1413: Mr. PUTNAM.
H.R. 1422: Mr. LOEBSACK and Mr. NUNES.
H.R. 1453: Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California.
H.R. 1474: Mr. WALDEN of Oregon, Mr. BOUSTANY, Mrs. LOWEY, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, MR. WAMP, Mr. GORDON, Mr. ELLSWORTH, Mr. MCNULTY, and Mr. DELAHUNT.
H.R. 1483: Mr. KUCINICH.
H.R. 1497: Ms. SCHAKOWSKY.
H.R. 1498: Mr. CHANDLER and Mr. UDALL of New Mexico.
H.R. 1499: Mr. SHAYS.
H.R. 1518: Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. ABERCROMBIE, and Mr. TIAHRT.
H.R. 1551: Mr. LIPINSKI.
H.R. 1561: Ms. MCCOLLUM of Minnesota.
H.R. 1567: Mr. INGLIS of South Carolina, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. HINOJOSA, and Mr. LOEBSACK.
H.R. 1576: Mr. MCCOTTER and Mr. WAXMAN.
H.R. 1583: Mrs. MALONEY of New York, Mr. HOLDEN, Mr. RANGEL, Mr. REYNOLDS, MS. SLAUGHTER, Mr. BISHOP of New York, Mr. KUHL of New York, and Mr. MCHUGH.
H.R. 1589: Mr. MCDERMOTT, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. WU, Mr. ROSKAM, and Mr. WALZ of Minnesota.
H.R. 1621: Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, Mr. COHEN, Mr. COURTNEY, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. MURPHY of Connecticut, Mr. WALSH of New York, Mr. WELLER, Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, and Ms. SCHAKOWSKY.
H. R. 1640: Mrs. MUSGRAVE.
H.R. 1649: Mr. MORAN of Kansas, Mr. RODRIGUEZ, and Mr. WHITFIELD.
H.R. 1653: Mr. DAVIS of Illinois.
H.R. 1663: Ms. SUTTON, Mr. WELCH of Vermont, Mr. BLUMENAUER, and Mr. PLATTS.
H.R. 1673: Mr. SALI.
H.R. 1683: Mrs. SCHMIDT.
H.R. 1687: Mr. ROTHMAN, Mrs. DAVIS of California, and Mr. CAPUANO.
H.R. 1700: Mr. KAGEN, Mr. FOSSELLA, Mr. HOLT, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. CARNEY, Mr. ENGEL, Mr. MATHESON, Mr. BACA, and Ms. LEE.
H.R. 1705: Mr. WALSH of New York and Mr. KIRK.
H.R. 1707: Ms. MCCOLLUM of Minnesota, Mr. ROTHMAN, Ms. KILPATRICK, and Mr. LOEBSACK.
H.R. 1709: Mr. MARSHALL and Mr. WALSH of New York.
H.R. 1711: Mr. BLUMENAUER.
H.R. 1713: Mr. LOEBSACK, Mr. STARK, Mr. ELLISON, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, and Mr. DELAHUNT.
H.R. 1721: Mr. MATHESON and Mr. BUTTERFIELD.
H.R. 1732: Mr. LOEBSACK.
H.R. 1740: Mr. NADLER and Mr. FILNER.
H.R. 1804: Mr. PAYNE.
H.R. 1813: Mr. BISHOP of New York and Ms. BEAN.
H.R. 1819: Mr. PRICE of North Carolina.
H.R. 1821: Mr. SALAZAR, Mr. BARRETT of South Carolina, Mr. UDALL of Colorado, and Mr. DOGGETT.
H.R. 1838: Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California, Mr. CRENSHAW, Mr. SHAYS, Mr. TIM MURPHY of Pennsylvania, Mr. MELANCON, Mr. ROSS, Ms. HARMAN, Mrs. JONES of Ohio, Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, Mr. LEWIS of Georgia, Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN, Mrs. MALONEY of New York, Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida, and Mr. ROYCE.
H.R. 1840: Mr. RAMSTAD, Mr. MCHUGH, Mr. PAUL, and Mr. EMANUEL.
H.R. 1866: Mr. GILLMOR, Mr. MANZULLO, Mr. GOHMERT, Mr. BOSWELL, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. SCOTT of Georgia, Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas, Mr. BARRETT of South Carolina, Mr. MITCHELL, Mr. WALSH of New York, Mr. FORTENBERRY, Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN, Mr. MATHESON, Mr. EVERETT, Mr. ETHERIDGE, Mr. BONNER, and Mr. RODRIGUEZ.
H.R. 1871: Mr. PAUL, Mrs. LOWEY, and Mr. MARSHALL.
H.R. 1877: Mr. RAHALL.
H.R. 1892: Mr. MCCOTTER.
H.R. 1907: Mr. CASTLE, Mr. LOBIONDO, and Mr. THOMPSON of California.
H.R. 1909: Mr. ORTIZ and Mr. UDALL of New Mexico.
H.R. 1921: Ms. ESHOO.
H.R. 1924: Mr. HIGGINS.
H.R. 1930: Mr. MCCAUL of Texas and Mrs. DRAKE.
H.R. 1932: Ms. CASTOR.
H.R. 1943: Mr. GUTIERREZ, Mr. MEEKS of New York, Ms. CLARKE, Ms. NORTON, Mr. JEFFERSON, Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas, and Mr. AL GREEN of Texas.
H.R. 1944: Mr. CUELLAR, Mr. KILDEE, Ms. NORTON, Mr. WALZ of Minnesota, Ms. MCCOLLUM of Minnesota, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, and Mr. HIGGINS.
H.R. 1961: Mr. LOEBSACK.
H.R. 1967: Mr. PAUL, Mr. BAKER, Mr. JONES of North Carolina, Mr. HENSARLING, Mr. FEENEY, Mr. BACHUS, Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey, Mr. MOORE of Kansas, and Mr. MAHONEY of Florida.
H.R. 1971: Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas and Mr. NADLER.
H.R. 1985: Mr. COHEN.
H.R. 2005: Ms. BALDWIN.
H.R. 2017: Mr. BISHOP of New York, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Mr. CAPUANO, Ms. DELAURO, and Mr. NADLER.
H.R. 2021: Mr. SOUDER, Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, Ms. HIRONO, Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California, Ms. CLARKE, Mr. NADLER, and Ms. SUTTON.
H.R. 2023: Mr. MCCOTTER.
H.R. 2052: Mr. ENGEL and Mr. HINCHEY.
H.R. 2053: Mr. GILLMOR, Mr. CARDOZA, Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas, Mr. PRICE of Georgia, Mr. KIRK, Mr. MCCOTTER, Mr. NEAL of Massachusetts, Mr. SCOTT of Georgia, Mr. PERLMUTTER, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Mr. BERMAN, Mr. MITCHELL, Mr. WELCH of Vermont, Mr. MATHESON, Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas, Mr. WAMP, Mr. JINDAL, Mr. BONNER, Mr. RODRIGUEZ, Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN, Mr. DOOLITTLE, Mr. WU, Mr. KUHL of New York, and Mr. MCCAUL of Texas.
H.R. 2060: Ms. NORTON, Mrs. MUSGRAVE, Mr. TIERNEY, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. CLEAVER, Mr. STARK, Mrs. JONES of Ohio, Mr. DOOLITTLE, and Mr. FATTAH.
H.R. 2063: Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. BUCHANAN, Mr. PITTS, Mr. DELAHUNT, and Mr. WAXMAN.
H.R. 2067: Mr. TIBERI.
H.R. 2091: Mr. JONES of North Carolina.
H.R. 2109: Mrs. MYRICK.
H.R. 2111: Mr. ACKERMAN and Ms. WATSON.
H.R. 2129: Mr. RUSH and Mr. WALSH of New York.
H.R. 2134: Mr. SOUDER, Mr. HENSARLING, and Mr. WOLF.
H.R. 2135: Mr. FORTENBERRY.
H.R. 2138: Mr. BAKER.
H.R. 2147: Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. HALL of New York, and Mr. LOEBSACK.
H.R. 2159: Mr. BARROW and Mr. PAUL.
H.R. 2164: Mr. WALZ of Minnesota, Mr. LATOURETTE, Mr. WU, and Mr. RAMSTAD.
H.R. 2169: Mr. WOLF, Mr. MARKEY, Ms. MATSUI, and Mr. HIGGINS.
H.R. 2192: Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, Mr. BOSWELL, Mr. ANDREWS, Mr. COHEN, Mr. YARMUTH, Mr. ALLEN, and Mr. MARSHALL.
H.R. 2199: Mr. HARE, Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida, Ms. BERKLEY, Mr. ALTMIRE, and Mr. WALSH of New York.

H.R. 2213: Mr. POMEROY.

H.R. 2253: Mr. CULBERSON.

H.R. 2260: Mr. PITTS and Mr. SCOTT of Georgia.

H.R. 2266: Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California and Mr. MCNULTY.

H.R. 2267: Mr. PAUL.

H.J. Res. 9: Mr. SESSIONS, and Mr. HUNTER.

H. Con. Res. 21: Ms. DELAURO, Mr. YOUNG of Alaska, and Mr. ROYCE.

H. Con. Res. 70: Mr. CLAY.

H. Con. Res. 120: Mr. ENGLISH of Pennsylvania and Mr. BARTLETT of Maryland.

H. Con. Res. 125: Mr. ROTHMAN and Mr. PAUL.

H. Con. Res. 131: Mr. MCNULTY, Mr. MARIO DIAZ-BALART of Florida, Mr. BURTON of Indiana, Mr. STEARNS, Mr. SHADEGG, Mr. FORTUÑO, and Mr. GARY G. MILLER of California.

H. Con. Res. 133: Mr. ENGLISH of Pennsylvania, Mrs. BLACKBURN, and Mr. DELAHUNT.

H. Con. Res. 137: Mr. SESSIONS.

H. Con. Res. 138: Mr. MCINTYRE, Mr. MCGOVERN, and Mr. LEWIS of Georgia.

H. Con. Res. 139: Mr. PASTOR, Mr. MCCOTTER, Mr. INGLIS of South Carolina, Mr. WOLF, Mr. PITTS, Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California, and Mr. ROTHMAN.

H. Con. Res. 144: Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida, Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California, Ms. SUTTON, Ms. KILPATRICK, and Mr. DELAHUNT.

H. Res. 97: Mr. LOEBSACK.

H. Res. 106: Mr. COURTNEY and Mr. UDALL of New Mexico.

H. Res. 111: Mr. GERLACH.

H. Res. 121: Mr. BILBRAY, Ms. SHEA-PORTER, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. LOEBSACK, Mr. LIPINSKI, Mr. UDALL of New Mexico, and Mr. BAIRD.

H. Res. 148: Mr. SARBANES.

H. Res. 164: Mr. MCCOTTER.

H. Res. 194: Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California.

H. Res. 227: Mr. HONDA.

H. Res. 241: Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. NADLER, Mr. STARK, Mr. MCNULTY, and Ms. SCHAKOWSKY.

H. Res. 257: Mrs. CAPPS, Mrs. TAUSCHER, Mr. GONZALEZ, Mr. SHUSTER, and Mr. THOMPSON of California.

H. Res. 259: Mr. WALSH of New York and Mr. NADLER.

H. Res. 282: Mr. BARROW, Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, Mrs. MALONEY of New York, Ms. NORTON, Mr. NADLER, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Ms. WATERS, and Mr. COOPER.

H. Res. 287: Mr. YOUNG of Alaska.

H. Res. 295: Mr. PUTNAM.

H. Res. 296: Mrs. LOWEY, Ms. GIFFORDS, Mr. CROWLEY, Mr. RAHALL, and Mr. ALTMIRE.

H. Res. 309: Mr. ROTHMAN and Mr. MCGOVERN.

H. Res. 335: Ms. SUTTON, Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas, and Mr. MCNULTY.

H. Res. 351: Mrs. MYRICK and Mrs. DRAKE.

H. Res. 353: Mr. LEWIS of Georgia.

H. Res. 378: Mr. HONDA, Mr. ACKERMAN, Mr. MARSHALL, and Ms. BORDALLO.

H. Res. 385: Mr. ALTMIRE, Mr. SARBANES, Ms. SHEA-PORTER, Mr. WU, Mr. LOEBSACK, Mr. HOLT, Mr. REYES, Mr. ALLEN, Mr. CAPUANO, Ms. DELAURO, Mr. HONDA, Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas, Mrs. MALONEY of New York, Ms. MCCOLLUM of Minnesota, Mr. MCDERMOTT, Mr. MORAN of Virginia, Mr. MURTHA, Mr. NADLER, Mr. PATRICK MURPHY of Pennsylvania, Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. FARR, and Mr. HARE.

H. Res. 397: Mr. BLUNT and Mrs. MUSGRAVE.

CONGRESSIONAL EARMARKS, LIMITED TAX BENEFITS, OR LIMITED TARIFF BENEFITS

Under clause 9 of rule XXI, lists or statements on congressional earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits were submitted as follows:

The amendment to be offered by Representative Skelton, or a designee, to H.R. 1585, the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2008, does not contain any congressional earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits as defined in clause 9(d), 9(e), or 9(f) of Rule XXI.

AMENDMENTS

Under clause 8 of rule XVIII, proposed amendments were submitted as follows:

H.R. 1427

OFFERED BY: MR. NEUGEBAUER

AMENDMENT NO. 1: Page 128, strike lines 18 through 20 and insert the following: ''amount equal to the lesser of (A) 1.2 basis points for each dollar of the average total mortgage portfolio of the enterprise during the preceding year, (B) the number of basis points for each dollar of the average total mortgage portfolio of the enterprise during the preceding year, which when applied to such average portfolios of both enterprises, results in an aggregate allocation under this paragraph by the enterprises for the year of $520,000,000, or (C) a lesser amount, as determined by the Director, if the Director determines for such year that allocation of the lesser of the amounts under subparagraphs (A) and (B) poses a safety or soundness concern to the enterprise.''.

H.R. 1585

OFFERED BY: MR. TERRY

AMENDMENT NO. 1: Title II, subtitle C, add at the end the following:

SEC. 2___. INCREASED FUNDS FOR X LAB BATTLESPACE LABORATORY.

(a) INCREASE.—The amount in section 201(4), research, development, test, and evaluation, Defense-wide, is hereby increased by $10,000,000, to be available for the X Lab battlespace laboratory, program element 0603175C.

(b) OFFSET.—The amount in section 201(2), research, development, test, and evaluation, Navy, is hereby reduced by $10,000,000, to be derived from Joint Tactical Radio System Navy.

H.R. 1585

OFFERED BY: MR. SKELTON

AMENDMENT NO. 2: In section 122(a), strike ''enter into multiyear contracts, beginning with the fiscal year 2008 program year'' and insert ''enter into a multiyear contract, beginning with the fiscal year 2009 program year''.

In section 301(10), strike the dollar amount and insert ''$5,847,609,000''.

In section 301(11), strike the dollar amount and insert ''$5,042,565,000''.

In section 576, strike subsection (i) and insert the following new subsection:

(i) FUNDING.—Of the amount authorized to be appropriated pursuant to section 301(5) for Defense-wide activities, $3,000,000 shall be available for deposit in the Fund for fiscal year 2008.

In section 944(b)(2) (page 444, lines 13 and 14), strike ''Under Secretary of Defense (Comptroller)'' and insert ''Director of the Office of Program Analysis and Evaluation''.

In title XIII, add at the end the following new section:

SEC. 1307. CLARIFICATION OF AMOUNTS FOR COOPERATIVE THREAT REDUCTION PROGRAMS.

The amount in section 1302(a)(9), and the corresponding amounts in section 1302(a) (in the matter preceding paragraph (1)) and in section 301(19), are hereby increased by $48,000, all of which is to expand staff capacity, capabilities, and resources necessary for activities related to new Cooperative Threat Reduction initiatives.

In section 1508, add at the end the following new paragraph:

(11) For the Strategic Readiness Fund, $1,000,000,000.

Redesignate section 1517 as section 1518 and insert after section 1516 the following new section (and conform the table of contents accordingly):

SEC. 1517. NATIONAL NUCLEAR SECURITY ADMINISTRATION.

Funds are hereby authorized to be appropriated for fiscal year 2008 to the Department of Energy for the National Nuclear Security Administration for defense nuclear nonproliferation in the amount of $50,000,000.

In section 2104(a), in the matter preceding paragraph (1), strike the dollar amount and insert ''$5,133,817,000''.

In section 2104(a)(1), strike the dollar amount and insert ''$3,089,400,000''.

In section 2204(a), in the matter preceding paragraph (1), strike the dollar amount and insert ''$2,757,249,000''.

In section 2204(a)(1), strike the dollar amount and insert ''$1,496,532,000''.

In section 2204(a)(2), strike the dollar amount and insert ''$293,858,000''.

In section 2304(a)(1), strike the dollar amount and insert ''$710,173,000''.

In section 2404(a), in the matter preceding paragraph (1), strike the dollar amount and insert ''$10,253,464,000''.

In section 2404(a)(1), strike the dollar amount and insert ''$898,483,000''.

Title XXXI, subtitle A, add at the end the following new section:

SEC. 3105. OTHER ATOMIC ENERGY DEFENSE ACTIVITIES.

Funds are hereby authorized to be appropriated to the Department of Energy for fiscal year 2008 for energy security and assurance programs necessary for national security in the amount of $6,000,000.

Make the following technical amendments:

(1) Page 302, lines 13 to 20, move the margins 2 ems to the right.

(2) Page 332, line 20, insert ''in'' before ''subparagraph (B)''.

(3) Page 478, lines 12 to 15, move the margins 2 ems to the right.

(4) Page 513, line 22, strike ''(I)'' and insert ''(i)''.

(5) Page 514, line 20, strike ''(I)'' and insert ''(i)''.

(6) Page 623, line 19, strike the period and insert a semicolon.

(7) Page 669, line 16, strike ''(I)'' and insert ''(i)''.

(8) Page 734, line 10, strike ''redesignation'' and insert ''redesignating''.

United States of America

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PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 110th CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

Vol. 153 WASHINGTON, MONDAY, MAY 14, 2007 No. 79

Senate

The Senate met at 2 p.m. and was called to order by the Honorable MARK L. PRYOR, a Senator from the State of Arkansas.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray:

Almighty God, smile on us and lift us with Your mighty strength. Develop in us an optimism that will withstand all challenges, bear all burdens, and catapult all obstacles.

Guide the Members of this body, today, on Your path. Show them Your ways as You lead them by the power of Your truth. Help them to set priorities that will deliver captives and relieve the oppressed, causing ''justice to roll down like waters and righteousness like a mighty stream.'' Direct our Senators with their going out and coming in, inspiring them with a resolute determination to fulfill Your purposes on Earth. We pray in Your reverent Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable MARK L. PRYOR led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. BYRD).

The bill clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, May 14, 2007.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable MARK L. PRYOR, a Senator from the State of Arkansas, to perform the duties of the Chair.

ROBERT C. BYRD,
President pro tempore.

Mr. PRYOR thereupon assumed the chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

SCHEDULE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, shortly the Chair will announce that we are in morning business until 3 p.m. today, with the time equally divided between the two leaders.

At 3 p.m., the Senate will begin consideration of H.R. 1495, the Water Resources Development Act. Senators BOXER and INHOFE are managing the bill, and they will be here at 3 o'clock ready to conduct business. There will be no rollcall votes today.

If there are no amendments on Tuesday, the water resources bill would be ready for a vote. If there are no votes on WRDA tomorrow and they are able to complete work on the bill, then we will have the judicial nomination before the caucuses in the morning.

Also, I have had discussions with the Republican leader. We finished a conversation a short time ago. I indicated last Friday I would delay filing cloture on the motion to proceed to the immigration bill until today so that negotiations could continue. That cloture vote will occur now on Wednesday.

The Republican leader and I will continue our discussions about the best way to proceed with the supplemental. The bill is expected to be received from the House today and will be placed on the Senate calendar when it arrives. The Senate must complete action on the supplemental this week so it can be conferenced with the House and sent to the President prior to the scheduled Memorial Day recess. It will occur. That is, the conference will be completed or we will delay our recess.

In addition, the Senate can expect to receive a conference vote on the budget sometime later this week. We need to act on that also. Under the Budget Act, debate time is limited to 10 hours.

So a busy week lies ahead for us in the Senate. We have one week after this before the Memorial Day break.

HONORING 2007 NATIONAL POLICE WEEK

Mr. REID. Mr. President, this weekend I had the good fortune of having my brother in town. My brother Don is the oldest of four boys. He is 12 years older than I. He served in the Marine Corps, and during the Korean War he served in the Army. It was a wonderful time we had yesterday. Among other things, we went to Arlington National Cemetery. He wanted to go there.

I have been here a long time. I went to law school here, and I now have been in Congress for about 25 years. You don't often take the opportunity—because you are busy doing other things—to visit the wonderful attractions there are in the District of Columbia area.

Arlington Cemetery is a place that every Member of Congress should go once in a while. It is amazing to see all those graves. I went, as I have on a number of occasions, to President Kennedy's grave site. We saw the eternal flame. He is there with his two babies and his wonderful wife.

We watched the changing of the guard at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. We visited the Iwo Jima memorial—it is called the Marine Corps Memorial. Iwo Jima is mentioned there. I have been reading a lot about that lately. There are some books, such as Flags of Our Fathers—I don't want to hurt Clint Eastwood's feelings, but

● This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

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the book is much better than his movie. It is a wonderful book about the people who raised the flag over Iwo Jima. That was quite a battle on that little island. The fighting lasted 40 days. Seven thousand Americans were killed and 20,000 wounded. During the first few days, hundreds were being killed every day. Even though that battle lasted a little over a month, a significant percentage of all of the Medals of Honor that were awarded during that war were awarded to the Battle of Iwo Jima.

So, Mr. President, for me to go yesterday to the cemetery at Arlington and see the eternal flame at President Kennedy's grave, to go to the Iwo Jima monument speaks in words that cannot be described in just the setting rather than the actual words you are hearing of the uncommon valor of the courageous American men and women in uniform serving overseas.

On Saturday, we also visited the World War II monument, the relatively new monument in the area. We went to the FDR Memorial, Lincoln's monument. These are things I enjoyed doing, but I especially enjoyed them because my brother was there with me.

Our troops serve as we speak with great valor overseas. Thousands and thousands more do the same for us here at home.

Last night, National Police Week kicked off with a candlelight vigil at the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial. President Kennedy actually designated May 15 of every year as the ''National Peace Officers Memorial Day'' and the week surrounding it ''Police Week.'' Forty-five years later, our commitment to honor the memories of officers lost in the line of duty, police officers lost in the line of duty, as well as those who continue to serve us, remains as strong as ever.

At last night's candlelight vigil, the names of all 145 officers killed in the line of duty in 2006 were read. One of those names was Sgt. Henry Prendes of Las Vegas. He was a member of the Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department.

On February 1, 2006, Sergeant Prendes was the first to respond to a domestic violence call involving a man brutally beating a woman. As Sergeant Prendes approached the suspect, he was fatally shot and killed by a semiautomatic rifle.

Sergeant Prendes had spent 14 years on the force protecting the people of Las Vegas.

His wife Dawn and daughters Brooke and Kylee are in Washington this week to honor their husband and father.

It is impossible to imagine the void left in Dawn, Brooke, and Kylee's hearts. Perhaps that void will be eased in some small way by the pride in knowing that their father and husband served his community and our country with extraordinary courage and uncommon valor.

During this National Police Week, the memory of Sergeant Prendes and all those who have likewise fallen in the line of duty this year and in years past are foremost in our thoughts.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

MORNING BUSINESS

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, there will be a period for the transaction of morning business until 3 p.m., with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each and the time equally divided between the two leaders or their designees.

The Senator from Iowa is recognized.

WHISTLEBLOWER WEEK IN WASHINGTON

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I announced today the kickoff of whistleblower week in Washington. This week, and the events surrounding it, are designed to promote, to celebrate, and to educate Congress and the public about the courage and the patriotism of our whistleblowers. These individuals often risk their careers to expose fraud, waste, and abuse in an effort to protect not only the health and safety of the American people but also the Federal Treasury and taxpayer dollars.

This week's events promoting and celebrating whistleblowers are important for all Members of Congress and for the public as well. By highlighting what whistleblowers do, we provide insight into what it means to be a whistleblower and the important role they play in Government and society.

For over two decades, I have learned from, appreciated, and honored whistleblowers. Congress needs to make a special note of the role that whistleblowers play in helping us to fulfill our constitutional duty of conducting oversight of the executive branch of Government or what we learn in high school government classes called checks and balances.

As a Senator, I have conducted extensive oversight into virtually all aspects of the Federal bureaucracy. Despite the differences in cases from agency to agency and from department to department, one constant remains: the need for information and the need for insight from whistleblowers. This information is vital to effective congressional oversight, the constitutional responsibility of Congress, in addition to legislating.

Documents alone are insufficient when it comes to understanding a dysfunctional bureaucracy. Only whistleblowers can explain why something is wrong and provide the best evidence to prove it. Moreover, only whistleblowers can help us truly understand problems with the culture of Government agencies, because without changing the culture, business as usual is the rule.

Whistleblowers have been instrumental in uncovering $700 being spent on toilet seats in the Department of Defense. These American heroes were also critical in our learning about how the Food and Drug Administration missed the boat and approved Vioxx, how Government contracts were inappropriately steered at the General Services Administration, and how the corporation Enron was cooking the books and ripping off investors. Courageous employees blew the whistle and shed much needed sunlight on the problems that would otherwise never see the light of day.

Similar to all whistleblowers, each whistleblower in these cases demonstrated tremendous courage. They stuck their neck out for the good of all of us. They spoke the truth. They didn't take the easy way out by going along to get along or by looking the other way when they saw that things were wrong and that there was wrongdoing.

The whistleblower whom I call the grandfather of all whistleblowers, Ernie Fitzgerald, of about 30 years of Department of Defense fame as an auditor, says that the only thing that whistleblowers commit—let me say it this way: The only thing that whistleblowers do, and it ends up getting them in trouble is, in his words, ''commit truth.'' For committing truth, then, they are about as welcome as a skunk at a Sunday afternoon picnic with the bureaucracies they are within.

I have said it for many years without avail, and it probably will not be of avail, that I would like to see the President of the United States—and I have said this to four different Presidents—have a Rose Garden ceremony honoring whistleblowers. This would send a message from the very top of the bureaucracy, which is the Presidency of the United States, and to the bottom of the bureaucracy about the importance and value of whistleblowers.

They deserve this attention, and we all ought to be grateful for what they do and appreciate the very difficult circumstances they often have to endure to do whistleblowing—or as Fitzgerald says, ''committing truth''—because in the end they sacrifice their family's finances, oftentimes their employability, and the attempts by powerful interest groups to actually smear their good names and good intentions.

Earlier today, I had the opportunity to speak at a panel that gathered to discuss the plight of whistleblowers at the Federal Bureau of Investigation. These individuals discussed the hurdles they face in exposing the truth—or, according to Fitzgerald, ''committing truth.'' Further, they discussed the lengths at which some bureaucrats will go to prevent the truth from getting out.

Unfortunately, these former agents also discussed a culture that keeps problems internal and the circling of wagons within the bureaucracy when

things go wrong. Oftentimes, this culture ''shoots'' the whistleblower instead of addressing the problem.

Mr. President, retaliation against whistleblowers should not be tolerated. We have an obligation to ensure that those who retaliate are punished. Congress has recognized the need to protect whistleblowers, and I have used my experience working with whistleblowers to promote legislation that protects them from retaliation—legislation such as the Whistleblower Protection Act, the Sarbanes-Oxley Act, and the False Claims Act.

These acts all recognize the benefits of whistleblowers and offer protection to those seeking to uncover the truth. For example, whistleblowers have used the False Claims Act to help the Federal Government recover nearly $20 billion since Congress passed my amendments in 1986. I think the deterrent effect—if you can quantify it—would be many times the $20 billion of hard cash that has actually come back into the Federal Treasury. These laws I gave are a good step. However, our work in this field is unfinished and more can be done.

The next step in protecting whistleblowers was filed in January and is currently pending before this body. It is S. 274, the Federal Employee Protection of Disclosures Act, which will provide much needed updates to Federal whistleblower protections. I am proud to be an original cosponsor of S. 274 and believe the Senate should move this important legislation. Unfortunately, this bill was introduced but not addressed in the last Congress. It is my hope this Chamber will act on S. 274 and improve the protections for whistleblowers.

I urge all of my colleagues to join in support of S. 274 and swiftly move this important legislation to help protect whistleblowers further than present law does. I also urge all of my colleagues to attend the events that are occurring all week to help celebrate whistleblowers, point out that this is an important tool in the checks and balances of our Government, and all that whistleblowers have done to benefit the work of Congress and, more important, all they have done to make America safer, stronger, a better nation, and to make sure we get our dollars' worth for the taxpayers' dollars.

ALTERNATIVE MINIMUM TAX

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I have addressed my colleagues many times over the past few months to advocate for the American families who will pay the alternative minimum tax in 2007. You have all heard me say the AMT is an absolutely maddening tax that has insidiously crept into the homes of more and more families each year and that it should be repealed.

The AMT was first installed by Congress in 1969. It created a two-tiered tax system, and that tax system still exists. It essentially pieced together a backup tax to ensure that the wealthiest taxpayers among us did not evade income taxes altogether through the use of tax shelters, loopholes, and deductions—albeit all legal—in the labyrinth of the Federal Tax Code.

The road to tax fairness is paved with good intentions, but this one—the AMT—has created a giant-sized pothole that is going to drive middle-income taxpayers batty. Unlike the Federal income tax, the AMT is not indexed for inflation. That means more and more middle-income taxpayers are being slapped with higher tax rates and fewer exemptions, credits, and deductions as they fall under the creeping shadow of this 36-year-old stealth tax.

On top of the unfair tax burden is its mind-boggling complexity. No wonder the AMT is causing major heartburn among more and more families across America, especially those who live in high-tax States and have three or four children. That is because the AMT causes taxpayers to lose standard deductions for State and local tax payments and for personal exemptions, even including spouses and children.

In 2004, about 3 million taxpayers—about 2 percent of all taxpayers—were subject to the AMT. But without congressional action, up to 23 million taxpayers are, right now, subjected to the AMT during this 2007 tax year. In order to prevent this, my friend and chairman of the Finance Committee, MAX BAUCUS, and I introduced legislation on the first day of the 110th Congress to repeal the individual alternative minimum tax beginning in the 2007 tax year.

My colleagues have also heard me say the AMT has expanded beyond its original intent and that it is now a tax that Congress never intended to collect—meaning they never intended to collect it from 23 million taxpayers who are right now hit with it, who would not have been hit with it before, and were never intended to be hit with it.

Over the past 6 years, Congress has had to enact a series of what I call ''patches'' to prevent the AMT from hitting more and more middle-class Americans—a class of taxpayers never intended to be taxed by it. More recently, Congress acted to prevent millions of taxpayers from receiving this surprise on their 2006 tax returns by including an extension of AMT relief in the Tax Increase Prevention and Reconciliation Act of 2005. This provision extended the AMT exemption that was initiated in the Jobs and Growth Tax Relief Reconciliation Act of 2003 through the year 2006 but at a higher level. The exemption for married couples filing jointly was increased from $58,000 to $62,550.

This week, in fact, marks the 1-year anniversary of the enactment of the conference agreement of that last act. That act contained the AMT ''patch'' for 2006. Nearly 20 million American families who were exempt from the AMT before that because of the 2006 patch knew at this time last year that Congress was moving to relieve the AMT burden for the whole year of 2006. This year, those very families, plus several million more, have no such assurance by this Congress.

Now, to the contrary, the Democratic leadership, now the majority in this Congress, doesn't appear to be moving any legislation to address the AMT. I would be happy for them to move the Baucus-Grassley repeal bill. I know our chairman, Senator BAUCUS, is like me, concerned about the uncertainty caused by the inaction of the leadership.

The Tax Code has a thicket of problems requiring attention. But this one—the AMT—is the thorniest and must be addressed not later, but we must address it right now. Some of you may wonder why this is a pressing issue. Why can this not wait for an AMT patch at the end of the year? This is the reason: It is because 23 million American families who are subjected to the AMT in 2007 are dealing now with the uncertainty of whether, by hook or by crook, they must come up with the money to set aside to pay that tax in April of next year. Many of them—just check the instructions from the 2007 estimated tax payment forms—don't have the option of waiting until next April because they have to file their estimated tax payments quarterly this very year.

So some of them filing, on April 15, a quarterly report had to figure in that alternative minimum tax and set money aside and send it into the Treasury because the here and now is here and now for those 23 million people, or the ones who have to file quarterly returns.

Those families have already seen that first estimated tax payment come and go. Hopefully, they had some refund coming to them from last year they were able to offset against a portion of that first payment. Of course, we know many of them had to shell out the tax and send the Federal Government more of their hard-earned money with that first estimated tax payment last month.

Unfortunately, as unpopular as the AMT is among taxpayers and policymakers, it is not easy to simply erase it from the books because of the massive amount of revenue that it is set to raise over the next decade. That is funny because this is coming from taxpayers never intended to be taxed by it in the first place. That is how idiotic this can get.

Until recently, I had hoped the Senate was unified in not wanting to collect the AMT for this year or any future year. On March 23, I offered an amendment to the 2008 Senate budget resolution that would have required Congress to stop spending amounts that are scheduled to come into the Federal coffers through the AMT—from middle-income taxpayers who were never intended to pay it in the first place. This would have put some honesty back into our budgeting process.

However, not a single colleague on the other side of the aisle voted in its favor. Repealing the AMT would put lawmakers on notice to either trim Federal spending by a like amount or be transparent about the revenue base.

On the House side, we hear that the Ways and Means Committee is doing a lot of talking about the AMT, but they have yet to move to action. We are forced to wonder what their plans may be. To do that, we need only read what they have been saying and think through the conclusions on such proposals.

It has been reported that some in the other body—the majority party, the Democrats—plan to exempt everybody who earns less than $250,000 a year from the AMT. It sounds to me as if they might be on the right track to full repeal when I hear that. However, we need to follow through on what exactly they would do if they insist on providing pay-fors to cover the lost revenue under the new pay-go rules that are being adopted.

One option is reportedly being floated on the House side which is to pay for a $250,000 AMT exclusion by raising the top marginal income tax rate. Well, we have found some shocking numbers when we examine that issue further. In order to exempt folks who earn less than $250,000 from the AMT, if you insist on raising taxes to offset it, you would have to raise the top marginal tax rate to over 46 percent.

Now, we have a chart showing the top marginal tax rate. Back in the 1970s, it was 70 percent, and it gradually went down to a low of 28 percent. Now it is back at 35 percent, and the red mark would have the highest marginal tax rates that we have had since 1980. I will take a few minutes to put that regular income tax rate into a historical perspective.

In 1913, when less than 1 percent of the population was subject to the income tax, the rate ranged from 1 percent to 7 percent. Rates increased significantly during the 1920s, 1930s, and 1940s, up to a top marginal tax rate of over 90 percent. The concept of deduction for home mortgages, interest, charitable contributions, State and local taxes, to name a few, became ingrained in the code during that period of stifling high tax rates.

During the President Kennedy administration, tax rates were reduced from 91 percent to 70 percent on the highest income levels, and rates fell again during the Reagan administration, first from 70 percent to 50 percent, and then again the top marginal tax rate was 28 percent by the 1986 Tax Act. The top rate now stands at 35 percent.

It is important to remember that when we look at those historical rates, the tax base was narrower prior to 1986 than it is today. Many phaseout and phasein concepts took hold in 1986, such as PEP and Pease limits. Today, substantially all individual tax incentives are phased out and capped, and the result of this base broadening is that if the Tax Code were to approach a tax rate similar to the highest marginal rate under the more narrow pre-1986 tax base, it would result in substantially higher effective tax rates than in the pre-1986 tax rates. A marginal regular income tax rate of over 46 percent may actually exceed the top effective rate that was in place before 1986 because of the increase in the tax base.

Another option that may be working its way through the mill on the House side is to pay for that exemption by raising the top alternative minimum tax rate. Again, with that option, the tax rate increase is staggering. The top AMT rate would go up to nearly 37 percent.

There is a popular misconception that Congress can sit on its hands on tax policy before the next election and that there will be no tax increase until 2011. While that view is comforting, it is uninformed. Just enacting the alternative minimum tax patch for 2007 will cost over $50 billion. That also means that without doing the patch, Americans then will pay the $50 billion higher alternative minimum tax, and it is coming from middle-income taxpayers who were never intended to be taxed when the alternative minimum tax was put in place back in 1969. So we must act to prevent such an unfair tax increase.

The folks who voted against my amendment to take the AMT revenue off the table for the tax and spenders have some real explaining to do soon. It is possible that they will do nothing on the tax side. The result is a $50 billion tax increase on families, middle-income-tax families, who are going to be subject to the AMT for the first time and are subject to it right now, or they may propose some sort of exemption or relief that is paid for by other tax increases and face the music on proposing a massive tax increase on the neighbors of those who have been paying the AMT, or perhaps they may provide AMT relief but fiddle away the money in the budget anyway and increase the deficit.

I suggest that the tax and spenders consider learning to hum a different tune and spend within their means soon or folks may just figure out that they planned to raise their tax rates all along. So the sad reality is that while it is the new congressional majority that needs to face the music, it is likely to be the American taxpayers who will end up singing the blues.

I yield the floor and suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. WEBB). Without objection, it is so ordered.

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Morning business is closed.

WATER RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT ACT OF 2007

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the hour of 3 p.m. having arrived, the Senate will proceed to the consideration of H.R. 1495, which the clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 1495) to provide for the conservation and development of water and related resources, to authorize the Secretary of the Army to construct various projects for improvements to rivers and harbors of the United States, and for other purposes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senator from California is recognized to offer an amendment.

AMENDMENT NO. 1065

Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I call up amendment No. 1065.

It is an amendment in the nature of a substitute. I ask for its immediate consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from California [Mrs. BOXER], for herself and Mr. INHOFE, proposes an amendment numbered 1065.

Mrs. BOXER. I ask unanimous consent the reading of the amendment be dispensed with.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

(The amendment is printed in the RECORD of Thursday, May 10, 2007, under ''Text of Amendments.'')

AMENDMENT NO. 1086 TO AMENDMENT NO. 1065

Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I see my leader is here, but before he starts, I wish to also call up the Feingold amendment No. 1086, and ask that be brought up and laid aside and considered as read.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The clerk will report the amendment by number.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from California [Mrs. BOXER], for herself and Mr. FEINGOLD, proposes an amendment numbered 1086 to amendment No. 1065.

(The amendment is printed in the RECORD of Friday, May 11, 2007, under ''Text of Amendments.'')

Mrs. BOXER. I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader is recognized.

AMENDMENT NO. 1097

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I appreciate the manager of the bill, the chairman of the Environment and Public Works Committee, the distinguished Senator from California, allowing me to obtain the floor.

We all know 2 weeks ago President Bush vetoed the supplemental appropriations bill, a bill to fully fund the troops in Iraq and change the course of

that conflict in Iraq. Late last week, the House sent a new bill to the Senate. We received that within the past hour. The ball is now in our court, the Senate's court. Democrats and Republicans agree the Senate needs to get a bill in conference as soon as possible and we need to work together to make that happen.

I have had a number of conversations with Senator MCCONNELL the last several days. I spoke to him earlier today at some length. As much as we all recognize how badly we need to get a bill to conference, we have not, on this side of the aisle, lost sight of the fact that the American people have concluded the President's Iraq policy has failed and we are now demanding a new way forward on behalf of the American people.

In an effort to ensure quick Senate passage of our conference vehicle later this week, as well as to give Senators an opportunity to express their views on the President's Iraq policy, I will offer two important amendments. The first amendment is Feingold-Reid, to safely redeploy United States troops from Iraq by March 31 of next year, and transition the mission to fighting al-Qaida and other terrorist organizations, providing security for United States infrastructure and personnel, and training Iraqi forces.

Of course, after the 1st of April of next year, our troops will be in Iraq for counterterrorism, force protection—that is to protect American assets in Iraq—and to help train the Iraqis.

I will also offer a Levin-Reid amendment which is consistent with the bipartisan legislation approved by Congress with one change: It permits the President to waive the timeline for redeployments. It has in it some things some Members want very badly, including the Presiding Officer, to deal with how our troops are taken care of, how often they have to go back to battle, how much time they have to have before being returned to the battlefield after having been deployed. We will have votes on these two amendments at the earliest possible date. I will work with the distinguished Republican leader to see when that will happen. These votes represent an opportunity for the Senate to shape the important conference we hope will begin this week upon passage of the Senate version of the supplemental.

There is probably no end of amendments that could be offered, as I have here today, but on our side of the aisle, Democrats believe we should do something very close to what was done in the bill we sent to the President which he vetoed.

Basically that is what we have here—except getting the President the ability to waive the timelines we have in the legislation.

Finally, there are those on this side who believe there should be some end in sight. That is why I indicated that as of April 1 of next year, the funding would still go on but it would be limited to the counterterrorism, force protection, and training Iraqis.

It is very important to understand that transitioning this mission to fighting al-Qaida is a part of the recognition of what we and the American people believe is important. At present, as you know, American troops are over there protecting the Shias, protecting the Sunnis, protecting the Kurds, and at all times all these different elements are shooting at the Americans. We should limit our focus to al-Qaida.

Mr. President, I call up the Levin-Reid amendment first.

That is No. 1097.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Nevada [Mr. REID], for Mr. LEVIN, for himself and Mr. REID, proposes an amendment numbered 1097 to the language proposed to be stricken by amendment No. 1065.

Mr. REID. I ask unanimous consent the reading of the amendment be dispensed with.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The amendment is as follows:

AMENDMENT NO. 1097

SEC. 1. MILITARY READINESS—MISSION CAPABLE UNITS.

(a) Congress finds that it is Defense Department policy that units should not be deployed for combat unless they are rated ''fully mission capable''.

(b) None of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available in this or any other Act may be used to deploy any unit of the Armed Forces to Iraq unless the chief of the military department concerned has certified in writing to the Committees on Appropriations and the Committees on Armed Services at least 15 days in advance of the deployment that the unit is fully mission capable.

(c) For purposes of subsection (b), the term ''fully mission capable'' means capable of performing assigned mission essential tasks to prescribed standards under the conditions expected in the theater of operations, consistent with the guidelines set forth in the Department of Defense readiness reporting system.

(d) The President may waive the limitation prescribed in subsection (b) on a unit-by-unit basis by certifying in writing to the Committees on Appropriations and the Committees on Armed Services that he has authorized the deployment to Iraq of a unit that is not assessed fully mission capable and by submitting along with the certification a report in classified and unclassified form detailing the particular reason or reasons why the unit's deployment is necessary despite the chief of the military department's assessment that the unit is not fully mission capable.

SEC. 2. MILITARY READINESS—DURATION OF TOURS OF DUTY IN IRAQ.

(a) Congress finds that it is Defense Department policy that Army, Army Reserve, and National Guard units should not be deployed for combat beyond 365 days or that Marine Corps and Marine Corps Reserve units should not be deployed for combat beyond 210 days.

(b) None of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available in this or any other Act may be obligated or expended to initiate the development of, continue the development of, or execute any order that has the effect of extending the deployment for Operation Iraqi Freedom of—

(1) any unit of the Army, Army Reserve or Army National Guard beyond 365 days; or

(2) any unit of the Marine Corps or Marine Corps Reserve beyond 210 days.

(c) The President may waive the limitations prescribed in subsection (b) on a unit-by-unit basis by certifying in writing to the Committees on Appropriations and the Committees on Armed Services that he has authorized the extension of a unit's deployment in Iraq beyond the periods specified in subsection (b) and by submitting along with the certification a report in classified and unclassified form detailing the particular reason or reasons why the unit's extended deployment is necessary.

SEC. 3. MILITARY READINESS—MULTIPLE DEPLOYMENTS.

(a) Congress finds that it is Defense Department policy that Army, Army Reserve, and National Guard units should not be redeployed for combat if the unit has been deployed within the previous 365 consecutive days or that Marine Corps and Marine Corps Reserve units should not be redeployed for combat if the unit has been deployed within the previous 210 days.

(b) None of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available in this or any other Act may be obligated or expended to initiate the development of, continue the development of, or execute any order that has the effect of deploying for Operation Iraqi Freedom of—

(1) any unit of the Army, Army Reserve or Army National Guard if such unit has been deployed within the previous 365 consecutive days; or

(2) any unit of the Marine Corps or Marine Corps Reserve if such unit has been deployed within the previous 210 consecutive days.

(c) The President may waive the limitations prescribed in subsection (b) on a unit-by-unit basis by certifying in writing to the Committees on Appropriations and the Committees on Armed Services that he has authorized the redeployment of a unit to Iraq in advance of the periods specified in subsection (b) and by submitting along with the certification a report in classified and unclassified form detailing the particular reason or reasons why the unit's redeployment is necessary.

SEC. 4. BENCHMARKS.

(a) Beginning on July 15, 2007, and every 30 days thereafter, the Secretary of Defense and the Secretary of State, after consultation with the U.S. Ambassador to Iraq, Commander U.S. Central Command, and Commander, Multi-National Forces Iraq, shall jointly submit to Congress a report describing and assessing in detail the progress made by the Government of Iraq in meeting each of the benchmarks set forth in subsection (1), the security objectives set forth in the President's revised strategy of January 10, 2007, and answering the questions posed in subsections (2) and (3).

(1) whether the Government of Iraq has:

(i) enacted a broadly accepted hydro-carbon law that equitably shares oil revenues among all Iraqis;

(ii) adopted legislation necessary for the conduct of provincial and local elections including setting a schedule to conduct provincial and local elections;

(iii) reformed current laws governing the de-Baathification process to allow for more equitable treatment of individuals affected by such laws;

(iv) amended the Constitution of Iraq consistent with the principles contained in Article 140 of such constitution, including, at a minimum, the submission of such amendments to the Iraqi Parliament for the protection of minority rights; and

(v) allocated and expended $10,000,000,000 in Iraqi revenues for reconstruction projects,

including delivery of essential services, on an equitable basis.

(2) whether the Government of Iraq and United States Armed Forces has made substantial progress in reducing the level of sectarian violence in Iraq; and

(3) whether each battalion of the security forces of Iraq has achieved a level of combat proficiency such that it can conduct independent combat operations without support from Coalition forces in Iraq.

(b) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, 75 percent of the funds appropriated by this Act or any other act for assistance for Iraq under the headings ''Economic Support Fund'' and ''International Narcotics and Law Enforcement'' shall be withheld from obligation until the President certifies to the Committees on Appropriations, Armed Services and Foreign Relations of the Senate and the Commnittees on Appropriations, Armed Services and Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives that the Government of Iraq is making substantial progress towards meeting each of the benchmarks set forth in subsection (a)(1).

(c) The requirement to withhold funds from obligation pursuant to subsection (b) shall not apply with respect to funds made available under the heading ''Economic Support Fund'' for continued support for the Community Action Program and the Community Stabilization Program in Iraq administered by the United States Agency for International Development, or for programs and activities to promote democracy and human rights in Iraq.

SEC. 5. REDUCTION OF FORCES.

(a) Subject to the waiver authority provided for in subsection (e), the Secretary of Defense shall commence the reduction of the number of United States Armed Forces in Iraq not later than October 1, 2007, with a goal of completing such reduction within 180 days. The goal of completing such reduction shall be accelerated if the President is unable to report that the Government of Iraq is making substantial progress towards meeting each of the benchmarks set forth in subsection (a)(1) of Section 4 by October 15, 2007.

(b) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, funds appropriated or otherwise made available in this or any other Act are available for obligation and expenditure to plan and execute a safe and orderly reduction of the Armed Forces in Iraq.

(c) The reduction of forces required by this section shall be implemented as part of a comprehensive diplomatic, political, and economic strategy that includes sustained engagement with Iraq's neighbors and the international community for the purpose of working collectively to bring stability to Iraq.

(d) After the conclusion of the reduction required by this section, the Secretary of Defense may not deploy or maintain members of the Armed Forces in Iraq for any purpose other than the following:

(1) Protecting American diplomatic facilities and American citizens, including members of the U.S. armed forces;

(2) Serving in roles consistent with customary diplomatic positions;

(3) Engaging in targeted actions against members of al-Qaeda and allied parties and other terrorist organizations with global reach; and

(4) Training and equipping members of the Iraqi Security Forces.

(e) WAIVER AUTHORITY.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The President may waive the reduction of forces requirements of this section if he submits to Congress a written certification setting forth a detailed justification for the waiver, which shall include a detailed report describing the actions being taken by the United States to bring about the meeting of the benchmarks set forth in subsections (a)(1) of section ____ by the Iraqis. The certification shall be submitted in unclassified form, but may include a classified annex.

(2) DURATION.—The Waiver under paragraph (1) shall be effective for 90 days beginning on the date of the submittal of the certification under that paragraph.

(3) RENEWAL.—A waiver under paragraph (1) may be renewed if, before the end of the expiration of the waiver under paragraph (2), the President submits to Congress before the end of the effective period of the waiver under paragraph (2) a certification meeting the requirements of this subsection. Any waiver so renewed may be further renewed as provided in this paragraph.

AMENDMENT NO. 1098 TO AMENDMENT NO. 1097

Mr. REID. I now ask the clerk report the Feingold-Reid amendment No. 1098.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Nevada [Mr. REID], for Mr. FEINGOLD, for himself and Mr. REID, proposes an amendment numbered 1098 to amendment No. 1097.

Mr. REID. I ask unanimous consent the reading of the amendment be dispensed with.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The amendment is as follows:

(a) TRANSITION OF MISSION.—The President shall promptly transition the mission of United States forces in Iraq to the limited purposes set forth in subsection (d).

(b) COMMENCEMENT OF SAFE, PHASED REDEPLOYMENT FROM IRAQ.—The President shall commence the safe, phased redeployment of United States forces from Iraq that are not essential to the limited purposes set forth in subsection (d). Such redeployment shall begin not later than 120 days after the date of the enactment of this Act.

(c) PROHIBITION ON USE OF FUNDS.—No funds appropriated or otherwise made available under any provision of law may be obligated or expended to continue the deployment in Iraq of members of the United States Armed Forces after March 31, 2008.

(d) EXCEPTION FOR LIMITED PURPOSES.—The prohibition under subsection (c) shall not apply to the obligation or expenditure of funds for the limited purposes as follows:

(1) To conduct targeted operations, limited in duration and scope, against members of al Qaeda and other international terrorist organizations.

(2) To provide security for United States infrastructure and personnel.

(3) To train and equip Iraqi security services.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, on these amendments, I am a cosponsor of both.

I thank the manager very much. I hope she and Senator INHOFE can move the WRDA amendment along. It is an important piece of legislation for the whole country and it is way past due when we should have had this completed.

Mrs. BOXER. Before the leader leaves, I hope I can get the attention of the floor staff, to make sure—my understanding is you have now offered the amendments on Iraq to the underlying bill, but the text that is before us is clean of the Iraq amendments? I think it is a good thing to do because we can move on here with WRDA, as the amendments were applied to the underlying text, not to the amendment we are working on.

I thank my colleague for thinking it through. I am proud he is with us in wanting to move this WRDA bill forward.

Let a message go out we are going to move this bill forward. One of the reasons I say to my friend, thank you—I don't want to keep him here, I just want to thank him.

We have received a letter from the National Construction Alliance. It is the Laborers International Union of North America, the International Union of Operating Engineers, the United Brotherhood of Carpenters & Joiners of America.

The reason I am bringing this up is they are very strong supporters of WRDA. I think their letter lays out why, so I am actually going to read it so it goes into the RECORD at this point. It says:

Dear Senator BOXER and Senator INHOFE:

The National Construction Alliance, representing the three leading construction unions advocating for robust federal infrastructure investment, endorses the Senate version of the Water Resources Development Act reauthorization. This vital Federal infrastructure legislation should be considered and passed by the United States Senate. Our three constituent unions, the Laborers, Operating Engineers and the Carpenters, commend you both for your strong, bipartisan leadership on this legislation.

This gets to the heart of why Senator INHOFE and I and all on the committee believe so strongly about the bill.

The $13.9 billion authorization of Corps of Engineers projects is an important and necessary step in addressing our country's serious backlog of water projects. From harbor improvement to flood protection, to lock and dam construction, dredging and environmental infrastructure, your bill will immeasurably strengthen America's water resources. As labor unions representing nearly one million skilled construction workers, we recognize that this WRDA reauthorization will create tens of thousands of good paying construction jobs.

We strongly urge the Senate to pass your legislation in an expeditious manner so that America's critical water infrastructure needs can be addressed.

I say to the President—who is sitting in the chair today, as opposed to the President of the United States—he has so long been speaking about the problem of our loss of middle-class jobs. What is so important about this particular bill is that while we are doing things the Nation must have in order to grow and in order to protect itself from the ravages of Mother Nature, as we saw in Katrina—in the course of doing the right thing we are creating good jobs. It is a wonderful winner for everybody.

That is why we have more letters I want to share with colleagues. The American Society of Civil Engineers has added its voice to all these unions, to both Senator INHOFE and myself, saying they are very pleased with this bill, they are very pleased with the levee system fixes; they believe this is

overdue legislation and that it ensures we have learned the lessons from Hurricane Katrina. It ''goes far toward protecting human life and property in flood-prone areas.''

They ask us if the American Society of Civil Engineers can be of more assistance, please call them. We may, because we want everybody to weigh in here and help us.

We have a letter from the Audubon Society. You have heard from the business side, the union side, now the environmental side. They have a million members. They say, please, let's have prompt consideration of WRDA because it restores America's natural resources. It includes:

> . . . Corps modernization provisions, including independent review of costly or controversial Corps projects and ensuring that mitigation for Corps projects is consistent with stricter State laws.

This refers to the Corps' formula in the last bill which is embedded in this bill.

Audubon also talks about:

> . . . two crucial Everglades restoration projects—Indian River lagoon and Picayune Strand—that would mitigate harmful federal drainage projects, restore more than 160,000 acres of wetlands and significant estuarine habitat, and help secure Florida's tourism and outdoor recreation economy.

They also cite the upper Mississippi River restoration program, in its first 15-year increment, will preserve 105,000 acres of habitat; protect 35,000 acres of floodplain habitat in five States along the river.

The Coastal Louisiana restoration program will begin to reverse the devastating pattern of land loss, protecting important habitat for birds and fish and other wildlife as well as the region's economy and quality of life.

The bill permanently authorizes the Asian Carp Barrier to protect the Great Lakes from this looming threat. The Audubon Society, which is so well respected on both sides of the aisle, closes and says that ecosystem restoration projects for the Everglades, the Mississippi, Louisiana's coastal wetlands, and the Great Lakes are overdue, as is Corps modernization.

Then I will add to these letters, Mr. President, a letter from the National Association of Manufacturers. I mean, this is one of those bills that gets everybody's support. It is something that is important for everyone.

They say: On behalf of more than 14 million manufacturing employees in the U.S., they are thanking us for our leadership, and they are saying: Let's move forward with WRDA. It is important. They say that: America's water resources infrastructure needs to be reliable and productive.

They applaud our efforts and they say how vitally needed WRDA is, including the modernization of locks, harbors, canals, and other key infrastructure that is vital to America's competitiveness. They say: WRDA will authorize many of these needs. So that is the National Association of Manufacturers. So it goes on and on.

The Pacific Northwest Waterways Association has a similar letter that is very important to us. The American Farm Bureau. The American Farm Bureau has entered this, and they have written us saying it is a good bill, urging us to support WRDA, and they oppose any amendment that would hinder our progress in moving forward.

The corn growers of America, they have weighed in and they say: It is important. They have sent a letter to HARRY REID and MITCH MCCONNELL, our leaders, saying we need to have this bill. They need to have efficient transportation networks and so on. This is a very important letter, I think. They say that continued development of our water resources in an environmentally sound manner will contribute mightily to our Nation's well-being.

Congress needs to act now to address issues such as environmental restoration, navigation, flood control, hurricane protection, water supply, irrigation, beach nourishment, and recreation.

So that is yet another letter. The American Public Works Association has sent us a letter. They have a similar message: With adequate dredging, our ports and waterways are the backbone of our transportation system, ensuring domestic and international trade opportunities and low-cost, environmentally sensitive goods movements. It goes on.

Now, I have already placed some of those letters in the RECORD, and I am going to do it again today because I think every day, as colleagues will look at the RECORD, they will see their importance.

I ask unanimous consent to have these letters printed in the RECORD at the end of my remarks.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

(See exhibit 1.)

Mrs. BOXER. The reason I like to share these letters is that it shows the breadth of support this bill has. We know we come to the floor with a lot of legislation that is contentious, that is contentious between the parties, that is contentious with people throughout America, one group supports it. For example, the labor unions might but the bosses do not. This is a place where everybody comes together. I think that is very important.

So colleagues know what is happening today, you know we do not have votes today. But we are going to try to debate some amendments today. We have already debated the Feingold amendment, so that is ready to be voted on tomorrow. I understand that Senator COBURN is on his way over to offer at least the one—we are hoping three amendments. He can debate today, and then we can have votes on those as we agree between the sides. The way we have decided to handle this bill, because it has been such a delicate balance, is the following: We are working across party lines to come up with amendments we can agree to. We have taken the amendments that have been submitted thus far, and we are sort of categorizing those amendments in what is easy for us to agree to, what is more difficult. We are going to try to work through the easier amendments, and the more contentious ones we will have to have votes.

Now, what we call the big four of the committee, the Chairman of the full committee, the Chairman of the subcommittee, the ranking members of both the full committee and the subcommittee, we have made an agreement that we will oppose all amendments. Why are we doing this? Believe me, that is not an easy thing for us to do. We feel we have worked so closely, in a bipartisan fashion, we want to keep this bill totally bipartisan. We are trying to keep the most contentious items out of the bill to make sure it gets to the President's desk and he signs it.

Now, the good news is we have a score on the bill. That means how much the bill is scored at. It is $13.9 billion. It makes it lower than the House bill. This is very good news because we want to be fiscally responsible.

We also want to make sure all the projects in this bill meet certain criteria, that they have been studied, they have been looked at, that there is a fair cost share, unless there is an usual circumstance.

So Senator INHOFE has been very strong on conditions. I expect him to come to the floor very soon. He actually had a weekend trip to Iraq. I do appreciate the fact that he has gone and that he is going to be here, we believe, at about 3:30—as a matter of fact, in about 10 minutes—at which point I hope he will make some of his comments on this bill.

But the way we have set the bill up is we now have the committee substitute pending in the form of an amendment. Leader REID has sent forward two amendments, but they are not to the substitute bill, they are to the underlying bill about Iraq, as a way to expedite the consideration of the Iraq supplemental. He has done that with the knowledge of Senator MCCONNELL so there are no surprises here. We have discussed this with Senator FEINGOLD in terms of offering his amendment, which he already debated. That will be ready for a vote later. I hope we can set aside all these amendments and vote on them tomorrow morning at such time as the leader agrees.

At this point, since I think I have laid out the reason why we so much need this bill, after 7 long years of not having a WRDA bill, we so much need this bill, and we are so proud of the committee that they voted this bill out in a very harmonious way and that we are still working side by side, the majority and minority side, on crafting the amendments we need to push this over the finish line.

I look forward to the comments of Senator INHOFE. We also will, of course,

entertain the amendments of Senator TOM COBURN when he gets to the floor. I urge anybody else who wants to lay down amendments, please, you are absolutely welcome.

I understand Senator LANDRIEU would like the floor. So why don't I leave the floor with the understanding that if Senator INHOFE comes, would you wind down within 10 minutes so he can have the floor.

I yield the floor.

EXHIBIT 1

PACIFIC NORTHWEST
WATERWAYS ASSOCIATION,
Portland, OR, May 10, 2007.

Hon. BARBARA BOXER,
Chairman, Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works, Washington, DC

Hon. JAMES INHOFE,
Ranking Member, Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works, Washington, DC

DEAR CHAIRMAN BOXER AND SENATOR INHOFE, We write to urge your support for the reauthorization of the Water Resources Development Act in 2007.

WRDA is fundamentally important to the economic health of our nation and particularly important to the states of Oregon, Washington, Idaho and California. Our region depends on international trade to a greater extent than any other region in the United States. In Washington state, one in four jobs are related to international trade. Cost-effective, efficient, and environmentally sound trade and transportation corridors are imperative to secure our place in the global economy. Delay in WRDA means exacerbated backlogs which will dull our competitive edge.

The Pacific Northwest Waterways Association (PNWA) membership includes nearly 100 organizations in Oregon, Washington, Idaho and California. PNWA represents public port authorities on the Pacific Coast, Puget Sound, and Columbia Snake River System; public utility districts, investor-owned utilities, electric cooperatives and direct service industries; irrigation districts, grain growers and upriver and export elevator companies; major manufacturers in the Pacific Northwest; forest products industry manufacturers and shippers; and tug and barge operators, steamship operators, consulting engieneers, and others involved in economic development throughout the Pacific Northwest.

PNWA has a long history of working with the Committee and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers on projects of regional and national importance, sharing the challenge to maintain and develop our transportation infrastructure. Our members wish to thank the Committee for its support of Pacific Northwest transportation programs and projects.

Issues of particular concern to the members of our Association follow:

MINIMUM DREDGE FLEET

The federally-owned hopper drege fleet and the Corps of Engineers' dredges *Essayons* and *Yaquina*, are particularly important to the maintenance of ports and harbors in the Pacific Northwest. The goals of Congressional actions in 1978, 1993 and 1996, which limited the utilization of the of the federal dredge fleet and provided increased opportunity for industry, have been meet.

Since passage of the Energy and Water Appropriations Act of 1993, designed to increase competition in the dredge industry, the number of private dredging contractors has declined. This is of concern because the Northwest has unique conditions such that, compared to other regions, Northwest ports depend to a greater degree on hopper dredging and on smaller class hopper dredges. The Government Accountability Office found in a March 2003 to Congress (GAO–03–382) that operating restrictions have imposed additional costs on the Corps' dredging program, but have not resulted in proven benefits to the taxpayer.

PNWA strongly supports the language included in your bill to lift operating restrictions from the *Essayons* and *Yaquina*, which will enable the Corps of Engineers to utilize the *Essayons* and *Yaquina* to the maximum extent possible to maintain Northwest ports, harbors and channels, consistent with the safe and efficient performance of their missions.

MAKING SECTION 214 PERMANENT

Section 214 of the Water Resources Development Act of 2000 (P.L. 106–541) provides the authority to the Secretary of the Army to accept and expend funds contributed by non-Federal public entities and to expedite the processing of permits. Section 214 has allowed local governments to move forward with vital infrastructure projects. By funding additional staff to work on specific, time-intensive permits, existing Corps staff members are able to process the significant permit application backlog much more quickly. Funding for additional Corps staff has resulted in a reduction of permit wait times not only for the funding entity, but for any individual or organization that makes an application with that District of the Corps.

This authority is currently scheduled to sunset on December 31, 2008. Though PNWA has been successful in working with Congress to secure short-term extensions for several years now, the time has come to give Corps regulatory offices as well as the contributing entities the predictability that would come with a permanent authority. PNWA strongly supports language in your bill that would make Section 214 permanent.

These provisions are strongly supported by PNWA's membership, and are important to improve the efficiency and cost competitiveness of Northwest ports engaging in international trade. Additional provisions that are supported by PNWA are included in the attached document, PNWA WRDA Requests. We appreciate the Committee's and Congress' attention to these important matters.

Sincerely,

KRISTIN MEIRA,
Government Relations Director.

PNWA MEMBER DIRECTORY

Alaska Assoc. of Port Managers & Harbormasters; Almota Elevator Company; Anderson-Perry & Associates, Inc.; Ball Janik LLP; Bell Buoy Crab Co.; Benton County PUD #1; Boise Cascade LLC; BST Associates; Central Washingotn Grain Growers, Inc.; CH2M Hill; Clark Public Utilities; Columbia Basin Development League; Columbia County Grain Growers, Inc; Columbia River Bar Pilots; Columbia River Pilots; Columbia River Steamship Operators Assoc.; Cowlitz County Board of Commissioners; David B. Barrows Environmental Consulting; Douglas County PUD #1; Dustra Group.

East Columbia Basin Irrigation District; Foss Maritime Company; Office of Peter Friedmann; Gallatin Group; Gordon Thomas Honeywell Gov't Affairs; Harris Group Inc.; ID Wheat Commission; Jan T. Fancher, CPA, PLLC; Jefferson Government Relations; Kalama Export Company; Kleinfelder, Inc.; Lampson International, LLC; Lewis-Clark Terminal Association; Longview Fibre Company; Manson Construction; Moffatt & Nichol; Northwest Grain Growers, Inc.; Northern Star Natural Gas; OR Economic & Community Development Department (OECDD).

Oregon Int'l Port of Coos Bay; Oregon Iron Works, Inc.; OR Wheat Growers League; Pacific Merchant Shipping Assoc. (PMSA); Pacific International Engineering (PIE); Parametrix; PB Ports & Marine, Inc.; PNGC Power; Pomeroy Grain Growers; Port of Anacortes; Port of Benton; Port of Brookings Harbor; Port of Camas-Washougal; Port of Cascade Locks; Port of Chelan County; Port of Chinook; Port of Clarkston; Port of Columbia County; Port of Garibaldi; Port of Gold Beach.

Port of Hood River; Port of Humboldt Bay; Port of Ilwaco, Port of Kalama; Port of Kennewick; Port of Klickitat; Port of Lewiston; Port of Longview; Port of Morrow; Port of Newport; Port of Pasco; Port of Port Angeles; Port of Portland; Port of Ridgefield; Port of Royal Slope; Port of Seattle; Port of Suislaw; Port of Skagit County; Port of St. Helens; Port of Sunnyside; Port of Tacoma; Port of Toledo; Port of Umatilla; Port of Umpqua; Port of Vancouver; Port of Walla Walla; Port of Whitman County; Port of Woodland; Potlatch Corporation; Presnell, Gage & Company; Preston Gates & Ellis LLP; Primeland Cooperatives; Reid Middleton, Inc.; The Research Group; RETEC Group; Schwabe, Williamson & Wyatt; Seattle Public Utilities; Shaver Transportation Company; Stoel Rives LLP; Teevin Brothers.

Tidewater Barge Lines; Ukiah Engineering Inc. (UEI); USA Dry Pea & Lentil Council; WA Association of Wheat Growers; WA Public Ports Association; WA State Office of Trade and Economic Development (CTED); WA State Potato Commission; WA Wheat Commission; Weyerhaeuser Company; Whitman County Growers.

MAY 10, 2007.

Hon. BARBARA BOXER,
Chairwoman, Senate Environment and Public Works Committee, Washington, DC.

DEAR MADAM CHAIRWOMAN: On behalf of more than 4 million manufacturing employees in the U.S., we would like to thank you for your leadership in moving forward with the Water Resources Development Act of 2007 (WRDA). It is vitally important that America's water resources infrastructure be reliable and productive. Therefore we applaud your efforts to end the stalemate over water resources project authorization by bringing H.R. 1495, WRDA, to the Senate floor. We firmly believe that it is time to end the impasse over passage of WRDA.

A Water Resources Development Act is vitally needed to accommodate the many important projects awaiting authorization, including the modernization of the locks, harbors, canals and other key infrastructure that are vital to the competitiveness of the U.S. economy. A sound national transportation system for the 21st century needs modern water projects, and WRDA will authorize many of those needs.

We look forward to working with you and your staff and issues of importance to the nation's economy and environment. Again, thank you for your leadership.

Sincerely,

THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION
OF MANUFACTURERS.

AUDUBON,
May 10, 2007.

Re Act now to Restore America's Natural Treasures.

DEAR SENATOR: On behalf of the National Audubon Society and our more than one million members and supporters, I urge you to help restore America's natural resources by advocating for prompt consideration and passage of the Water Resources Development Act of 2007 (S. 1248). WRDA 2007 would authorize unprecedented spending for ecosystem restoration projects, including Everglades, upper Mississippi River, coastal Louisiana, and Great Lakes.

The bill should include Corps modernization provisions, including independent review of costly or controversial Corps projects and ensuring that mitigation for Corps projects is consistent with stricter State laws.

WRDA 2007 contains two crucial Everglades restoration projects—Indian River Lagoon and Picayune Strand—that would mitigate harmful federal drainage projects, restore more than 160,000 acres of wetlands and significant estuarine habitat, and help secure Florida's tourism and outdoor recreation economy. The Upper Mississippi River Restoration Program, in its first 15-year increment, will restore 105,000 acres of habitat, protect 35,000 acres of floodplain habitat in five States along the river, and will include a significant monitoring program. The Coastal Louisiana Restoration program will begin to reverse this devastating pattern of land loss, protecting important habitat for birds, fish, and other wildlife, as well as the region's economy and quality of life. The bill would also permanently authorize the Asian Carp Barrier to protect the Great Lakes from this looming threat.

Ecosystem restoration projects for the Everglades, the Mississippi River, Louisiana's coastal wetlands, and the Great Lakes are overdue, as is Corps modernization. Thank you for helping to restore some of America's greatest natural treasures.

Sincerely,

JOHN FLICKER,
President and CEO.

NATIONAL CONSTRUCTION ALLIANCE,
Washington DC, May 10, 2007.

Hon. BARBARA BOXER,
Chairwoman, Senate Environment and Public Works Committee, Washington, DC.
Hon. JAMES M. INHOFE,
Ranking Member, Senate Environment and Public Works Committee, Washington, DC.

DEAR SENATOR BOXER AND SENATOR INHOFE: The National Construction Alliance, representing the three leading construction unions advocating for robust federal infrastructure investment, endorses the Senate version of the Water Resource Development Act reauthorization. This vital federal infrastructure legislation should be. considered and passed by the United States Senate. Our three constituent unions, the Laborers. Operating Engineers and the Carpenters, commend you both for your strong, bipartisan leadership on this legislation.

The $13.9 billion authorization of Corps of Engineers projects is an important and necessary step in addressing our country's serious backlog of water projects. From harbor improvement, to flood protection, to lock and dam construction, dredging and environmental infrastructure. your bill will immeasurably strengthen America's water resources. As labor unions representing nearly one million skilled construction workers, we recognize that this WRDA reauthorization will create tens of thousands of good paying construction jobs.

We strongly urge the Senate to pass your legislation in an expeditious manner so that America's critical water infrastructure needs can be addressed.

Sincerely,

RAYMOND J. POUPORE,
Executive Vice Pesident.

AMERICAN SOCIETY OF CIVIL ENGINEERS,
Washington, DC, May 10, 2007.

Hon. BARBARA BOXER,
Chair, Committee on Environment and Public Works, U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.
Hon. JAMES INHOFE,
Ranking Member, Committee on Environment and Public Works, U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

DEAR MADAM CHAIRWOMAN AND SENATOR INHOFE: As the Senate begins its consideration of the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) of 2007 this week, the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) commends your efforts to bring a bipartisan bill to the floor. We appreciate your commitment to moving forward with responsible legislation to authorize much-needed improvements to the nation's water resources and public works infrastructure. We support WRDA's speedy passage into law.

ASCE is especially pleased to champion enactment of subtitle C of the Senate bill, which would require the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to establish a national levee safety program. Subtitle C would authorize the Secretary to spend $100 million to inspect and inventory the nation's levee systems and fund state levee safety programs. This long overdue legislation ensures that we have learned the lessons from Hurricane Katrina and goes far toward protecting human life and property in flood-prone areas.

If ASCE can be of further assistance as this important legislation advances, please do not hesitate to contact Brian Pallasch of our Washington office.

Sincerely yours,

PATRICK J. NATALE,
Executive Director.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Louisiana is recognized.

Ms. LANDRIEU. Mr. President, I come to the floor to speak for a few moments about probably one of the most important bills that this Congress will consider relative to Louisiana and our ongoing attempt to protect the 3 million people who live in south Louisiana and also to protect the great infrastructure we have in this country, in a vast and broad way, not just from the energy sector but the fisheries but, most importantly, transportation and commerce.

There was an excellent article in the Post this weekend that I would like to have printed for the RECORD, written by one of the most distinguished citizens of our State, John Barry, who is a renowned author who wrote the book ''Rising Tide,'' also a recent book about the influenza of 1917.

But he writes, in reference to the WRDA bill and to the amendments I am going to be offering to this bill, about the importance of acting now to save this great region of the Southern part of the United States, and the fact that this delta that we are attempting to save by building the right kind of levees, the right kind of gates and locks, the right kind of navigation channels, correcting some of our past mistakes that we made before we realized the damage that would occur by some of our own actions.

He writes about the importance of this Delta, that at one time it reached from Cape Girardeau, MO, all the way up the Mississippi River, down to the present mouth of the river, that the entire delta, that it was created over thousands of years, and it was maintained as the river overflowed its banks. As the river overflowed, it carried silt. It built the Delta.

But as we have channeled the delta, channeled the river and built levees up along the river, we have caused the natural building up of the delta to stop.

Then as we cut channels through this great and amazing land, that reaches from the east of New Orleans all the way to the Texas-Louisiana border, as we crisscross it with pipelines and navigation channels to tap into the extraordinary oil and gas reserves both on land and offshore, it exacerbates an already tough situation.

Then to level on top of that the dredging of the Mississippi River, to keep the sandbars out of the mouth, the channel as we have made the water move faster, that has an impact on the way this delta is now lowering itself, if you will, into the water.

There are other contributing factors, but the bottom line is we have to take corrective action to reverse this. We cannot correct everything that we did, but we most certainly can pass this bill, the WRDA bill, the Water Resources Development Act, which has—about 22 percent of the entire bill is dedicated basically to this purpose

It is right that a large portion of this bill be dedicated to this purpose because this delta, this Mississippi River, does not just serve the 4.5 million people who call Louisiana home but it literally serves the 360 million people who call the United States of America home. It serves Canada and Mexico as well, as well as ports around the world. So it is not just for the people of Louisiana whom we act today, it is in the national interest to do so.

In the underlying bill, which Senator BOXER and Senator INHOFE have so carefully crafted, the Louisiana Coastal Area Ecosystem Restoration system has $1.133 billion. Morganza to the Gulf, a very important aspect of our protection of south Louisiana, is included in this bill at $841 million.

Some port work at the Port of New Iberia for Vermilion and Iberia Parishes, which are two of our larger southern parishes, has an authorization that is overdue and most certainly timely. There is an amount of money to help relocate facilities from the Mississippi River Gulf Outlet, both private and public, so we can close the Mississippi River Gulf Outlet, which is also, hopefully, going to be part of this bill, some work on the western side of our State, the Calcasieu River and Pass and rock bank protection, and there is a lock project around the capital city, to mention a few.

The bottom line is, there is about $2.5 billion in this bill for Louisiana projects. It sounds like a lot, and it is. We are proud of the 8 years of work that have gone into building this WRDA bill, through past Congresses

and now this one. Under the leadership of Senator BOXER, she has committed to work with her colleague, Mr. OBERSTAR, on the House side to get a WRDA bill to the President's desk for him to sign. It doesn't do us any good to keep talking about a WRDA bill.

The only good that will come of this bill is if we can actually get it to the President's desk, get him to sign it, and get these projects underway. The people of Louisiana have waited for 8 years through any number of hurricanes, not the least of which in the last 2 years, we have had the unbelievable challenge of dealing with Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, the first and third largest hurricanes in terms of disaster and impact to ever hit this country. We are still fighting to rebuild and reeling from the damage of those storms. As I have said many times, it wasn't just the multiple levees that collapsed, it was really a Federal flood more than a hurricane that did us in. It was the multiple failure of levees that should have been maintained, should have been stronger, should have been higher, and were not.

It is also because of the loss of great wetlands. I would like to share what a healthy wetland looks like, with cyprus trees and land where you can do a little swimming and boating and fishing—not, of course, a lot of walking and building. This wetland stretches from east of New Orleans to the Sabine River pass, which separates Louisiana and Texas. This is a lot of what our coast looks like. This doesn't look like a Florida beach or the Biloxi beach or the North Carolina beach. We actually don't have any beaches in Louisiana. We actually only have two. That is a little bit of a fib. We do have two. One is 7 miles long, and it is called Grand Isle, and the other one is Holly Beach. The rest of our coast basically looks like this. You can't even get to it because there are only two roads, two lanes each. We don't have any interstate highways on our coast. We have two two-lane roads, one down the east side of our State and one down the west. They basically dead-end into swampland. This is not wasteland. This is beautiful land. It nurtures migratory birds. It is 40 percent of the nurseries of the gulf coast, extraordinary wetlands we are trying to preserve. Without this bill, it will be impossible.

I would like to show a poster. I see Senator COBURN here, and I will finish in just a moment. I will resume after his comments.

As Senator BOXER knows, because she came down and flew over these wetlands—I am so grateful to my colleague from California, the chairman of this committee, for coming to fly over these wetlands—we flew over New Orleans, which is right here, and out to the coast. We got to see some of these wetlands. This is the coast of Louisiana. The red spots are land loss just since Katrina and Rita, the land loss from the storm. A lot of it is St. Bernard Parish, lower Plaquemine Parish, and then over this way, which is where Hurricane Rita made landfall. So hurricanes exacerbate an already difficult situation. But because we have been putting navigation channels through these wetlands, we have been allowing for shipping, which is appropriate, but you have to have the right locks and dams and water control structures. Because mostly we have blocked the great Mississippi River, which is the largest river system on our continent, from naturally overflowing so that we could ship the grain out of the Midwest, so we could ship products from Canada down to the midsection of our country, this delta is starved for sediment. We don't have a choice.

I am going to end now by saying that this WRDA bill, as far as Louisiana is concerned, is the bill that is going to reverse this decline and start us on a path of safety for the residents, of protection for the environment, and of laying down the foundation for a great economy, which we need to do. We can't shut off this part of the Nation and call it quits. We can't shut down the refining capacity and oil and gas. We have to make it work. We can. It is going to take good science, long commitments, and more than this WRDA bill. But this legislation is a start.

In a few minutes, after Senator COBURN speaks, I will lay down an amendment that will lay the foundation for the category 5 protection we need. We do not expect, in Louisiana, this Congress to pick up the whole tab. We most certainly do not expect this Congress to pick up the tab in this bill. But we would like to lay the beginning foundation, knowing the people of Louisiana and Mississippi and Texas will pay our own way as well. The independent stream of revenue we now have from offshore oil and gas revenues can contribute to this project which is going to be several decades, and it will take anywhere from $30 to $50 billion. But there is no alternative. It is expensive, but the cost of doing nothing is even more.

Let me yield the floor for the Senator from Oklahoma who was scheduled before me. I will return to the debate at a later time.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Oklahoma.

Mr. COBURN. Mr. President, I have a couple amendments I will be offering in a few minutes. I wanted to spend a moment or two talking about priorities.

The work on the WRDA bill has been very important. I am supportive of us keeping our obligations, especially in Louisiana for the tremendous problems they have encountered. There is a legitimate role for the Federal Government as a partner with the people of Louisiana, Mississippi, and Texas in terms of restoration and also prevention so that we don't see the same things again. The WRDA bill is an important bill for a lot of States on a lot of projects, many of which have come about because the Federal Government has overreached in some of its authority and demanded things of States they can no longer afford to do. That is where we sit today. That is the consequence sometimes of having a Federal Government that is a little bit bigger than what the Constitution envisioned and what our Forefathers envisioned as appropriate.

Let me talk about the process for a minute. The chairman asked me a moment ago if I was going to offer any other amendments other than amendments on this bill. I told her no, and I will not. But I think it is important for the American people to consider what we are doing here today. It is important work, but it certainly is not as important as funding our troops. We have asked American families and their children who are serving in the armed services to do a very difficult job. It is very controversial at this time. But regardless of where you are on that job, the fact that we continue to produce bills and not address their needs seems somewhat out of context for where we should be. It has been almost 60 days since the President asked for the additional funding. We have passed the COMPETES Act, spending money on the future, but we can't seem to pass the money for our troops in harm's way. We passed an FDA reauthorization with PDUFA for making sure drugs get cleared, but we can't seem to produce a consensus that our troops will be funded with the necessities they require since they are in harm's way. I find it ironic that we would do anything other than that.

When I look at the Constitution, our No. 1 priority is defense. Whether or not we agree with the foreign policy ongoing today, we all agree we don't want our troops to be in any way placed in harm's way because of our lack of action. That is a justified criticism today which may come true, that American troops are hampered because we cannot pass a bill. I won't offer that amendment, although I think that is what we should be discussing, rather than the WRDA bill.

I thank my colleagues, Senators INHOFE and BOXER, for their work on this bill. I know it means a lot to a lot of communities that don't have the resources to accomplish the things they need to. However, one of the things I am concerned about is priorities. Last year, we had a debate on the emergency status of funding the levees in Sacramento. I had offered an amendment. I talked with the Governor of California, with the two Senators from California. Ultimately, I withdrew that because I became convinced that, in fact, it was an emergency. It still is. Sacramento is the largest town in this country that is at major risk for a flood. The Corps of Engineers uses years for an event, and Sacramento sits at 85 years, the likelihood that 1 out of the next 85 years, Sacramento will be flooded, whereas New Orleans today, even post-Katrina, has a 1-in-250-year risk of being flooded again.

As we look at the WRDA bill, one of the things we ought to think about is how do we prioritize to make sure that where there is a legitimate Government role, we actually spend the money on that role. There is a lot of money in this bill. Granted, this is an authorization bill which will put forward a lot of new projects, some of which we know the cost and some we don't.

I remind my colleagues, right now we have enough work for the Corps of Engineers for the next 50 years, if we don't give them another job to do on their budget. In this bill, we are going to give them several more major projects and not the appropriate funding to do them. One of the reasons we will not give them the appropriate funding is because we don't have the money because, No. 1, we have $200 billion a year in waste, fraud, and duplication in the money we appropriate presently, which the Senate and the Congress refuse to look at, and No. 2, because of the limitations we have in terms of the magnitude of the jobs we put before the Corps.

If you look at priorities in terms of what is important, California has several projects in this, as do several other States. You ask: What are the priorities? You say: We as a family have so many things we have to do. Should we do the most important ones first? If families have a roof they need to put on the house, it is highly unlikely they will build a swimming pool. They are going to fix the roof first and then save for the swimming pool. We don't do that in terms of many of the priorities in this bill.

Myself and seven other Members voted against going ahead with this bill for two reasons. No. 1 is the intent, although the details were not followed in terms of the new earmark proposals in the bill. No. 2 is that we think the priorities are out of whack.

I do have a couple of amendments I will offer.

AMENDMENT NO. 1089 TO AMENDMENT NO. 1065

I ask unanimous consent that the pending amendment be set aside and amendment 1089 be called up.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Oklahoma [Mr. COBURN] proposes an amendment numbered 1089 to amendment No. 1065

Mr. COBURN. I ask unanimous consent that reading of the amendment be dispensed with.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The amendment is as follows:

(Purpose: To prioritize Federal spending to ensure the needs of Louisiana residents who lost their homes as a result of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita are met before spending money to design or construct a nonessential visitors center)

On page 209, line 1, strike ''The'' and insert ''Subject to paragraph (5), the''.

On page 210, between lines 21 and 22, insert the following:

(5) REQUIREMENT.—No Federal funds shall be used to conduct any study, or to carry out any activity relating to the design or construction, of the visitors center under this subsection until the date on which the Secretary, in consultation with the Director of the Federal Emergency Management Agency, the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development, and the State of Louisiana, certifies to Congress that all residents of the State of Louisiana who were displaced as a result of Hurricane Katrina or Rita in 2005 are no longer living in temporary housing.

Mr. COBURN. This is a simple amendment. It says that there are 100,000 people from Louisiana today in temporary housing. We have failed to move them from temporary housing into other housing.

There are, in this bill, plans and studies for a new visitor center to be set up in Morgan City, which will be a great thing for the area of Louisiana. I do not doubt that. The purpose of this amendment is to say we should not spend any money on that until we get the people affected by Katrina back into housing instead of temporary housing.

So it is not necessarily a criticism, although I generally have criticisms of the Federal Government's role in providing visitor centers for tourism, et cetera, in the States. More importantly, it is about priorities, of whether we ought to take care of those people who have been markedly impaired in their housing opportunities, which ultimately affects their ability to earn a living in Louisiana, before we build another visitor center, before we spend any money on it. We attempted to try to find out how much this visitor center would cost, and nobody could tell us. But the point is, we probably should not spend a penny on that until we have taken care of the people in Louisiana.

If you look at the stories that continue to come out—and Senator LANDRIEU has been a champion in this body of making sure the rest of the Members of this body are aware of the continuing needs of Louisiana for housing—we should not spend any money on anything other than those critical needs for the people of Louisiana. When those are met, then we go and build a visitor center. We do not do it at the same time. To do it at the same time says there is no limit on the amount of funds we have, and we know there are. So we should not put this forward.

This amendment does not take away the visitor center, it does not eliminate the visitor center; it just says you cannot spend any money on it until we have taken care of people in Louisiana and their housing. It is very simple, very straightforward, but puts a priority, much like you and I put a priority on what our needs are. One of our big failures in this body is picking priorities. If we had unlimited funds, we would not need to do that, but we do not have unlimited funds. Our true deficit was far in excess of $300 billion last year, although we claimed it was under $200 billion by Enron-style accounting. But, in fact, we added $300 billion to our children's and grandchildren's debt.

So this is just a little, small amendment that says we should not do this until we have taken care of the obligations that are in front of us in terms of people's lives. When we have done that, then go for it, go do it, but do not do it ahead of those people. When people cannot have services, cannot have what they need, who have been displaced by a natural disaster the likes of which we have never seen before in this country, we should not spend one penny on thing other than taking care of them. Once they are taken care of—a legitimate Federal role, to make sure the environment for housing has been created so Louisiana can get back on its feet—then we ought to do that. So we are not eliminating it. We are just saying, do not spend the money, there is no authorization until you have met and it has been certified that the housing needs of those who are in temporary housing today—trailers, tens and tens of thousands of people are still living in trailers, who still do not have access to housing—do not do that until you have met that need. It is very simple.

Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, may I ask the Senator to yield for a question?

Mr. COBURN. Certainly.

Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, is the Senator now going to go to the second amendment?

Mr. COBURN. Mr. President, I plan on it.

Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, would it be wise to have the Senator from Louisiana respond now, and then the floor would go back to the Senator for the next amendment?

Mr. COBURN. Mr. President, I would be fine with that.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Louisiana.

Ms. LANDRIEU. Mr. President, let me respond to my colleague. I want to begin by first thanking my colleague from Oklahoma for his time and focus. He has come down to our State. He has viewed the damage. As you can tell, Mr. President, he is most familiar with our situation. He is absolutely correct, we have a great deal of work to do.

This particular visitor center, like several others, is not just for extra recreation, I say to my colleague. This is the heart and soul of tourism in this region. We do not have big cities like New York and Chicago in this region. Maybe they are somewhat like the Senator's cities in Oklahoma. They are small communities, but they are important communities. Throughout the southern part of our State, as I have shown on the maps, we do not have large communities but communities of 15,000 or 10,000, for example, high up on a ridge, surrounded by levees.

We are proud of these great wetlands. We want people to come see them. So it is not just saving them for the birds and the fish, which is very important, but it is actually saving them for the benefit of the people who live there, who want to be able to recreate on them, and we want to share them with the world.

I say to the Senator from Oklahoma, we think the more people can actually get their eyes on this problem, the more support we can get for doing the right things to preserve them, to taper down on unnecessary and unwanted development, to scale up the investments in the right kinds of levees and structures, that will help us preserve it over time.

So while I know on first blush it may seem to the Senator as if this is a frivolous expenditure, I would say this is part of a very comprehensive approach Louisiana has to save the wetlands. I do not think—I will be happy to submit for the RECORD the total cost because I most certainly can get that for the Senator—it is going to amount to very much money, but it is an important aspect of our redevelopment that has to do with science, with engineering, with the environment, with the basic industries, and with tourism and the education of people about what wetlands are.

I say to the Senator, as I said, one of the difficulties Senator VITTER and I are having in trying to explain this to the Nation is there are virtually no other shores in the country like this. There are low-lying areas, of course, in South Carolina and North Carolina, and marshes, but there is virtually no other delta like this in the country. So people literally have not been able to see it.

When you see something like a beach in Florida, the wonderful coast in California, which many of us have been to, or to Long Island in the Hamptons, in New York, when you have seen that with your own eyes, you can appreciate it, and you can understand it. The only way to get to the coast of Louisiana is literally by boat or by air, except for those two little highways I spoke about: LA1 on the east side and Holly Beach Road on the west side.

So having this center—I would like to show you where it might be, if I can find a picture of the Atchafalaya. I am not sure I have one. Let me show you the original picture I started with. I will show it, not to make too much of this because it is just a small education center. The center would allow people to come down into this wetlands area and see some of the great Atchafalaya Basin that is sort of the last standing Cyprus swamp in the country. So again, it is a small item.

I object to the Senator taking it out of this bill, but I want him to know this is not because we do not think it is important to put people in housing and to build levees. We are doing all that and doing it as fast as we can, trying to reduce redtape, but we do think these educational centers which we are building serve a significant and important purpose. I do believe the State has already contributed in kind, as well as the local parish.

So I will leave my argument there and at the appropriate time come back to this subject.

I yield the floor, but I would like to speak sometime later this afternoon.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Oklahoma.

Mr. COBURN. Mr. President, I thank the Senator for yielding.

I would like to make some comments. First of all, we do not take this out. We do not eliminate it. We just say there ought to be a priority on the funds, and the funds for housing ought to come ahead of this. No. 2 is, 3 years ago, a new visitor center was opened for this very purpose for the Atchafalaya Basin, which is the focus of the new visitor center. This just opened 3 years ago.

Again, in a quote from it: Smack dab in the center of the Atchafalaya Basin is a very welcoming site for those traveling on Interstate 10. The Atchafalaya Welcome Center is open seven days a week from 8:30 to 5. The center is located off Interstate 10 at exit 121. It is a first class facility, quite impressive, with historical information within the walls. It is an Acadian-style cottage museum. Outside, wildlife and nature will take you back in time.

It was completed in June 2004. It has many of the same things the Senator wants to support. There are also two other visitor centers in Morgan City, so it is not that there is not some process out there already to do that.

Again, the point is not to eliminate this visitor center. The point is to say, shouldn't we have a priority—before we allow money to go for another visitor center where there is already one that has just opened 3 years ago, shouldn't we have the people who need housing taken care of? So I will stand with that and will not continue the debate on that.

AMENDMENT NO. 1090 TO AMENDMENT NO. 1065

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the pending amendment be set aside and call up amendment No. 1090.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Oklahoma [Mr. COBURN] proposes an amendment numbered 1090 to amendment No. 1065.

Mr. COBURN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that reading of the amendment be dispensed with.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The amendment is as follows:

(Purpose: To prioritize Federal spending to ensure the residents of the city of Sacramento are protected from the threat of floods before spending money to add sand to beaches in San Diego)

On page 11, strike line 5 and insert the following:

(6) IMPERIAL BEACH, CALIFORNIA.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Subject to subparagraph (B), the

On page 11, between lines 15 and 16, insert the following:

(B) REQUIREMENT.—No Federal funds shall be used for beach nourishment for Imperial Beach, California, until the date on which the Secretary certifies to Congress that the Sacramento River Bank Protection Project has been completed.

Mr. COBURN. This, again, is for the restoration of beaches. It is a 30- or 40-year project, which I do not object to on its face. I love beaches. I take my family to Florida. I noticed recently they restored beaches down there. Again, the question is priorities. We have a tough time setting priorities. We take authorizations bills, we don't look at them. What we do is we get them authorized and then we fight like heck when the appropriations time comes around to get our projects funded.

The Sacramento levee system, according to the Corps of Engineers, is one of the most important projects they have in terms of reducing risk for people at risk of flood. We had a debate on this floor less than a year ago with the Senators from California. I talked to the Governor of California. I had attempted to strip out some of the funding of an emergency bill for emergency funds for the Corps of Engineers for this basin and for these levees. They convinced me with their argument that was a high priority. I actually withdrew my amendment. I did not ask for a vote on it.

We have a WRDA bill that has this in it, and then we have a beach restoration project, over which there is some significant debate in terms of Imperial Beach in southern California, restoring that beach over the next 40 to 50 years, with intermittent projects every 4 to 5 years, pumping sand to restore the beach. I am not against that, either. But what I think we have to do is set a priority.

Why shouldn't the priority be that we protect the people of Sacramento and finish the levee system? The answer will be: We can do both. Well, we really cannot do both. We will do both probably, but we cannot do both. We cannot do both with the money we have. So then it comes to: Where are the priorities? We will have this debate again when the bills come forward in the appropriations process, of where the priority is. We will probably fund both these projects. But when the American taxpayers ask: Now, which one is most important, which one is a true Federal responsibility, which one is a State responsibility, they are going to want some answers. When asked about protecting a major city such as Sacramento with a levee system that the Corps of Engineers designed, which was substandard to begin with, and redoing that to make sure we protect all these people, or letting the State of California restore its own beaches from sand erosion, I believe the vast majority of Americans will say: As to the beach, probably the local community can afford to do that. They get the benefits off of it. They get the property taxes off of it. They get the tourism off of it. But Sacramento is a different story. It is something the Federal Government started. It is something the Federal Government is responsible for, and something the Federal Government should respond to and finish.

Senator FEINSTEIN, in our debate last year, noted that the bottom line is that human life and property hangs in the balance based on the sustainability of these levees. I think that is right. I do not think human life stands in the balance on restoring the beaches, which is really a State responsibility.

What we are going to do in this bill is we are going to take taxpayer money. We are actually going to borrow the money to do it. We are not going to do it out of the regular budget. We are going to pay for something that is a State responsibility. The other factor that comes into it is that every State in the Union, save one, has a surplus this year. We have a $300 billion deficit, if we are honest. So, again, it comes back: is it great if we have extra money, if we aren't borrowing the money for the future? Should we do this at the same time? I would agree.

The fact is, we don't want to make the hard choices. We don't want to tell anybody no, not now. What we want to do is be able to have both. We can satisfy people today, but the people who will be dissatisfied with the generational collar that we put around them will be our kids and grandkids as they repay the cost of out not prioritizing things, not looking at things that are most important, and otherwise not standing up to the line and doing what we should be doing, which is making the hard choices of priorities.

One of the things I think the American citizenry is upset with, as much as the war or more, is the fact that it seems as if we don't care about the future. We will throw money at anything, money we don't have.

So these two amendments I bring to the floor today are not big. They may not pass, but they are based on a principle. The principle is to be a good steward. We all, in our own personal lives, with our own money, have to make priorities. We have to put that roof on before we do something else to the house. We have to make a choice about where the first dollar should go. Unfortunately, sometimes we do a poor job of that in the Congress.

I believe, from the way this Senator sees it, securing the levees ought to be a much higher priority than restoring beach that can be restored by a local community or the State of California. It is not truly a Federal responsibility.

I have studied a great deal about the beach restoration project. They have a general plan. What has happened to them has been out of their control, the Tijuana River in terms of how it has been blockaded and dammed and the amount of sand that filters in and that is available for the beach. Several attempts at growing structures had been made in 1978. A plan was put forth that would have restored it. It did not meet the environmental impact statement. It was abandoned at that time.

What we know and what is predicted by those who have watched this—especially Orrin Pikley, the director of the program for the State Developmental Shorelines at Duke University—is that we shouldn't be nourishing the beaches. President Clinton, much to his credit, saw the need for the States to take a greater burden in financing beach nourishment, and he proposed eliminating all funding for nourishment projects and studies, and he reduced the Federal share to 35 percent on any projects that weren't ongoing.

Where is the responsibility? Who is going to pay for it? It is easy to spend your money. It is easy to not tell anybody no. But the fact is, when we get down to the long and the short of it, we can't do everything everybody wants to do. I know a lot of people were told no in this bill about things they want to do, but we do some of it, to be fair. But in the long run, lives, safety, and housing have to take precedence over convenience and recreation.

With that, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from California is recognized.

Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I rise in strong opposition to this amendment. I would like to lay down the reasons why.

First, I do want to thank Senator COBURN because he was very accommodating to both Senator INHOFE and me by coming here on a Monday afternoon and putting these amendments down so we could begin the debate and hopefully vote on them tomorrow. I do appreciate that. It means a lot to us as managers because we worked long and hard on this bill.

Before I tell my colleagues why I call this amendment the Russian roulette amendment, let me just say I have supported Senator COBURN on many of his amendments where he is looking at the fiscally responsible thing to do, and I will continue to do so when I think those amendments make sense, and I am sure there will be more. But I do want to call to the Senator's attention, if you step back from this particular amendment, which I strongly disagree with—I think it is dangerous, and I will go into that in a minute. If you step back and look at the whole picture of this bill, we should be very proud that working together, Republicans and Democrats, we took a bill that was scored at about $31 billion down to a bill that is about $13.9 billion because we really did apply some strict standards to this bill.

There are no projects in this bill that are giveaways or handouts or make somebody's beachfront pretty. That is nonsense because neither side would approve of that.

I also want to make a point—because I think Senator FEINGOLD made this point very well, although I disagreed with him and we had a bit of a debate on it last week—that when colleagues use the word ''prioritize,'' that we should ''prioritize,'' and then they offer these amendments, they are putting out their priorities. That is not subjective. It is not subjective if I put out my priorities next to Senator COBURN's, next to Senator FEINGOLD's, next to Senator INHOFE's. That is objective. I think the Presiding Officer who is now sitting in the chair knows because she sits on the committee that has jurisdiction over this bill. It is hard. We battle it out for what the right priorities should be.

Now, as I told Senator FEINGOLD last week when we had a debate, because he is offering an amendment dealing with prioritization and setting up a whole new way to prioritize this project, let's look at this process in which we are engaged because I think the Senator—the reason I believe the Senator is on weak ground is because he seems to be ignoring what has gone on before he got involved.

First of all, these projects start from the local governments up, and the local governments and the communities get together and say: We have a very rough situation and we pay Federal taxes and we would like to make a partnership to protect lives and property and businesses. From there, they put up their fair share. They have to be willing to put up their fair share. So this isn't Uncle Sam paying for all this. This is a joint effort, and they have to come forward and the various committees of jurisdiction approve a study.

Now, when these studies are looked at, I say to my friend, there is a cost-benefit ratio involved, and sometimes it is very tough on colleagues because they think they are going to get a project and realize it just doesn't add up. So everything before us that has passed muster, the local government, the local people, they pick up the share, and it has to be funded with a study. And that study, as I said, has to come in and show that this makes sense, and then it goes to the various committees or the administration will fund it. There is an environmental impact statement that goes along with all this. They are considered again in WRDA. I guess this is the chance for colleagues to say: We don't like this project or that, and we are having this debate. It is the Senator's absolute right to choose and pick what he thinks are not priorities. I understand. So after we pass it here, it then has to go forward and get appropriated as well.

This bill has been 7 years in the making. We have cut it more than in half. I think it is a proud product.

I would say to my colleague, the reason I say the amendment is playing Russian roulette is this: We don't know when a hurricane, a storm, is going to come up and hit us in the face. It may come in the northern part of my State, I say to my friend. I have a coastal State. I have a State that is beautiful. We have more beauty per square inch—of course, I am not subjective on the point—than I think any other State. We have 37 million people. We have a real problem. The fact is, we can't just do one thing—Sacramento—and not take care of all the other things.

I so appreciate my friend's coming around with us on the Sacramento

issue. I cannot tell my colleagues what it means to me because, as he now knows, we have to take care of Sacramento. It is low lying. It is a potential catastrophe. He is absolutely right to call attention to the levees. We have to do all that.

But the reason I say his amendment is Russian roulette is because it is essentially counting on the fact that we are not going to have this problem in Imperial Beach. I want to say this is not a beach project; this is a hurricane and storm damage reduction project. This is not about making somebody's property pretty to look at. This is serious business.

And speaking of business, if we don't do this work—the locals are going to pay, in the beginning, 30 percent and then 50 percent. If we don't take care of it, business is going to get the floods and it is going to be wiped out. So I wish I could say to my friend all I need is one flood control project in Sacramento and be done with it, but with 37 million people and an economy that if we were a separate Nation would be the fifth or sixth largest in the world, obviously California needs so much.

Now, we have stressed Louisiana and Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. Senator INHOFE and I pulled aside a lot of people and said: Look, we have to come together to help that region. But we also have a backlog of 7 years' worth of work. In the case of Imperial Beach, this project got started in 2007, and the people are waiting. The city of Imperial Beach is home to 26,000 people. Four thousand of its residents live within two to three blocks of the shoreline. It is located near San Diego, just to give everybody a picture, and the beaches and the sand dunes act as a buffer to protect residential and commercial properties. It is a defense. It is a defense against storms and storm surge. If we don't do that, we would be building walls, a very expensive way to get that hurricane damage reduction.

So nature provides our coastal communities with natural protection from violent storms and the waves they produce. In the Northeast it is the high rocky cliffs. From the Mid-Atlantic around the Gulf of Mexico, it is the wide, sandy beaches. In Louisiana, it is miles of wetlands. That is why both our colleagues, Senators VITTER and LANDRIEU, talk a lot about wetlands restoration, which we do in this, because that is the natural flood control, just as the beaches and the bluffs are natural flood control that God gave us.

The coast of my State is particularly prone to strong winter storms that blow in from the Pacific. During the El Nino years, storms can be especially dangerous. That is why I say Russian roulette. We are playing Russian roulette. This is not some project that sprung up because some individual looked out and said: You know, I want more beach in front of my house. No. It has nothing to do with that. It is a dangerous situation. The public is going to be paying for half of this.

The Army Corps of Engineers said 100,000 cubic yards per year is eroding from the beach, corresponding to a shoreline retreat rate of 6 feet per year. There is adequate protection from winter coastal storms. That is what the Army Corps of Engineers said. That is not me speaking. I am not an engineer. I respect what they say.

I know my friend says he is not striking this, he is just saying it is more important to do Sacramento first. We need to do all of it. We need to do this bill. We need to take care of our people in this bill wherever they live—east, west, the north of my State, the South, East or West of the country, Midwest—wherever they are, wherever they need help.

At the current retreat rate, the shoreline in the northern portion of the area could reach the first line of development this year—this year. That is why this bill is so needed. It is needed now—not next year, not after they finish Sacramento or after they finish Hurricane Katrina. We shouldn't be picking and choosing. We should be having an absolutely firm commitment to making sure every one of these projects fits the benchmarks we have set in a bipartisan way, meet the benchmarks, meet the criteria, and not punish people and say, gee, you people in Imperial Beach, you are paying and we are going to pay 50 percent out, but we are stopping because a lot of miles away in another part of the country, or this State, other people need help and they are more important than you. I don't think that is right.

We are Senators. We are Senators of all the people. We have to look at their needs. Absolutely, prioritizing is key. I have shown my colleague how we prioritize through this process and how we cut back the costs of this bill. The beaches, the coastline, the protective buffer is literally washing away.

(Ms. KLOBUCHAR assumed the Chair.)

Mr. COBURN. Will the Senator yield for a question?

Mrs. BOXER. Yes.

Mr. COBURN. Will the restoration project in this bill solve the problem of Imperial Beach?

Mrs. BOXER. This is considered a 50-year fix.

Mr. COBURN. It is a 50-year fix only if they continue to do the work every 5 years, correct?

Mrs. BOXER. Well, of course, all projects have to be maintained.

Mr. COBURN. According to the Corps, every 5 years we will pump the same amount of sand up there, and in 50 years we will be doing the same thing again. This isn't a long-term fix; this is a short-term fix, according to the Corps, not according to anybody else. They have to do the same thing every 5 years to maintain the status quo; is that correct?

Mrs. BOXER. No. The initial project consists of 1.214 million cubic meters of sand, resulting in a total beach with 32 meters beyond the existing beach line. That is the first phase. To get to your point, it is estimated that once every 10 years, over the 50-year life of the project, they would replenish, not every 5 years.

Mr. COBURN. Every 10 years, they are going to have to bring back the sand the ocean naturally washes away from the beach because we have not done what needs to be done, which is a long, extended growing, to help the beach replenish itself.

Mrs. BOXER. Let me say, we continue to maintain the dams in Oklahoma, too. So whether you are maintaining a dam or maintaining this kind of project, yes, you have to take care of your house, your home, your project. This isn't a free lunch for anybody. The local people have to pay for that as well.

So the reason the Corps recommended this particular project is they say it is very cost effective, it provides a lot of protection for these people, and it has a very high cost benefit. For every dollar put in, the American people get $1.70 in return, and few projects can claim such a return.

Mr. COBURN. I would not know how to argue with that. Would the Senator yield for a moment, and I will finish up?

Mrs. BOXER. Yes, I am delighted.

Mr. COBURN. The difference between this and a dam is a dam is put there to control water or generate power. They have to be maintained. The way to fix this, according to the people we have talked to, is the original Corps plan is to put the money into an extended growing until the beach redevelops and replenishes itself. We will continue to do this every 10 years. I am not saying that is not a good priority, but it is not a priority like many of the other things.

I have a letter that I received from Dr. Serge Dedina, executive director of WiLDCOAST, supporting our amendment and asking that this money be placed secondary to the efforts in Sacramento because their studies show one winter storm will wash away what this money was spent for. In fact, this isn't the best plan, although it is a plan and—again, if I was there, I would want this beach maintained and restored. But I understand the desire for it. I understand the priorities for it. I understand the decisions that have been made in terms of lessening priorities that weren't included in that bill.

I appreciate the time the chairman of the committee has given me to offer these amendments.

I ask unanimous consent that this letter be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

MAY 14, 2007.

DEAR SENATOR COBURN: Please accept this endorsement for your amendment to the WRDA that would require that residents of Sacramento be protected from the threat of floods by the completion of the Sacramento River Bank Protection Program before federal funds are spent to add sand to beaches in San Diego (Imperial Beach) .

WiLDCOAST represents the interests of Imperial Beach taxpayers who are solidly opposed to any public expenditures on beach replenishment projects in Imperial Beach. We have been informed by City of Imperial Beach staff that federally funded beach sand projects are designed to ''enhance private property.''

Our Beach Sand Stakeholder Advisory Group is formed of local Imperial Beach business owners and coastal engineering technical experts who all agree that the effort to have U.S. Taxpayers fund Imperial Beach sand replenishment is an absolute waste of scarce federal dollars. It has been scientifically proven that millions of dollars of sand that would be dumped on the beach of Imperial Beach would wash away in a single winter storm.

We appreciate your support for stopping wasteful expenditures of scarce federal dollars through badly planned and flawed sand replenishment projects in Imperial Beach, California.

Sincerely,

SERGE DEDINA,
Executive Director, WiLDCOAST.

Mrs. BOXER. Madam President, I ask where we are now. Senator COBURN has two pending amendments; is that correct?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. That is correct.

Mrs. BOXER. We now have Senator FEINGOLD's amendment pending on prioritization and two Coburn amendments; is that correct?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. That is correct.

Mrs. BOXER. OK. I feel like I want to respond for a couple of minutes more to this amendment and say that my colleague says: Oh, my goodness, every 10 years you have to do more work. As I say, the Corps found that this is the most economical and sustainable way to resolve this problem. He talks about beaches—what were his words—being washed away. Yes, beaches will be washed away. We expect that, and every 10 years we will restore the beach. But it is better that that happens than houses washing away, businesses washing away or people washing away. So we have looked at the other options, such as concrete structures, walls—all very expensive and requiring a lot of maintenance and so on.

So we have a situation where the city is paying for 35 percent of the initial part of the project, 50 percent for the rest of the project. The city of Imperial Beach is not looking for a handout, but it is sharing the burden of protecting its people.

Again, I don't quite understand the prioritization of the Senator from Oklahoma, or why he picks on this particular project. This is a project that is more cost effective than any other alternative. It is one of the most cost effective in the Nation. We feel very good about it. But just as Louisiana's wetlands restoration will lessen impacts of hurricanes, because the wetlands are that natural absorber of the water and they also lessen the power of the hurricane, we are here using the God-given beaches as a way to do this flood control or, better said, hurricane impact reduction. So we learned from Hurricane Katrina that we should address our flood threats before they materialize.

We are worried about this particular community. I am very pleased that this particular project certainly wasn't even controversial when we put together our package because it so clearly fits all the criteria we had in place. My colleague is saying don't do this until you do Sacramento, and it doesn't make any sense to me because we need to do it all. That is the point of the WRDA bill—to take care of as many people as we can, and that we can project with the most stringent criteria that we have. So this ''Russian roulette'' amendment plays with the fate of my community. I think Senator COBURN's other amendment, which would strike a blow at the tourism revival in Louisiana, is also an ill-fated amendment.

The reason I was so glad he came over this afternoon is I am hoping we can have votes on these three amendments tomorrow. If we send a signal that the members of the committee are sticking together on this in a bipartisan way and we are going to move this forward, I think it would be very good for the bill.

I look forward to Senator INHOFE's arrival. He has had a very grueling weekend in Iraq. I don't know exactly when he will arrive. At this point, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that I be allowed to speak as in morning business.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

NATIONAL POLICE WEEK

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Madam President, this week, the week of May 14, is National Police Week, and the streets here in Washington, DC are filled with tens of thousands of law enforcement officers, their families, and their children. This is the week we recognize 17,917 officers whose names are inscribed on the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial here on Judiciary Square, all of them people who gave their lives to make our communities a safer place.

It is the week we recognize 145 fallen heroes of our Nation lost this past year. The people of Alaska give thanks that we did not lose a law enforcement officer in the line of duty during 2006. This is also the week we add the names of 237 additional law enforcement officers to the memorial. These are officers who lost their lives in the line of duty in generations past but whose stories did not come to light until now. One of those 237 officers is William George Pfalmer, Jr.

Officer Pfalmer's career with the Anchorage Police Department came to an end on June 9, 1953, when he was shot following a traffic stop of a stolen vehicle. He was shot in the left arm and the right shoulder, shattering his spine and causing him to spend the remainder of his life in a wheelchair. Officer Pfalmer lost his battle to survive those wounds on December 26, 1970, at the age of 45, after undergoing one of many corrective surgeries.

I rise today in tribute to Officer Pfalmer and I rise to share the remarkable story of a present-day Anchorage officer, Officer Cathy Diehl Robbins, who made sure Officer Pfalmer's contributions were not lost to history. But for Cathy's determined research, the name of William George Pfalmer, Jr. might never have been inscribed on the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial.

When Officer Pfalmer was shot on June 9, 1953, the city of Anchorage did not even pay him a full day's pay. At the time, the city did not offer a pension to police officers, nor did it compensate them for their injuries. Officer Pfalmer, who was 27 years old at the time, turned in his badge—which so happened to be badge No. 13—and was left to fend for himself. Anchorage is a city well known for its community spirit. This was true in 1953, it is true today. Officer Pfalmer was named Anchorage's Father of the Year, and the community helped to raise $13,000 to help the family through their difficult time. But that was not enough to enable the Pfalmer family to remain in Alaska.

A World War II Coast Guard veteran, Officer Pfalmer moved his family to California where he could receive medical treatment without charge from the VA. The officer's wife Eleanor was his full-time caregiver. They were tough years financially, but love and commitment held the family together. Officer Pfalmer kept his family afloat for most of those 17 years by purchasing cars at auto auctions, reconditioning them, and reselling them. His three sons, Glenn, Garry, and Greg, helped out after school repairing the cars under their dad's supervision. The three sons were literally their dad's arms and legs. They all became mechanics, a trade their father taught them.

The Pfalmer family assumed that their father's service with the Anchorage Police Department was long forgotten, until one day, out of the blue, son Greg received a call from Cathy Diehl Robbins. Cathy, who had been researching the history of the Anchorage Police Department in her own time, came across an article of some 10 years earlier. That article led Cathy to believe there was a hero who somehow had fallen through the cracks. Cathy would not let go and was determined to run the story to the ground. After diligent research, she discovered the story was true. She tracked Greg down on the Internet and learned that his father was the Anchorage police officer

she had read about. She wondered whether the officer was still alive and, sadly, learned he was not. Cathy then made it her mission to ensure that Officer Pfalmer's contributions were not forgotten.

On June 9, 2006, 53 years after the fateful incident that cost the officer his career, the Anchorage Police Department acknowledged Officer Pfalmer's loss as a line-of-duty death. He was subsequently recognized by the Alaska Peace Officers Memorial, and this year his name is inscribed on the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial.

It is fitting that Cathy Diehl Robbins was invited by the National Law Enforcement Officers Fund to read Officer Pfalmer's name at the annual candlelight ceremony, which was held last night, Sunday, May 13. I am pleased that Garry Pfalmer, one of Officer Pfalmer's three sons, was able to travel from Fairbanks to witness the ceremony.

During this National Police Week, we remember fallen officers for the way they lived their lives, not the way they gave them. Today, we remember Officer Pfalmer not only for the events of June 9, 1953, but also for the support and the inspiration he provided to his family during the next 17 years: a hero at home and a hero in the service of our community.

During this National Police Week, we recite again and again the phrase that ''heroes never die.'' So let us spend a moment to reflect upon the life of Officer Pfalmer, and as we do, let us acknowledge the efforts of an angel named Cathy Diehl Robbins, who brought the story of Officer Pfalmer back to life.

Madam President, I yield the floor, and I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Ms. LANDRIEU. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Ms. LANDRIEU. Madam President, it took me a few minutes to get the details I needed to respond to Senator COBURN. I am sorry for the delay. But I want to continue the debate we had just about 45 minutes ago on his amendment No. 1089 about which he spoke earlier, and we are prepared, I think, to vote on in the morning.

I am hoping my good colleague from Oklahoma will think about the possibility of withdrawing his amendment because I am going to submit some things for the RECORD that I think might have a bearing.

First of all, I think he offered his amendment in a way to be somewhat critical—although he was very respectful—somewhat critical that the Federal Government would be funding visitors centers before we build our levees and protections that we need for south Louisiana. I was a little puzzled by that. I went and found the facts.

Actually, we are not asking the Federal Government to spend a dime. What we are asking the Federal Government to do is simply to authorize a visitors center, type A as opposed to B, so we can be, as I said in the earlier debate, more interpretive—to have a real place where people can come and learn about the wetlands and the entire delta. The cost difference between B and A would be absorbed by Louisiana. So the Senator's main argument that it would cost the taxpayers of the United States, out of our budget, out of our money, is not accurate. I am not sure he understood that, but I think it has real bearing on the debate.

Again, in reference to Coburn amendment No. 1089, which is the Atchafalaya Basin Project, Eagle Point and Fosse Point Visitors Center, it is to simply authorize a larger type, more robust center, if you would, so we can have a kind of interpretive visitors center and education to go on in this part of the State, teaching not only ourselves in our State and the region but the country about the benefits and really extraordinary value of the wetlands.

Madam President, 8,000 visitors a month visit this center, which is already established. Again, it is at no cost to the Federal Government. I will speak with Senator COBURN in an effort to see if he can withdraw his amendment. If not, we will continue this debate tomorrow.

I ask unanimous consent to have this document printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

LOUISIANA ATCHAFALAYA BASIN PROGRAM
PROJECT PROFILES

The ultimate goal at Eagle Point Park is to enhance, promote, preserve and protect the ecosystem of the lake and the precious resources of the Atchafalaya Basin.

The development of Eagle Point Park will provide a sustainable recreation park facility designed to fulfill the needs of eco-tourism and become a welcomed regional and state amenity. The park's exceptional location near the Atchafalaya Basin will continue to remind visitors of what Louisiana once looked like in its pristine splendor of unbroken forests and swamps. Ultimately, Eagle Point Park will preserve the precious resources of the basin, recover the basin's majesty while managing the human impact, and enhance economic development to surrounding communities and the entire state.

The Corps of Engineers is developing a scope of work to produce Plans and Specifications for the Phase I analysis currently underway with the Team of the Corps of Engineers, URS, GSA, Wayne Labiche Engineering, and Sidney Bourgeouis Architects. After completion of this work the Parish will be in a position to advertise and award a construction contract(s) for the Phase I development.

Additionally, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is currently considering an aquatic restoration project in Lake Fausse Pointe. The lake has filled in to a depth of 1.5 feet in many places and the warm shallow water is not conducive to fish life. Plans are being considered for dredging a series of sink holes and using the dredge material to build small islands which will provide animal and bird habitat and should eventually provide shade along the banks.

Aside from the Educational Value of facilities: State and Federal Agencies would be housed at Morgan City Interpretive Center; LSD will put research lab at the Morgan City Facility; and discussion is ongoing with other agencies for location.

It is important to note that Morgan City was the host of a FEMA trailer site, but the site has been closed.

8,000 visitors visit the Atchafalaya Basin Floodway each month.

Ms. LANDRIEU. In addition, Madam President, I referred earlier to a Washington Post article, an article written by John Barry. It was an opinion piece in Saturday's paper, May 12. I referred to it, but I am not sure that I technically asked for it to be printed in the RECORD. At this point I ask unanimous consent it be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

[From the Washington Post, Saturday, May 12, 2007.]

OUR COAST TO FIX—OR LOSE

(By John M. Barry)

There has been much debate in the past 20 months over protecting Louisiana from another lethal hurricane, but nearly all of it has been conducted without any real understanding of the geological context. Congress and the Bush administration need to recognize six facts that define the national interest.

Fact 1: The Gulf of Mexico once reached north to Cape Girardeau, Mo. But the Mississippi River carries such an enormous sediment load that, combined with a falling sea level, it deposited enough sediment to create 35,000 square miles of land from Cape Girardeau to the present mouth of the river.

This river-created land includes the entire coast, complete with barrier islands, stretching from Mississippi to Texas. But four human interventions have interfered with this natural process; three of them that benefit the rest of the country have dramatically increased the hurricane threat to the Gulf Coast.

Fact 2: Acres of riverbank at a time used to collapse into the river system providing a main source of sediment. To prevent this and to protect lives and property, engineers stopped such collapses by paving hundreds of miles of the river with riprap and even concrete, beginning more than 1,000 miles upriver—including on the Ohio, Missouri and other tributaries—from New Orleans. Reservoirs for flood protection also impound sediment. These and other actions deprive the Mississippi of 60 to 70 percent of its natural sediment load, starving the coast.

Fact 3: To stop sandbars from blocking shipping at the mouth of the Mississippi, engineers built jetties extending more than two miles out into the Gulf of Mexico. This engineering makes Tulsa, Kansas City, Minneapolis, Cincinnati, Pittsburgh and other cities into ports with direct access to the ocean, greatly enhancing the nation's economy. The river carries 20 percent of the nation's exports, including 60 percent of its grain exports, and the river at New Orleans is the busiest port in the world. But the jetties prevent any of the sediment remaining in the river from replenishing the Louisiana and Mississippi coasts and barrier islands; instead, the jetties drop the sediment off the continental shelf.

Fact 4: Levees that prevent river flooding in Louisiana and Mississippi interfere with the replenishment of the land locally as well.

Fact 5: Roughly 30 percent of the country's domestic oil and gas production comes from offshore Louisiana, and to service that production the industry created more than 10,000 miles of canals and pipelines through the marsh.

Every inch of those 10,000-plus miles lets saltwater penetrate, and eat away at, the coast. So energy production has enormously accelerated what was a slow degradation, transforming a long-term problem into an immediate crisis. The deprivation of sediment is like moving a block of ice from the freezer to the sink, where it begins to melt; the effect of the canals and pipelines is like attacking that ice with an ice pick, breaking it up.

As a result, 2,100 square miles of coastal land and barrier islands have melted into the Gulf of Mexico. This land once served as a buffer between the ocean and populated areas in Louisiana and part of Mississippi, protecting them during hurricanes. Each land mile over which a hurricane travels absorbs roughly a foot of storm surge.

The nation as a whole gets nearly all the benefits of engineering the river. Louisiana and some of coastal Mississippi get 100 percent of the costs. Eastern New Orleans (including the lower Ninth Ward) and St. Bernard Parish—nearly all of which, incidentally, is at or above sea level—exemplify this allocation of costs and benefits. Three manmade shipping canals pass through them, creating almost no jobs there but benefiting commerce throughout the country. Yet nearly all the 175,000 people living there saw their homes flooded not because of any natural vulnerability but because of levee breaks.

Fact 6: Without action, land loss will continue, and it will increasingly jeopardize populated areas, the port system and energy production. This would be catastrophic for America. Scientists say the problem can be solved, even with rising sea levels, but that we have only a decade to begin addressing it in a serious way or the damage may be irreversible.

Despite all this and President Bush's pledge from New Orleans in September 2005 that ''we will do what it takes'' to help people rebuild, a draft White House cuts its own recommendation of $2 billion for coastal restoration to $1 billion while calling for an increase in the state's contribution from the usual 35 percent to 50 percent. Generating benefits to the nation is what created the problem, and the nation needs to solve it. Put simply: Why should a cab driver in Pittsburgh or Tulsa pay to fix Louisiana's coast? Because he gets a stronger economy and lower energy costs from it, and because his benefits created the problem. The failure of Congress and the president to act aggressively to repair the coastline at the mouth of the Mississippi River could threaten the economic vitality of the nation. Louisiana, one of the poorest states, can no longer afford to underwrite benefits for the rest of the nation.

Ms. LANDRIEU. Finally, Madam President, I spoke earlier and read some items into the RECORD. I perhaps read the wrong list. So I am going to resubmit this so the RECORD is clear. The $3.3 billion in the underlying WRDA bill represents about 20 percent of the total bill. As I tried to explain to some of my constituents at home, if we were talking about a desert bill we would probably have zero money in this bill. But we are talking about a water bill, and Louisiana most certainly has a great deal of water—sometimes more than we need, more than we asked for, and more than we want. But this is Congress's major water development bill. Because we sit at the mouth of the greatest river system in the country, which is the mouth of the Mississippi River, and because we have some of the greatest and last coastal wetlands in the country, of course, this would have a great many projects for us.

We really appreciate, Senator VITTER and I, the cooperation of Republicans and Democrats in being particularly supportive of us as we struggle to get many of these protection projects in this bill authorized because, of course, of our recent tragic experiences with the storms.

The $3.3 billion in projects is significant, necessary, and essential to beginning to build a kind of barrier of protection that the people of south Louisiana, and I might add south Mississippi and part of south Texas, depend on to keep them safe.

We do not live right on the coast, as people do in Mississippi, Alabama, Florida, and actually in Texas. We are the only people actually moving from the coast. We are not moving to the beaches. There are no beaches to move to.

I ask unanimous consent the list be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

WRDA 2007—SENATE FLOOR CONSIDERATION
(MAY 7–10, 2007)

GENERAL OVERVIEW OF WRDA

WRDA 2007 authorizes more than an estimated $13.9 billion of Corps projects.

In comparison—WRDA 2000 authorized $4.1 billion; WRDA 1999 authorized $2.5 billion.

The major authorization components of WRDA 2006 are:

Louisiana: **$3.336 billion**—24%

Florida Everglades: $1.73 billion—12%

Upper Mississippi River—Illinois Waterway: $3.77 billion—27%

All Other Authorizations: **$5.064 billion**—37%

Estimated Total: **$13.90 billion**—100%

LOUISIANA PROJECTS

Louisiana Coastal Area Ecosystem Restoration: $1.133 million

Louisiana Coastal Ecosystem next wave: $728 million

Morganza to the Gulf of Mexico Hurricane Protection: $886 million

Port of Iberia Navigation/Storm Surge Protection: $131 million

Jefferson Parish Consolidation: $100 million

Larose to Golden Meadow certification up to 100 year level: $90 million

MRGO Revolving Loan Fund for Private Facilities: $85 million

MRGO Relocation Assistance for Public Facilities: $75 million

Red River Waterway mitigation: $33 million

Southeast Louisiana development planning: $17 million

Calcasieu River and Pass Rock Bank Protection: $15 million

Various Louisiana Environmental Infrastructure: $13 million

Bayou Sorrel Lock: $10 million

MRGO de-authorization: $5 million

Total: $3.336 billion

BOLD Text represents changes from WRDA 2006

Ms. LANDRIEU. These are coastal wetlands. We are proud of that. It is a totally different environment and topography than exists in many other places. But we do have some very special and extraordinary needs, and I would be doing a great disservice to the people of our State if we didn't fight as hard as we could for the many projects in this bill—for the Louisiana Coastal Area Ecosystem Restoration; the Morganza to the Gulf of Mexico Hurricane Protection Project, which we literally have been working on for 20 years; the Port of Iberia Navigation and Vermilion Parish Hurricane Protection Project; Jefferson Parish consolidation; Larose to Golden Meadow, which is a little community down here in Lafourche Parish, but it was the only authorized Federal levee that did not collapse in the last hurricane. But it has been shrinking. This will help us to build it up, to strengthen it, and to keep that wonderful community safe and dry, as the next storms approach.

We understand people cannot live in some areas. They are prohibited from development. We are doing much more strict zoning and planning and community planning and design. In fact, some communities are picking up and moving north. Some communities are not building any more in flood zones. We are with the program when it comes to keeping our people safe.

We can do more in that regard and we will. But without these fundamental earthen barriers and levees and locks, this job will never get done. It is not going to get done overnight, but it will be done, to protect the 3.5 million people who live in the southern part of Louisiana, as well as about 1.5 million people who live in Mississippi.

As you can see, these are the great wetlands of Saint Bernard and Plaquemines Parish Project, Gulfport, and some parts of Pascagoula, and Pass Christian. The storms come from the west. It gives a tremendous buffer to Gulfport and Pascagoula. Of course, if the storms come more from the east, they are more vulnerable as they lay bare to those storm surges and high winds.

For these wetlands to stay and to be restored by the actions of this bill is incredibly important and actually essential to the preservation of this great metropolitan area. This is more than New Orleans, which is 450,000 people, or was before the storm. It is now down to about 200,000. Jefferson Parish, which is part of the metropolitan area, our suburban sister parish, is 450,000. That parish could have just as easily gone under 4 to 12 feet of water had the levees broken on the other side of the canal that sits about right here.

In addition, north of the lake—this is Lake Pontchartrain—we have 700,000 people ringing the north side of this lake, and hundreds of thousands of people who are living down in these ridges.

There is a tremendous amount of population that needs to be saved and protected and sustained. But as I said earlier, it is not just the people who

are there, it is the economy, the infrastructure of the economy we are protecting and supporting. Whether it is fisheries, transportation, navigation, 10,000 miles of pipeline, to keep the lights on and provide gas and electricity and fuel to the rest of this country—that comes from here, as do petrochemicals that help to make many of the products that we manufacture in this country better and safer for human use. That happens along the southern part of this great delta.

That is why we fought so hard for this bill. I want to end by saying I commend Senator BOXER, my colleague from California, for making this a priority. I thank our leader, HARRY REID. It has been 8 long years since WRDA has passed and Louisiana cannot wait another month, let alone another year.

There is a hurricane season literally right around the corner in June. This is the middle of May. People are still on pins and needles wondering whether the levees that we have reconstructed and fixed are going to hold for this next hurricane season. They are most certainly looking with great anticipation, and some anxieties, too, if this Congress will act.

I know there are some amendments that are going to be laid down complaining about some aspects of this bill, but I thank Senator BOXER, and I thank Senator INHOFE for his attention to the needs of Louisiana, and I thank this Congress for responding so generously and so quickly. Senator VITTER and I do have several amendments we would like to discuss later tomorrow, which would improve some things from our perspective. But we most certainly understand and appreciate the great work that has gone into this underlying bill.

This bill needs to pass now. It lays a foundation for the long-term recovery and restoration of this great delta. Some expense will be borne by the Federal Government, which is absolutely appropriate since the benefits go all over the Nation from the river systems and the other infrastructure, economic infrastructure that exists. And some of the costs will be borne, as it should be, by the people who call Louisiana home and call Calcasieu Parish or Cameron or Vermilion or Iberia, Orleans, Plaquemines, Saint Bernard, Saint Tammany, et cetera, home.

We are happy to make our own contributions to this effort. We love our home. We love where we live. We have to make it safer, and we have to be able to restore these wetlands and build better levees that do not fail and do not break in the middle of these storms.

We cannot stop the storms, but we most certainly can mitigate against the damage and use better science, better engineering, and, frankly, better leadership in this Congress to make sure the tragedies that happen in Katrina and Rita do not repeat themselves.

I yield the floor and suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. REID. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. REID. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that any cloture filed tomorrow on amendments 1097 and 1098 be considered as having been filed prior to the motion to proceed to S. 1348.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. REID. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate resumes consideration of H.R. 1495 on Tuesday, May 15, the time until 11:45 a.m. be for debate with respect to the Coburn amendment No. 1099, with the time equally divided and controlled between Senators BOXER and COBURN or their designees; that at 11:45 a.m., the Senate vote in relation to the amendment, with no intervening amendment in order prior to the vote.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. REID. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that there now be a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

NATIONAL MILITARY SPOUSES APPRECIATION DAY

• Mr. CRAPO. Madam President, Friday, May 11, 2007, was National Military Spouses Day. Oftentimes, those who are, as the saying goes, ''married to the military'' are not recognized for the support they provide and sacrifice they endure during the time of their spouses' active duty service. Certainly when a member is deployed, but throughout a military member's career, the strength and support of a wife or husband can make the difference between success or failure for that individual and that family. Military spouses endure the hardship of separation from loved ones, frequently take on the role of a single parent, and move more often than most civilians throughout the course of a military career. They receive no commendation medals and few accolades, save the gratitude of an exhausted spouse who comes home to a warm embrace and nurturing bond after a long deployment or simply another late night at work. Military spouses are truly war's unsung heroes. In addition to a job they may have outside the home, they are teacher, chief consoler, housekeeper, accountant, taxi driver, cook, referee and nurse. They encounter their own battles bravely, with efficiency, expertise and stubborn persistence supporting our Nation in their daily challenges every bit as valiantly as our military members do.

I commend the over 1,000 military spouses in or from Idaho and U.S. military spouses worldwide and thank them for their service to our Nation, sacrifice and patriotism. Our country, but most importantly their families, need their strength. We all depend on it.•

TRIBUTE TO CLAUD R. JUDD

• Mr. CRAPO. Madam President, on April 13, 2007, Idaho grieved at the passing of one of her great men, Claud R. Judd. Claud lived most all of his life in Fraser, ID, and left behind his wife Elvita, 2 sisters, 3 sons, 1 daughter, 12 grandchildren and 11 great-grandchildren. A lifelong farmer, Claud is perhaps best known to Idahoans for his many years of public service. From local cemetery, park, school, hospital and county fair boards to Clearwater County commissioner and member of the Idaho State Legislature in both houses, he exemplified public service. His legacy is a model of civic duty and commitment to family and community.

Claud found the time in his busy schedule to write a book about his family, and compile a scrapbook about the Clearwater County Extension and 4–H spanning seven decades. He was a hard, honest worker, and committed himself fully to whatever endeavor he undertook. I had the honor and privilege of serving in the Idaho State Legislature with Claud. Fellow lawmakers and staff could always count on him to be honest, kind and thorough. Claud was known as a consensus-builder who put the needs of his constituents first. He focused on results and was known to care little for the politics that cause party line divisions. He represented the Idahoans of Clearwater County with integrity and common sense, reflecting his deep Idaho agriculture roots.

My wife and I join other Idahoans in mourning this great loss to our State, and we offer our most sincere condolences to Elvita and the family.•

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 2:03 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Ms. Niland, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 2082. An act to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2008 for intelligence and intelligence-related activities of the United States Government, the Community Management Account, and the Central Intelligence Agency Retirement and Disability System, and for other purposes.

H.R. 2206. An act making emergency supplemental appropriations and additional supplemental appropriations for agricultural

and other emergency assistance for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2007, and for other purposes.

MEASURES REFERRED

The following bill was read the first and the second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

H.R. 2082. An act to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2008 for intelligence and intelligence-related activities of the United States Government, the Community Management Account, and the Central Intelligence Agency Retirement and Disability System, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Intelligence.

MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR

The following bill was read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and placed on the calendar:

H.R. 2206. An act making emergency supplemental appropriations and additional supplemental appropriations for agricultural and other emergency assistance for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2007, and for other purposes.

PETITIONS AND MEMORIALS

The following petitions and memorials were laid before the Senate and were referred or ordered to lie on the table as indicated:

POM–83. A joint resolution adopted by the House of Representatives of the Legislature of the State of Maine urging Congress to increase funding for Community Development Block Grants; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

JOINT RESOLUTION

Whereas, the primary objective of the Community Development Block Grant program is the development of viable communities by providing decent housing and a suitable living environment and expanding economic opportunities, principally for persons of low income and moderate income; and

Whereas, the State of Maine and the Maine entitlement communities receive direct allocations from the Community Development Block Grant program annually for a wide variety of community and economic development activities that principally benefit low-income and moderate-income persons, including the elderly, children and those who are at risk; and

Whereas, in Maine and in communities throughout the nation, 33 years of Community Development Block Grant program funding has developed a strong network of relationships among local governments, residents, businesses and nonprofit organizations; and

Whereas, the Community Development Block Grant program has been cut every year since fiscal year 2001, and President Bush has released his fiscal year 2008 federal budget to Congress proposing only $2,986,000,000 in formula funding for the Community Development Block Grant program, a reduction of $736,000,000 from last year that would present a severe hardship to Maine communities; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That we, your Memorialists, on behalf of the people we represent, take this opportunity to indicate that this valuable program has made a tremendous contribution to the viability of the housing stock, infrastructure, public services and economic vitality of the State and that we respectfully urge and request that the President of the United States and the Congress of the United States recognize the outstanding work being done locally and nationally by the Community Development Block Grant program by supporting increased funding for the program in fiscal year 2008; and be it further

Resolved, That suitable copies of this resolution, duly authenticated by the Secretary of State, be transmitted to the Honorable George W. Bush, President of the United States, to the President of the Senate of the United States, to the Speaker of the House of Representatives of the United States and to each Member of the Maine Congressional Delegation.

POM–84. A resolution adopted by the House of Representatives of the State of Michigan expressing opposition to Norfolk Southern Corporation's proposed sale of its rail lines from Ypsilanti to Kalamazoo and Grand Rapids to Kalamazoo and continuing to the Indiana border; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 56

Whereas, the Norfolk Southern Corporation is considering the sale of its Michigan lines from Grand Rapids to Kalamazoo and from Ypsilanti to Kalamazoo. The Ypsilanti to Kalamazoo line carries the state's busiest high-speed Amtrak train, the Wolverine, which travels from Detroit to Chicago. The Wolverine travels on the Norfolk Southern Railroad's rail corridor from Ypsilanti to Kalamazoo until it connects with Amtrak's own line. Ridership on this line increased six percent in 2006 to 142,185 passengers; and

Whereas, the Ypsilanti to Kalamazoo portion of the Norfolk Southern line is a vital link between Detroit and Chicago. Expanding the high-speed rail capacity on this line is vital to the future development of this area. New industry, including coal energy, bio-diesel, and ethanol fuel plants are proposed for Michigan and specifically along the I–94 corridor located near the Ypsilanti to Kalamazoo rail line. Continued operation of this line by Norfolk Southern is essential to expansion of new industry in this area. Over 150 railroad employees' jobs are associated with the rail traffic along this line; and

Whereas, Norfolk Southern is a Class One railroad operator, earning revenue in excess of $250 million annually. As a Class One operator, Norfolk Southern has the capacity to maintain and promote the use of these lines. The proposed sale of the Ypsilanti to Kalamazoo and Grand Rapids to Kalamazoo lines will almost certainly place the lines under the management of a Class Three operator, a rail company earning revenue of $20 million of less annually. A Class Three operator will be far less likely to have the means to maintain the lines, thus increasing the chance of accidents. Class Three operators also rely on federal grants for line and equipment maintenance, grants that are not always guaranteed; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives, That we express opposition to Norfolk Southern's proposed sale of its rail lines from Ypsilanti to Kalamazoo and Grand Rapids to Kalamazoo and continuing to the Indiana border; and be it further

Resolved, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to the President of the United States Senate; the Speaker of the United States House of Representative; members of the Michigan congressional delegation; the United States Department of Transportation, Surface Transportation Board; the Norfolk Southern Corporation; AMTRAK; and the Michigan Department of Transportation.

POM–85. A resolution adopted by the Senate of the State of Michigan urging Congress to restore funding for the Weatherization Assistance Program in fiscal year 2008 and to consider increasing future funding for this important federal program; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 36

Whereas, the Federal Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP), created in 1976 during the nation's oil crisis and administered by the United States Department of Energy (DOE), provides funding to states to operate programs that pay for weatherization improvements for low-income homes. Weatherization refers to a wide variety of measures and technologies, such as weather stripping, caulking, insulation, and energy-efficient appliances that reduce a building's energy consumption. The WAP is the country's longest running and perhaps most successful energy-efficiency program. During the last 30 years, the WAP has provided weatherization services to more than 5.5 million low-income families; and

Whereas, the WAP is a proven and effective program that helps not only low-income households, but the nation as a whole. The WAP empowers low-income families by enabling them to reduce energy costs and take responsibility for their energy bills. Weatherization reduces heating bills by an average of 31 percent. Low-income families receiving WAP retrofits commonly save about $200 to $300 each year in energy costs. In addition to the direct benefits that low-income families receive, a recent study by Oak Ridge National Laboratory (ORNL) documents a multitude of indirect benefits to local economies, the nation's energy security, and the environment. These benefits include job creation, increased property values, reduced national energy consumption, and a reduction in carbon dioxide emissions by an average of one ton per weatherized house. The ORNL study concludes that for each $1 of investment in the WAP program, the nation receives $3.71 worth of benefits. Surely, no other program receives such bang for its buck; and

Whereas, the effectiveness of the WAP program is threatened by recent DOE funding decisions. The DOE recently cut the Fiscal Year 2007 budget for the WAP by about 16 percent or about $38 million less than it was a year ago. Local communities and state weatherization directors throughout the nation were dismayed by this decision; and

Whereas, under the Fiscal Year 2007 budget, Michigan is receiving almost $2 million less then it did a year ago, and it could not have come at a worse time. The state is suffering through disturbingly high unemployment rates and a weakened economy and is in the midst of its most devastating and prolonged economic downturn since the Great Depression. Losing about $1.9 million in WAP funds and the associated job stimulus that WAP generally provides is a hard pill for the state to swallow; and

Whereas, as the Fiscal Year 2008 federal budget is hammered out, the WAP program should be recognized and celebrated for its immense effectiveness rather than having its budget slashed. Clearly, it is fiscally wise to invest in the energy-saving WAP program; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate, That we urge the President of the United States, the United States Congress, and the United States Department of Energy to restore funding for

the Weatherization Assistance Program in Fiscal Year 2008 and to consider increasing future funding for this important federal program; and be it further

Resolved, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to the Office of the President of the United States, the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, the members of the Michigan congressional delegation, and the Secretary of the United States Department of Energy.

POM–86. A joint resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of Montana urging Congress to reauthorize the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act and work toward a permanent solution to compensate states and local governments for lost tax revenue on federal land within Montana; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 4

Whereas, the stability of Montana's economy has historically been dependent on use of our abundant natural resources; and

Whereas, the natural resource harvest has historically contributed billions of dollars to Montana's economy by providing employment opportunities to members of our communities, supporting our business communities, and contributing to the health of our schools; and

Whereas, revenue from industries related to the natural resource harvest has produced taxes for the support of local and state governments; and

Whereas, the amount of money generated by national forests has dropped more than 85% between 1986 and 2005, creating a financial crisis for rural forest communities in Montana and around the country; and

Whereas, Congress passed the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act of 2000 to provide a safety net for these communities, and the purpose of the Act was to stabilize payments to states and counties to help support roads and schools, provide projects that enhance forest ecosystem health, provide employment opportunities, and improve cooperative relationships among federal land management agencies and those who use and care about the lands that the agencies manage; and

Whereas, counties in Montana received more than $14 million in the last year to maintain schools and roads; and

Whereas, the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act has expired; and

Whereas, if the Act is not reauthorized, many counties will suffer severe financial impacts resulting in significant reduction in services, including but not limited to public safety and education: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, by the Senate and the House of Representatives of the State of Montana:

(1) That the Legislature of the State of Montana urge the U.S. Congress to reauthorize the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act of 2000 and work toward a permanent solution to compensate states and local governments for lost tax revenue on federal land within Montana.

(2) That the Secretary of State send copies of this resolution to the President of the United States, the Secretary of State of the United States, the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, the Western Governors' Association, and the Montana Congressional Delegation.

POM–87. A resolution adopted by the House of Representatives of the State of Michigan urging Congress to establish a ''Marshall Plan'' for the United States automotive industry; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 31

Whereas, at a time when our country's auto sector is facing untold, and often unfair, challenges, it is in our national interest to establish a ''Marshall Plan,'' similar to the plan instituted to jump-start the decimated post-WWII European economy, to help accelerate the domestic production of alternative fuel and advanced technology vehicles. Providing assistance to the automobile manufacturers and auto parts suppliers to dramatically accelerate the domestic production of alternative fuel and advanced technology (hybrid, clean diesel, and fuel cell) vehicles and their key components is of paramount importance to our entire economy; and

Whereas, only through action of the federal government could a comprehensive plan be developed to help retain and crate tens of thousands of jobs for American workers, and assure that American companies are producing the cars and trucks of the future right here in the United States. Providing the opportunity for the automotive sector to retool and expand existing facilities, and helping to make sure that there is a level playing field among all automotive companies with respect to corporate taxes and health care costs, will produce tremendous benefits for years to come; and

Whereas, indeed, a Marshall Plan would have any number of direct and indirect benefits. It would reduce our dependence on foreign oil, thereby reducing our dangerous reliance on foreign oil and increasing our energy security. It would also improve the environment by reducing global warming emissions. The plan would further generate additional revenue for federal, state, and local governments because of the jobs that would be created for American workers. Moreover, it would benefit consumers through lower costs for flex fuel and advanced technology vehicles, and lower overall fuel costs. Finally, the plan would help corporate profitability and help ensure that workers and retirees receive the health care and retirement benefits they have earned; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives, That we hereby memorialize the Congress of the United States to establish a ''Marshall Plan'' for the United States automotive industry; and be it further

Resolved, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, and the members of the Michigan congressional delegation.

POM–88. A resolution adopted by the House of Representatives of the State of Michigan urging Congress to reauthorize the State Children's Health Insurance Program for the State of Michigan; to the Committee on Finance.

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 50

Whereas, the House of Representatives regard the health of our children to be of paramount importance to families in our state. Poor child health is a threat to educational achievement as well as the social and psychological well-being of the children of our state; and

Whereas, the members of the Michigan Legislature consider protecting the health of our children to be essential to improving the lives of our youngest citizens and the quality of life in this state. The Michigan SCHIP program, which has enrolled uninsured children since its inception, is an integral part of the arrangements for health benefits for the children of the State of Michigan. We recognize the value of the Michigan SCHIP in preserving child wellness, preventing and treating childhood disease, and improving health outcomes, including overall health costs; and

Whereas, the federal funding available to the State of Michigan through SCHIP is an invaluable source of funding to provide health benefits for children of modest means. Furthermore, we encourage all components of state government to work with educators, health care providers, social workers, and parents to ensure that all available public and private assistance to provide health benefits for uninsured children be garnered and used to the maximum extent; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives, That we memorialize the United States Congress to ensure timely reauthorization of the State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP) to assure federal funding for Michigan SCHIP; and be it further

Resolved, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, and the members of the Michigan congressional delegation.

POM–89. A resolution adopted by the House of Representatives of the State of Georgia urging Congress to continue to press for strong measures to end the violence in Sudan and urging the Securities and Exchange Commission to provide guidance to public pension fund managers in order to avoid investments which may be supporting nations involved in the support of terrorism or human rights violations; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 273

Whereas, Sudan's government and southern rebels have come to an historic, long-awaited agreement that ends Africa's longest civil war and brings hope to millions of exiled Sudanese yearning to return home; and

Whereas, continued violence in the troubled region of Darfur, Sudan, previously described by the Bush administration as genocide, casts a shadow over the agreement that does not cover the Darfur conflict; and

Whereas, the government of Sudan appears to have sponsored a militia composed of a loose collection of fighters, apparently of Arab background, known as the ''Janjaweed''; and with the active support of the regular army, the Janjaweed have attacked villages and committed numerous human rights violations; and

Whereas, the humanitarian consequences of the situation in Darfur are grave, with an estimated over 100,000 innocent civilians brutally murdered; and according to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees 2004 statistics, 662,302 people have been internally displaced and 730,650 people have been forced from their homes to flee to neighboring countries; and

Whereas, the citizens of the State of Georgia abhor this violence and desire that their tax dollars neither directly nor indirectly support these human rights violations through investment in companies aiding the government of Sudan in these acts of terror; and

Whereas, the United States Congress established the Office of Global Security Risk in the Securities and Exchange Commission to provide information to United States investors, including public pension plans, to ascertain whether their funds are invested in corporations with ties to governments that support terrorism; and

Whereas, the National Conference of State Legislatures, the National Association of State Retirement Administrators, the National Association of State Auditors, Comptrollers and Treasurers, and the National

Council on Teacher Retirement have joined in urging the Securities and Exchange Commission to assist investors by requiring companies to disclose business conducted in states designated by the State Department as sponsoring terrorism: Now. therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives, That the President, the United States Congress, the United Nations, and the African Union are urged to continue to work with the international community to press the government of Sudan to halt these ongoing human rights violations; and be it further

Resolved, That the Securities and Exchange Commission is urged to issue guidance to public pension fund managers so that the state may be assured that its funds are not invested in companies that are not in compliance with relevant U.S. laws and are not contributing to terrorism; be it further

Resolved, That the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized and directed to transmit appropriate copies of this resolution to the Clerk of the House of Representatives of the United States, the Clerk of the Senate of the United States, each member of the Georgia delegation to the Congress of the United States, Christopher Cox, Chairman, Securities and Exchange Commission, the Secretary General of the United Nations, and the President of the African Union.

POM–90. A resolution adopted by the Senate of the State of Massachusetts commending Taiwan on its contributions to promote world health; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

RESOLUTION

Whereas, good health is essential to every person and access to the highest standards of health information and services is necessary to improve public health, especially in view of such world health crises as HIV/AIDS, severe acute respiratory syndrome, Avarian flu, Tuberculosis and Malaria; and

Whereas, public health knows neither borders nor politics; and

Whereas, there is a genuine need to improve management and surveillance, foster communications and improve laboratory capabilities among nations; and

Whereas, the World Health Organization set forth, in the first chapter of its charter, the objective of attaining the highest possible level of health for all people; and

Whereas, Taiwan's achievements in the field of health are substantial including, having one of the highest life expectancy levels in Asia, maternal and infant mortality rates comparable to those of western countries, having eradicated diseases such as cholera, smallpox and the plague and being the first to eradicate polio and providing children with Hepatitis-B vaccinations; and

Whereas, Taiwan's population of 23.5 million is larger than that of three-quarters of the member states in the World Health Organization; and

Whereas, the great potential of cross-borderspread of diseases has made it crucial for all countries, including Taiwan, to have direct and unobstructed access to information and assistance from the World Health Organization in order to successfully limit the spread of various infectious diseases and achieve world health; and

Whereas, the United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and its Taiwanese counterpart have enjoyed close collaboration on a wide range of public health issues and concerns; and

Whereas, Taiwan has been eagerly and voluntarily assisting, financially and technically, in international health activities supported by the World Health Organization and donating generously to disaster areas; and

Whereas, in 2001, President George W. Bush and senior members of his administration vocalized support for Taiwan's participation in the World Health Organization; and

Whereas, in 2002, the European Parliament called on the World Health assembly to accept observer status for Taiwan, and its member states to support the application of Taiwan as an observer to the World Health Organization; and

Whereas, in 2002, the United States House of Representatives and Senate authorized the Secretary of State to endorse observer status for Taiwan at the World Health assembly; and

Whereas, in 2002, the United States House of Representatives passed H.R. 441, entitled ''WHO for Taiwan'', in support of Taiwan's participation as an observer in the World Health Organization; Now therefore be it

Resolved, That the Massachusetts General Court hereby commends the Republic of China, Taiwan, on its many contributions to promote world health and supports its application as an observer to the World Health Organization; and be it further

Resolved, That a copy of these resolutions be transmitted forthwith by the Clerk of the Senate to President George W. Bush, the Secretary of Health and Human Services, the Massachusetts Congressional Delegation, President Chen Shui-Bian on behalf of the 23 million citizens of Taiwan, the Director-General of the World Health Organization and Director-General Kuo-Tung Yang of the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in Boston.

POM–91. A resolution adopted by the House of Representatives of the State of Pennsylvania designating April 24, 2007, as ''Pennsylvania's Day of Remembrance of the Armenian Genocide of 1915–1923''; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 25

Whereas, one and one-half million men, women and children of Armenian descent were victims of the brutal genocide perpetrated by the Turkish Ottoman Empire from 1915 to 1923; and

Whereas, the Armenian genocide and massacres of the Armenian people have been recognized as an attempt to eliminate all traces of a thriving and noble civilization more than 3,000 years old; and

Whereas, revisionists still inexplicably deny the existence of these horrific events; and

Whereas, modern Turkey continues to deny and distort the facts of the Armenian genocide and honors the perpetrators of that crime against humanity as national heroes; and

Whereas, before the implementation of the Holocaust of European Jews, in order to encourage his followers, Adolf Hitler asked, ''Who remembers the Armenians?''; and

Whereas, by consistently remembering and openly condemning the atrocities committed against the Armenians, Pennsylvanians affirm the need for constant vigilance to prevent similar atrocities in the future; and

Whereas, the Armenian people have not received reparations for their losses; and

Whereas, recognition of the 92nd anniversary of the Armenian genocide and education about past horrors is crucial to ensuring against future genocide; and

Whereas, Armenia is now a free and independent republic, having embraced democracy following nearly 70 years of oppressive Soviet domination; and

Whereas, Armenian Americans living in Pennsylvania have greatly enriched this Commonwealth through their leadership in business, agriculture, academia, government and the arts; Therefore be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania designate April 24, 2007, as ''Pennsylvania's Day of Remembrance of the Armenian Genocide of 1915–1923''; and be it further

Resolved, That the Chief Clerk of the House of Representatives transmit copies of this resolution to the Pennsylvania congressional delegation and to the Armenian National Committee of Pennsylvania.

POM–92. A resolution adopted by the House of Representatives of the State of Pennsylvania urging the Citizens' Stamp Advisory Committee of the United States Postal Service to issue a commemorative stamp honoring coal miners; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 197

Whereas, our entire nation owes our coal miners a great deal more than we could ever repay them for the difficult and dangerous job which they perform so that we can have the fuel we need to operate our industries and to heat our homes; and

Whereas, coal mining is as much a culture as it is an industry; and

Whereas, coal miners sacrifice life and limb for little recognition, and it would be proper and fitting for our nation to recognize our coal miners, past and present, for their contributions: Therefore be it

Resolved, That the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania memorialize the Citizens' Stamp Advisory Committee of the United States Postal Service to issue a commemorative stamp honoring our coal miners and their contributions to our nation and its citizens; and be it further

Resolved, That copies of this resolution be delivered to the Citizens' Stamp Advisory Committee, c/o Stamp Development, United States Postal Service, 1735 North Lynn Street, Room 5013, Arlington, VA 22209–6432, to the presiding officers of each house of Congress and to each member of Congress from Pennsylvania.

POM–93. A joint resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of Montana opposing the relaxation of mail delivery standards under consideration by the President's Commission on the U.S. Postal Service; requesting that the U.S. Postal Service maintain current levels of service; and requesting that the U.S. Postal Service maintain current overnight delivery standards and not centralize Montana's mail sorting operations; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 4

Whereas, the United States Postal Service, founded in 1775, provides dependable, affordable mail service to Montana communities; and

Whereas, the United States Postal Service remains an important part of the nation's economic infrastructure through which nearly $1 trillion of economic activity is conducted each year and in which 9 million people are employed; and

Whereas, many Montanans, especially in rural areas, do not have easy access to the Internet or to electronic banking and bill paying and are heavily dependent on the United States Postal Service for communication and conducting business transactions; and

Whereas, Americans currently enjoy the most extensive postal service at the lowest postage rates of any major industrialized nation in the world; and

Whereas, the President's Commission on the United States Postal Service has recommended changes to postal operations that could sever postal employees from federal employee health, retirement, and workers' compensation programs and has recommended repeal of laws that could pave the

way toward reducing rank-and-file wages and benefits while simultaneously eliminating the current salary cap on executive level postal positions; and

Whereas, the Commission has recommended a new Presidentially appointed, corporate-style board of directors and a new postal regulatory board and has proposed giving these new politically appointed governing bodies broad authority to set rates; and

Whereas, the Commission has proposed to refine the scope of the United States Postal Service's ''universal service'' obligation and uniform rate structure and change and restrict the scope of services currently protected under postal monopoly regulations; and

Whereas, the new board's broad authority could allow post offices to be closed and prices to be set with a complicated postage rate structure or could turn over postal operations to private, for-profit enterprises; and

Whereas, replacing the United States Postal Service's public service obligation with a profit-seeking mandate would undermine the United States Postal Service's historical ''universal service'' obligation and weaken its national infrastructure; and

Whereas, in the interim period prior to legislated postal reform, the United States Postal Service may move forward with initiatives to close postal facilities in Montana; and

Whereas, the United States Postal Service is requesting that the United States Postal Rate Commission investigate relaxation of overnight delivery standards; and

Whereas, the United States Postal Service could consolidate the processing of mail in Montana, including moving all Helena outgoing mail-sorting operatios to Great Falls; and

Whereas, this consolidation would not serve the public's best interest because of the decrease in productivity compared to the current processing of mail in Helena; and

Whereas, the consolidation could result in the elimination of the agency's current obligation to deliver local mail overnight and could relax other mail delivery standards across Montana; and

Whereas, the economy of the Helena area would be negatively impacted as a result of the relaxation of overnight delivery standards; and

Whereas, the public health and the public services provided by state agencies would be negatively impacted as a result of the relaxation of overnight delivery standards: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, by the Senate and the House of Representatives of the State of Montana, That the Montana Legislature urges the President, the Congress of the United States, and the United States Postal Service to continue to maintain affordable, dependable mail service at current levels because of its social and economic importance to our nation; and Be it further

Resolved, That any recommendation from the President's Commission on the United States Postal Service or the United States Postal Rate Commission that curtails public services in the current postal service be rejected; and be it further

Resolved, That the Legislature of the State of Montana opposes any changes that would harm the public and workers of the United States Postal Service, including legislated or United States Postal Service initiatives to close or consolidate postal facilities, relax overnight delivery standards, centralize mail-sorting operations, take away or modify the collective bargaining system of postal workers, or change the current bargaining system for employee benefits; and be it further

Resolved, That copies of this resolution be sent by the Secretary of State to the Honorable George W. Bush, President of the United States, the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, the Majority and Minority Leaders of the United States Senate and House of Representatives, the Postmaster General of the United States Postal Service, the United States Postal Rate Commission, the President's Commission on the United States Postal Service, the Committee on Ways and Means, the Committee on Rules, and the Committee on the Budget of the United States House of Representatives, the Budget Committee of the United States Senate, and each member of the Montana Congressional Delegation.

POM–94. A resolution adopted by the Senate of the State of Michigan urging Congress to enact the Second Chance Act to help juvenile and adult ex-offenders to successfully reenter their communities; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 45

Whereas, the transition from confinement to release presents both great risks and opportunities for young ex-offenders and the communities in which they live. Unsuccessful transitions into the community can result in an alarmingly high recidivism rate for offenders. Effective reentry programs can reduce recidivism rates by providing the necessary support and resources to guide ex-offenders through a successful transition from confinement to community life; and

Whereas, comprehensive reentry programs are especially effective among young people. With their development still in progress, young ex-offenders are more amenable to effective behavior modification interventions, thus saving lives, anguish, and public tax dollars. An example of an effective program that reduces recidivism is Multidimensional Treatment Foster Care (MTFC). This program provides services to youth and their families to assist in the transition from confinement to reentry into the community. MTFC includes ongoing supervision, frequent contact, and coordination of services with the youth's probation officer, teachers, and other involved adults. Studies show that youths in MTFC were less likely to turn back to crime compared to ex-offenders in residential group homes; and

Whereas, research-based reentry programs such as MTFC not only reduce crime, but they are also cost effective. Currently, many young people are released unconditionally when they ''age-out'' of juvenile court jurisdiction and are not provided access to family reunification or aftercare services. Such unconditional releases increase the likelihood that ex-offenders will return to crime. MTFC and similar programs could save taxpayers thousands of dollars and could save innocent people the heartache of suffering from a criminal attack; and

Whereas, the Second Chance Act calls for an authorization of around $200 million over two years to assist ex-offenders in making a successful transition from confinement to release into the community. The United States Department of Justice would administer demonstration grants to states and local governments to provide and coordinate reentry programs for juvenile and adult offenders. This legislation includes family reunification services, job training, education, housing, and substance abuse and mental health services. This legislation would establish a federal interagency task force on offender reentry, provide research on reentry, and create a national resource center to collect and disseminate information on best practices in offender reentry: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate, That we memorialize the United States Congress to enact the Second Chance Act to help juvenile and adult ex-offenders to successfully reenter their communities; and be it further

Resolved, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, and the members of the Michigan congressional delegation.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mr. BINGAMAN (for himself and Mr. THUNE):

S. 1376. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to revise and expand the drug discount program under section 340B of such Act to improve the provision of discounts on drug purchases for certain safety net provides; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. REID (for himself and Mr. ENSIGN):

S. 1377. A bill to direct the Secretary of the Interior to convey to the City of Henderson, Nevada, certain Federal land located in the City, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mrs. MURRAY:

S. 1378. A bill to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act with respect to the distribution of the drug dextromethorphan, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mrs. FEINSTEIN (for herself, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. BAUCUS, and Mr. TESTER):

S. 1379. A bill to amend chapter 35 of title 28, United States Code, to strike the exception to the residency requirements for United States attorneys; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. SALAZAR (for himself and Mr. ALLARD):

S. 1380. A bill to designate as wilderness certain land within the Rocky Mountain National Park and to adjust the boundaries of the Indian Peaks Wilderness and the Arapaho National Recreation Area of the Arapaho National Forest in the State of Colorado; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mrs. BOXER:

S. 1381. A bill to require the Federal Trade Commission to monitor and investigate gasoline prices under certain circumstances; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. REID:

S. 1382. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to provide the establishment of an Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis Registry; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. SESSIONS (for himself, Mr. PRYOR, Mr. CORNYN, and Mr. SALAZAR):

S. 1383. A bill to reduce the disparity in punishment between crack and powder cocaine offenses, to more broadly focus the punishment for drug offenders on the seriousness of the offense and the culpability of the offender, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. AKAKA:

S. 1384. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to repeal authority for adjustments to per diem payments to homeless veterans service centers for receipt of other

sources of income, to extend authorities for certain programs to benefit homeless veterans, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. NELSON of Florida:

S. 1385. A bill to designate the United States courthouse facility located at 301 North Miami Avenue, Miami, Florida, as the ''C. Clyde Atkins United States Courthouse''; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. REED:

S. 1386. A bill to amend the Housing and Urban Development Act of 1968, to provide better assistance to low- and moderate-income families, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Ms. KLOBUCHAR (for herself and Ms. SNOWE):

S. 1387. A bill to amend the Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act of 1986 to provide for greenhouse gases; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Ms. SNOWE (for herself and Ms. COLLINS):

S. 1388. A bill to establish a commercial truck highway safety demonstration program in the State of Maine, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. OBAMA (for himself, Ms. SNOWE, and Mr. BINGAMAN):

S. 1389. A bill to authorize the National Science Foundation to establish a Climate Change Education Program; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Mr. CRAPO (for himself and Mr. CRAIG):

S. Res. 196. A resolution commending Idaho on winning the bid to host the 2009 Special Olympics World Winter Games; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Ms. MIKULSKI (for herself, Mr. COCHRAN, Mr. BAUCUS, Mr. BAYH, Mrs. BOXER, Mr. CASEY, Mrs. CLINTON, Mr. COLEMAN, Mr. DODD, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. FEINGOLD, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. KERRY, Mr. LAUTENBERG, Mr. LIEBERMAN, Mr. LOTT, Mr. MCCAIN, Mr. MENENDEZ, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. OBAMA, Mr. ROCKEFELLER, Mr. SALAZAR, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. STEVENS, and Ms. STABENOW):

S. Res. 197. A resolution honoring the accomplishments of AmeriCorps; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. GRAHAM (for himself, Mr. BROWN, Mr. CHAMBLISS, Mr. FEINGOLD, Mr. KOHL, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. SPECTER, Mrs. DOLE, Mr. CRAPO, and Mr. STEVENS):

S. Res. 198. A resolution designating May 15, 2007, as ''National MPS Awareness Day''; considered and agreed to.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 21

At the request of Mr. REID, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) was added as a cosponsor of S. 21, a bill to expand access to preventive health care services that help reduce unintended pregnancy, reduce abortions, and improve access to women's health care.

S. 22

At the request of Mr. WEBB, the name of the Senator from New York (Mrs. CLINTON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 22, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to establish a program of educational assistance for members of the Armed Forces who serve in the Armed Forces after September 11, 2001, and for other purposes.

S. 160

At the request of Mr. THUNE, the name of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. JOHNSON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 160, a bill to provide for compensation to the Lower Brule and Crow Creek Sioux Tribes of South Dakota for damage to tribal land caused by Pick-Sloan projects along the Missouri River.

S. 223

At the request of Mr. FEINGOLD, the name of the Senator from Nevada (Mr. REID) was added as a cosponsor of S. 223, a bill to require Senate candidates to file designations, statements, and reports in electronic form.

S. 423

At the request of Mr. AKAKA, the name of the Senator from Missouri (Mrs. MCCASKILL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 423, a bill to increase, effective as of December 1, 2007, the rates of compensation for veterans with service-connected disabilities and the rates of dependency and indemnity compensation for the survivors of certain disabled veterans.

S. 573

At the request of Ms. STABENOW, the names of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. DOMENICI) and the Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER) were added as cosponsors of S. 573, a bill to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act and the Public Health Service Act to improve the prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of heart disease, stroke, and other cardiovascular diseases in women.

S. 579

At the request of Mr. REID, the names of the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. DORGAN) and the Senator from Michigan (Mr. LEVIN) were added as cosponsors of S. 579, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to authorize the Director of the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences to make grants for the development and operation of research centers regarding environmental factors that may be related to the etiology of breast cancer.

At the request of Mr. HATCH, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. SMITH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 579, supra.

S. 609

At the request of Mr. ROCKEFELLER, the name of the Senator from Kansas (Mr. ROBERTS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 609, a bill to amend section 254 of the Communications Act of 1934 to provide that funds received as universal service contributions and the universal service support programs established pursuant to that section are not subject to certain provisions of title 31, United States Code, commonly known as the Antideficiency Act.

S. 673

At the request of Mr. SALAZAR, the names of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. WYDEN) and the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW) were added as cosponsors of S. 673, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide credits for the installation of wind energy property, including by rural homeowners, farmers, ranchers, and small businesses, and for other purposes.

S. 691

At the request of Mr. CONRAD, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. ISAKSON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 691, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to improve the benefits under the Medicare program for beneficiaries with kidney disease, and for other purposes.

S. 739

At the request of Mr. BINGAMAN, the names of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ), the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. LAUTENBERG), the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) and the Senator from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) were added as cosponsors of S. 739, a bill to provide disadvantaged children with access to dental services.

S. 746

At the request of Mr. ALLARD, the name of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. JOHNSON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 746, a bill to establish a competitive grant program to build capacity in veterinary medical education and expand the workforce of veterinarians engaged in public health practice and biomedical research.

S. 773

At the request of Mr. MENENDEZ, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 773, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow Federal civilian and military retirees to pay health insurance premiums on a pretax basis and to allow a deduction for TRICARE supplemental premiums.

S. 823

At the request of Mr. OBAMA, the names of the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN) and the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. KENNEDY) were added as cosponsors of S. 823, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act with respect to facilitating the development of microbicides for preventing transmission of HIV/AIDS and other diseases, and for other purposes.

S. 871

At the request of Mr. LIEBERMAN, the names of the Senator from Colorado (Mr. SALAZAR) and the Senator from Oregon (Mr. SMITH) were added as cosponsors of S. 871, a bill to establish and provide for the treatment of Individual Development Accounts, and for other purposes.

S. 881

At the request of Mr. SMITH, the name of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. THUNE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 881, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend and modify the railroad track maintenance credit.

S. 941

At the request of Mr. SANDERS, the name of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. BINGAMAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 941, a bill to increase Federal support for Community Health Centers and the National Health Service Corps in order to ensure access to health care for millions of Americans living in medically-underserved areas.

S. 969

At the request of Mr. DODD, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. OBAMA) was added as a cosponsor of S. 969, a bill to amend the National Labor Relations Act to modify the definition of supervisor.

S. 971

At the request of Mr. BOND, the name of the Senator from Missouri (Mrs. MCCASKILL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 971, a bill to establish the National Institute of Food and Agriculture, to provide funding for the support of fundamental agricultural research of the highest quality, and for other purposes.

S. 973

At the request of Mr. DORGAN, the name of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. BIDEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 973, a bill to amend the Mandatory Victims' Restitution Act to improve restitution for victims of crime, and for other purposes.

S. 1026

At the request of Mr. CHAMBLISS, the names of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) and the Senator from Alaska (Mr. STEVENS) were added as cosponsors of S. 1026, a bill to designate the Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center in Augusta, Georgia, as the ''Charlie Norwood Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center''.

S. 1060

At the request of Mr. BIDEN, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1060, a bill to reauthorize the grant program for reentry of offenders into the community in the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968, to improve reentry planning and implementation, and for other purposes.

S. 1113

At the request of Mr. BAYH, the name of the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. BYRD) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1113, a bill to facilitate the provision of care and services for members of the Armed Forces for traumatic brain injury, and for other purposes.

S. 1161

At the request of Mr. BINGAMAN, the names of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. REED) and the Senator from Wisconsin (Mr. FEINGOLD) were added as cosponsors of S. 1161, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to authorize the expansion of medicare coverage of medical nutrition therapy services.

S. 1164

At the request of Mr. CARDIN, the names of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. DOMENICI) and the Senator from Georgia (Mr. ISAKSON) were added as cosponsors of S. 1164, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to improve patient access to, and utilization of, the colorectal cancer screening benefit under the Medicare Program.

S. 1239

At the request of Mr. ROCKEFELLER, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Mr. COLEMAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1239, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend the new markets tax credit through 2013, and for other purposes.

S. 1252

At the request of Mr. AKAKA, the name of the Senator from Virginia (Mr. WEBB) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1252, a bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to provide for uniformity in the awarding of disability ratings for wounds or injuries incurred by members of the Armed Forces, and for other purposes.

S. 1257

At the request of Mr. LIEBERMAN, the name of the Senator from Wisconsin (Mr. FEINGOLD) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1257, a bill to provide the District of Columbia a voting seat and the State of Utah an additional seat in the House of Representatives.

S. 1267

At the request of Mr. LUGAR, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. LIEBERMAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1267, a bill to maintain the free flow of information to the public by providing conditions for the federally compelled disclosure of information by certain persons connected with the news media.

S. 1277

At the request of Mr. NELSON of Nebraska, the names of the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS), the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. CONRAD), the Senator from Minnesota (Mr. COLEMAN), the Senator from Washington (Ms. CANTWELL), the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. INOUYE) and the Senator from Colorado (Mr. SALAZAR) were added as cosponsors of S. 1277, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to clarify the treatment of payment under the Medicare program for clinical laboratory tests furnished by critical access hospitals.

S. 1287

At the request of Mr. SMITH, the names of the Senator from Colorado (Mr. SALAZAR) and the Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER) were added as cosponsors of S. 1287, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow an offset against income tax refunds to pay for State judicial debts that are past-due.

S. 1299

At the request of Mr. SCHUMER, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Ms. MIKULSKI) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1299, a bill to establish on behalf of consumers a fiduciary duty and other standards of care for mortgage brokers and originators, and to establish standards to assess a consumer's ability to repay, and for other purposes.

S. 1313

At the request of Mr. FEINGOLD, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. ISAKSON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1313, a bill to amend the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act to provide relief for servicemembers with respect to contracts for cellular phone service, and for other purposes.

S. 1328

At the request of Mr. LEAHY, the name of the Senator from Wisconsin (Mr. FEINGOLD) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1328, a bill to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to eliminate discrimination in the immigration laws by permitting permanent partners of United States citizens and lawful permanent residents to obtain lawful permanent resident status in the same manner as spouses of citizens and lawful permanent residents and to penalize immigration fraud in connection with permanent partnerships.

S. 1332

At the request of Mr. KENNEDY, the name of the Senator from New York (Mrs. CLINTON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1332, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to revise and extend projects relating to children and violence to provide access to school-based comprehensive mental health programs.

S. 1346

At the request of Ms. MIKULSKI, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. SPECTER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1346, a bill to amend conservation and biofuels programs of the Department of Agriculture to promote the compatible goals of economically viable agricultural production and reducing nutrient loads in the Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries by assisting agricultural producers to make beneficial, cost-effective changes to cropping systems, grazing management, and nutrient management associated with livestock and poultry production, crop production, bioenergy production, and other agricultural practices on agricultural land within the Chesapeake Bay watershed, and for other purposes.

S. 1354

At the request of Ms. MIKULSKI, the name of the Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1354, a bill to amend the definition of a law enforcement officer under subchapter III of chapter 83 and chapter 84 of title 5, United States Code, respectively, to ensure the inclusion of certain positions.

S. 1355

At the request of Mr. MARTINEZ, the name of the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. COBURN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1355, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to treat spaceports like airports under the exempt facility bond rules.

S. CON. RES. 3

At the request of Mr. SALAZAR, the name of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. LEAHY) was added as a cosponsor of S. Con. Res. 3, a concurrent resolution expressing the sense of Congress that it is the goal of the United States that, not later than January 1, 2025, the agricultural, forestry, and working land of the United States should provide from renewable resources not less than 25 percent of the total energy consumed in the United States and continue to produce safe, abundant, and affordable food, feed, and fiber.

S. RES. 171

At the request of Ms. COLLINS, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. VOINOVICH) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 171, a resolution memorializing fallen firefighters by lowering the United States flag to half-staff on the day of the National Fallen Firefighter Memorial Service in Emmitsburg, Maryland.

S. RES. 191

At the request of Mr. ROCKEFELLER, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. OBAMA) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 191, a resolution establishing a national goal for the universal deployment of next-generation broadband networks to access the Internet and for other uses by 2015, and calling upon Congress and the President to develop a strategy, enact legislation, and adopt policies to accomplish this objective.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. BINGAMAN (for himself and Mr. THUNE):

S. 1376. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to revise and expand the drug discount program under section 340B of such Act to improve the provision of discounts on drug purchases for certain safety net providers; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

Mr. BINGAMAN. Mr. President, I rise today to introduce legislation with my colleague from South Dakota, Senator THUNE, designed to address the growing burden faced by this Nation's health care safety net institutions in being able to provide adequate pharmaceutical care to the most vulnerable patient populations.

Communities across the country rely on public and nonprofit hospitals to serve as the health care ''safety net'' for low-income, uninsured, and underinsured patients. With the ever-increasing cost of pharmaceuticals, these institutions are struggling more and more to provide basic pharmaceutical care to those least able to afford it.

Fortunately, many safety net hospitals are currently able to participate in the Federal 340B Drug Discount Program, which enables them to purchase outpatient drugs for their patients at discounted prices. These hospitals, known as ''covered entities'' under the 340B statute, include high-Medicaid disproportionate share hospitals, DSH, large and small urban hospitals, and certain rural hospitals.

I am introducing legislation today, the 340B Program Improvement and Integrity Act of 2007, which would extend discounted drug prices currently mandated only for outpatient drugs to inpatient drugs purchased by covered entities under the 340B program. Although the Medicare Modernization Act, MMA, of 2003 permitted pharmaceutical manufacturers to offer 340B drug discounts to covered entities, this legislation did not include a mandate. Without a mandate we have seen very little willingness on the part of manufactures to offer 340B drug discounts for inpatient drugs. As the prices of pharmaceutical drugs continue to increase sharply, the need for these inpatient discounts grows more and more acute.

My legislation would also expand participation in the program to a subset of rural hospitals that, for a variety of reasons, cannot currently access 340B discounts. These newly eligible rural hospitals include critical access hospitals, sole community hospitals, and rural referral centers. In proposing this modest expansion to the program, we have struck an important balance between ensuring a close nexus with low-income and indigent care, ensured that a significant portion of savings is passed on to the Medicaid Program, and strengthened the integrity of the program.

Specifically, newly eligible rural hospitals would have to meet appropriate standards demonstrating their ''safety net'' status, as do all hospitals that currently participate in the program. For example, sole community hospitals and rural referral centers, all of which are paid under the prospective payment system, would be required under this legislation to serve a significant percentage of low-income and indigent patients, have public or nonprofit status, and, if privately owned and operated, to have a contract with State or local government to provide a significant level of indigent care. All standards are designed to reinforce the obligation of these covered entities to continue serving low-income and uninsured patients.

This legislation would also generate savings for the Medicaid Program by requiring participating hospitals to credit to their Medicaid agencies a significant percentage of their savings on inpatient drugs. It would address the overall efficiency and integrity of the 340B program through improved enforcement and compliance measures with respect to manufacturers and covered entities. This is designed to improve program administration and to prevent and remedy instances of program abuse.

In the end, this legislation would accomplish several important goals. It would help safety net providers stretch their already limited resources through increased access to discounted pharmaceuticals; it would enhance 340B program integrity by making sure participants are complying with program rules; and it would help to improve the care provided to this Nation's most vulnerable populations.

I urge my colleagues to cosponsor this important legislation.

I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the text of the bill was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 1376

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 ''340B Program Improvement and Integrity Act of 2007''.

SEC. 2. EXPANDED PARTICIPATION IN SECTION 340B PROGRAM.

(a) EXPANSION OF COVERED ENTITIES RECEIVING DISCOUNTED PRICES.—Section 340B(a)(4) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 256b(a)(4)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(M) A children's hospital excluded from the Medicare prospective payment system pursuant to section 1886(d)(1)(B)(iii) of the Social Security Act which would meet the requirements of subparagraph (L), including the disproportionate share adjustment percentage requirement under clause (ii) of such subparagraph, if the hospital were a subsection (d) hospital as defined by section 1886(d)(1)(B) of the Social Security Act.

''(N) An entity that is a critical access hospital (as determined under section 1820(c)(2) of the Social Security Act), and that meets the requirements of subparagraph (L)(i).

''(O) An entity that is a rural referral center, as defined by section 1886(d)(5)(C)(i) of the Social Security Act, or a sole community hospital, as defined by section 1886(d)(5)(C)(iii) of such Act, and that both meets the requirements of subparagraph (L)(i) and has a disproportionate share adjustment percentage equal to or greater than 8 percent.''.

(b) PROHIBITION ON GROUP PURCHASING ARRANGEMENTS.—Section 340B(a) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 256b(a)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (4)(L), by striking clause (iii); and

(2) in paragraph (5)—

(A) by redesignating subparagraphs (C) and (D) as subparagraphs (D) and (E); respectively; and

(B) by inserting after subparagraph (B), the following:

''(C) PROHIBITING THE USE OF GROUP PURCHASING ARRANGEMENTS.—

''(i) IN GENERAL.—A hospital described in subparagraphs (L), (M), (N), or (O) of paragraph (4) shall not obtain covered outpatient drugs through a group purchasing organization or other group purchasing arrangement, except as permitted or provided for pursuant to clauses (ii) or (iii).

''(ii) INPATIENT DRUGS.—Clause (i) shall not apply to drugs purchased for inpatient use.

''(iii) EXCEPTIONS.—The Secretary shall establish reasonable exceptions to clause (i)—

''(I) with respect to a covered outpatient drug that is unavailable to be purchased through the program under this section due to a drug shortage problem, manufacturer noncompliance, or any other circumstance beyond the hospital's control;

''(II) to facilitate generic substitution when a generic covered outpatient drug is available at a lower price; or

''(III) to reduce in other ways the administrative burdens of managing both inventories of drugs subject to this section and inventories of drugs that are not subject to this section, so long as the exceptions do not create a duplicate discount problem in violation of subparagraph (A) or a diversion problem in violation of subparagraph (B).''.

SEC. 3. EXTENSION OF DISCOUNTS TO INPATIENT DRUGS.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 340B(b) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 256b(b)) is amended—

(A) by striking ''In this section'' and inserting the following:

''(1) IN GENERAL.—In this section''; and

(B) adding at the end the following:

''(2) COVERED DRUG.—In this section, the term 'covered drug' means—

''(A) a 'covered outpatient drug' as defined in section 1927(k)(2) of the Social Security Act; and

''(B) notwithstanding the limiting definition set forth in section 1927(k)(3) of such Act, a drug used in connection with an inpatient or outpatient service provided by a hospital described in subparagraph (L), (M), (N), or (O) of subsection (a)(4), and enrolled to participate in the drug discount program under this section.''.

(2) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—Paragraphs (2)(A), (5)(B), (5)(D), (5)(E), (7)(B), (7)(C), and (9) of section 340B(a) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 256b(a)) are amended—

(A) by striking ''covered outpatient drug'' each place that such appears and inserting ''covered drug''; and

(B) by striking ''covered outpatient drugs'' each place that such appears and inserting ''covered drugs''.

(b) MEDICAID CREDITS ON INPATIENT DRUGS.—Section 340B of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 256b) is amended by striking subsection (c) and inserting the following:

''(c) MEDICAID CREDITS ON INPATIENT DRUGS.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—With respect to the cost reporting period covered by the most recently filed Medicare cost report, a hospital described in subparagraph (L), (M), (N), or (O) of subsection (a)(4) and enrolled to participate in the drug discount program under this section shall provide to each State with an approved State plan under title XIX of the Social Security Act—

''(A) a credit on the estimated annual costs to such hospital of single source and innovator multiple source drugs provided to Medicaid recipients for inpatient use; and

''(B) a credit on the estimated annual costs to such hospital of noninnovator multiple source drugs provided to Medicaid recipients for inpatient use.

''(2) CALCULATION OF CREDITS.—

''(A) SINGLE SOURCE AND INNOVATOR MULTIPLE SOURCE DRUGS.—For purposes of paragraph (1)(A)—

''(i) the credit under such paragraph shall be determined by multiplying—

''(I) the product of—

''(aa) the estimated annual costs of single source and innovator multiple source drugs provided by the hospital to Medicaid recipients for inpatient use; and

''(bb) the average manufacturer price adjustment; and

''(II) the minimum rebate percentage described in section 1927(c)(1)(B) of the Social Security Act;

''(ii) the estimated annual costs of single source drugs and innovator multiple source drugs provided by the hospital to Medicaid recipients for inpatient use under clause (i)(I)(aa) shall be determined by multiplying—

''(I) the product of—

''(aa) the hospital's actual acquisition costs of all drugs purchased during the cost reporting period for inpatient use; and

''(bb)(AA) the Medicaid inpatient drug charges as reported on the hospital's most recently filed Medicare cost report; divided by

''(BB) the total inpatient drug charges reported on the cost report; and

''(II) the percentage of the hospital's annual inpatient drug costs described in subclause (I) that arise out of the purchase of single source and innovator multiple source drugs;

''(iii) the average manufacturer price adjustment referred to in clause (i)(I)(bb) shall be determined annually by the Secretary for single source and innovator multiple source drugs by dividing on an aggregate basis—

''(I) the average manufacturer price as defined in section 1927(k)(1)(D) of the Social Security Act, averaged across all covered drugs reported to the Secretary pursuant to section 1927(b)(3) of such Act; by

''(II) the average ceiling price under this section for covered drugs calculated pursuant to subsection (a)(1); and

''(iv) the terms 'single source drug' and 'innovator multiple source drug' have the meanings given such terms in section 1927(k)(7) of the Social Security Act.

''(B) NONINNOVATOR MULTIPLE SOURCE DRUGS.—For purposes of subparagraph (1)(B)—

''(i) the credit under such paragraph shall be calculated by multiplying—

''(I) the product of—

''(aa) the estimated annual costs to the hospital of noninnovator multiple source drugs provided to Medicaid recipients for inpatient use; and

''(bb) the average manufacturer price adjustment; and

''(II) the applicable percentage as defined in section 1927(c)(3)(B) of the Social Security Act;

''(ii) the estimated annual costs to a hospital of noninnovator multiple source drugs provided to Medicaid recipients for inpatient use under clause (i)(I)(aa) shall be determined by multiplying—

''(I) the product of—

''(aa) the hospital's actual acquisition cost of all drugs purchased during the cost reporting period for inpatient use; and

''(bb)(AA) the Medicaid inpatient drug charges as reported on the hospital's most recently filed Medicare cost report; divided by

''(BB) total inpatient drug charges reported on the cost report; and

''(II) the percentage of the hospital's annual inpatient drug costs described in subclause (I) arising out of the purchase of noninnovator multiple source drugs;

''(iii) the average manufacturer price adjustment referred to in clause (i)(I)(bb) shall be determined annually by the Secretary for noninnovator multiple source drugs by dividing on an aggregate basis—

''(I) the average manufacturer price as defined in section 1927(k)(1)(D) of the Social Security Act, averaged across all covered drugs reported to the Secretary pursuant to section 1927(b)(3) of such Act; by

''(II) the average ceiling price under this section for covered drugs calculated pursuant to subsection (a)(1); and

''(iv) the term 'noninnovator multiple source drug' has the meaning given such term in section 1927(k)(7) of the Social Security Act.

''(3) PAYMENT DEADLINE.—The credits provided by a hospital under paragraph (1) shall be paid not later than 90 days after the date of the filing of the hospital's most recently filed Medicare cost report.

''(4) OPT-OUT.—A hospital shall not be required to provide the Medicaid credit required under this subsection if the hospital is able to demonstrate to the State that the credits would be less than or equal to the loss of reimbursement under the State plan resulting from the extension of discounts to inpatient drugs under subsection (b)(2), or if the hospital and State agree to an alternative arrangement. Any dispute between the hospital and the State regarding the applicability of this paragraph shall be adjudicated through the administrative dispute resolution process described in subsection (e)(3).

''(5) OFFSET AGAINST MEDICAL ASSISTANCE.—Amounts received by a State under this subsection in any quarter shall be considered to be a reduction in the amount expended under the State plan in the quarter for medical assistance for purposes of section 1903(a)(1) of the Social Security Act.

''(6) EFFECTIVENESS NOTWITHSTANDING OTHER PROVISIONS OF LAW.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, all references to provisions of the Social Security Act in this section shall be deemed to be references to the Social Security Act as in effect on the date of enactment of the 340B Program Improvement and Integrity Act of 2007.''.

SEC. 4. IMPROVEMENTS TO 340B PROGRAM INTEGRITY.

(a) INTEGRITY IMPROVEMENTS.—Section 340B of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 256b) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(e) IMPROVEMENTS IN PROGRAM INTEGRITY.—

''(1) MANUFACTURER COMPLIANCE.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—From amounts appropriated under paragraph (4), the Secretary shall carry out activities to provide for improvement in the compliance of manufacturers with the requirements of this section in order to prevent overcharges and other violations of the discounted pricing requirements specified in this section.

''(B) ACTIVITIES.—The activities described in subparagraph (A) shall include the following:

''(i) The development of a system to enable the Secretary to verify the accuracy of ceiling prices calculated by manufacturers under subsection (a)(1) and charged to covered entities, which shall include—

''(I) developing and publishing, through an appropriate policy or regulatory issuance, precisely defined standards and methodologies for the calculation of ceiling prices under subsection (a)(1);

''(II) comparing regularly the ceiling prices calculated by the Secretary with the quarterly pricing data that is reported by manufacturers to the Secretary;

''(III) performing spot checks of sales transactions by covered entities; and

''(IV) inquiring into the cause of any pricing discrepancies that may be identified and either taking, or requiring manufacturers to take, such corrective action as is appropriate in response to such price discrepancies.

''(ii) The establishment of procedures for manufacturers to issue refunds to covered entities in the event that there is an overcharge by the manufacturers, including—

''(I) providing the Secretary with an explanation of why and how the overcharge occurred, how the refunds will be calculated, and to whom the refunds will be issued; and

''(II) oversight by the Secretary to ensure that the refunds are issued accurately and within a reasonable period of time, both in routine instances of retroactive adjustment to relevant pricing data and exceptional circumstances such as erroneous or intentional overcharging for covered drugs.

''(iii) The provision of access, through the Internet website of the Department of Health and Human Services, to the applicable ceiling prices for covered drugs as calculated and verified by the Secretary in accordance with this section, in a manner (such as through the use of password protection) that limits such access to covered entities and adequately ensures security and the protection of privileged pricing data from unauthorized redisclosure.

''(iv) The development of a mechanism by which—

''(I) rebates and other discounts provided by manufacturers to other purchasers, subsequent to the sale of covered drugs to covered entities, are reported to the Secretary; and

''(II) appropriate credits and refunds are issued to covered entities if such credits and refunds have the effect of lowering the applicable ceiling price for the relevant quarter for the drugs involved.

''(v) Selective auditing of manufacturers and wholesalers to ensure the integrity of the drug discount program under this section.

''(vi) The imposition of sanctions in the form of civil monetary penalties, which—

''(I) shall be assessed according to standards established in regulations to be promulgated by the Secretary within 180 days of the date of enactment of this subsection;

''(II) shall not exceed $5,000 for each instance of overcharging a covered entity that may have occurred; and

''(III) shall apply to any manufacturer with an agreement under this section that knowingly and intentionally charges a covered entity a price for the purchase of a drug that exceeds the maximum applicable price under subsection (a)(1).

''(2) COVERED ENTITY COMPLIANCE.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—From amounts appropriated under paragraph (4), the Secretary shall carry out activities to provide for improvement in compliance by covered entities with the requirements of this section in order to prevent diversion and other violations of the duplicate discount requirements specified under subsection (a)(5).

''(B) ACTIVITIES.—The activities described in subparagraph (A) shall include the following:

''(i) The development of procedures to enable and require covered entities to regularly update (at least annually) the information on the Internet website of the Department of Health and Human Services relating to this section.

''(ii) The development of a system for the Secretary to verify the accuracy of information regarding covered entities that is listed on the website described in clause (i).

''(iii) The development of more detailed guidance describing methodologies and options available to covered entities for billing covered drugs to State Medicaid agencies in a manner that avoids duplicate discounts pursuant to subsection (a)(5)(A).

''(iv) The establishment of a single, universal, and standardized identification system by which each covered entity site can be identified by manufacturers, distributors, covered entities and the Secretary for purposes of facilitating the ordering, purchasing, and delivery of covered drugs under this section, including the processing of chargebacks for such drugs.

''(v) The imposition of sanctions, as determined appropriate by the Secretary, in addition to the sanctions to which covered entities are subject to under subsection (a)(5)(D), through 1 or more of the following actions:

''(I) Where a covered entity knowingly and intentionally violates subsection (a)(5)(B), the covered entity shall be required to pay a monetary penalty to a manufacturer or manufacturers in the form of interest on sums for which the covered entity is found liable under subsection (a)(5)(E), and such interest to be compounded monthly and equal to the current short-term interest rate as determined by the Federal Reserve for the time period for which the covered entity is liable.

''(II) Where the Secretary determines that a violation of subsection (a)(5)(B) was systematic and egregious as well as knowing and intentional, removing the covered entity from the program under this section and disqualifying the entity from reentry into the program for a reasonable period of time to be determined by the Secretary.

''(III) Referring matters to appropriate Federal authorities within the Food and Drug Administration, the Office of Inspector General, or other Federal agencies for consideration of appropriate action under other Federal law, such as the Prescription Drug Marketing Act.

''(3) ADMINISTRATIVE DISPUTE RESOLUTION PROCESS.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this subsection, the Secretary shall promulgate regulations to establish and implement an administrative process for the resolution of claims by covered entities that they have been overcharged for drugs purchased under this section, and claims by manufacturers, after the conduct of audits as authorized by subsection (a)(5)(D), of violations of subsections (a)(5)(A) or (a)(5)(B), including appropriate procedures for the provision of remedies and enforcement of determinations made pursuant to such process through mechanisms and sanctions described in paragraphs (1)(B) and (2)(B) of this subsection. Such regulations shall also establish an administrative process for resolution of disputes described in subsection (c)(4).

''(B) DEADLINES AND PROCEDURES.—Regulations promulgated by the Secretary under subparagraph (A) shall—

''(i) designate or establish a decisionmaking official or decisionmaking body within the Department of Health and Human Services to be responsible for reviewing and finally resolving claims by covered entities that they have been charged prices for covered drugs in excess of the ceiling price described in subsection (a)(1), and claims by manufacturers that violations of subsection (a)(5)(A) or (a)(5)(B) have occurred;

''(ii) establish such deadlines and procedures as may be necessary to ensure that claims shall be resolved fairly, efficiently, and expeditiously;

''(iii) establish procedures by which a covered entity may discover and obtain such information and documents from manufacturers and third parties as may be relevant to demonstrate the merits of a claim that charges for a manufacturer's product have exceeded the applicable ceiling price under this section, and may submit such documents and information to the administrative official or body responsible for adjudicating such claim;

''(iv) require that a manufacturer must conduct an audit of a covered entity pursuant to subsection (a)(5)(D) as a prerequisite to initiating administrative dispute resolution proceedings against a covered entity;

''(v) permit the official or body designated in clause (i), at the request of a manufacturer or manufacturers, to consolidate claims brought by more than 1 manufacturer against the same covered entity where, in the judgment of such official or body, consolidation is appropriate and consistent with the goals of fairness and economy of resources; and

''(vi) include provisions and procedures to permit multiple covered entities to jointly assert claims of overcharges by the same manufacturer for the same drug or drugs in one administrative proceeding, and permit such claims to be asserted on behalf of covered entities by associations or organizations representing the interests of such covered entities and of which the covered entities are members.

''(C) FINALITY OF ADMINISTRATIVE RESOLUTION.—The administrative resolution of a claim or claims under the regulations promulgated under subparagraph (A) shall be a final agency decision and shall be binding upon the parties involved, unless invalidated by an order of a court of competent jurisdiction.

''(4) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this subsection, such sums as may be necessary for fiscal year 2008, and each succeeding fiscal year.''.

(b) RELATED AMENDMENTS.—Section 340B(a)(1) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 256b(a)) is amended by adding at the end the following: ''Each such agreement shall require that the manufacturer furnish the Secretary with reports, on a quarterly basis, of the price for each covered drug subject to the agreement that, according to the manufacturer, represents the maximum price that covered entities may permissibly be required to pay for the drug (referred to in this section as the 'ceiling price'), and shall require that the manufacturer offer each covered entity covered drugs for purchase at or below the applicable ceiling price if such drug is made available to any other purchaser at any price.''.

SEC. 5. OTHER IMPROVEMENTS.

(a) GENERAL.—Section 340B of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 256b), as amended by section 4, is further amended by adding at the end the following:

''(f) USE OF MULTIPLE CONTRACT PHARMACIES PERMITTED.—Nothing in this section shall be construed as prohibiting a covered entity from entering into contracts with more than 1 pharmacy for the provision of covered drugs, including a contract that supplements the use of an in-house pharmacy arrangement or requires the approval of the Secretary for entering into such a contract.

''(g) INTRAAGENCY COORDINATION.—The Secretary shall establish specific measures, policies, and procedures to ensure effective communication and coordination between the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services and the Health Resources and Services Administration with respect to all agency actions and all aspects of policy and administration affecting or pertaining to the drug discount program under this section and in which the functions and responsibilities of those agency components are interrelated or interdependent, including through the establishment of a permanent working group that is composed of representatives of both the Health Resources and Services Administration and the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, to identify and oversee matters requiring such coordination.''.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATES.—

(1) AMENDMENT.—Section 340B(d) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 256b(d)) is amended by striking ''Veterans Health Care Act of 1992'' and inserting ''340B Program Improvement and Integrity Act of 2007''.

(2) APPLICATION OF ACT.—The amendments made by this Act shall apply to drugs purchased on or after January 1, 2008.

(c) EFFECTIVENESS NOTWITHSTANDING OTHER PROVISIONS OF LAW.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the

amendments made by this Act shall become effective on January 1, 2008, and shall be taken into account in determining whether a manufacturer is deemed to meet the requirements of section 340B(a) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 256b(a)), and the requirements of section 1927(a)(5) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1396r–8(a)(5)).

SEC. 6. CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.

Section 1927 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1396r–8) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)(5)—

(A) in subparagraph (A), by striking ''covered outpatient'' and inserting ''covered'';

(B) by redesignating subparagraphs (C) through (E), as subparagraphs (D) through (F), respectively;

(C) by inserting after subparagraph (B) the following:

''(C) COVERED DRUG DEFINED.—In this subsection, the term 'covered drug' means a drug defined in section 340B(b)(2) of the Public Health Service Act.'';

(D) in subparagraph (E), as so redesignated, by striking ''title VI of the Veterans Health Care Act of 1992'' and inserting ''340B Program Improvement and Integrity Act of 2007.''; and

(E) in subparagraph (F), as so redesignated—

(i) by striking ''as in effect immediately after the enactment of this paragraph'' and inserting ''as in effect upon the effective date of the 340B Program Improvement and Integrity Act of 2007,''; and

(ii) by striking ''after the date of the enactment of this paragraph'' and inserting ''after the date of enactment of such Act.'';

(2) in subsection (c)(1)(C)(i)—

(A) by redesignating subclauses (II) through (IV) as subclauses (III) through (V), respectively; and

(B) by inserting after subclause (I) the following:

''(II) any prices charged for a covered drug as defined in section 340B(b)(2) of the Public Health Service Act;''; and

(3) in subsection (k)(1), by adding at the end the following:

''(D) CALCULATION FOR COVERED DRUGS.—Notwithstanding any other provision of this subsection, with respect to a covered drug as defined in section 340B(b)(2) of the Public Health Service Act, average manufacturer price means the average price paid to the manufacturer for the drug in the United States by wholesalers for drugs distributed to both the retail pharmacy and acute care classes of trade, after deducting customary prompt pay discounts.''.

By Mr. REID (for himself and Mr. ENSIGN):

S. 1377. A bill to direct the Secretary of the Interior to convey to the City of Henderson, Nevada, certain Federal land located in the City, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I rise today for myself and Senator ENSIGN to introduce the Southern Nevada Limited Transition Area Act. This bill will allow one of Nevada's fastest growing communities to diversify its economy, to create space for important small businesses and parks, and to encourage appropriate development around an urban airport.

This legislation was first introduced in the 108th Congress. Its purpose is to convey approximately 502 acres of land from the Bureau of Land Management to the city of Henderson, NV, for the development of an employment and business center and urban green spaces. The parcels are located just west and south of the Henderson Executive Airport.

The Bureau of Land Management has designated these parcels for disposal because of the urban surroundings, which renders them difficult for the agency to manage.

This legislation will enhance the ability of a rapidly growing community to diversify its economy, gainfully employ its residents, and encourage proper land use. The parcels are located in a fast growing area of the city, but are impacted by aircraft noise and overflights from the nearby Henderson Executive Airport. This makes the property unsuitable for residential use. But rather than shying away from it because of the limitations on its use, the city of Henderson has put together a forward-looking plan that will turn the area into a bustling business center.

Once the Bureau of Land Management conveys the land to Henderson, the city would then sell, lease or otherwise convey subdivided lots at fair market value. Consistent with the Southern Nevada Public Land Management Act, 85 percent of the proceeds would then return to the BLM's Special Account for a variety of conservation purposes in Nevada, 10 percent will go towards community water developments, and 5 percent will support the State of Nevada's general education program.

The city of Henderson's leaders are dedicated to making the city a national model of logical development, diversified employment, and fiscal sustainability. This bill helps establish the conditions needed to realize that vision. In addition to productively diversifying the land use pattern in the Las Vegas Valley, the proposed development of this land will encourage a broad range of employment opportunities for the region, while also helping to pay for public infrastructure in nearby residential areas.

I greatly appreciated the hearing that the Energy and Natural Resources Committee had on this bill last Congress. At that hearing, the Department of the Interior and others expressed strong support for our legislation. A few minor revisions were requested by the administration, and I have incorporated those changes into the bill we are introducing today. I look forward to working with the committee to move this legislation in an expeditious manner during this Congress.

I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the text of the bill was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 1377

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 ''Southern Nevada Limited Transition Area Act''.

SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) CITY.—The term ''City'' means the City of Henderson, Nevada.

(2) SECRETARY.—The term ''Secretary'' means the Secretary of the Interior.

(3) STATE.—The term ''State'' means the State of Nevada.

(4) TRANSITION AREA.—The term ''Transition Area'' means the approximately 502 acres of Federal land located in Henderson, Nevada, and identified as ''Limited Transition Area'' on the map entitled ''Southern Nevada Limited Transition Area Act'' and dated March 20, 2006.

SEC. 3. SOUTHERN NEVADA LIMITED TRANSITION AREA.

(a) CONVEYANCE.—Notwithstanding the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.), on request of the City, the Secretary shall, without consideration and subject to all valid existing rights, convey to the City all right, title, and interest of the United States in and to the Transition Area.

(b) USE OF LAND FOR NONRESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—After the conveyance to the City under subsection (a), the City may sell, lease, or otherwise convey any portion or portions of the Transition Area for purposes of nonresidential development.

(2) METHOD OF SALE.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The sale, lease, or conveyance of land under paragraph (1) shall be through a competitive bidding process.

(B) FAIR MARKET VALUE.—Any land sold, leased, or otherwise conveyed under paragraph (1) shall be for not less than fair market value.

(3) COMPLIANCE WITH CHARTER.—Except as provided in paragraphs (2) and (4), the City may sell, lease, or otherwise convey parcels within the Transition Area only in accordance with the procedures for conveyances established in the City Charter.

(4) DISPOSITION OF PROCEEDS.—The gross proceeds from the sale of land under paragraph (1) shall be distributed in accordance with section 4(e) of the Southern Nevada Public Land Management Act of 1998 (112 Stat. 2345).

(c) USE OF LAND FOR RECREATION OR OTHER PUBLIC PURPOSES.—The City may elect to retain parcels in the Transition Area for public recreation or other public purposes consistent with the Act of June 14, 1926 (commonly known as the ''Recreation and Public Purposes Act'') (43 U.S.C. 869 et seq.) by providing to the Secretary written notice of the election.

(d) NOISE COMPATIBILITY REQUIREMENTS.—The City shall—

(1) plan and manage the Transition Area in accordance with section 47504 of title 49, United States Code (relating to airport noise compatibility planning), and regulations promulgated in accordance with that section; and

(2) agree that if any land in the Transition Area is sold, leased, or otherwise conveyed by the City, the sale, lease, or conveyance shall contain a limitation to require uses compatible with that airport noise compatibility planning.

(e) REVERSION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—If any parcel of land in the Transition Area is not conveyed for nonresidential development under this Act or reserved for recreation or other public purposes under subsection (c) by the date that 20 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the parcel of land shall, at the discretion of the Secretary, revert to the United States.

(2) INCONSISTENT USE.—If the City uses any parcel of land within the Transition Area in a manner that is inconsistent with the uses specified in this section—

(A) at the discretion of the Secretary, the parcel shall revert to the United States; or

(B) if the Secretary does not make an election under paragraph (1), the City shall sell the parcel of land in accordance with this section.

By Mrs. FEINSTEIN (for herself, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. BAUCUS, and Mr. TESTER):

S. 1379. A bill to amend chapter 35 of title 28, United States Code, to strike the exception to the residency requirements for United States attorneys; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Mr. President, I rise today to introduce the U.S. Attorney Local Residency Restoration Act along with Senators SCHUMER, BAUCUS, and TESTER.

Simply put, this legislation would eliminate the other language that the Department of Justice had inserted into the PATRIOT Act reauthorization dealing with U.S. attorneys.

The first provision added allowed the Attorney General to appoint interim U.S. attorneys to vacancies indefinitely without Senate confirmation, and I authored a bill to restore the law to require interim appointments by the Attorney General for only 120 days, and then the district courts can appoint the interim U.S. attorney if a permanent replacement has not been nominated and confirmed.

This bill has passed this body, and I hope will be signed into law soon.

Today, I am offering this legislation to restore the residency requirement for sitting U.S. attorneys.

Before the change, the law required that U.S. attorneys live within his district while serving. It seems logical that the U.S. attorney should live in the district that he is heading.

However, the Department of Justice added language in the PATRIOT Act reauthorization that allows a U.S. attorney to live outside of his district if the Attorney General assigns dual or additional responsibilities to him.

While U.S. attorneys in both Democratic and Republican administrations have served dual roles in the past, this administration has once again abused its new authority—this time by placing numerous U.S. attorneys in full-time positions throughout the Department of Justice, at times in a manner that allows the Department to avoid Senate confirmation.

In fact, Dennis Boyd, executive director of the National Association of Assistant U.S. Attorneys, which represents current Federal prosecutors, has said, ''I can't think of a time when there's been this many U.S. attorneys doing double duty at one time.''

Currently, there are several U.S. attorneys, that we know about, who are serving in a second full-time position here in Washington, while still retaining their responsibilities back in their districts. For example, Michael J. Sullivan, the U.S. attorney in Boston, has been serving as the Acting Director of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives in Washington for the past 6 months, a position that requires Senate confirmation;

Mary Beth Buchanan, U.S. attorney in Pittsburgh, is also the acting director of the Office of Violence Against Women, a position that requires Senate confirmation, and prior to that she served as Director of the Executive Office of U.S. Attorneys; and Kevin O'Connor, U.S. attorney in Connecticut, is also serving as an Associate Deputy Attorney General coordinating antigang policies.

Of course, the most well-known example is William Mercer, U.S. attorney in Montana. Mr. Mercer has been effectively absent for nearly 2 years from his State. First, serving as Principal Associate Deputy Attorney General, and now working as Acting Associate Attorney General, another position that requires Senate confirmation. In fact, through staff interviews we have learned that he is only in his State 3 or 4 days a month.

Moreover, his consistent absenteeism was having such a negative effect on the district that it led to the point where U.S. District Chief Judge Donald Molloy of Billings, MT, felt compelled to write to the Attorney General on October 20, 2005, to complain. In that letter, Chief Judge Molloy wrote that Mr. Mercer's dual roles have led to ''a lack of leadership'' in the Montana office and created ''untoward difficulties for the court'' and for career prosecutors. Chief Judge Molloy also wrote that Mr. Mercer was violating Federal law because he ''no longer resides in Montana'' and instead was living with his family in the Washington, DC, area.

These facts on their own are cause for alarm.

However, what is even more disconcerting is the way that Mr. Mercer and the Department of Justice have handled this situation.

We know that the Attorney General responded to Chief Judge Molloy in a letter on November 10, 2005, stating that Mr. Mercer ''is in compliance with the residency requirement'' under Federal law because he ''is domiciled in Montana, returns there on a regular basis, and will live there full-time as soon as his temporary assignment is completed.''

We also know through interviews of DOJ staff that Mr. Mercer worked with Will Moschella and Senate staff during November 2005 to insert the residency exemption language into the PATRIOT Act reauthorization.

In fact, according to the Washington Post, the response from the Attorney General to Chief Judge Molloy occurred on the very same day that DOJ asked for the language to be inserted into the PATRIOT Act.

All this resulted in a change in the law, thus eviscerating the conflict.

However, even beyond this turn of events, what is truly breathtaking about this administration's actions with regard to Mr. Mercer is that in trying to defend its actions to force numerous U.S. attorneys to resign from office, this same Justice Department criticized David Iglesias for being ''an absentee landlord.''

I firmly believe, what is sauce for the goose is sauce for the gander. You can't one day try to change the law to make it easier for U.S. attorneys to serve in 2 full-time jobs at the same time and then the next day fire someone for not being fully present in his job, especially when the absence is much more limited and based on service to the country in the naval reserves.

While there are times when U.S. attorneys may be relied upon to fill in temporarily, changing the law to ensure that they can hold two full-time jobs is unacceptable.

Serving as U.S. attorney is a full-time job, and each district throughout this country deserves to have the best qualified person in the district focused on the tasks at hand.

I am quite certain that there are many fine first assistant U.S. attorneys capable of stepping up to fill the shoes of an absent U.S. attorney; however, these are not the individuals the President has nominated and the Senate has confirmed to serve those positions.

These districts deserve nothing less than the undivided attention of their Senate-confirmed U.S. attorneys.

I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the text of the bill was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 1379

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 ''United States Attorney Local Residency Restoration Act of 2007''.

SEC. 2. REPEAL OF RESIDENCY EXCEPTION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 545(a) of title 28, United States Code, is amended by striking the last sentence.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE AND APPLICABILITY.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The amendments made by this section shall—

(A) take effect on the date of enactment of this Act; and

(B) apply to any person serving as a United States attorney or an assistant United States attorney on or after such date of enactment.

(2) ORDERS.—Any order issued under section 545(a) of title 28, United States Code, as in effect on the day before the date of enactment of this Act, shall terminate on such date of enactment.

By Mr. SALAZAR (for himself and Mr. ALLARD):

S. 1380. A bill to designate as wilderness certain land within the Rocky Mountain National Park and to adjust the boundaries of the Indian Peaks Wilderness and the Arapaho National Recreation Area of the Arapaho National Forest in the State of Colorado; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

Mr. ALLARD. Mr. President, today I am proud to co-sponsor legislation that

will designate Rocky Mountain National Park as ''wilderness.''

This legislation will protect an area that was formed millions of years ago when massive glaciers carved an impressive landscape. The Rocky Mountain National Park Wilderness Act will ensure that it remains unchanged in years to come.

Today marks the beginning of a new chapter in the long history of the Park. As a fifth generation Coloradan and someone who grew up in the shadow of Rocky Mountain National Park, it is an honor to have worked on this bill. With the introduction of this legislation we continue to follow an important wilderness tradition in Colorado.

Colorado and its representatives have long played an important role in the development of Wilderness in our Nation. This dates back to the original Wilderness Act. Congressman Wayne Aspinall, who represented Colorado's 4th Congressional District and chaired the Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs, played a pivotal role in creating the Nation's wilderness system with the 1964 Wilderness Act. From the inception of the original Wilderness Act through the continued development of wilderness in Colorado one thing has remained the same: a commitment to working together to find compromise and solutions that work for everyone.

The principle of compromise has held true from the Colorado National Forest Wilderness Act of 1980 to the Spanish Peaks Wilderness Act in 2000, and it is now true with the Rocky Mountain National Park Wilderness Act. I am especially proud of the legislation that my colleagues and I have introduced because it will preserve the natural elements of the Park while protecting water, the West's most valuable resource.

In a time when wells are being shut down just east of the park, the protection of water is more important than ever, and it is vital to preserving the agricultural heritage of this area. I am extremely pleased that we have been able protect both wilderness and water.

I would like to thank everyone that has been involved in the development of this bill, my colleagues in the United States Congress, the local officials that communicated with our offices, and the private citizens that shared their thoughts with us on the creation of this bill. I would specifically like to recognize former Senators Bill Armstrong and Hank Brown, and former Representatives Joe Johnson and David Skaggs. We would not be introducing this legislation today without these efforts.

The Rocky Mountain National Park Wilderness Act will ensure that Americans, now and in the future, have the ability to enjoy the Park.

By Mr. REID:

S. 1382. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to provide the establishment of an Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis Registry; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I rise to introduce the ALS Registry Act.

Lou Gehrig brought Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis, ALS, to the public's attention more than 65 years ago and his courage put a human face' on this terrible disease. Each of us has a Lou Gehrig back in our home State, someone who shows great tremendous courage and grace as they wrestle with ALS.

Over the years, I have worked closely with the Nevada ALS Association and have met with many Nevadans who have been touched by this devastating illness. One of these Nevadans was a man by the name of Steve Rigazio who was invited to testify before the Labor/HHS/Education Appropriations Subcommittee in May of 2000. Steve was at the height of his career when he was diagnosed with ALS. He worked through the ranks of the Nevada Power Company, the largest utility company in the State, for 16 years until he became president. He played semi-professional baseball. He also played and coached recreational hockey.

After his diagnosis, Steve continued to show up for work at 6 a.m. for as long as he could. Sadly just 20 months after he testified so movingly before Congress, Steve Rigazio died of ALS on December 27, 2001 at the age of 47. He left behind a family that included a wife, two children and hundreds of friends. The ALS Steve Rigazio Voice of Courage Award was named in his honor as a living testimony to the life of this special man.

Every year approximately 5,600 Americans will learn they have ALS. There is no cure for ALS and there is only one FDA approved drug to specifically treat ALS. That drug only works for 20 percent of patients, and even for them, it merely extends life for a few months.

ALS has proven particularly hard for scientists and doctors to tackle for a number of reasons. One of those reasons is there is not a centralized place where data on the disease is collected. Currently, there is only a patchwork of data about ALS that does not include the entire U.S. population and only includes limited data for specific purposes, such as to determine the relationship between military service and the disease. Perhaps the most obvious example of the limitations of current surveillance systems and registries is that we do not know with certainty how many people are living with ALS in the United States today. Over 136 years after the discovery of ALS, estimates on its prevalence still vary by as much as 100 percent, from a low of about 15,000 patients to as many as thirty 30,000.

The legislation I am introducing today would create an ALS registry at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, CDC, and will aid in the search for a cure to this devastating disease. The registry will collect data concerning: the incidence and prevalence of ALS in the U.S.; the environmental and occupational factors that may contribute to the disease; the age, race or ethnicity, gender and family history of individuals diagnosed; and other information essential to the study of ALS.

A national registry will help arm our Nation's researchers and clinicians with the tools and information they need to make progress in the fight against ALS. The data made available by a registry will potentially allow scientists to identify causes of the disease, and maybe even lead to the discovery of new treatment, a cure for ALS, or even a way to prevent the disease in the first place.

I first introduced this legislation in 2005. Since that time, we have appropriated funding to begin work on the development of a National ALS Registry at the CDC. As a result, the CDC has begun pilot proams that will: Develop and test strategies to efficiently identify ALS patients, and (2) determine how to obtain data from existing registries and databases. These pilot programs will help to expedite the development of the registry established by this legislation. This is especially important considering the life expectancy for a person with ALS is 2 to 5 years from the time of diagnosis.

The establishment of a registry will bring new hope to tens of thousands of patients and their families that ALS will no longer be a death sentence. No one wants to wait another 136 years before a cure is found. I urge my colleagues to support the swift passage of the ALS Registry Act.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the text of the bill was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 1382

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 ''ALS Registry Act''.

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress makes the following findings:

(1) Amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (referred to in this section as ''ALS'') is a fatal, progressive neurodegenerative disease that affects motor nerve cells in the brain and the spinal cord.

(2) The average life expectancy for a person with ALS is 2 to 5 years from the time of diagnosis.

(3) The cause of ALS is not well understood.

(4) There is only one drug currently approved by the Food and Drug Administration for the treatment of ALS, which has thus far shown only modest effects, prolonging life by just a few months.

(5) There is no known cure for ALS.

(6) More than 5,000 individuals in the United States are diagnosed with ALS annually and as many as 30,000 individuals may be living with ALS in the United States today.

(7) Studies have found relationships between ALS and environmental and genetic

factors, but those relationships are not well understood.

(8) Scientists believe that there are significant ties between ALS and other motor neuron diseases.

(9) Several ALS disease registries and databases exist in the United States and throughout the world, including the SOD1 database, the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke repository, and the Department of Veterans Affairs ALS Registry.

(10) A single national system to collect and store information on the prevalence and incidence of ALS in the United States does not exist.

(11) In each of fiscal years 2006 and 2007, Congress directed $887,000 to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to begin a nationwide ALS registry.

(12) The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry has established three pilot projects, beginning in fiscal year 2006, to evaluate the science to guide the creation of a national ALS registry.

(13) The establishment of a national registry will help—

(A) to identify the incidence and prevalence of ALS in the United States;

(B) to collect data important to the study of ALS;

(C) to promote a better understanding of ALS;

(D) to collect information that is important for research into the genetic and environmental factors that cause ALS;

(E) to strengthen the ability of a clearinghouse—

(i) to collect and disseminate research findings on environmental, genetic and other causes of ALS and other motor neuron disorders that can be confused with ALS, misdiagnosed as ALS, and in some cases progress to ALS;

(ii) make available information to patients about research studies for which they may be eligible; and

(iii) maintain information about clinical specialists and clinical trials on therapies; and

(F) to enhance efforts to find treatments and a cure for ALS.

SEC. 3. AMENDMENT TO THE PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE ACT.

Part P of title III of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 280g et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following:

"SEC. 399R. AMYOTROPHIC LATERAL SCLEROSIS REGISTRY.

''(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the receipt of the report described in subsection (b)(2)(A), the Secretary, acting through the Director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and in consultation with a national voluntary health organization with experience serving the population of individuals with amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (referred to in this section as 'ALS'), shall—

''(A) develop a system to collect data on ALS and other motor neuron disorders that can be confused with ALS, misdiagnosed as ALS, and in some cases progress to ALS, including information with respect to the incidence and prevalence of the disease in the United States; and

''(B) establish a national registry for the collection and storage of such data to include a population-based registry of cases in the United States of ALS and other motor neuron disorders that can be confused with ALS, misdiagnosed as ALS, and in some cases progress to ALS.

''(2) PURPOSE.—It is the purpose of the registry established under paragraph (1)(B) to gather available data concerning—

''(A) ALS, including the incidence and prevalence of ALS in the United States;

''(B) the environmental and occupational factors that may be associated with the disease;

''(C) the age, race or ethnicity, gender, and family history of individuals who are diagnosed with the disease;

''(D) other motor neuron disorders that can be confused with ALS, misdiagnosed as ALS, and in some cases progress to ALS; and

''(E) other matters as recommended by the Advisory Committee established under subsection (b).

''(b) ADVISORY COMMITTEE.—

''(1) ESTABLISHMENT.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this section, the Secretary, acting through the Director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, shall establish a committee to be known as the Advisory Committee on the National ALS Registry (referred to in this section as the 'Advisory Committee'). The Advisory Committee shall be composed of at least one member, to be appointed by the Secretary, acting through the Director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, representing each of the following:

''(A) National voluntary health associations that focus solely on ALS and have demonstrated experience in ALS research, care, and patient services, as well as other voluntary associations focusing on neurodegenerative diseases that represent and advocate on behalf of patients with ALS and patients with other motor neuron disorders that can be confused with ALS, misdiagnosed as ALS, and in some cases progress to ALS.

''(B) The National Institutes of Health, to include, upon the recommendation of the Director of the National Institutes of Health, representatives from the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke and the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences.

''(C) The Department of Veterans Affairs.

''(D) The Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry.

''(E) The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

''(F) Patients with ALS or their family members.

''(G) Clinicians with expertise on ALS and related diseases.

''(H) Epidemiologists with experience in data registries.

''(I) Geneticists or experts in genetics who have experience with the genetics of ALS or other neurological diseases.

''(J) Statisticians.

''(K) Ethicists.

''(L) Attorneys.

''(M) Other individuals with an interest in developing and maintaining the National ALS Registry.

''(2) DUTIES.—The Advisory Committee shall review information and make recommendations to the Secretary concerning—

''(A) the development and maintenance of the National ALS Registry;

''(B) the type of information to be collected and stored in the Registry;

''(C) the manner in which such data is to be collected;

''(D) the use and availability of such data including guidelines for such use; and

''(E) the collection of information about diseases and disorders that primarily affect motor neurons that are considered essential to furthering the study and cure of ALS.

''(3) REPORT.—Not later than 1 years after the date on which the Advisory Committee is established, the Advisory Committee shall submit a report concerning the review conducted under paragraph (2) that contains the recommendations of the Advisory Committee with respect to the results of such review.

''(c) GRANTS.—Notwithstanding the recommendations of the Advisory Committee under subsection (b), the Secretary, acting through the Director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, may award grants to, and enter into contracts and cooperative agreements with, public or private nonprofit entities for the collection, analysis, and reporting of data on ALS and other motor neuron disorders that can be confused with ALS, misdiagnosed as ALS, and in some cases progress to ALS.

''(d) COORDINATION WITH STATE, LOCAL, AND FEDERAL REGISTRIES.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—In establishing the National ALS Registry under subsection (a), the Secretary, acting through the Director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, shall—

''(A) identify, build upon, expand, and coordinate among existing data and surveillance systems, surveys, registries, and other Federal public health and environmental infrastructure wherever possible, including—

''(i) the 3 ALS registry pilot projects initiated in fiscal year 2006 by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry at the South Carolina Office of Research & Statistics; the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota; and Emory University in Atlanta, Georgia;

''(ii) the Department of Veterans Affairs ALS Registry;

''(iii) the DNA and Cell Line Repository of the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke Human Genetics Resource Center;

''(iv) Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry studies, including studies conducted in Illinois, Missouri, El Paso and San Antonio Texas, and Massachusetts;

''(v) State-based ALS registries, including the Massachusetts ALS Registry;

''(vi) the National Vital Statistics System; and

''(vii) any other existing or relevant databases that collect or maintain information on those motor neuron diseases recommended by the Advisory Committee established in subsection (b); and

''(B) provide for research access to ALS data as recommended by the Advisory Committee established in subsection (b) to the extent permitted by applicable statutes and regulations and in a manner that protects personal privacy consistent with applicable privacy statutes and regulations.

''(2) COORDINATION WITH NIH AND DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.—Notwithstanding the recommendations of the Advisory Committee established in subsection (b), and consistent with applicable privacy statutes and regulations, the Secretary shall ensure that epidemiological and other types of information obtained under subsection (a) is made available to the National Institutes of Health and the Department of Veterans Affairs.

''(e) DEFINITION.—For the purposes of this section, the term 'national voluntary health association' means a national non-profit organization with chapters or other affiliated organizations in States throughout the United States.

''(f) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section, $25,000,000 for fiscal year 2008, and such sums as may be necessary for each of fiscal years 2009 through 2012.''.

By Mr. AKAKA:

S. 1384. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to repeal authority for adjustments to per diem payments

to homeless veterans service centers for receipt of other sources of income, to extend authorities for certain programs to benefit homeless veterans, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

Mr. AKAKA. Mr. President, today I introduce legislation that would enhance and improve services for homeless veterans administered by the Department of Veterans Affairs. This bill addresses a number of areas related to care and benefits for homeless veterans. It would modify the funding mechanism for community-based services to homeless veterans, expand capacity of services for women veterans, and improve outreach to servicemembers who are at risk of becoming homeless.

First, this legislation would lift a number of restrictions on VA's grant and per diem program. This program compensates community shelters for the services they provide to homeless veterans. VA currently pays $27 per day to community shelters for each veteran served. However, $27 is barely sufficient to cover existing costs, and rising energy prices are stretching resources even more.

To meet the needs of their clients, many shelters seek additional sources of funding, but their per diem payments from VA are in turn offset by the amount of this additional funding. By eliminating this offset, the bill would enable providers to expand their services to veterans, and to receive funding from other sources to accomplish these expansions.

This legislation would also address the gap in domiciliary care for homeless women veterans. Women veterans are a growing proportion of the active duty force and overall veteran population. Homelessness among female veterans is a serious problem, and many facilities do not yet have the capacity to meet this demand. Domiciliary care is an essential component of treatment and rehabilitation, especially for mental health and substance abuse conditions which afflict many homeless veterans.

This bill would require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to ensure that domiciliary programs have the capacity to accommodate women veterans, and that their specific safety and security concerns are addressed. As women become a larger proportion of the homeless veteran population, VA must have the capacity to meet their needs.

Finally, this legislation would increase efforts to identify and assist servicemembers who are at risk of becoming homeless. It would make permanent an already established and successful program to aid incarcerated veterans in their transition back to civilian life. The program identifies at risk individuals and refers them to counseling and services, including health care, job training and placement, and housing.

Building on the success of that program, the bill would also create a similar program to identify and support at risk individuals in their transition from military to civilian life. It has been proven through smaller scale efforts that this process can reduce the incidence of homelessness and other problems among new veterans who are being separated from military service.

Over 1 million servicemembers have served in Iraq and Afghanistan, and as they transition from military service to civilian life some will be at risk of homelessness. Any effort VA can make to assist these servicemembers will improve lives and reduce the demand for VA homeless services in the years to come. We have all heard the sad and shocking statistic that one out of every three homeless persons on the street at any given time is a veteran. This bill is another step in attempting to address and solve this shameful problem.

I believe that this bill adjusts existing programs to take full advantage of existing resources and effective initiatives. I urge all of my colleagues to support this legislation.

I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the text of the bill was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 1384

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

SECTION 1. REPEAL OF AUTHORITY FOR ADJUSTMENTS TO PER DIEM PAYMENTS TO HOMELESS VETERANS SERVICE CENTERS FOR RECEIPT OF OTHER SOURCES OF INCOME.

Section 2012(a)(2) of title 38, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by striking subparagraphs (B), (C), and (D); and

(2) in subparagraph (A)—

(A) by striking ''The rate'' and inserting ''Except as provided in subparagraph (B), the rate'';

(B) by striking ''adjusted by the Secretary under subparagraph (B)''; and

(C) by designating the second sentence as subparagraph (B) and indenting the margin of such subparagraph, as so designated, two ems from the left margin.

SEC. 2. DEMONSTRATION PROGRAM ON PREVENTING VETERANS AT-RISK OF HOMELESSNESS FROM BECOMING HOMELESS.

(a) DEMONSTRATION PROGRAM.—The Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall carry out (subject to the availability of appropriations) a demonstration program for the purpose of—

(1) identifying members of the Armed Forces on active duty who are at risk of becoming homeless after they are discharged or released from active duty; and

(2) providing referral, counseling, and supportive services, as appropriate, to help prevent such members, upon becoming veterans, from becoming homeless.

(b) PROGRAM LOCATIONS.—The Secretary shall carry out the demonstration program in at least three locations.

(c) IDENTIFICATION CRITERIA.—In developing and implementing the criteria to identify members of the Armed Forces, who upon becoming veterans, are at-risk of becoming homeless, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall consult with the Secretary of Defense and such other officials and experts as the Secretary considers appropriate.

(d) CONTRACTS.—The Secretary of Veterans Affairs may enter into contracts to provide the referral, counseling, and supportive services required under the demonstration program with entities or organizations that meet such requirements as the Secretary may establish.

(e) SUNSET.—The authority of the Secretary under subsection (a) shall expire on September 30, 2011.

(f) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There are authorized to be appropriated $2,000,000 for the purpose of carrying out the provisions of this section.

SEC. 3. EXPANSION AND EXTENSION OF AUTHORITY FOR PROGRAM OF REFERRAL AND COUNSELING SERVICES FOR AT-RISK VETERANS TRANSITIONING FROM CERTAIN INSTITUTIONS.

(a) PROGRAM AUTHORITY.—Subsection (a) of section 2023 of title 38, United States Code, is amended by striking ''a demonstration program for the purpose of determining the costs and benefits of providing'' and inserting ''a program of''.

(b) SCOPE OF PROGRAM.—Subsection (b) of such section is amended—

(1) by striking ''DEMONSTRATION'' in the subsection heading;

(2) by striking ''demonstration''; and

(3) by striking ''in at least six locations'' and inserting ''in at least 12 locations''.

(c) EXTENSION OF AUTHORITY.—Subsection (d) of such section is amended by striking ''shall cease'' and all that follows and inserting ''shall cease on September 30, 2011.''.

(d) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

(1) Subsection (c)(1) of such section is amended by striking ''demonstration''.

(2) The heading of such section is amended to read as follows:

''§ 2023. Referral and counseling services: veterans at risk of homelessness who are transitioning from certain institutions''.

(3) Section 2022(f)(2)(C) of such title is amended by striking ''demonstration''.

(e) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections at the beginning of chapter 20 of such title is amended by striking the item relating to section 2023 and inserting the following:

''2023. Referral and counseling services: veterans at risk of homelessness who are transitioning from certain institutions.''.

SEC. 4. AVAILABILITY OF GRANT FUNDS TO SERVICE CENTERS FOR PERSONNEL.

Section 2011 of title 38, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

''(i) AVAILABILITY OF GRANT FUNDS FOR SERVICE CENTER PERSONNEL.—A grant under this section for a service center for homeless veterans may be used to provide funding for staff as necessary in order for the center to meet the service availability requirements of subsection (g)(1).''.

SEC. 5. PERMANENT AUTHORITY FOR DOMICILIARY SERVICES FOR HOMELESS VETERANS AND ENHANCEMENT OF CAPACITY OF DOMICILIARY CARE PROGRAMS FOR FEMALE VETERANS.

Subsection (b) of section 2043 of title 38, United States Code, is amended to read as follows:

''(b) ENHANCEMENT OF CAPACITY OF DOMICILIARY CARE PROGRAMS FOR FEMALE VETERANS.—The Secretary shall take appropriate actions to ensure that the domiciliary care programs of the Department are adequate, with respect to capacity and with respect to safety, to meet the needs of veterans who are women.''.

By Mr. NELSON of Florida:

S. 1385. A bill to designate the United States courthouse facility located at 301 North Miami Avenue, Miami, Florida, as the ''C. Clyde Atkins United States Courthouse''; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

Mr. NELSON of Florida. Mr. President, I have introduced a bill that will honor one of Florida's great jurists, the Honorable C. Clyde Atkins, by naming the Federal building at 301 North Miami Avenue in Miami, FL, the ''C. Clyde Atkins United States Courthouse.'' This is a fitting tribute to Judge Atkins. His public service provides a model for members of the legal profession, indeed, for all Americans, who respect the rule of law and believe in equal justice under law.

Before becoming a judge, Judge Atkins, who earned his law degree at the University of Florida, already had distinguished himself in private practice. He served as the president of both the Florida bar and the Dade County Bar Association. In 1966, President Johnson appointed Judge Atkins to serve on the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Florida. He served until his death in 1999 at the age of 84. From 1977 until 1982, Judge Atkins was the chief judge for the Southern District, and his leadership ensured that the court remained effective through a period when Miami confronted serious problems involving refugees, violence, and drug smuggling.

Judge Atkins rendered important decisions in the areas of civil rights and civil liberties. By the luck of the draw, he was assigned to many controversial cases, earning him the nickname ''Hard Luck Clyde,'' and it was for those rulings, often involving important civil rights and civil liberties issues, that he will be best remembered.

For example, in a decision involving Miami's homeless population, he ordered the creation of ''safe zones'' where the homeless could congregate without fear of arrest. This important decision had a ripple effect, helping to give rise to efforts throughout the Nation to rehabilitate the homeless through training and the creation of shelters. He also ruled in support of Cuban and Haitian refugees who were held at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, and against the government's repatriation policy. And finally, he presided over the desegregation of Dade County's public schools for more than 20 years.

Judge Atkins was a person of faith. He was the first Catholic appointed to the bench in the Southern District, and Pope Benedict VI named him a Knight of St. Gregory. Judge Atkins also earned recognition from the National Conference of Christians and Jews, the Anti-Defamation League, and the American Judicature Society, to name a few.

The proposal to name the courthouse in Miami after Judge Atkins has been supported by leaders of the bar in the Southern District, including the Dade County Bar Association. Passage of my bill will ensure that the C. Clyde Atkins Courthouse will stand as an enduring tribute to an admired and respected Federal judge and the principles for which he stood for generations to come.

By Mr. REED:

S. 1386. A bill to amend the Housing and Urban Development Act of 1968, to provide better assistance to low- and moderate-income families, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

Mr. REED. Mr. President, today I introduce the Homeownership Protection and Enhancement Act of 2007, HOPE Act. This legislation would reauthorize and amend Section 106 of the Housing and Urban Development Act of 1968, so that we can improve on Federal efforts to support and sustain homeownership.

As we all know, during the past several years, housing prices in cities and States around the country have far outpaced any increase in wages. Families have been stretching themselves financially to get into homeownership, and many families have started using alternative or exotic mortgages loan products to purchase their homes.

According to First American Loan Performance, in 2006, in my own State of Rhode Island, nearly 16 percent of all home-purchase loans were ''interest only.'' However, as home prices have declined, many people who took out these exotic loans are now finding they owe more than the value of their property.

The Center for Responsible Lending estimates that nationally one in five subprime loans originated during the prior 2 years will end in foreclosure, costing homeowners $164 billion, mostly in lost equity.

'It appears that we are just at the beginning of what could be a perfect storm, as many credit-stressed borrowers still face resets of these exotic adjustable-rate and payment option loans. There were 1.2 million foreclosures reported nationwide last year, up 42 percent from 2005, according to RealtyTrac, a database of foreclosed properties. RealtyTrac also reports 430,000 foreclosure filings in the first quarter of 2007, a 35 percent jump over the same period in 2006.

The increasing rate of foreclosures across the country is troubling. Not only are individual families losing their homes and their financial nest eggs, but there is a negative ripple effect across communities and the economy. That is why I am introducing the Homeownership Protection and Enhancement Act, or HOPE Act.

This bill seeks to help States establish and enhance outreach programs to proactively find homeowners at risk of losing their homes and help them avoid foreclosure. States will be rewarded for having set up effective programs to help curtail foreclosures with additional funding and resources. An incentive is provided for more States to follow suit and reach out to delinquent borrowers, offer them access to financial counseling, and, when appropriate, help them negotiate a plan to restructure their debt.

In particular, the HOPE Act provides $50 million for the creation and operation of State Homeownership Protection Centers. The centers can serve as a one-stop resource, offering consumers a broad range of services and assistance, such as financial assessments, counseling, or referrals to families in need. It authorizes $260 million in competitive grants to States who operate State Homeownership Protection Centers for revolving loan funds to offer one-time grants or subsidized loans to qualified families. It increases funding to $300 million for effective HUD-approved counseling agencies. Finally, it sets aside $5 million for the creation of a Federal database on defaults and foreclosures to improve oversight of public and private efforts to sustain homeownership.

In addition, to help prevent future borrowers from taking on unsustainable mortgages and falling into foreclosure, the HOPE Act would create an affirmative duty for lenders and servicers to engage in reasonable loss mitigation prior to foreclosure. It would also require notifications by lenders and servicers to borrowers regarding the full array of counseling services available in their State at every critical step, at application, at closing, and upon delinquency. Finally, if a State has a State Homeownership Protection Center, lenders and servicers would be required to refer borrowers who are 60 days or more delinquent to the center so that it can proactively attempt to reach distressed borrowers.

I am introducing the HOPE Act because when homes get foreclosed on, it is not just the borrowers and lenders who pay the price, whole neighborhoods suffer. Housing industry experts estimate that for every foreclosure within an eighth of a mile of a house, two and a half city blocks in every direction, the property value of surrounding homes drops by about 1 percent. I believe that the Federal Government has a responsibility to step in and ensure that millions of Americans, including neighbors who never took out a risky loan and have scrimped and saved to pay their bills on time, are not adversely affected by the subprime foreclosure crisis.

This legislation is targeted relief that will help more families keep their homes and save communities nationwide millions of dollars. We need to act swiftly before personal financial tragedies turn into a full blown national financial crisis.

The HOPE Act will set us on the path to meeting an important national goal, creating sustainable homeownership. I hope my colleagues will join me in supporting this bill and other foreclosure prevention efforts.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the text of the bill was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 1386

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 ''Homeownership Protection and Enhancement Act of 2007''.

SEC. 2. REFORM OF SECTION 106 OF THE HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT ACT OF 1968.

Section 106 of the Housing and Urban Development Act of 1968 (12 U.S.C. 1701x) is amended—

(1) in subsection (c)—

(A) in paragraph (3)—

(i) in subparagraph (A)(ii), by striking ''; and'' and inserting ''; or''; and

(ii) in subparagraph (A)(iii), by striking ''involving principal'' and all that follows through ''the appraised'' and inserting ''in which a homeowner has total equity equal to less than 3 percent of the appraised'';

(B) in paragraph (4)—

(i) in subparagraph (C)—

(I) in clause (i), by striking ''; or'' and inserting a semicolon;

(II) in clause (ii), by striking the period at the end and inserting a semicolon;

(III) by adding at the end the following:

''(iii) a significant reduction in the income of the household due to divorce or death; or

''(iv) a significant increase in basic expenses of the homeowner or an immediate family member of the homeowner (including the spouse, child, or parent for whom the homeowner provides substantial care or financial assistance) due to—

''(I) an unexpected or significant increase in medical expenses;

''(II) a divorce;

''(III) unexpected and significant damage to the property, the repair of which will not be covered by private or public insurance;

''(IV) a large property-tax increase; or

''(V) a large increase in condominium or cooperative fees, dues, or assessments; or''; and

(ii) by adding at the end the following:

''(D) the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development determines that the annual income of the homeowner is no greater than the annual income established by the Secretary as being of low- or moderate-income.'';

(C) in paragraph (5)—

(i) by striking subparagraph (A) and inserting a new subparagraph (A) as follows:

''(A) NOTIFICATION OF AVAILABILITY OF PRE-PURCHASE HOMEOWNERSHIP COUNSELING, HOMEOWNERSHIP COUNSELING, AND HOMEOWNERSHIP PROTECTION CENTER SERVICES.—

''(i) NOTIFICATION TO MORTGAGE APPLICANTS AT TIME OF MORTGAGE APPLICATION.—

''(I) IN GENERAL.—A proposed mortgagee shall provide notice to any applicant for a mortgage described in paragraph (4).

''(II) CONTENT OF NOTICE.—The notice required under subclause (I) shall—

''(aa) if provided to an eligible mortgage applicant, state that completion of a counseling program is required for insurance pursuant to section 203 of the National Housing Act (12 U.S.C.1709);

''(bb) notify the mortgage applicant of the availability of homeownership counseling provided by non-profit organizations approved by the Secretary and experienced in the provision of pre-purchase homeownership counseling, or provide the toll-free telephone number established by the Secretary under subparagraph (D)(i); and

''(cc) notify the mortgage applicant or homeowner by a statement or notice, written in plain English by the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development, in consultation with the Secretary of Defense and the Secretary of the Treasury, explaining the mortgage and foreclosure rights of servicemembers, and the dependents of such servicemembers, under the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act (50 U.S.C. App. 501 et seq.), including the toll-free military one source number to call if servicemembers, or the dependents of such servicemembers, require further assistance.

''(ii) NOTIFICATION AT TIME OF CLOSING OF AVAILABILITY OF COUNSELING UPON DELINQUENCY AND SERVICES OF STATE HOMEOWNERSHIP PROTECTION CENTERS.—

''(I) IN GENERAL.—At the time of closing, and together with the final signed loan documents, a mortgagee shall provide to the homeowner a plain language statement in conspicuous 16-point type or larger which shall include the following:

''(aa) COUNSELING STATEMENT.—A counseling statement that reads as follows:

''If you are more than 30 days late on your mortgage payments, your lender or loan servicer is required by law to notify you of agencies approved by the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) that may be able to assist you, including the contact information for your State Homeownership Protection Center if there is one operating in your State. Before you miss another mortgage payment, you are strongly encouraged to contact your lender or loan servicer or one of the agencies on the approved list for assistance. If you are more than 60 days late on your mortgage payments, your lender or loan servicer is required by law to send you a second notification containing this information. In addition, if you are more than 60 days late on your mortgage payment and you are registered with a State Homeownership Protection Center, your lender or loan servicer also will be required to notify the Center, so that the Center can contact you regarding any assistance it may be able to provide.

''(bb) COUNSELING AGENCY LISTING.—A listing of at least 5 housing counseling agencies approved by the Department of Housing and Urban Development, at least 1 of which is located in the State in which the property to be mortgaged is located.

''(cc) TOLL-FREE NUMBER.—The listing of the toll-free telephone number established by the Secretary under subparagraph (D)(i).

''(dd) CONTACT INFORMATION FOR STATE HOMEOWNERSHIP PROTECTION CENTER.—The contact information, including telephone number, email address, and physical address of the State Homeownership Protection Center, if such a Center is operating in the State in which the property to be mortgaged is located.

''(ee) NOTICE TO SERVICEMEMBERS OR DEPENDENTS OF SERVICEMEMBERS.—A statement, written in plain English, drafted by the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development, in consultation with the Secretary of Defense and the Secretary of the Treasury, explaining the mortgage and foreclosure rights of servicemembers, and the dependents of such servicemembers, under the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act (50 U.S.C. App. 501 et seq.), including the toll-free military one source number to call if servicemembers, or the dependents of such servicemembers, require further assistance.

''(ff) SUMMARY OF DUTY TO ENGAGE IN LOSS MITIGATION.—A brief summary of the obligation of the mortgagee to engage in reasonable loss mitigation activities for the purpose of providing an alternative to foreclosure, including language informing the homeowner that the mortgagee's failure to comply with such loss mitigation requirements constitutes a defense to the foreclosure.

''(II) MANNER OF DISCLOSURE.—

''(aa) 1 DOCUMENT.—At the discretion of the mortgagee, the mortgagee may provide all the information required under clause (I) in one single document.

''(bb) REQUIRED DESCRIPTION OF DOCUMENT AT CLOSING.—A mortgagee shall briefly describe the document in item (aa) to the homeowner during closing.

''(III) OTHER REQUIREMENTS AT TIME OF CLOSING FOR MORTGAGEES OPERATING IN A STATE WHERE A STATE HOMEOWNERSHIP PROTECTION CENTER IS LOCATED.—

''(aa) REGISTRATION WITH STATE HOMEOWNERSHIP PROTECTION CENTERS.—In addition to the required documents described in subclauses (I) and (II), at the time of closing the mortgagee shall explain in writing and verbally that the homeowner's name and contact information will be registered with a State Homeownership Protection Center so that the Center can attempt to reach the homeowner if the homeowner is 60 days or more late in making any mortgage payment.

''(bb) BROCHURES.—The mortgagee shall distribute to a homeowner any brochure, pamphlet, or other brief document prepared by the State Homeownership Protection Center that describes the services provided by the Center.

''(cc) DUTY OF MORTGAGEE TO FORWARD INFORMATION.—The mortgagee shall forward to the State Homeownership Protection Center the contact information of the mortgage applicant and shall agree to notify the Center if the mortgage payment of the homeowner is or becomes more than 60 days late so that the Center can attempt to reach the homeowner.

''(dd) REQUIRED DISCLOSURES TO THE HOMEOWNER.—Each homeowner shall be informed that being registered with a State Homeownership Protection Center under this subclause may provide easier access to assistance in case of financial difficulty and that no information that would make it possible to identify the homeowner will be given to any other entity for any reason without the prior approval of the homeowner.

''(ee) ADDITIONAL RESPONSIBILITIES OF MORTGAGEES.—The mortgagee shall note registration with the State Homeownership Protection Center with the loan information of the homeowner, however such information is stored, and shall ensure that any entity which purchases the loan of the homeowner is aware of where they are registered and the requirement that the State Homeownership Protection Center be notified if the homeowner is or becomes more than 60 days late on any mortgage payment.

''(iii) NOTICE UPON DELINQUENCY OF HOMEOWNER.—

''(I) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in subparagraph (C)—

''(aa) if a homeowner becomes 30 or more days late on any mortgage payment, the mortgagee shall provide notice in the manner described in clause (iv) to any eligible homeowner who fails to pay any amount within 30 days of the date the amount is due under a home loan;

''(bb) if a homeowner becomes 60 or more days late on any mortgage payment, the mortgagee shall provide notice to the homeowner a second time in the manner described in clause (iv) to any eligible homeowner who fails to pay any amount within 60 days of the date the amount is due under a home loan; and

''(cc) if a homeowner becomes 60 or more days late on any mortgage payment, and such homeowner is registered with a State Homeownership Protection Center, the mortgagee shall provide notice to that State Homeownership Protection Center.

''(II) FAILURE TO PROVIDE NOTICE.—Failure to provide notice to a homeowner or to a State Homeownership Protection Center required under this subsection constitutes a defense to foreclosure.

''(iv) CONTENT OF NOTICE UPON DELINQUENCY OF HOMEOWNER.—

''(I) REGISTERED HOMEOWNERS.—The notice required under clause (iii) for a homeowner registered with a State Homeownership Protection Center shall—

''(aa) notify the homeowner of the availability of any homeownership counseling provided by the mortgagee;

''(bb) provide the homeowner a current copy of the statement described in clause (ii)(I) provided to the homeowner at closing; and

''(cc) when the homeowner becomes 60 or more days late on any mortgage payment—

''(AA) notify the State Homeownership Protection Center with whom the homeowner is registered; and

''(BB) provide the Center with the contact information of the homeowner.

''(II) NON-REGISTERED HOMEOWNERS.—The notice required under clause (iii) for a homeowner not registered with a State Homeownership Protection Center shall—

''(aa) notify the homeowner of the availability of any homeownership counseling provided by the mortgagee; and

''(bb) provide the homeowner a current copy of the statement described in clause (ii)(I) provided to the homeowner at closing.

''(III) MAILINGS.—When the notice required under clause (iii) is sent, the outside of the mailing envelope shall state that such mailing contains federally required information on Federal Government-approved financial counseling agencies.'';

(ii) by striking subparagraph (B) and inserting a new subparagraph (B) as follows:

''(B) DEADLINE FOR NOTIFICATION.—The notification required in subparagraph (A) shall be made in a manner approved by the Secretary.'';

(iii) in subparagraph (D)(i)(I), by inserting ''post-purchase'' before ''homeownership counseling''; and

(iv) by adding at the end the following:

''(F) NATIONWIDE AVAILABILITY.—The Secretary shall ensure that each State is served by at least one local, regional, or national agency with an office in the State that provides the services described in this paragraph.'';

(D) in paragraph (6)(D), by inserting ''for a primary residence'' before the period;

(2) by striking subsection (d) and inserting the following:

''(d) GRANTS TO STATES FOR STATE HOMEOWNERSHIP PROTECTION CENTERS.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall award grants, on a competitive basis, to State housing finance agencies or any other designated State agency, to enable such agencies to establish and operate State Homeownership Protection Centers.

''(2) NOTIFICATION OF FUNDING AVAILABILITY.—The Secretary shall release a Notification of Funding Availability for grants awarded under this subsection for a fiscal year not later than 3 months after the date of enactment of the appropriate Act making appropriations for the Department of Housing and Urban Development for the fiscal year.

''(3) APPLICATION.—

''(A) SUBMISSION TO THE SECRETARY.—To be eligible to receive a grant under this subsection, a State housing finance agency or any other designated State agency shall submit an application to the Secretary, at such time and in such manner as the Secretary may require, and containing such information as the Secretary determines necessary—

''(i) to determine the ability of such agency to operate a Center; and

''(ii) to establish priorities for funding based on need.

''(B) ANNOUNCEMENT OF AWARDS.—The Secretary shall announce, within 4 months after the last date for the submission of applications described in subparagraph (A) for a fiscal year, the grants conditionally awarded under this subsection for that fiscal year.

''(4) PURPOSE.—The purpose of any State Homeownership Protection Center established under paragraph (1) shall be—

''(A) to provide a centralized location for information on, and referral to, public services available to assist a homeowner who is in default on their home loan;

''(B) to provide a homeowner with referrals to counseling agencies approved by the Department of Housing and Urban Development that may be able to assist that homeowner, if that homeowner is in default on their home loan; and

''(C) to attempt to contact each homeowner who is registered with the Center who is more than 60 days late on any mortgage payment with the goal of—

''(i) determining—

''(I) if such homeowner needs assistance in avoiding foreclosure on their home; and

''(II) what kind of assistance is needed by such homeowner to avoid foreclosure on their home; and

''(ii) providing referrals to any appropriate programs or entities that may be able to provide any such assistance.

''(5) HOMEOWNERSHIP PROTECTION CENTERS.—

''(A) USE OF FUNDS.—Each State housing finance agency or any other designated State agency, who is a recipient of a grant under paragraph (1) may only use such grant amounts to establish and operate State Homeownership Protection Centers in that State.

''(B) REQUIRED ACTIVITIES.—Each State Homeownership Protection Center established under this section shall, at a minimum—

''(i) provide a toll-free number through which any homeowner in financial distress can receive—

''(I) information on—

''(aa) the Center and its services; and

''(bb) public programs that provide assistance to homeowners; and

''(II) a listing of counseling agencies approved by the Department of Housing and Urban Development;

''(ii) provide information to homeowners on available community resources relating to homeownership, including—

''(I) public assistance or benefits programs;

''(II) mortgage assistance programs;

''(III) home repair assistance programs;

''(IV) legal assistance programs;

''(V) utility assistance programs;

''(VI) food assistance programs; and

''(VII) other Federal, State, or local government funded social service;

''(iii) provide staff who—

''(I) are able to conduct a brief assessment of the situation of a homeowner; and

''(II) based on such assessment can—

''(aa) make appropriate referrals to, and provide application information regarding, programs that can provide assistance to such homeowner; and

''(bb) provide a listing of counseling agencies approved by the Department of Housing and Urban Development; and

''(iv) provide to any homeowner in financial distress access to applications for public assistance or benefits program which may be of assistance to such homeowner.

''(C) ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES.—In addition to the services required under subparagraph (B), each State Homeownership Protection Center shall—

''(i) be technologically capable of—

''(I) accepting and recording in a secure database the contact information of any homeowner forwarded to the Center by a mortgagee pursuant to subsection (c)(5)(A)(ii)(III); and

''(II) accessing the contact information described in subclause (I), if the Center is notified by a mortgagee pursuant to subsection (c)(5)(A)(ii)(III) that the homeowner is 60 or more days late in paying any amount due under the home loan of such homeowner;

''(ii) if notified by a mortgagee pursuant to subsection (c)(5)(A)(ii)(III) that a homeowner who is registered with the Center is 60 or more days late in paying any amount due under the home loan of such homeowner, attempt to contact such homeowner to provide assistance or suggest public programs or counseling agencies that may provide assistance to the homeowner; and

''(iii) not release to the public or to any third party the name of any homeowner who is registered with the Center, or of any person who visits the Center for assistance, or any other information that would make it possible to identify such a person, without the prior written consent of such homeowner or person.

''(6) GRANTS TO STATES WITH HOMEOWNERSHIP PROTECTION CENTERS TO ASSIST HOMEOWNERS IN DEFAULT.—

''(A) GRANT AUTHORITY.—The Secretary shall award competitive grants to State housing finance agencies, or to any other designated State agency, located in a State with a State Homeownership Protection Center established under paragraph (1), to enable such agencies in partnership with State Homeownership Protection Centers to provide 1-time emergency grants or subsidized loans to eligible homeowners to assist such homeowners in satisfying any amounts past due on their home loans.

''(B) NOTIFICATION OF FUNDING AVAILABILITY.—The Secretary shall release a Notification of Funding Availability for grants awarded under this paragraph for a fiscal year not later than 3 months after the date of enactment of the appropriate Act making appropriations for the Department of Housing and Urban Development for the fiscal year.

''(C) APPLICATION.—

''(i) SUBMISSION TO THE SECRETARY.—To be eligible to receive a grant under this paragraph a State housing finance agency or any other designated State agency located in a State where a State Homeownership Protection Center is located, shall submit an application to the Secretary at such time and in such manner as the Secretary may require, and containing such information as the Secretary determines necessary—

''(I) to determine compliance with the requirements and criteria under this paragraph; and

''(II) to establish priorities for funding based on need.

''(ii) ANNOUNCEMENT OF AWARDS.—The Secretary shall announce, within 4 months after the last date for the submission of applications described in this paragraph for a fiscal year, the grants conditionally awarded under this paragraph for that fiscal year.

''(D) OTHER REQUIREMENTS.—

''(i) SEPARATE ACCOUNTS.—To be eligible to receive any amounts awarded under this paragraph and prior to providing any emergency grants or subsidized loans, a State housing finance agency or any other designated State agency shall establish a separate account in which such amounts are to be held.

''(ii) LIMITED USE.—Any amounts made available for purposes of this paragraph in

any appropriations Act shall be used only to provide 1-time emergency grants or subsidized loans to eligible homeowners to assist such homeowners in satisfying any amounts past due on their home loan as authorized under subparagraph (A).

''(iii) REPAYMENT OF LOANS.—Any amounts repaid on a subsidized loan made under this paragraph shall be deposited back into the separate account established under clause (i) from which the loan funds originated.

''(iv) OTHER FUNDING.—Amounts donated or otherwise directed to be used for purposes of this paragraph may be deposited in any separate account established under clause (i) to help capitalize such account.

''(E) PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS.—

''(i) IN GENERAL.—Each State housing finance agency or any other designated State agency that is a recipient of a grant to assist homeowners in default under this paragraph, in cooperation with the State Homeownership Protection Centers in such State, shall develop program requirements for eligible homeowners seeking a 1-time emergency grant or subsidized loan under this paragraph.

''(ii) REQUIRED CONTENT.—The program requirements developed under clause (i) shall, at a minimum, include the following:

''(I) That any loan or grant under this paragraph may be provided for up to a four-family owner-occupied residence, including one-family units in a condominium project or a membership interest and occupancy agreement in a cooperative housing project, that is used as the principal residence of the applicant seeking such grant or loan.

''(II) That each applicant for a loan or grant shall be a permanent resident of the State in which the principal residence of such applicant is located.

''(III) That each applicant—

''(aa) provide documentation that such applicant either—

''(AA) is suffering from financial hardship which is unexpected or due to circumstances beyond the control of the applicant; or

''(BB) is eligible for homeownership counseling under subsection (c)(4); and

''(bb) offer proof that such applicant is unable, without financial assistance—

''(AA) to correct any delinquency on any amounts past due on the home loan of such applicant within a reasonable time; and

''(BB) to make full payment on any home loan payment due within the next 30 days.

''(IV) That a State Homeownership Protection Center, State housing finance agency, or any other designated State agency, or its designee, has determined, in its discretion, that there is a reasonable prospect that any applicant for a grant or loan under this paragraph will be able to resume full payments on the home loan of such applicant not later than 12 months after the date on which such applicant will first receive any grant or loan amounts under this paragraph.

''(V) That the applicant has not, at any point prior, and with respect to the same real property, previously received a grant or loan under this paragraph.

''(F) LOAN REQUIREMENTS.—

''(i) RATE OF INTEREST.—Any loan under this section shall carry a simple annual percentage rate of interest which shall not exceed the prime rate of interest, as such prime rate is determined from time to time by at least 75 percent of the 30 largest depository institutions in the Nation.

''(ii) NO COMPOUNDING.—Interest on the outstanding principal balance of any loan under this section shall not compound.

''(iii) BALANCE DUE.—

''(I) IN GENERAL.—The principal of any loan made under this paragraph, including any interest accrued on such principal, shall not be due and payable unless—

''(aa) the real property securing such loan is sold or transferred; or

''(bb) the last surviving homeowner of such real property dies.

''(II) DEPOSIT OF BALANCE DUE.—If either event described in subclause (I) occurs, the principal of any loan made under this paragraph, including any interest accrued on such principal, shall immediately become due and payable to the State entity from which the loan originated.

''(iv) NO PENALTY FOR PREPAYMENT.—Any homeowner who receives a loan under this paragraph may repay the loan in full, without penalty, by lump sum or by installment payments, at any time prior to the loan becoming due and payable.

''(v) CAP ON LOAN AMOUNT.—The amount of any loan to any 1 homeowner under this section shall not exceed 20 percent of the original mortgage amount borrowed by the homeowner.

''(vi) SUBORDINATION PERMITTED.—Any loan made under this paragraph will be subordinated to any refinancing of the first mortgage, any preexisting subordinate financing, any purchase money mortgage, or subordinated for any other reason, as determined by the State.

''(G) EXISTING LOAN FUNDS.—Any State or State housing finance agency with a previously existing fund established to make loans to assist homeowners in satisfying any amounts past due on their home loan may use funds appropriated for purposes of this section for that existing loan fund, even if the eligibility, application, program, or use requirements for that loan program differ from the eligibility, application, program, and use requirements of this paragraph, unless such use is expressly determined by the Secretary to be inappropriate.'';

(3) in subsection (f)(2)(A), by striking ''and rental counselors.'' and inserting ''counselors in both pre-purchase and post-purchase counseling and in training rental counselors.''; and

(4) by adding at the end the following:

''(g) DUTY TO ENGAGE IN LOSS MITIGATION.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—Upon default of any federally related mortgage, as defined in section 3(1)(B) of the Real Estate Settlement Procedures Act of 1974 (12 U.S.C. 2202(1)(B)), a mortgagee shall engage in reasonable loss mitigation activities for the purpose of providing an alternative to foreclosure.

''(2) DEFENSE TO FORECLOSURE.—A mortgagee's failure to comply with the requirements of paragraph (1) constitutes a defense to the foreclosure.

''(3) NO FORECLOSURE IF NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR HOME PRESERVATION LOAN.—A mortgagee shall not initiate or continue a foreclosure—

''(A) upon receipt of a written confirmation that the homeowner has applied for a home preservation loan under subsection (d)(6); and

''(B) for the period of 1 month after receipt of such written confirmation or until the mortgagee is informed, in writing, that the homeowner is not eligible for a home preservation loan, whichever occurs first.

''(4) DEFINITION OF LOSS MITIGATION ACTIVITIES.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—As used in this subsection, the term 'loss mitigation activities' means activities that minimize the potential losses to a homeowner or investor that may result from—

''(i) a homeowner's inability to pay the mortgage payments due on a home loan; and

''(ii) any subsequent foreclosure action.

''(B) ALTERNATIVE TO FORECLOSURE.—Loss mitigation activities provide alternatives to foreclosure whenever possible and reasonably ensure the long-term affordability of any mortgage retained pursuant to such activities.

''(C) PROCESS OF MITIGATION.—

''(i) IN GENERAL.—Loss mitigation activities involve reasonably analyzing the borrower's financial situation, evaluating the property value of the property to be mortgaged, and assessing the feasibility of measures including—

''(I) waiver of any late payment charge or, if applicable, penalty interest;

''(II) forbearance pursuant to a written agreement between the borrower and the servicer providing for a temporary reduction in monthly payments followed by a reamortization and new repayment schedule including the arrearage;

''(III) waiver, modification, or variation of any term of a mortgage, including modifications that change the mortgage rate, forgive the payment of principal or interest, extend the final maturity date of such mortgage, or begin to include an escrow for taxes and insurance;

''(IV) acceptance of payment from the homeowner of an amount less than the stated principal balance in final satisfaction of such mortgage;

''(V) assumption;

''(VI) pre-foreclosure sale; and

''(VII) deed in lieu of foreclosure.

''(ii) PRIORITY.—Activities described in subclauses (V), (VI), and (VII) shall only be pursued after a reasonable evaluation of the feasibility of activities described in subclause (I), (II), (III), and (IV), based upon the homeowner's circumstances.

''(h) OVERSIGHT OF PUBLIC AND PRIVATE EFFORTS TO REDUCE MORTGAGE DEFAULTS AND FORECLOSURES.—

''(1) MONITORING OF HOME LOANS.—The Secretary, in consultation with the Department of Housing and Urban Development, the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency, the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, the National Credit Union Administration, and the Office of Thrift Supervision, shall develop and implement a plan to monitor—

''(A) conditions and trends in the mortgage industry in order to predict, as best as possible, likely future trends in foreclosures; and

''(B) the effectiveness of public efforts to reduce mortgage defaults and foreclosures.

''(2) ANNUAL REPORT TO CONGRESS ON MONITORING OF HOME LOANS.—Not later than 1 year after the development of the plan under paragraph (1), and every year thereafter, the Secretary shall submit a report to Congress that—

''(A) summarizes and describes the findings of the monitoring required under that subparagraph; and

''(B) includes recommendations or proposals for legislative or administrative action—

''(i) to increase the authority of the Secretary to levy penalties against any mortgagee, or other person or entity, who fails to comply with the requirements described in this section; and

''(ii) to improve coordination between various public and private initiatives to reduce the overall rate of mortgage defaults and foreclosures.

''(3) COMPLIANCE PLAN AND REPORT.—The Secretary, in consultation with the Department of Housing and Urban Development, the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency, the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, the National Credit Union Administration, and the Office of Thrift Supervision, shall—

''(A) develop a plan to monitor the compliance with the requirements established in

this section by mortgagees and other persons or entities; and

''(B) report such plan to Congress.

''(4) DEVELOPMENT OF A NATIONAL DATABASE ON DEFAULTS AND FORECLOSURES.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, in consultation with the Department of Housing and Urban Development, the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency, the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, the National Credit Union Administration, and the Office of Thrift Supervision, shall develop recommendations for a national database on mortgage defaults and foreclosures.

''(B) GOALS OF NATIONAL DATABASE.—In developing the recommendations under subparagraph (A), the Secretary shall consider the goals of such a national database, which are as follows:

''(i) To provide Federal regulatory agencies with information on—

''(I) mortgagees that generate home loans which go into default or foreclosure at a rate significantly higher than the national average for such mortgagees; and

''(II) the various factors associated with those higher rates.

''(ii) To provide information to the Federal Government on loans, defaults, foreclosures, and sheriff sales—

''(I) which is not otherwise readily available;

''(II) which would allow for a better understanding of local, regional, and national trends in delinquencies, defaults, and foreclosures; and

''(III) so that public policies to reduce defaults and foreclosures may be improved.

''(C) REPORT ON OUTCOMES OF HOME LOANS.—

''(i) IN GENERAL.—In order to satisfy the requirement set forth in this paragraph and paragraph (1), the Secretary shall promulgate rules within 18 months of the date of enactment of the Homeownership Protection and Enhancement Act of 2007 requiring each lender who has originated 100 or more loans in the previous calendar year on behalf of itself or another person or entity, or each person or entity that has serviced 100 or more loans in the previous calendar year on behalf of itself or another entity, to report to the Secretary, on an annual basis, whatever data the Secretary, in consultation with the Department of Housing and Urban Development, the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency, the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, the National Credit Union Administration, and the Office of Thrift Supervision, deems sufficient to meet the requirements set forth in subparagraph (B).

''(ii) CONTENT OF REPORT.—At a minimum, each report required under clause (i) shall include data—

''(I) using the same identification requirements for each loan for which information is submitted as are established under the Home Mortgage Disclosure Act (12 U.S.C. 2801 et seq.) for data reporting, namely—

''(aa) year of origination;

''(bb) agency code of originator;

''(cc) respondent identification number of originator; and

''(dd) the identifying number for the loan;

''(II) regarding the characteristics of each home loan originated in the preceding 12 months by the lender, person, or entity, including—

''(aa) loan-to-value ratio at the time of origination for each mortgage on the property;

''(bb) whether or not there is an escrow account for taxes and insurance;

''(cc) the type of mortgage, such as a fixed-rate or adjustable-rate mortgage; and

''(dd) any other loan or loan underwriting characteristics determined by the Secretary, and the regulators with whom the Secretary consults under the terms of subparagraph (C)(i), to be necessary in order to meet the requirements of subparagraph (B) and that are not already available to the Secretary through a national mortgage database;

''(III) regarding the performance outcomes of each home loan originated in the preceding 12 months by the lender, person, or entity, including—

''(aa) if such home loan was in delinquency at any point in such 12-month period; and

''(bb) if any foreclosure proceeding was initiated on such home loan during such 12-month period;

''(IV) sufficient to establish for each home loan that at any point during the preceding 12 months had become 60 or more days delinquent with respect to a payment on any amount due under the home loan, or for which a foreclosure proceeding was initiated, the interest rate on such home loan at the time of such delinquency or foreclosure;

''(V) regarding foreclosures, including—

''(aa) the date of all foreclosures initiated by the lender, person, or entity; and

''(bb) the combined loan-to-value ratio of all mortgages on a home at the time foreclosure proceedings were initiated; and

''(VI) indicating each home loan for which a foreclosure proceeding was completed in the preceding 12 months, including—

''(aa) foreclosure proceedings initiated in such 12-month period; and

''(bb) the date of the foreclosure completion.

''(D) REQUIREMENT OF FEDERAL FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS EXAMINATION COUNCIL TO CREATE A CONSOLIDATED DATABASE.—The Federal Financial Institutions Examination Council shall create a consolidated database that establishes a connection between the data provided under the Home Mortgage Disclosure Act (12 U.S.C. 2801 et seq.) and the data provided under this subsection.

''(E) REPORT TO CONGRESS ON NATIONAL DATABASE.—Not later than 12 months after the date of enactment of the Homeownership Protection and Enhancement Act of 2007, the Secretary shall report to Congress the recommendations required under subparagraph (A).

''(i) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION REGARDING MORTGAGEES.—As used in this section—

''(1) the term 'mortgagee'—

''(A) means the original lender under a mortgage; and

''(B) includes—

''(i) any servicers, affiliates, agents, subsidiaries, successors, or assignees of such lender; and

''(ii) any subsequent purchaser, trustee, or transferee of any mortgage or credit instrument issued by such lender; and

''(2) the term 'servicer' means any person who collects on a home loan, whether they are the owner, the holder, the assignee, the nominee for the loan, or the beneficiary of a trust, or any person acting on behalf of such person.

''(j) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section—

''(1) $615,000,000 for fiscal year 2008, of which—

''(A) $300,000,000 shall be for grants to counseling organizations under subsection (c);

''(B) $260,000,000 shall be for competitive grants to States to establish revolving loan funds under subsection (d)(6);

''(C) $50,000,000 shall be for grants to establish and operate State Homeownership Protection Centers under subsection (d)(1); and

''(D) $5,000,000 shall be to create the Federal database under subsection (h)(4);

''(2) $635,000,000 for fiscal year 2009; and

''(3) such sums as necessary for each of fiscal years 2010 through 2012.''.

By Ms. SNOWE (for herself and Ms. COLLINS):

S. 1388. A bill establish a commercial truck highway safety demonstration program in the State of Maine, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

Ms. SNOWE. Mr. President, I rise today to join my colleague, Senator COLLINS, to introduce legislation that will rectify an impediment to international commerce flowing through Maine, but more importantly, will offer a measure of protection that many of my constituents in Maine do not currently possess.

As many of our colleagues know, expanding upon the current Federal truck weight limitation of 80,000 pounds is often looked upon as dangerous, flaunting the safety of drivers who may be faced with a truck weighing as much as 143,000 pounds, the limit on Interstates in Massachusetts and New York. While I certainly concur that safety of drivers is very important, and I have the record to prove it, I ask you do not overlook the safety of pedestrians as well.

In Maine, where we currently have a limited exemption along the Maine Turnpike, many trucks traveling to or from the Canadian border or into upstate Maine are not able to travel on our Interstates as a result of the 80,000 pound weight limit. This forces many of them onto secondary roads, many of which are two-lane roads running through small towns and villages in Maine. Tanker trucks carrying fuel are passing elementary schools, libraries, and weaving through traffic to reach our Air National Guard station. Not only is this an inefficient method of bringing necessary fuel guardsmen that provide our national security, but imagine if you will one of those tanker trucks rupturing on Main Street, potentially causing serious damage to property, causing traffic chaos, and most importantly, killing or injuring drivers and pedestrians.

This is not a far-fetched scenario. In fact, two pedestrians were killed in the past year in Maine as a result of overweight trucks on local roadways, one tragic instance occurring within sight of the nearby Interstate.

What is the result of such traffic? According to study conducted by the Maine Department of Transportation, traffic fatalities involving trucks weighing 100,000 pounds are 10 times greater on secondary roads in Maine than on the exempted interstates. Serious injuries are seven times more likely. Not to mention the exorbitant cost of maintaining these secondary roads, forced to handle these massive trucks. These roads were not designed to handle this kind of traffic. Our interstates were, yet these trucks are consistently prevented from traveling on them.

The argument against such trucks is that it is a ''slippery slope'' that if you allow one State to have such an exemption, pretty soon you'll have to give every State such an exemption. Well, I would like to remind the opponents of this amendment that we are halfway there already. A total of 27 States already have some type of exemption, and 47 States allow trucks weighing over 80,000 pounds on some roads within their State. To offer a clear picture of this, if you are driving a truck weighing 100,000 pounds, you can leave Gary, IN, just outside of Chicago, and can operate that vehicle all the way to Portland, ME. There, of course, they have to unload the additional weight to continue on the Interstate, or travel the remainder of the way through the State on these local roads, endangering the populace and other drivers.

Conversely, you can operate a truck weighing 90,000 pounds from Kansas City, MO, and travel to Seattle, WA. So I ask you, is this truly a legitimate reason for opposition while my constituents are taking their lives in their hands when merely crossing Main Street?

I would especially like to thank Senator COLLINS for her steadfast effort as, side-by-side, we continue to seek a resolution to this issue.

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, I rise to join with my senior colleague from Maine in sponsoring the Commercial Truck Highway Safety Demonstration Program Act, an important bill that addresses a significant safety problem in our State.

Under current law, trucks weighing 100,000 pounds are allowed to travel on the portion of Interstate 95 designated as the Maine Turnpike, which runs from Maine's border with New Hampshire to Augusta, our capital city. At Augusta, the turnpike designation ends, but I–95 proceeds another 200 miles north to Houlton. At Augusta, however, heavy trucks must exit the modern four-lane, limited-access highway and are forced onto smaller, two-lane secondary roads that pass through cities, towns, and villages.

Trucks weighing up to 100,000 pounds are permitted on interstate highways in New Hampshire, Massachusetts, and New York as well as the Canadian Provinces of New Brunswick and Quebec. The weight limit disparity on various segments of Maine's Interstate Highway System is a significant impediment to commerce, increases wear-and-tear on our secondary roads, and, most important, puts our people needlessly at risk.

Senator SNOWE and I have introduced this legislation several times in recent years. We do so this year with a renewed sense of urgency, and in sorrow. Just last week, Susan Abraham, a bright and talented 17-year-old high school student from Hampden, ME, lost her life when her car was struck by a heavy truck on Route 9. The truck driver could not see Susan's small car turning onto that two-lane road as he rounded a corner. It was an accident but one that would have been avoided had the truck remained on the interstate highway. Interstate 95 runs less than three-quarters of a mile away, but Federal law prevented the truck from using that modern, divided highway, a highway that was designed to provide ample views of the road ahead.

That preventable tragedy took place almost 1 year to the day after Lena Gray, an 80-year-old resident of Bangor, was struck and killed by a tractor-trailer as she was crossing a downtown street. Again, that accident would not have occurred had that truck been allowed to use I–95, which runs directly through Bangor.

The problem Maine faces due to the disparity in truck weight limits affects many communities, but it is clearly evident in the eastern Maine cites of Bangor and Brewer. In this region, a 2-mile stretch of Interstate 395 connects two major state highways that carry significant truck traffic across Maine. I–395 affords direct and safe access between these major corridors, but because of the existing Federal truck weight limit, many heavy trucks are prohibited from using this multilane, limited access highway.

Instead, these trucks, which sometimes carry hazardous materials, are required to maneuver through the downtown portions of Bangor and Brewer on two-lane roadways. Truckers are faced with two options; the first is a 3.5 mile diversion through downtown Bangor that requires several very difficult and dangerous turns. The second route is a 7.5 mile diversion that includes 20 traffic lights and requires travel through portions of downtown Bangor as well. Congestion is a significant issue, and safety is seriously compromised as a result of these required diversions.

In June 2004, Wilbur Smiths Associates, a nationally recognized transportation consulting firm, completed a study to examine the impact a Federal weight exemption on nonexempt portions of Maine's Interstate Highway System would have on safety, pavement, and bridges. The study found that extending the current truck weight exemption on the Maine Turnpike to all interstate highways in Maine would result in a decrease of 3.2 fatal crashes per year. A uniform truck weight limit of 100,000 pounds on Maine's interstate highways would reduce highway miles, as well as the travel times necessary to transport freight through Maine, resulting in safety, economic, and environmental benefits. Moreover, Maine's extensive network of local roads would be better preserved without the wear and tear of heavy truck traffic.

Most important, however, a uniform truck weight limit will keep trucks on the interstate where they belong, rather than on roads and highways that pass through Maine's cities, towns, and neighborhoods.

In addition to the safety of motorists and pedestrians, there is a homeland security aspect to this as well. An accident or attack involving a heavy truck carrying explosive fuel or a hazardous chemical on a congested city street would have devastating consequences. That risk can be alleviated substantially by allowing those trucks to stay on the open highway.

The legislation that Senator SNOWE and I are introducing addresses the safety issues we face in Maine because of the disparities in truck weight limits. The legislation directs the Secretary of Transportation to establish a commercial truck safety pilot program in Maine. Under the pilot program, the truck weight limit on all Maine highways that are part of the interstate highway system would be set at 100,000 pounds for three years. During the waiver period, the Secretary would study the impact of the pilot program on safety and would receive the input of a panel on which State officials, and representatives from safety organizations, municipalities, and the commercial trucking industry would serve. The waiver would become permanent if the panel determined that motorists were safer as a result of a uniform truck weight limit on Maine's Interstate Highway System.

Maine's citizens and motorists are needlessly at risk because too many heavy trucks are forced off the interstate and onto local roads. The legislation Senator SNOWE and I are introducing is a commonsense approach to a significant safety problem in my State. Our efforts are widely supported by public officials throughout Maine, including the Governor, the Maine Department of Transportation, the Maine Secretary of State, and the Maine State Police. I urge my colleagues to support this important legislation.

By Mr. OBAMA (for himself, Ms. SNOWE, and Mr. BINGAMAN):

S. 1389. A bill to authorize the National Science Foundation to establish a Climate Change Education Program; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

Mr. OBAMA. Mr. President, I rise today to introduce legislation, cosponsored by Ms. SNOWE and Mr. BINGAMAN, to better educate Americans about climate change. We are today introducing the Climate Change Education Act, to broaden Americans' understanding of global warming.

There may still be disputes about exactly how much humans contribute to the warming of our atmosphere. But there is near certainty that the air we breathe is being changed by ever increased levels of greenhouse gases, with effects on climate, resources, and habitats.

Last week, I attended a hearing of the Foreign Relations Committee, where the issue of climate change was shown to also affect our national security. A report issued by a panel of distinguished military leaders concluded that climate change will be globally

destabilizing, leading to diminished access to fresh water, reduced food production as India and sub-Saharan Africa become hotter and drier, increased health crises as vector-borne diseases spread, and displacement of large populations as sea levels rise and coastal lands flood. As scarcities increase, conflicts over diminishing resources will also increase. Governments in resource-stressed countries may collapse. Environmental stresses may lead to human migration and refugees.

I mention this to emphasize that climate change has surprising ramifications, and that there is still much that we can all learn about this issue, with effects that go well beyond traditional environmental concerns. It is important that we all become better informed, that we analyze the information about climate change, so that we can learn how to more rationally respond.

We believe it is important to educate our Nation about the causes and effects of climate change and about how we might effectively respond. Reaching a solution to the challenge of climate change will require changes in both national policy and in our use of energy and resources. All of this will require a thoughtful understanding of the issue.

The Climate Change Education Act would create a program at the National Science Foundation, which would provide opportunities for students and citizens to learn more about global warming. The program would include a national information campaign to promote new approaches to addressing climate change and would also establish a competitive program to provide grants to develop education materials. Earlier this month, the House of Representatives passed the campanion, H.R. 1728, to this bill.

I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 196—COMMENDING IDAHO ON WINNING THE BID TO HOST THE 2009 SPECIAL OLYMPICS WORLD WINTER GAMES

Mr. CRAPO (for himself and Mr. CRAIG) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation:

S. RES. 196

Whereas Special Olympics is an international nonprofit organization that promotes personal development through sports training and competition;

Whereas Special Olympics advances the understanding of intellectual disabilities in the community and the Nation through participation and fellowship;

Whereas Special Olympics serves more than 2,500,000 individuals with intellectual disabilities;

Whereas Special Olympics offers more than 200 programs in over 160 countries;

Whereas Special Olympics offers 30 Olympic-type summer and winter sports to both children and adults with intellectual disabilities;

Whereas Boise, Idaho won the international bid to host the 2009 Special Olympics World Winter Games to be held February 6 through 13, 2009;

Whereas thousands of athletes are expected to compete in the 2009 Special Olympics World Winter Games; and

Whereas the 2009 Special Olympics World Winter Games will be the largest multi-sport event ever held in the State of Idaho: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) applauds the goals and principles of Special Olympics;

(2) salutes the athletes, coaches, family members, friends, and volunteers that make Special Olympics possible; and

(3) congratulates the State of Idaho on its selection as the host for the 2009 Special Olympics World Winter Games.

SENATE RESOLUTION 197—HONORING THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF AMERICORPS

Ms. MIKULSKI (for herself, Mr. COCHRAN, Mr. BAUCUS, Mr. BAYH, Mrs. BOXER, Mr. CASEY, Mrs. CLINTON, Mr. COLEMAN, Mr. DODD, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. FEINGOLD, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. KERRY, Mr. LAUTENBERG, Mr. LIEBERMAN, Mr. LOTT, Mr. MCCAIN, Mr. MENENDEZ, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. OBAMA, Mr. ROCKEFELLER, Mr. SALAZAR, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. STEVENS, and Ms. STABENOW) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions:

S. RES. 197

Whereas the AmeriCorps national service program, since its inception in 1994, has proven to be a highly effective way to engage Americans in meeting a wide range of local needs and to promote the ethic of service and volunteering;

Whereas the AmeriCorps program, working closely with its nationwide network of Governor-appointed State service commissions, has strengthened America's nonprofit sector by investing more than $3,000,000,000 in the efforts of community nonprofit groups in every State in our Nation;

Whereas that investment has leveraged hundreds of millions of dollars of additional funds and in-kind donations from other sources;

Whereas each year AmeriCorps provides opportunities for 75,000 citizens across the Nation to give back in an intensive way to our districts, our States, and our country;

Whereas since 1994 a total of 500,000 citizens across the nation have taken the AmeriCorps pledge to ''get things done for America'' by becoming AmeriCorps members;

Whereas those same individuals have served a total of more than 630,000,000 hours nationwide, helping to improve the lives of our Nation's most vulnerable citizens, protect our environment, contribute to our public safety, respond to disasters, and strengthen our educational system;

Whereas AmeriCorps members last year recruited and supervised more than 1,400,000 community volunteers, demonstrating AmeriCorps's value as a powerful volunteer catalyst and force multiplier;

Whereas AmeriCorps members nationwide, in return for their service, have earned nearly $1,300,000,000 to use to further their own educational advancement at our Nation's colleges and universities;

Whereas AmeriCorps members, after their terms of service end, remain engaged in our communities as volunteers, teachers, and nonprofit professionals in disproportionately high levels; and

Whereas the inaugural National AmeriCorps Week, May 13-20, 2007, is an opportune time for the people of the United States to salute current and former AmeriCorps members for their powerful impact, thank all of AmeriCorps' community partners in our Nation who make the program possible, and bring more Americans into service: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) encourages all citizens to join in a national effort to salute AmeriCorps members and alumni and raise awareness about the importance of national and community service;

(2) acknowledges the significant accomplishments of AmeriCorps members, alumni, and community partners;

(3) recognizes the important contribution to the lives of our citizens made by AmeriCorps members; and

(4) encourages citizens of all ages to consider opportunities to serve in AmeriCorps.

Ms. MIKULSKI. Mr. President, I rise to introduce the AmeriCorps Week Resolution, which designates May 13–20, 2007, as a time to salute AmeriCorps members for their work, thank community partners who make the program possible, and encourage more people to join. I want to first say thank you to all the volunteers and service workers everywhere. They take time out of their lives to help their fellow Americans in their time of need, and they do it out of the goodness of their hearts. I love AmeriCorps. I love what they do for communities, I love what they do for America.

AmeriCorps is stronger than ever. Since its creation in 1994, 500,000 people nationwide have joined the program and taken the AmeriCorps pledge to ''get things done for America.'' AmeriCorps members have served more than 630 million hours nationwide. To date, 9,310 Maryland residents have earned education awards totaling over $30 million. These awards help volunteers pay for college, graduate school, vocational training, or to pay back student loans. The NCCC program, which has a campus in Perry Point, MD, is a full-time residential program for 18- to 24-year-olds designed to strengthen communities and develop leaders through team-based service projects. Each year, approximately 1,100 participants reside in its 5 campuses nationwide. The Perry Point campus houses 200 AmeriCorps members every year, and since 1994 its residents have logged more than 400,000 service hours.

AmeriCorps is the embodiment of the spirit of volunteerism and service to our country. They tackle the toughest problems in our communities: tutoring teens, starting neighborhood crime watches, turning vacant lots into neighborhoods, and helping communities clean up and rebuild after natural disasters. AmeriCorps volunteers are unflagging, unflinching and determined to make a difference. I know how important AmeriCorps is to communities across the country and to the

young people who want to serve. We are so grateful for all the hard work that they do.

I fought to create AmeriCorps and I will continue to fight to strengthen AmeriCorps so it can continue to help local communities meet local needs. Today's Federal investment, like these fine volunteers, are needed now more than ever.

SENATE RESOLUTION 198—DESIGNATING MAY 15, 2007, AS ''NATIONAL MPS AWARENESS DAY''

Mr. GRAHAM (for himself, Mr. BROWN, Mr. CHAMBLISS, Mr. FEINGOLD, Mr. KOHL, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. SPECTER, Mrs. DOLE, Mr. CRAPO, and Mr. STEVENS) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 198

Whereas mucopolysaccharidosis (referred to in this resolution as ''MPS'') is a genetically determined lysosomal storage disorder that renders the human body incapable of producing certain enzymes needed to break down complex carbohydrates;

Whereas complex carbohydrates are then stored in almost every cell in the body and progressively cause damage to those cells;

Whereas the cell damage adversely affects the human body by damaging the heart, respiratory system, bones, internal organs, and central nervous system;

Whereas the cellular damage caused by MPS often results in mental retardation, short stature, corneal damage, joint stiffness, loss of mobility, speech and hearing impairment, heart disease, hyperactivity, chronic respiratory problems, and, most importantly, a drastically shortened life span;

Whereas the nature of the disorder is usually not apparent at birth;

Whereas, without treatment, the life expectancy of an individual afflicted with MPS begins to decrease at a very early stage in the life of the individual;

Whereas recent research developments have resulted in the creation of limited treatments for some MPS disorders;

Whereas promising advancements in the pursuit of treatments for additional MPS disorders are underway;

Whereas, despite the creation of newly developed remedies, the blood brain barrier continues to be a significant impediment to effectively treating the brain, thereby preventing the treatment of many of the symptoms of MPS;

Whereas treatments for MPS will be greatly enhanced with continued public funding;

Whereas the quality of life for individuals afflicted with MPS, and the treatments available to them, will be enhanced through the development of early detection techniques and early intervention;

Whereas treatments and research advancements for MPS are limited by a lack of awareness about MPS disorders;

Whereas the lack of awareness about MPS disorders extends to those within the medical community;

Whereas the damage that is caused by MPS makes it a model for study of many other degenerative genetic disorders;

Whereas the development of effective therapies and a potential cure for MPS disorders can be accomplished by increased awareness, research, data collection, and information distribution;

Whereas the Senate is an institution than can raise public awareness about MPS; and

Whereas the Senate is also an institution that can assist in encouraging and facilitating increased public and private sector research for early diagnosis and treatments of MPS disorders: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates May 15, 2007, as ''National MPS Awareness Day''; and

(2) supports the goals and ideals of ''National MPS Awareness Day''.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 1092. Mr. INOUYE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 1495, to provide for the conservation and development of water and related resources, to authorize the Secretary of the Army to construct various projects for improvements to rivers and harbors of the United States, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1093. Mr. INOUYE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 1495, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1094. Mr. KERRY (for himself, Mr. FEINGOLD, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. CARPER, Mr. REED, Mr. BIDEN, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, and Ms. CANTWELL) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 1495, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1095. Mr. SALAZAR submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 1495, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1096. Mr. SCHUMER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 1495, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1097. Mr. REID (for Mr. LEVIN (for himself and Mr. REID)) proposed an amendment to the bill H.R. 1495, supra.

SA 1098. Mr. REID (for Mr. FEINGOLD (for himself, Mr. REID, Mr. DODD, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. KERRY, Mr. SANDERS, and Mr. LEAHY)) proposed an amendment to amendment SA 1097 proposed by Mr. REID (for Mr. LEVIN (for himself and Mr. REID)) to the bill H.R. 1495, supra.

SA 1099. Ms. LANDRIEU submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1065 proposed by Mrs. BOXER (for herself, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. BAUCUS, and Mr. ISAKSON) to the bill H.R. 1495, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1100. Ms. LANDRIEU submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1065 proposed by Mrs. BOXER (for herself, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. BAUCHUS, and Mr. ISAKSON) to the bill H.R. 1495, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1101. Ms. LANDRIEU submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1065 proposed by Mrs. BOXER (for herself, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. BAUCUS, and Mr. ISAKSON) to the bill H.R. 1495, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1102. Ms. LANDRIEU submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1065 proposed by Mrs. BOXER (for herself, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. BAUCUS, and Mr. ISAKSON) to the bill H.R. 1495, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1103. Ms. LANDRIEU submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1065 proposed by Mrs. BOXER (for herself, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. BAUCUS, and Mr. ISAKSON) to the bill H.R. 1495, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1104. Ms. LANDRIEU submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1065 proposed by Mrs. BOXER (for herself, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. BAUCUS, and Mr. ISAKSON) to the bill H.R. 1495, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1105. Ms. LANDRIEU submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1065 proposed by Mrs. BOXER (for herself, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. BAUCUS, and Mr. ISAKSON) to the bill H.R. 1495, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1106. Mr. LEVIN (for himself, Ms. STABENOW, and Mr. VOINOVICH) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 1495, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1107. Mr. LEVIN (for himself and Ms. STABENOW) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 1495, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1108. Mr. LEVIN (for himself and Ms. STABENOW) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 1495, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1109. Mr. LEVIN (for himself, Ms. STABENOW, and Mr. VOINOVICH) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 1495, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1110. Mr. SHELBY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 1495, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1111. Mrs. HUTCHISON (for herself and Mr. CORNYN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill H.R. 1495, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 1092. Mr. INOUYE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 1495, to provide for the conservation and development of water and related resources, to authorize the Secretary of the Army to construct various projects for improvements to rivers and harbors of the United States, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place in title V, insert the following:

SEC. 5_____. COST SHARING PROVISIONS FOR THE TERRITORIES.

Section 1156 of the Water Resources Development Act of 1986 (33 U.S.C. 2310) is amended—

(1) by striking ''The Secretary'' and inserting the following:

''(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary''; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

''(b) USE OF FEDERAL FUNDS BY NON-FEDERAL INTERESTS.—A non-Federal interest may use Federal funds to provide the non-Federal share of the costs of a study or project carried out at a location referred to in subsection (a).''.

SA 1093. Mr. INOUYE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 1495, to provide for the conservation and development of water and related resources, to authorize the Secretary of the Army to construct various projects for improvements to rivers and harbors of the United States, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place in title V, insert the following:

SEC. 5_____. SERVICES PROVIDED SUBSTANTIALLY PURSUANT TO CONTRACTS WITH PRIVATE SECTOR.

Section 211 of the Water Resources Development Act of 2000 (31 U.S.C. 6505 note; 114

Stat. 2592) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(f) SERVICES PROVIDED SUBSTANTIALLY PURSUANT TO CONTRACTS WITH PRIVATE SECTOR.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—The Corps of Engineers may provide services to a State or local government pursuant to section 6505 of title 31, United States Code, in carrying out a contract with the private sector (including necessary contract supervision and administration associated with such a contract).

''(2) NONAPPLICABILITY OF CERTAIN PROVISIONS.—Subsections (c)(2) and (d) shall not apply to the Corps of Engineers in carrying out this subsection.''.

SA 1094. Mr. KERRY (for himself, Mr. FEINGOLD, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. CARPER, Mr. REED, Mr. BIDEN, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, and Ms. CANTWELL) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 1495, to provide for the conservation and development of water and related resources, to authorize the Secretary of the Army to construct various projects for improvements to rivers and harbors of the United States, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place in title II, insert the following:

SEC. 2 _____. GLOBAL CLIMATE CHANGE.

(a) PLANNING CONSIDERATIONS.—To account for the potential long- and short-term effects of global climate change, the Secretary shall ensure that each feasibility study or general reevaluation report prepared by the Corps of Engineers—

(1) takes into consideration, and accounts for, the impacts of global climate change on flood, storm, and drought risks in the United States;

(2) takes into consideration, and accounts for, potential future impacts of global climate change-related weather events, such as increased hurricane activity, intensity, storm surge, sea level rise, and associated flooding;

(3) uses the best-available climate science in assessing flood and storm risks;

(4) employs, to the maximum extent practicable, nonstructural approaches and design modifications to avoid or prevent impacts to streams, wetlands, and floodplains that provide natural flood and storm buffers, improve water quality, serve as recharge areas for aquifers, reduce floods and erosion, and provide valuable plant, fish, and wildlife habitat;

(5) in projecting the benefits and costs of any water resources project that requires a benefit-cost analysis, quantifies and, to the maximum extent practicable, accounts for—

(A) the costs associated with damage or loss to wetlands, floodplains, and other natural systems (including the habitat, water quality, flood protection, and recreational values associated with the systems); and

(B) the benefits associated with protection of those systems; and

(6) takes into consideration, as applicable, the impacts of global climate change on emergency preparedness projects for ports.

(b) ADDITIONAL CONSIDERATIONS FOR FLOOD DAMAGE REDUCTION PROJECTS.—For purposes of planning and implementing flood damage reduction projects in accordance with this section and section 73 of the Water Resources Development Act of 1974 (33 U.S.C. 701b–11), the term ''nonstructural approaches and design modifications'' includes measures to manage flooding through—

(1) wetland, stream, and river restoration;

(2) avoiding development or increased development in frequently-flooded areas;

(3) adopting flood-tolerant land uses in frequently-flooded areas; or

(4) acquiring from willing sellers floodplain land for use for—

(A) flood protection uses;

(B) recreational uses;

(C) fish and wildlife uses; or

(D) other public benefits.

SA 1095. Mr. SALAZAR submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 1495, to provide for the conservation and development of water and related resources, to authorize the Secretary of the Army to construct various projects for improvements to rivers and harbors of the United States, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place in title III, insert the following:

SEC. 3_____. ALAMOSA, COLORADO.

The project for flood damage reduction, Alamosa, Colorado, authorized by section 101(5) of the Water Resources Development Act of 1992 (106 Stat. 4802), is modified to direct the Secretary—

(1) to include, as part of the total project costs, the cost of construction activities carried out by the non-Federal interest to provide additional erosion protection to the levees; and

(2) to reimburse the appropriate local interests for the Federal share of the cost of those activities.

SA 1096. Mr. SCHUMER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 1495, to provide for the conservation and development of water and related resources, to authorize the Secretary of the Army to construct various projects for improvements to rivers and harbors of the United States, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place in title IV, insert the following:

SEC. 4_____. MOHAWK RIVER, ONEIDA COUNTY, NEW YORK.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall conduct a watershed study of the Mohawk River watershed, Oneida County, New York, with a particular emphasis on improving water quality and the environment.

(b) RECOMMENDATIONS.—In conducting the study under subsection (a), the Secretary shall take into consideration impacts on the Sauquoit Creek Watershed and the economy.

SA 1097. Mr. REID (for Mr. LEVIN (for himself and Mr. REID)) proposed an amendment to the bill H.R. 1495, to provide for the conservation and development of water and related resources, to authorize the Secretary of the Army to construct various projects for improvements to rivers and harbors of the United States, and for other purposes; as follows:

SEC. 1. MILITARY READINESS—MISSION CAPABLE UNITS.

(a) Congress finds that it is Defense Department policy that units should not be deployed for combat unless they are rated ''fully mission capable''.

(b) None of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available in this or any other Act may be used to deploy any unit of the Armed Forces to Iraq unless the chief of the military department concerned has certified in writing to the Committees on Appropriations and the Committees on Armed Services at least 15 days in advance of the deployment that the unit is fully mission capable.

(c) For purposes of subsection (b), the term ''fully mission capable'' means capable of performing assigned mission essential tasks to prescribed standards under the conditions expected in the theater of operations, consistent with the guidelines set forth in the Department of Defense readiness reporting system.

(d) The President may waive the limitation prescribed in subsection (b) on a unit-by-unit basis by certifying in writing to the Committees on Appropriations and the Committees on Armed Services that he has authorized the deployment to Iraq of a unit that is not assessed fully mission capable and by submitting along with the certification a report in classified and unclassified form detailing the particular reason or reasons why the unit's deployment is necessary despite the chief of the military department's assessment that the unit is not fully mission capable,

SEC. 2. MILITARY READINESS—DURATION OF TOURS OF DUTY IN IRAQ.

(a) Congress finds that it is Defense Department policy that Army, Army Reserve, and National Guard units should not be deployed for combat beyond 365 days or that Marine Corps and Marine Corps Reserve units should not be deployed for combat beyond 210 days.

(b) None of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available in this or any other Act may be obligated or expended to initiate the development of, continue the development of, or execute any order that has the effect of extending the deployment for Operation Iraqi Freedom of—

(1) any unit of the Army, Army Reserve or Army National Guard beyond 365 days; or

(2) any unit of the Marine Corps or Marine Corps Reserve beyond 210 days.

(c) The President may waive the limitations prescribed in subsection (b) on a unit-by-unit basis by certifying in writing to the Committees on Appropriations and the Committees on Armed Services that he has authorized the extension of a unit's deployment in Iraq beyond the periods specified in subsection (b) and by submitting along with the certification a report in classified and unclassified form detailing the particular reason or reasons why the unit's extended deployment is necessary.

SEC. 3. MILITARY READINESS—MULTIPLE DEPLOYMENTS.

(a) Congress finds that it is Defense Department policy that Army, Army Reserve, and National Guard units should not be redeployed for combat if the unit has been deployed within the previous 365 consecutive days or that Marine Corps and Marine Corps Reserve units should not be redeployed for combat if the unit has been deployed within the previous 210 days.

(b) None of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available in this or any other Act may be obligated or expended to initiate the development of, continue the development of, or execute any order that has the effect of deploying for Operation Iraqi Freedom of—

(1) any unit of the Army, Army Reserve or Army National Guard if such unit has been deployed within the previous 365 consecutive days; or

(2) any unit of the Marine Corps or Marine Corps Reserve if such unit has been deployed within the previous 210 consecutive days.

(c) The President may waive the limitations prescribed in subsection (b) on a unit-

by-unit basis by certifying in writing to the Committees on Appropriations and the Committees on Armed Services that he has authorized the redeployment of a unit to Iraq in advance of the periods specified in subsection (b) and by submitting along with the certification a report in classified and unclassified form detailing the particular reason or reasons why the unit's deployment is necessary.

SEC. 4. BENCHMARKS.

(a) Beginning on July 15, 2007, and every 30 days thereafter, the Secretary of Defense and the Secretary of State, after consultation with the U.S. Ambassador to Iraq, Commander U.S. Central Command, and Commander, Multi-National Forces Iraq, shall jointly submit to Congress a report describing and assessing in detail the progress made by the Government of Iraq in meeting each of the benchmarks set forth in subsection (1), the security objectives set forth in the President's revised strategy of January 10, 2007, and answering the questions posed in subsections (2) and (3).

(1) whether the Government of Iraq has:

(I) enacted a broadly accepted hydro-carbon law that equitably shares oil revenues among all Iraqis;

(ii) adopted legislation necessary for the conduct of provincial and local elections including setting a schedule to conduct provincial and local elections;

(iii) reformed current laws governing the de-Baathification process to allow for more equitable treatment of individuals affected by such laws;

(iv) amended the Constitution of Iraq consistent with the principles contained in Article 140 of such constitution, including, at a minimum, the submission of such amendments to the Iraqi Parliament for the protection of minority rights; and

(v) allocated and expended $10,000,000,000 in Iraqi revenues for reconstruction projects, including delivery of essential services, on an equitable basis.

(2) whether the Government of Iraq and United States Armed Forces has made substantial progress in reducing the level of sectarian violence in Iraq; and

(3) whether each battalion of the security forces of Iraq has achieved a level of combat proficiency such that it can conduct independent combat operations without support from Coalition forces in Iraq.

(b) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, 75 percent of the funds appropriated by this Act or any other act for assistance for Iraq under the headings ''Economic Support Fund'' and ''International Narcotics and Law Enforcement'' shall be withheld from obligation until the President certifies to the Committees on Appropriations, Armed Services and Foreign Relations of the Senate and the Committees on Appropriations, Armed Services and Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives that the Government of Iraq is making substantial progress towards meeting each of the benchmarks set forth in subsection (a)(1).

(c) The requirement to withhold funds from obligation pursuant to subsection (b) shall not apply with respect to funds made available under the heading ''Economic Support Fund'' for continued support for the Community Action Program and the Community Stabilization Program in Iraq administered by the United States Agency for International Development, or for programs and activities to promote democracy and human rights in Iraq.

SEC. 5 REDUCTION OF FORCES.

(a) Subject to the waiver authority provided for in subsection (e), the Secretary of Defense shall commence the reduction of the number of United States Armed Forces in Iraq not later than October 1, 2007, with a goal of completing such reduction within 180 days. The goal of completing such reduction shall be accelerated if the President is unable to report that the Government of Iraq is making substantial progress towards meeting each of the benchmarks set forth in subsection (a)(1) of Section 4 by October 15, 2007.

(b) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, funds appropriated or otherwise made available in this or any other Act are available for obligation and expenditure to plan and execute a safe and orderly reduction of the Armed Forces in Iraq.

(c) The reduction of forces required by this section shall be implemented as part of a comprehensive diplomatic, political, and economic strategy that includes sustained engagement with Iraq's neighbors and the international community for the purpose of working collectively to bring stability to Iraq.

(d) After the conclusion of the reduction required by this section, the Secretary of Defense may not deploy or maintain members of the Armed Forces in Iraq for any purpose other than the following:

(1) Protecting American diplomatic facilities and American citizens, including members of the U.S. armed forces;

(2) Serving in roles consistent with customary diplomatic positions;

(3) Engaging in targeted actions against members of al-Qaeda and allied parties and other terrorist organizations with global reach; and

(4) Training and equipping members of the Iraqi Security Forces.

(e) Waiver Authority

(1) IN GENERAL.—The President may waive the reduction of forces requirements of this section if he submits to Congress a written certification setting forth a detailed justification for the waiver, which shall include a detailed report describing the actions being taken by the United States to bring about the meeting of the benchmarks set forth in subsections (a)(1) of section ____ by the Iraqis. The certification shall be submitted in unclassified form, but may include a classified annex.

(2) DURATION.—The Waiver under paragraph (1) shall be effective for 90 days beginning on the date of the submittal of the certification under that paragraph.

(3) RENEWAL.—A waiver under paragraph (1) may be renewed if, before the—end of the expiration of the waiver under paragraph (2), the President submits to Congress before the end of the effective period of the waiver under paragraph (2) a certification meeting the requirements of this subsection. Any waiver so renewed may be further renewed as provided in this paragraph.

SA 1098. Mr. REID (for Mr. FEINGOLD (for himself, Mr. REID, Mr. DODD, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. KERRY, Mr. SANDERS, and Mr. LEAHY)) proposed an amendment to amendment SA 1097 proposed by Mr. REID (for Mr. LEVIN (for himself and Mr. REID)) to the bill H.R. 1495, to provide for the conservation and development of water and related resources, to authorize the Secretary of the Army to construct various projects for improvements to rivers and harbors of the United States, and for other purposes; as follows:

(a) TRANSITION OF MISSION.—The President shall promptly transition the mission of United States forces in Iraq to the limited purposes set forth in subsection (d).

(b) COMMENCEMENT OF SAFE, PHASED REDEPLOYMENT FROM IRAQ.—The President shall commence the Iraq that are not essential to the limited purposes set forth in subsection (d). Such redeployment shall begin not later than 120 days after the date of the enactment of this Act.

(c) PROHIBITION ON USE OF FUNDS.—No funds appropriated or otherwise made available under any provision of law may be obligated or expended to continue the deployment in Iraq of members of the United States Armed Forces after March 31, 2008.

(d) EXCEPTION FOR LIMITED PURPOSES.—The prohibition under subsection (c) shall not apply to the obligation or expenditure of funds for the limited purposes as follows:

(1) To conduct targeted operations, limited in duration and scope, against members of al Qaeda and other international terrorist organizations.

(2) To provide security for United States infrastructure and personnel.

(3) To train and equip Iraqi security services.

SA 1099. Ms. LANDRIEU submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1065 proposed by Mrs. BOXER (for herself, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. BAUCUS, and Mr. ISAKSON) to the bill H.R. 1495, to provide for the conservation and development of water and related resources, to authorize the Secretary of the Army to construct various projects for improvements to rivers and harbors of the United States, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

Strike subsections (s) and (t) of section 1003 (relating to Louisiana coastal area ecosystem restoration) and insert the following:

(s) MISSISSIPPI RIVER GULF OUTLET.—

(1) DEAUTHORIZATION.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Effective beginning on the date of submission of the plan required under subparagraph (C), the navigation channel portion of the project for navigation, Mississippi River Gulf outlet, authorized by the Act of March 29, 1956 (70 Stat. 65, chapter 112;100 Stat. 4177; 110 Stat. 3717), which extends from the Gulf of Mexico to Mile 60 at the southern bank of the Gulf Intracoastal Waterway, is not authorized.

(B) SCOPE.—Nothing in this paragraph modifies or deauthorizes the Inner Harbor navigation canal replacement project authorized by that Act.

(C) CLOSURE AND RESTORATION PLAN.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Environment and Public Works of the Senate and the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives a final report on the deauthorization of the Mississippi River Gulf outlet, as described under the heading ''INVESTIGATIONS'' under chapter 3 of title II of the Emergency Supplemental Appropriations Act for Defense, the Global War on Terror, and Hurricane Recovery, 2006 (Public Law 109–234; 120 Stat. 453).

(ii) INCLUSIONS.—At a minimum, the report under subparagraph (A) shall include—

(I) a comprehensive plan to deauthorize deep draft navigation on the Mississippi River Gulf outlet;

(II) a plan to physically modify the Mississippi River Gulf outlet and restore the areas affected by the navigation channel;

(III) a plan to restore natural features of the ecosystem that will reduce or prevent damage from storm surge, including through—

(aa) use of native vegetation; and

(bb) diversions of fresh water to restore the Lake Borgne ecosystem;

(IV) a plan to prevent the intrusion of saltwater into the waterway;

(V) efforts to integrate the recommendations of this report with the program authorized under subsection (a) and the analysis and design authorized by title I of the Energy and Water Develop Appropriations Act, 2006 (Public Law 109–103; 119 Stat. 2247).

(D) CONSTRUCTION.—The Secretary shall carry out a plan to close the Mississippi River Gulf outlet and restore and protect the ecosystem substantially in accordance with the plan required under subparagraph (C), if the Secretary determines that the project is cost-effective, environmentally acceptable, and technically feasible.

(t) HURRICANE AND STORM DAMAGE REDUCTION.—

(1) DEFINITION OF LOUISIANA COASTAL PROTECTION AND RESTORATION REPORT.—In this subsection, the term ''Louisiana Coastal Protection and Restoration Report'' means the analysis and design of comprehensive hurricane protection authorized by title I of the Energy and Water Development Appropriations Act, 2006 (Public Law 109–103; 119 Stat. 2247).

(2) CONSTRUCTION OF MOST URGENT PROJECTS.—Without preparing a feasibility report, the Secretary is authorized to construct the most urgently needed, technically developed, most protective, and environmentally acceptable projects identified in the Louisiana Coastal Protection and Restoration Report, if the projects are not otherwise authorized by this or any other Act.

(3) REPORTING OF REMAINING PROJECTS.—With respect to the projects identified in the Louisiana Coastal Protection and Restoration Report that are not described in paragraph (2), the Secretary shall—

(A) submit to the Committee on Environment and Public Works of the Senate and the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives—

(i) specific project recommendations in any report developed under the Energy and Water Development Appropriations Act, 2006 (Public Law 109–103; 119 Stat. 2247); and

(ii) subsequent additional specific project recommendations, if applicable—

(I) as soon as practicable; and

(II) as often as the Secretary determines to be necessary;

(B) on submission of the specific project recommendations under subparagraph (A)(i), subject to subparagraph (C)(ii), begin preparation of a feasibility study relating to the specific project; and

(C) ensure that—

(i) each specific project recommendation submitted to Congress is accompanied by a budget estimate, to be provided by the Chief of Engineers, of funding requirements for the project for each fiscal year; and

(ii) each feasibility study for a project included in a report under subparagraph (A) is completed by not later than 3 years after the date of enactment of this Act.

(4) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated carry out paragraph (2) $500,000,000.

SA 1100. Ms. LANDRIEU submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1065 proposed by Mrs. BOXER (for herself, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. BAUCUS, and Mr. ISAKSON) to the bill H.R. 1495, to provide for the conservation and development of water and related resources, to authorize the Secretary of the Army to construct various projects for improvements to rivers and harbors of the United States, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place in title III, insert the following:

SEC. 3_____. HOUMA NAVIGATION CANAL, LOUISIANA.

The Secretary is authorized to carry out the project for navigation, Houma Navigation Canal, Louisiana, at a total cost of $200,000,000, with and estimated Federal cost of $180,000,000 and an estimated non-Federal cost of $20,000,000, substantially in accordance with the plans, and subject to the conditions, recommended in a final report of the Chief of Engineers relating to the project if a favorable report of the Chief is completed not later than December 31, 2008.

SA 1101. Ms. LANDRIEU submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1065 proposed by Mrs. BOXER (for herself, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. BAUCUS, and Mr. ISAKSON) to the bill H.R. 1495, to provide for the conservation and development of water and related resources, to authorize the Secretary of the Army to construct various projects for improvements to rivers and harbors of the United States, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place in title V, insert the following:

SEC. 5_____. INNER HARBOR NAVIGATION CANAL LOCK PROJECT.

Not later than July 1, 2008, the Secretary shall—

(1) issue a final environmental impact statement relating to the Inner Harbor Navigation Canal Lock project; and

(2) develop and maintain a transportation mitigation program relating to that project in coordination with—

(A) St. Bernard Parish;

(B) Orleans Parish;

(C) the Old Arabi Neighborhood Association; and

(D) other interested parties.

SA 1102. Ms. LANDRIEU submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1065 proposed by Mrs. BOXER (for herself, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. BAUCUS, and Mr. ISAKSON) to the bill H.R. 1495, to provide for the conservation and development of water and related resources, to authorize the Secretary of the Army to construct various projects for improvements to rivers and harbors of the United States, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 57, between lines 23 and 24, insert the following:

(4) CREDIT.—The Secretary shall credit to the non-Federal share of the cost of the project under this subsection any amount otherwise eligible to be credited under section 221 of the Flood Control Act of 970 (42 U.S.C. 1962d–5b) (as amended by section 2001).

SA 1103. Ms. LANDRIEU submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1065 proposed by Mrs. BOXER (for herself, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. BAUCUS, and Mr. ISAKSON) to the bill H.R. 1495, to provide for the conservation and development of water and related resources, to authorize the Secretary of the Army to construct various projects for improvements to rivers and harbors of the United States, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 129, between lines 4 and 5, insert the following:

(f) EFFECT OF SECTION.—Nothing in this section adversely effects the generation of hydroelectric power or any ratepayer in the State of Louisiana.

SA 1104. Ms. LANDRIEU submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1065 proposed by Mrs. BOXER (for herself, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. BAUCUS, and Mr. ISAKSON) to the bill H.R. 1495, to provide for the conservation and development of water and related resources, to authorize the Secretary of the Army to construct various projects for improvements to rivers and harbors of the United States, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place in title III, insert the following:

SEC. 3_____. ATCHAFALAYA RIVER, BAYOUS CHENE, BOEUF, AND BLACK, LOUISIANA.

The project for navigation, Atchafalaya River, Bayous Chene, Boeuf, and Black, Louisiana, authorized by section 101 of the River and Harbor Act of 1968 (82 Stat. 731), is modified to authorize the Secretary to deepen a section of not more than 1,000 feet of the area on the Gulf Intracoastal Waterway located west of the Bayou Boeuf Lock and east of the intersection of the Atchafalaya River at a cost of not more than $200,000 during the 10-year period beginning on the date of enactment of this Act to provide for ingress and egress to the Port of Morgan City, consistent with the channel depth.

SA 1105. Ms. LANDRIEU submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1065 proposed by Mrs. BOXER (for herself, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. BAUCUS, and Mr. ISAKSON) to the bill H.R. 1495, to provide for the conservation and development of water and related resources, to authorize the Secretary of the Army to construct various projects for improvements to rivers and harbors of the United States, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place in title III, insert the following:

SEC. 3_____. AMITE RIVER AND TRIBUTARIES, LOUISIANA, EAST BATON ROUGE PARISH WATERSHED.

The project for flood damage reduction and recreation, Amite River and Tributaries, Louisiana, East Baton Rouge Parish Watershed, authorized by section 101(a)(21) of the Water Resources Development Act of 1999 (113 Stat. 277) and modified by section 116 of division D of Public Law 108–7 (117 Stat. 140), is further modified—

(1) to direct the Secretary to carry out the project with the cost sharing for the project determined in accordance with section 103(a) of the Water Resources Development Act of 1986 (33 U.S.C. 2213(a)), as in effect on October 11, 1996;

(2) to authorize the Secretary to construct the project at a total cost of $187,000,000; and

(3) to direct the Secretary to credit toward the non-Federal share of the cost of the

project the cost of work carried out by the non-Federal interest before the date of the partnership agreement for the project if the Secretary determines that the work is integral to the project.

SA 1106. Mr. LEVIN (for himself, Ms. STABENOW, and Mr. VOINOVICH) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 1495, to provide for the conservation and development of water and related resources, to authorize the Secretary of the Army to construct various projects for improvements to rivers and harbors of the United States, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place in title V, insert the following:

SEC. _____. CRITERIA AND DATA RELATING TO HARBOR DREDGING PROJECTS.

In budgeting and requesting appropriations for operation and maintenance of harbor dredging projects, the Secretary—

(1) shall base budgets and requests on criteria used for those projects for fiscal year 2004;

(2) shall use all available data relating to public safety and economic impacts; and

(3) shall not use a budget standard for those projects based solely on the tonnage handled by a harbor.

SA 1107. Mr. LEVIN (for himself and Ms. STABENOW), submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 1495, to provide for the conservation and development of water and related resources, to authorize the Secretary of the Army to construct various projects for improvements to rivers and harbors of the United States, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place in title III, insert the following:

SEC. 3_____. DETROIT RIVER GREENWAY, MICHIGAN.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, in cooperation with the Detroit Riverfront Conservancy, shall design and construct the project for shore protection, environmental restoration, and recreation, Detroit River Greenway, Michigan, authorized by section 568 of the Water Resources Development Act of 1999 (113 Stat. 368), substantially in accordance with the East Riverfront Detroit RiverWalk Schematic Plan and the West Riverfront Plan prepared for the Detroit Riverfront Conservancy.

(b) COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—In carrying out this section, the Secretary may enter into a cooperative agreement with the Detroit Riverfront Conservancy or any other non-Federal interest associated with the Detroit River Greenway project.

(2) NONPROFIT ORGANIZATIONS.—Notwithstanding section 221 of the Flood Control Act of 1970 (42 U.S.C. 1962d–5b), for purposes of paragraph (1), a non-Federal interest may include a nonprofit organization.

(c) COST SHARING.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Federal share of the cost of the project under this section—

(A) shall be 65 percent; and

(B) may be in the form of credits or reimbursements.

(2) LAND, EASEMENTS, AND RIGHTS-OF-WAY.—The non-Federal interest shall—

(A) provide any land, easement, right-of-way, relocation, or dredged material disposal area necessary for construction of the project under this section; and

(B) be provided a credit toward the non-Federal share of the project for the cost of any land, easement, right-of-way, relocation, or dredged material disposal area so provided.

(3) IN-KIND SERVICES.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The non-Federal interest may provide up to 100 percent of the non-Federal share in the form of design and construction services, materials, supplies or other in-kind contributions.

(B) LIMITATION.—The non-Federal interest shall not be provided reimbursement for the cost of any in-kind services provided under subparagraph (A) in excess of the non-Federal share of the cost of the project.

(4) OPERATION, MAINTENANCE, REPAIR, REHABILITATION, AND REPLACEMENT.—The operation, maintenance, repair, rehabilitation, and replacement of the project under this section shall be a non-Federal responsibility.

(d) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated $10,000,000 for each fiscal year to carry out this section.

SA 1108. Mr. LEVIN (for himself and Ms. STABENOW) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 1495, to provide for the conservation and development of water and related resources, to authorize the Secretary of the Army to construct various projects for improvements to rivers and harbors of the United States, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place in title III, insert the following:

SEC. 3_____. ECORSE CREEK, WAYNE COUNTY, MICHIGAN.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The project for flood control, Ecorse Creek, Wayne County, Michigan, authorized by section 101(a)(14) of the Water Resources Development Act of 1990 (104 Stat. 4607), is modified—

(1) to direct the Secretary to prepare and submit to Congress a limited reevaluation report regarding the project that contains an analysis of planning and design activities to determine whether the flood damage reduction project recommended by Wayne County, or any element of the project, is—

(A) technically sound;

(B) economically feasible; and

(C) environmentally acceptable; and

(2) if the Secretary determines under paragraph (1) that the recommended project or any element of the project is in the interest of the United States, to authorize the Secretary to construct the project or element at a total estimated cost of $220,000,000, with an estimated Federal cost of $143,000,000 and an estimated non-Federal cost of $77,000,000.

(b) CREDIT.—The Secretary shall provide to the non-Federal interest of the project described in subsection (a) credit towards the non-Federal share of the cost of the project in an amount equal to the cost of any activity carried out under the project by the non-Federal interest before the date on which the non-Federal interest enters into a design agreement or project cooperation agreement regarding the project, if the Secretary determines that the activity is integral to the project.

SA 1109. Mr. LEVIN (for himself, Ms. STABENOW, and Mr. VOINOVICH) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 1495, to provide for the conservation and development of water and related resources, to authorize the Secretary of the Army to construct various projects for improvements to rivers and harbors of the United States, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place in title V, insert the following:

SEC. 5_____. GREAT LAKES NAVIGATION.

(a) DEFINITION OF GREAT LAKES AND CONNECTING CHANNELS.—In this section, the term ''Great Lakes and connecting channels'' includes—

(1) Lakes Superior, Huron, Michigan, Erie, and Ontario;

(2) any connecting water between or among those lakes that is used for navigation;

(3) any navigation feature in those lakes or water the operation or maintenance of which is a Federal responsibility; and

(4) any area of the Saint Lawrence River that is operated or maintained by the Federal Government for navigation.

(b) NAVIGATION.—Using available funds, the Secretary shall expedite the operation and maintenance, including dredging to authorized project depths, of the navigation features of the Great Lakes and connecting channels for the purpose of supporting navigation.

SA 1110. Mr. SHELBY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 1495, to provide for the conservation and development of water and related resources, to authorize the Secretary of the Army to construct various projects for improvements to rivers and harbors of the United States, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

Strike section 3003 and insert the following:

SEC. 3003. BLACK WARRIOR–TOMBIGBEE RIVERS, ALABAMA.

Section 111 of title I of division C of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2005 (118 Stat. 2944), is amended by striking subsections (a) and (b) and inserting the following:

''(a) CONSTRUCTION OF NEW FACILITIES.—

''(1) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection:

''(A) EXISTING FACILITY.—The term 'existing facility' means the administrative and maintenance facility for the project for Black Warrior-Tombigbee Rivers, Alabama, in existence on the date of enactment of the Water Resources Development Act of 2007.

''(B) PARCEL.—The term 'Parcel' means the land owned by the Federal Government in the City of Tuscaloosa, Alabama, as in existence on the date of enactment of the Water Resources Development Act of 2007.

''(2) AUTHORIZATION.—In carrying out the project for Black Warrior-Tombigbee Rivers, Alabama, the Secretary is authorized—

''(A) to purchase land on which the Secretary may construct a new maintenance facility, to be located—

''(i) at a different location from the existing facility; and

''(ii) in the vicinity of the City of Tuscaloosa, Alabama;

''(B) at any time during or after the completion of, and relocation to, the new maintenance facility—

''(i) to demolish the existing facility; and

''(ii) to carry out any necessary environmental clean-up of the Parcel, all at full Federal expense; and

''(C) to construct on the Parcel a new administrative facility.

''(b) ACQUISITION AND DISPOSITION OF PROPERTY.—The Secretary—

''(1) may acquire any real property necessary for the construction of the new maintenance facility under subsection (a)(2)(A); and

''(2) shall convey to the City of Tuscaloosa fee simple title in and to any portion of the Parcel not required for construction of the new administrative facility under subsection (a)(2)(C) through—

''(A) sale at fair market value;

''(B) exchange of other Federal land on an acre-for-acre basis; or

''(C) another form of transfer.''.

SA 1111. Mrs. HUTCHISON (for herself and Mr. CORNYN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 1495, to provide for the conservation and development of water and related resources, to authorize the Secretary of the Army to construct various projects for improvements to rivers and harbors of the United States, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

In section 1001, insert the following after paragraph (41):

(42) SABINE-NECHES WATERWAY, TEXAS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The project for navigation and other related purposes, Sabine-Neches Waterway, Texas, provided a favorable Report is issued by the Chief of Engineers, at a total cost of $900,000,000, with an estimated Federal cost of $675,000,000 and estimated non-Federal cost of $225,000,000.

(B) PROVISION OF NON-FEDERAL SHARE.—The non-Federal share of the cost of the project under this paragraph may be provided in the form of services, materials, supplies, or other in-kind contributions.

(C) NAVIGATIONAL SERVITUDE.—In carrying out construction and maintenance of the project under this paragraph, the Secretary shall fully enforce and enjoy the rights of the Secretary under Federal navigational servitude in the Sabine-Neches Waterway, including, at the sole expense of the owner of the facility, the removal or relocation of any facility obstructing the project.

NOTICE OF HEARING

COMMITTEE ON RULES AND ADMINISTRATION

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Mr. President, I wish to announce that the Committee on Rules and Administration will meet on Wednesday, June 13, 2007, at 10 a.m. to conduct a hearing on Nominations to the Federal Election Commission.

For further information regarding this hearing, please contact Howard Gantman at the Rules and Administration Committee, 224–6352.

COMPREHENSIVE IMMIGRATION REFORM ACT OF 2007—MOTION TO PROCEED

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. REID. I move to proceed to calendar No. 144, S. 1348 and send a cloture motion to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, hereby move to bring to a close debate on the motion to proceed to Calendar No. 144, S. 1348, Comprehensive Immigration Reform.

Barbara Boxer, Harry Reid, Patrick Leahy, Carl Levin, Jack Reed, Dick Durbin, Daniel K. Inouye, B.A. Mikulski, Robert Menendez, Amy Klobuchar, Daniel K. Akaka, Maria Cantwell, Jeff Bingaman, Ken Salazar, Dianne Feinstein, Christopher Dodd, Edward Kennedy.

Mr. REID. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the vote on the cloture motion occur on Wednesday, May 16, at a time determined by the majority leader, following consultation with the Republican leader, and that the mandatory quorum required under rule XXII be waived, and I now withdraw the motion to proceed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

NATIONAL NURSES WEEK

Mr. REID. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the HELP Committee be discharged from further consideration of S. Res. 192.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 192) recognizing National Nurses Week on May 6 through May 12, 2007.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. REID. I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, the motion to reconsider be laid on the table, and any statements relating thereto be printed in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 192) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 192

Whereas, since 2003, National Nurses Week is celebrated annually from May 6, also known as National Nurses Day, through May 12, the birthday of Florence Nightingale, the founder of modern nursing;

Whereas National Nurses Week is the time each year when nurses are recognized for the critical role they play in providing safe, high quality, and preventative health care;

Whereas nurses are the cornerstone of the Nation's complex health care system, representing the largest single component of the health care profession, with an estimated 2,900,000 registered nurses in the United States;

Whereas, according to a study published in the New England Journal of Medicine in May 2002, a higher proportion of nursing care provided by registered nurses and a greater number of hours of care by registered nurses per day are associated with better outcomes for hospitalized patients;

Whereas nurses are experienced researchers and their work encompasses a wide scope of scientific inquiry including clinical research, health systems and outcomes research, and nursing education research;

Whereas nurses are currently serving the Nation admirably in the conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan;

Whereas nurses help inform and educate the public to improve the practice of all nurses and, more importantly, the health and safety of the patients they care for;

Whereas our Nation continues to face a nursing shortage unprecedented in its depth and duration, with a projected 1,200,000 new and replacement nurses needed by 2014;

Whereas the nationwide nursing shortage has caused dedicated nurses to work longer hours and care for more acutely ill patients;

Whereas nurses are strong allies to Congress as they help inform, educate, and work closely with legislators to improve the education, retention, recruitment, and practice of all nurses and, more importantly, the health and safety of the patients they care for; and

Whereas nurses are an integral part of the health care delivery team and provide quality care, support, and education to patients and their families, conduct essential research, and serve as strong patient advocates: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes the significant contributions of nurses to the health care system of the United States;

(2) supports the goals and ideals of National Nurses Week, as founded by the American Nurses Association; and

(3) encourages the people of the United States to observe National Nurses Week with appropriate recognition, ceremonies, activities, and programs to demonstrate the importance of nurses to the everyday lives of patients.

NATIONAL MPS AWARENESS DAY

Mr. REID. I ask unanimous consent the Senate now proceed to S. Res. 198.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 198) designating May 15, 2007, as ''National MPS Awareness Day.''

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. REID. I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motion to reconsider be laid on the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 198) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 198

Whereas mucopolysaccharidosis (referred to in this resolution as ''MPS'') is a genetically determined lysosomal storage disorder that renders the human body incapable of producing certain enzymes needed to break down complex carbohydrates;

Whereas complex carbohydrates are then stored in almost every cell in the body and progressively cause damage to those cells;

Whereas the cell damage adversely affects the human body by damaging the heart, respiratory system, bones, internal organs, and central nervous system;

Whereas the cellular damage caused by MPS often results in mental retardation, short stature, corneal damage, joint stiffness, loss of mobility, speech and hearing impairment, heart disease, hyperactivity, chronic respiratory problems, and, most importantly, a drastically shortened life span;

Whereas the nature of the disorder is usually not apparent at birth;

Whereas, without treatment, the life expectancy of an individual afflicted with MPS begins to decrease at a very early stage in the life of the individual;

Whereas recent research developments have resulted in the creation of limited treatments for some MPS disorders;

Whereas promising advancements in the pursuit of treatments for additional MPS disorders are underway;

Whereas, despite the creation of newly developed remedies, the blood brain barrier continues to be a significant impediment to effectively treating the brain, thereby preventing the treatment of many of the symptoms of MPS;

Whereas treatments for MPS will be greatly enhanced with continued public funding;

Whereas the quality of life for individuals afflicted with MPS, and the treatments available to them, will be enhanced through the development of early detection techniques and early intervention;

Whereas treatments and research advancements for MPS are limited by a lack of awareness about MPS disorders;

Whereas the lack of awareness about MPS disorders extends to those within the medical community;

Whereas the damage that is caused by MPS makes it a model for study of many other degenerative genetic disorders;

Whereas the development of effective therapies and a potential cure for MPS disorders can be accomplished by increased awareness, research, data collection, and information distribution;

Whereas the Senate is an institution than can raise public awareness about MPS; and

Whereas the Senate is also an institution that can assist in encouraging and facilitating increased public and private sector research for early diagnosis and treatments of MPS disorders: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates May 15, 2007, as ''National MPS Awareness Day''; and

(2) supports the goals and ideals of ''National MPS Awareness Day''.

COMMEMORATING THE 85TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FOUNDING OF THE AMERICAN HELLENIC EDUCATIONAL PROGRESSIVE ASSOCIATION

Mr. REID. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Judiciary Committee be discharged from further consideration and the Senate proceed to H. Con. Res. 71.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered. The clerk will report the concurrent resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 71) commemorating the 85th Anniversary of the founding of the American Hellenic Educational Progressive Association (AHEPA), a leading association for the Nation's 1.3 million American citizens of Greek ancestry, and Philhellenes.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the concurrent resolution.

Mr. REID. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the concurrent resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 71) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

ORDERS FOR TUESDAY, MAY 15, 2007

Mr. REID. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it stand adjourned until 10 a.m., Tuesday, May 15; that on Tuesday, following the prayer and pledge, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the morning hour be deemed expired, and the time for the two leaders reserved for their use later in the day; that there then be a period of morning business for 60 minutes, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each, with the majority controlling the first half and the Republicans controlling the final portion; that at the close of morning business, the Senate resume consideration of H.R. 1495, as provided for under a previous order; that on Tuesday, the Senate stand in recess from 12:30 to 2:15 p.m. in order to accommodate the respective party conference meetings.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

PROGRAM

Mr. REID. Madam President, we have so much to do the next 2 weeks. As indicated with what is going on here today, we have to do our very best to complete WRDA. We have the most important supplemental to take care of the funding of the operations in Iraq and other things. Senator MCCONNELL and I have spoken today about how to get from here to there. We do not have that totally resolved yet, but we have moved the ball down the road. We also have a budget conference to complete. That has not been done yet. And we have immigration.

So, Madam President, I want this to be the first notice—and we have done very well. We have not had to work many Fridays; certainly in the afternoons we have not had to. We have had a number of free Mondays, and we have had only one Saturday we have worked all year. But everyone should be on notice the next two weekends and the next few days and certainly next week, including Monday, people should understand—and people, if they have arrangements they have made, if they have things to do for which they cannot be here until later Monday, change that because we have to have votes—unless something comes up we do not understand—Monday morning. We have too much to do. We must complete the items I have talked about before we leave for our Memorial Day recess or we will have to delay that recess.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 10 A.M. TOMORROW

Mr. REID. Madam President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate today, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate stand adjourned under the previous order.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 5:30 p.m., adjourned until Tuesday, May 15, 2007, at 10 a.m.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

THE STUDENT LOAN SUNSHINE ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 9, 2007

Ms. MCCOLLUM of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, I rise to support the Student Loan Sunshine Act, and to congratulate Chairman MILLER and Ranking Member MCKEON for moving quickly on this critical issue.

The recent investigation by New York Attorney General Andrew Cuomo has brought attention to serious problems in our student aid industry. While it is unfair to malign all schools and all lenders, it is clear that in large part due to lax oversight by the Department of Education, there have been many instances of actions intended for profit—rather than for improving student access to education. It is time to put an end to the conflicts of interest and corrupt practices that increase costs for students and taxpayers.

This legislation is an important first step in improving oversight of the student loan industry and in ending inappropriate relationships between lenders and colleges and universities.

H.R. 890 will ban loan arrangements that include benefits to higher education institutions, prohibit lenders from serving as staff in campus financial aid offices, and ban gifts from lenders to campus officials and their families. It allows the continuation of preferred lender lists but requires that these lists include at least 3 lenders and that the institutions explain their choices. This bill includes civil penalties for companies that violate the new regulations and increases the Department of Education's authority to regulate the private loan market. The Student Loan Sunshine Act also makes it clear that lenders who are transparent in their processes and advocate on behalf of students continue to be an important part of the student aid system.

Mr. Speaker, the recent scandals in the student loan industry illustrate the Department of Education's failure to adequately regulate the student loan industry and the conflicts of interest too often noted in this administration. As the New York Times reported, Department officials were alerted to inappropriate lender subsidies in 2003 and failed to act. This week a top ED official, who formerly worked for Sallie Mae, has resigned. It has also been noted that a recently investigated lender was a top contributor to the Republican party. It is time to refocus higher education policy where it should be—on the student.

This Congress has made access to higher education a priority. It is critical to the future of students, our communities and our Nation. With more and more students and parents relying on student loans and with student debt burden increasing, clearly we must do all we can to ensure the integrity of student aid programs. The Student Loan Sunshine Act is an important first step. I also look forward to working with Chairman MILLER and the other members of the Education and Labor Committee to pass a strong Higher Education Act Reauthorization that protects students, increases access to higher education, and improves our Nation's global competitiveness.

I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting H.R. 890.

RECOGNIZING THE DEDICATION OF DOCTOR SUSAN A. COTA

HON. ELLEN O. TAUSCHER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 14, 2007

Mrs. TAUSCHER. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize Susan A. Cota, as she retires from the Chancellorship of the Chabot-Las Positas Community College District.

Dr. Cota was the first Hispanic female Chancellor in the 43-year history of the Chabot-Las Positas Community College District. She was also the first Hispanic female Chancellor appointed in the California Community College system.

Dr. Cota has held various positions in the California Community College system, such as counselor, director, and dean of student services. She has also served as the Statewide Administrator of Disabled Students Programs and Services.

Dr. Cota holds a doctorate in organization and leadership from the University of San Francisco, a Master of Science degree in Vocational Rehabilitation Counseling from San Francisco State University and a bachelor's degree in English from Immaculate Heart College.

Dr. Cota is active in a wide variety of national, state, and local organizations. She was elected to the Board of the American Association of Community Colleges (AACC), and currently serves on the Executive Board and as Chair of the Community College Futures Committee and on the Board of the Community College Leadership Development Initiatives Foundation at the University of San Diego.

In 2006, she received the Harry Buttimer Distinguished Administrator Award from the Community College Administrators. She has also received the Community College League of California's Courageous Leader Award, and the Outstanding Educator in Administration Award.

Under her leadership, a $498M facilities construction bond was approved, to provide for the complete build-out of Las Positas College in Livermore, and full renovation of the Chabot College campus.

As Dr. Cota retires, I thank her for her steadfast leadership of the Chabot-Las Positas Community College District, and her commitment to the continuing education of our community. I wish her the best in her future endeavors.

COMMEMORATING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF ACME RIGGING & SUPPLY COMPANY IN UKIAH, CALIFORNIA

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 14, 2007

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Acme Rigging & Supply Company in Ukiah, California, on the occasion of its 50th anniversary. Acme has been locally owned and operated for the past 50 years, and for the last 18 years has transitioned into a wholly employee-owned business while continuing to expand its operations and the markets it serves.

Acme Rigging started out in 1957 as the vision of Pete Dunnebeck, when five rigging shops went out of business on the northern California coast. Initially, as the sole employee, he took orders, performed the assembly, and then delivered the final product to customers. Thirty-two years later Mr. Dunnebeck was getting ready to phase out of the business when he learned about Employee Stock Ownership Plans (ESOP).

In 1989, Mr. Dunnebeck sold forty-nine percent of the business to his employees. By 1997, the employees had fulfilled the payoff on their shares and approached the Savings Bank of Mendocino County to borrow money to purchase the remaining 51 percent. This was the first loan of its kind for the local bank, and they put the deal together and agreed on a ten-year payback. The employees met that obligation in nine years, one year earlier than expected.

Upon the retirement of Mr. Dunnebeck, John Peaslee took the reins of the company and has guided an impressive expansion. In 1997, Acme Rigging had less than three million dollars in sales. By 2006 that number had tripled. The company grew from eight employees to a total of 29 today. A second location was opened in Sacramento in 2000. Acme Sacramento started with four employees and now has 10.

Madam Speaker and colleagues, there are more than 10,000 ESOP companies employing nine to ten million employee/owners in our country. Acme Rigging & Supply Company is a superb example of how well employee stock ownership plans can work. It is appropriate that we honor the successful transformation and expansion of this local, employee-owned business on the occasion of its 50th anniversary.

IN HONOR OF MR. JOSE SANTOS AS THE 2006 RECIPIENT OF THE ESTEEMED FULBRIGHT AWARD

HON. PETE SESSIONS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 14, 2007

Mr. SESSIONS. Madam Speaker, I rise to pay special tribute to Mr. Jose Santos, an outstanding individual from Dallas and recent recipient of the Fulbright award. Mr. Santos was chosen to receive the prestigious award to study, lecture or conduct research abroad during the 2006–2007 academic year after demonstrating high academic achievement studying Anthropology at Southern Methodist University.

Sponsored by the U.S. Department of State, Bureau of Education and Cultural Affairs, the Fulbright Award is America's leading international exchange program. Congress established the Fulbright Program in 1946 with the intention of fostering mutual understanding between United States citizens and the rest of the world. The Fulbright Program has since provided avenues of academic exchange with over a quarter of a million people in more than 150 countries worldwide. Surely the recipient of such an esteemed award does not lack merit.

Mr. Santos was chosen for his high academic and professional achievement, as well as his exemplary leadership in his field. Mr. Santos' accomplishments thus far have been truly impressive and for that I wish to recognize him here on the floor of the U.S. House of Representatives.

It is my honor to recognize Mr. Santos as the recipient of the Fulbright award, and I know I speak for all of Dallas when I say that we are very proud of his successes. I wish Mr. Santos the very best in all of his endeavors both at home and abroad.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE OUTSTANDING SERVICE AND RESPONSE TO THE EMERGENCY WORKERS WHO HELPED ELIZABETH FORWARD HIGH SCHOOL ON MAY 3, 2007

HON. TIM MURPHY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 14, 2007

Mr. TIM MURPHY of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, in times of crisis, all too often those who risk their own safety and go beyond the call of duty remain unknown and unrecognized. Today I want to recognize those who have helped in a moment of need. On May 3, 2007, tragedy befell Elizabeth Forward High School and in their moment of need, their guardian angels responded in the form of emergency rescue workers from the police and five different hospitals.

On what was supposed to be an exciting and memorable trip, 29 students, seven parents and four staff members from the school were traveling on the Pennsylvania Turnpike about 30 miles outside Philadelphia on their way to a band competition in Wildwood, NJ. At around 4:30 on a peaceful morning, as most of the students slept in their seats, a slow moving tractor trailer moved into the way of the bus.

The bus could not stop nor move out of the way in time and the two collided. The accident awoke the students to the sight and sound of a nightmare as the truck and bus stuck together and skidded out of control for over 400 feet before finally coming to a stop.

Emergency rescue workers raced to the scene to find the two vehicles had become stuck together in one giant jigsaw puzzle of twisted steel, a site that closed the turnpike until the situation could be fully assessed. By the grace of God, none of the students were critically injured; however, all needed thorough examination to treat wounds and help those needing medical treatment. The students, parents, and staff members were sent to 5 hospitals in the area.

An unexpected tragedy occurring in an unfamiliar area far away from home is a nightmare, and for Elizabeth Forward High School, this nightmare became reality. But their guardian angels went above and beyond the call of duty to ensure their safety, treat the injured, and communicate to the families the situation each of their children faced while assuring their safety.

I would like to extend my most heartfelt thanks and praise to all of those involved in the protection of our students. I would like the Congressional Record to reflect that the emergency workers in these organizations are truly heroes deserving of our most sincere appreciation: The Pennsylvania State Police, Brandywine Hospital, Chester County Hospital, Paoli Hospital, Reading Hospital and Medical Center, St. Joseph Medical Center, TA Nelson Bus Line.

ON THE EXTRAORDINARY PUBLIC SERVICE OF FRANK LEONE

HON. SCOTT GARRETT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 14, 2007

Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend Frank Leone on the occasion of his 80th birthday for his extraordinary public service.

Frank Leone's service to his country, his community, and his neighbors dates back to World War II when he was drafted into the U.S. Navy. He served as a flight deck crewman on the aircraft carrier USS *Kearsarge,* a ship his father had helped to build during the war. He remains an active member of the Oakland American Legion and Franklin Lakes VFW.

In 1954, Frank Leone moved to Oakland and became an active part of that Bergen County community. He ran for mayor in 1960 and was elected to the Borough Council in 1963. He served as the president of the Chamber of Commerce for 12 years. Frank Leone also served as Civil Defense Director and Emergency Management Coordinator. His long record of extraordinary service to his community was honored in 2001 as the Grand Marshal of Oakland's Memorial Day Parade.

In 1965, President Lyndon Baines Johnson appointed Frank Leone as Oakland Postmaster. Today, he is the last active postmaster in the Nation appointed by the President of the United States. He has served in various State and national offices of the National Association of Postmasters.

Frank Leone is a shining example of citizenship and dedication to your community. It is an honor to share in the celebration of his 80th birthday.

SUPPORTING THE GOALS AND IDEALS OF A NATIONAL SUFFRAGISTS DAY

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 14, 2007

Ms. MCCOLLUM of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Con. Res. 105, to honor women suffragists with a National Suffragists Day.

On July 19, 1848, at the Seneca Falls Convention, now famous suffragists, Lucretia Mott and Elizabeth Cady Stanton made one of the first public appeals for women's right to vote. This convention launched a more than 70 year fight for suffrage, which culminated with women gaining the right to vote in 1920 with the adoption of the 19th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution.

Without the dedication, commitment, and hard work of women suffragist pioneers like Mott, Stanton, Susan B. Anthony, Sojourner Truth, and Alice Paul, our country would not have the first female Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives or more women elected to Congress than ever before.

I am proud to be a cosponsor of H. Con. Res. 105, to honor the women suffragists who changed this country. Their bravery continues to inspire young women today to take an active role in government and to use their voices to make a difference.

I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting the goals and ideals of a National Suffragists Day.

HONORING THE CHILD ASSAULT PREVENTION (CAP) PROJECT OF SOUTH FLORIDA

HON. ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 14, 2007

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Madam Speaker, I would like to call your attention to the Child Assault Prevention (CAP) Project of South Florida, whose efforts on behalf of so many families in my Congressional district should be applauded. This program has partnered with local schools in Miami-Dade County, Florida, the fourth largest school district in the country, to address the growing number of social issues affecting our children.

Many social challenges facing students today are felt away from home, oftentimes in the classroom. By offering interactive workshops at local schools, students gain an understanding of how to deal with situations they have already faced or may soon encounter. These circumstances range from instances of bullying and peer aggression to cases of sexual harassment and abuse. Often times, these topics are not comfortable for students to deal with, making CAP's role vital for the social well-being of our children.

As a mother of two girls currently attending college, I understand how important these programs can be in making parents and loved ones feel more comfortable about their children's education. With enrollment at schools growing, classroom sizes have increased nationwide at our public schools. This has made it more difficult for teachers to enforce respectable and cordial behavior. Therefore, it is imperative that schools and teachers receive proper support from outside specialists like CAP.

CAP's range of expertise extends beyond the classroom. Counseling can be crucial for children in the unfortunate circumstance of neglect and abuse at home. In cases of sexual harassment and abuse, counseling at school is sometimes the only outlet for children. This makes CAP's role even greater in South Florida's schools.

Since 1984, CAP has provided abuse prevention strategies to over 270,000 children, families and teachers in Miami-Dade County. Abuse prevention workshops oftentimes provide children with the tools necessary to protect themselves from conflicts, either at school or at home. The Child Assault Prevention (CAP) Project of South Florida provides a great example of community organizations working together with schools to improve learning environments for our children.

Once again, I commend CAP for its efforts on behalf of so many in my community.

TAIWAN IN THE WHO

HON. GREG WALDEN

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 14, 2007

Mr. WALDEN of Oregon. Madam Speaker, today in Geneva, Switzerland the 60th annual meeting will commence of the World Health Assembly, the supreme decision making body of the World Health Organization. This year the government of Taiwan is applying for membership to the WHO and Taiwan has been applying to participate in the activities of the WHO since 1997 but they have been rejected due to various political pressures.

I think it's important that Taiwan be granted membership in the WHO. Taiwan is struggling to participate in the WHO not only for the sake of its 23 million citizens but also for the welfare of the 1.3 billion people in mainland China. With expansion of travel and trade between Taiwan and mainland China, contagious diseases can spread rapidly. Successful monitoring and prevention of infectious diseases requires cooperation from all nations.

Taiwan has a modern, world-class health care system and has lent its talents and resources to peoples in need throughout Asia and around the world. Such capabilities are particularly important in this era of globalization, and as apprehensions continue to grow about the emergence of dangerous illnesses such as SARS and the Avian Flu. For example, when the Avian Flu pandemic struck parts of Asia in 2004, Taiwan undertook a number of preventive measures to combat the outbreak and protect its population and those of other countries. As a result of this swift and innovative work, Taiwan has not experienced an outbreak of the avian influenza and has deterred its proliferation elsewhere.

The WHO plays a critical role in safeguarding and improving the health of the world population, and I support its admirable record of achievement as a guardian of international health. A glaring deficiency in the WHO's global program, however, is the fact that the 23 million people of democratic Taiwan are not allowed to contribute to, participate in, or benefit from its important initiatives.

I urge my colleagues to join me in my support of Taiwan's bid for membership in the World Health Organization. For the sake of Taiwan's citizens as well as their neighbors and partners in Asia and around the world, granting membership is the wise and equitable thing to do.

IN RECOGNITION OF SPECIALIST MATTHEW BOLAR

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 14, 2007

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Madam Speaker, Specialist Matthew Bolar, 24, of Montgomery, Alabama, died on May 3, 2007, in Baghdad, Iraq. Specialist Bolar was assigned to A Company, 1st Battalion, 501st Parachute Infantry Regiment, 25th Infantry Division, and was stationed at Fort Richardson, Alaska.

Specialist Bolar graduated from Canterbury High School in 2002 at the top of his class and joined the Army in 2004. His friends and family remember him as a bright young man eager to serve his country.

Words cannot express the sense of sadness we have for his family, and for the gratitude our country feels for his service. Specialist Bolar, like other brave men and women who have served in uniform, died serving not just the United States, but the entire cause of liberty. Indeed, like those who have served before him, he was a true American.

We will forever hold him closely in our hearts, and remember his sacrifice and that of his family as a remembrance of his bravery and willingness to serve our Nation.

HONORING STATE DELEGATE VINCENT F. CALLAHAN, JR.

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 14, 2007

Mr. WOLF. Madam Speaker, I rise today to bring the attention of the House to the retirement of State Senator Vincent F. Callahan, Jr., who has represented Virginia's 34th District in the Virginia General Assembly for nearly 4 decades. I want to take this opportunity to salute Vince for his dedication to a lifetime of public service representing those in the McLean area of Fairfax County.

A native of Washington, D.C., and McLean resident since 1960, Vince holds a B.S. degree from Georgetown University's School of Foreign Service and by profession is an editor, publisher, and author. He served as a Marine in the Korean War from 1950–52 and later as a reserve officer in the U.S. Coast Guard.

Elected to the House of Delegates in 1967, Vince is the longest serving Republican in the Virginia General Assembly and dean of the Northern Virginia Delegation. As chairman of the House Appropriations Committee, Vince can point to a long list of legislative achievements in service to the Commonwealth of Virginia. He will be sorely missed. In honor of his work for higher education, Vince was awarded an Honorary Degree in the Humane Letters from the Northern Virginia Community College and the Lord Botetourt Award from the College of William and Mary. I have inserted for The RECORD a recent Sun Gazette article which details his unparalleled career.

Perhaps more important than the well deserved awards and recognitions Vince has accrued over the years is the way he conducts himself. He is a man of his convictions, and of the highest moral character, a true Virginia gentleman, family man, and loyal friend. Vince and his wife Yvonne have eight children and 19 grandchildren between them and I suspect that Vince is looking forward to spending more time with family as he retires. I ask that my colleagues in the House rise today and join with me in recognizing the outstanding public service career of Vincent F. Callahan, Jr.

AFTER 40 YEARS IN PUBLIC LIFE, DEL. CALLAHAN TO RETIRE

(By Brian Trompeter)

Forty years is enough: Del. Vincent Callahan (R–34th), a McLean resident who is the second-longest serving member of the Virginia House of Delegates, announced March 5 that he would not seek reelection in November.

''You get to a certain stage in life where you've done what you want to do,'' he said. ''It gets old after a while.'' Callahan, 75, entered politics early in life. After being defeated in a 1965 bid for lieutenant governor, he first was elected to the House of Delegates in 1967. He was one of only 14 Republicans in that body then, versus 86 Democrats. Unlike today, when legislators have offices and a professional staff to help them, delegates then operated out of hotel rooms or their desks in the House of Delegates during General Assembly sessions, he said. Callahan credited former House of Delegates Speaker John Warren Cooke (D–Mathews) for teaching him proper legislative decorum. ''He was born in 1915 and his father was an officer in the Confederate Army'' who was in his 70s when Cooke was born, Callahan said. ''You talk about somebody from the old school. He was the epitome of a Virginia gentleman.''

Republicans achieved parity in the House of Delegates in 1998 and Callahan was named co-chair of the powerful House Appropriations Committee. When Republicans became the majority in 2000, he became the committee's sole chairman. Callahan, who lost a bid for Congress in 1976, has seen Virginia's biennial budget grow from $3 billion when he first joined the General Assembly to $75 billion today. Gov. Kaine called Callahan on Monday to congratulate him on the latest budget, which passed unanimously.

Callahan said his key accomplishments in office include strongly supporting George Mason University, Northern Virginia Community College and other higher-education institutions; securing $500 million to help clean up the Chesapeake Bay; and bolstering mental-health services around the state. He's also ''tilted at a few windmills,'' championing a higher minimum wage and a ban on smoking in public places. These bills have been defeated so far but likely will pass in the near future, he predicted. Virginia has tremendous colleges, enjoys a AAA bond rating and consistently is ranked one of the best-managed states in the nation, he said.

Only Del. Lacey Putney (I-Bedford), who has served since 1962, has spent longer than Callahan in the House of Delegates. Callahan's tenure has not always been smooth. Legislators have had to go into special sessions several times in recent years because of budget disagreements. And in 1998, he apologized after making remarks that some female legislators found offensive. ''They jumped on me and I haven't done it since,'' he said. ''It wasn't meant to be demeaning to women.''

Democrats already were actively targeting Callahan's seat, with candidates Margi Vanderhye and Rip Sullivan contending for the nomination in the June primary. Callahan has about $85,000 in unspent campaign moneys and will use them to pay office expenses for the remainder of his term. Leftover funds will be given to other political campaigns or donated to charity, he said. The 34th District always has been a swing district and has been represented for many years by a Democratic state senator, Callahan said. The district's voters sided with U.S. Senate candidate James Webb (D) during his victorious campaign in November 2006, but also re-elected longtime U.S. Rep. Frank Wolf (R–10th), he said. A Republican candidate seeking the district's seat must take a moderate approach on issues, Callahan said.

''Moderation is the essence of conservatism,'' he said. ''I think there's two sides to every issue. You don't do immigrant or gay bashing to get headlines. You have to look at the whole picture.'' Callahan will spend the rest of his term overseeing 400th-anniversary celebrations of the Jamestown Colony's founding. He will be among dignitaries who will greet Queen Elizabeth II on May 3 when she visits Richmond and addresses a joint General Assembly session.

Callahan was born in Washington, D.C., and served in the U.S. Marine Corps during the Korean War. He also served in the U.S. Coast Guard Reserve from 1959 to 1963, retiring as a lieutenant. Callahan has been a staple of Veterans Day celebrations at McLean High School, where he traditionally recites from memory John McCrae's World War I poem, ''In Flanders Fields.''

Fairfax County Supervisor Joan DuBois (R-Dranesville) credited Callahan with championing Wolf Trap National Park for the Performing Arts, trails in Great Falls, sound barriers along Interstate 495 in McLean and the status of Georgetown Pike as a Scenic Byway. ''He was a gentleman of the 'old school' who knew that partisanship had no place in efforts to improve his community,'' DuBois said in a statement released Monday. ''He will be greatly missed by many of us who knew him as a go-to leader in the General Assembly for longer than I have lived in Northern Virginia.''

Vienna Town Council member Michael Polychrones said Callahan's departure will mark the end of an era in state politics and a loss for Northern Virginia. ''It will be a big blow to the area,'' Polychrones said. ''Vince has definitely done a yeoman's job over the years.''

INTRODUCTION OF THE ''ENERGY CONSERVATION THROUGH 'SMART METERS' ACT''

HON. DEVIN NUNES

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 14, 2007

Mr. NUNES. Madam Speaker, I rise today to announce the introduction of the Energy Conservation through ''Smart Meters'' Act. No one can deny the fact that we are in the midst of an energy crisis where supply has outstripped demand. There are many avenues we can pursue to resolve this situation, one of which I have I introduced today.

I believe the future of our Nation's electricity grid needs to be smarter and more efficient. While it is a vast issue that needs to be tackled in a multi-level and multi-year plan, we can take a step now to put consumers in control of their personal electricity usage. We can do this by incentivising, through the tax code, the deployment of energy management devices—known as ''Smart Meters.'' A ''Smart Meter'' is an automated electronic electricity metering device that will replace the existing meters on homes and businesses.

The first electricity meter was invented in the 1930s at the dawn of electrification in the United States. The meter is based on small wheels turning inside the unit to count kilowatt hours used at a flat price. If you look at your meter today, you will see fundamentally the same device using technology that is more than 70 years old. These meters were invented prior to the development of computers and have no intelligence, memory, or ability to communicate. Certainly if we can place a call on a cell phone that is as thin as a pack of gum, then we can invest in advanced metering technology for home energy use.

Because of the advanced age of our metering technology, neither the consumer nor the utility has the kind of real-time information they need to make necessary decisions to best use the available electricity. ''Smart Meters'' change this by harnessing the power of computers and digital communications to create intelligent and connected energy systems. The revolution in technology behind today's ''Smart Meters'' is equivalent to the change from typewriters to a personal computer connected to the Internet. These systems empower consumers to use electricity wisely and help utilities forecast and manage energy loads more efficiently and accurately—quickly reducing electricity outages.

The use of new technology will allow customers who reduce consumption when prices are high to save more on their bills. In fact, according to GAO and FERC studies, the widespread adoption of smart metering technologies would save American consumers billions of dollars in avoided electricity costs. While consumers get a better deal on their power, society as a whole will benefit. Consumption will be reduced during peak hours which will reduce greenhouse gases because power companies will no longer have to rely on inefficient and dirty peaking generators to meet the high demand.

Madam Speaker, now is the time to deploy 21st century technology to conserve energy and put consumers in control of their electricity bills.

SUPPORT FOR H.R. 254

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 14, 2007

Mr. McCOLLUM of Minnesota. Madam Speaker, I rise today to express my support for H.R. 254, the Hate Crimes Prevention Act of 2007. This legislation makes a profound statement that this country will not tolerate bigotry and ignorance that results in violence against its citizens.

My first vote as a member of the Minnesota House of Representatives was for equal rights on housing and employment for the gay, lesbian, bisexual and trans-gendered (GLBT) community. As a Member of Congress, including this important vote today, I will have proudly voted for this legislation three times. It is time for this bill to become law so that all Americans can fully participate in and enjoy the rights of a democratic society.

Since 1991 the FBI has received more 113,000 reports of hate crimes and we know that this crime is underreported. The message of this bill is clear. The country does not tolerate crimes committed against individuals based on their sexual orientation. Crimes of hate are unlike other violent acts of randomness. Targeting people because of their race, religion, ethnicity, sexual orientation, gender or disability is a form of domestic terrorism that sends chilling messages to communities that they are not welcome and that intolerance and ignorance is alive and well.

Some have inaccurately suggested that this bill legislates against thoughts and ideas. That is absolutely untrue. The focus of this bill is to provide local authorities a greater means by which to prosecute violent acts of hate, not thoughts. Not only does this bill not legislate against thoughts and speech, it explicitly includes First Amendment free speech protections for persons accused of acts of hate.

Current law limits federal jurisdiction over hate crimes to violent acts committed against citizens based on religion, race, color and national origin if they are targeted while they are participating in federally protected activities, such as voting. H.R. 254 will strengthen federal law by expanding federal jurisdiction and allocate the necessary resources and tools to local law enforcement officials and prosecutors to go after individuals who act on their bigotry and ignorance with violence. The needed prosecution of hate crimes can stretch crucial state and local resources thin. This legislation authorizes the Attorney General to make grants available to law enforcement agencies that have acquired astounding expenses investigating and prosecuting hate crime cases.

This bill is needed to protect the civil rights of all Americans who have been targeted based on their differences and it utilizes the resources of this government to ensure fairness and justice. I commend the Chairman of the Judiciary Committee, Mr. CONYERS, for bringing this legislation to the Floor and I urge my colleagues to support it.

HONORING VOLKER EISELE OF NAPA, CALIFORNIA

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 14, 2007

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor my friend Volker Eisele who is being presented the Earl Thollander Award from the Napa Sierra Club. This award is given annually to acknowledge the work of an individual on behalf of the environment.

Mr. Eisele was born in Muenster, Germany, and followed family tradition by attending high school at the Gymnasium Paulinum, founded over 1,200 years ago. He came to the United States to attend graduate school at UC Berkeley for sociology and history. It was at Berkeley that he met his wife Lisele, and they married in 1968.

From the planting of his first cabernet vines in 1975, Mr. Eisele has maintained an entirely organic vineyard, making him the first vintner to do so in the Napa Valley. He has been a leader in encouraging sustainable and environmentally friendly farming practices, including the maintenance and restoration of riparian corridors and stream-side habitats. In 1991 he joined the growing movement to forever protect beautiful and vital areas of the Napa Valley by donating an open space easement to the Napa County Land Trust.

Mr. Eisele has had a long and successful career as a political activist campaigning on behalf of greater environmental protections for the Napa Valley and its agricultural heritage. He was among the leaders who helped pass Measure A limiting growth and development in unincorporated areas of Napa County. He was also instrumental in passing Measure J which has promoted further protections for agricultural lands around the county.

In addition to his political leadership, Mr. Eisele has been a leader in the local community through his service on numerous boards and committees. He served as President of the Napa County Farm Bureau, the Napa Valley Grape Growers, and the Greenbelt Alliance, which has promoted the extension of environmental protections around the Bay Area. He also was honored by his peers when he was elected to serve as director and Vice Chair of the California Association of Wine Grape Growers. These positions have allowed Mr. Eisele to express his love of grapes and winemaking while working for the benefit of not just the wine industry, but the greater community.

Madam Speaker, at this time I ask that my colleagues join me in thanking Mr. Volker Eisele for his decades of leadership and environmental stewardship and as a superb spokesman for the wine industry. He is well-deserving of the honor being bestowed on him by the Napa Sierra Club, and we thank him for his service.

RECOGNIZING THE DEDICATION OF KAREN E. HALLIDAY

HON. ELLEN O. TAUSCHER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 14, 2007

Mrs. TAUSCHER. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize Karen Halliday, as she retires as Las Positas College president, after nearly 35 years of teaching and serving students in the California Community College System.

Karen Halliday began teaching as an adjunct faculty member in Learning Disabilities and Special Education at various Bay Area universities. As a faculty member and Learning Disabilities Specialist at De Anza College in Cupertino, she helped develop the first Learning Disabilities program in higher education in California. She later became the director of the Educational Diagnostic Center at De Anza College.

In 1987, Karen Halliday was the first faculty member to receive the Foothill-De Anza Community College Teacher of the Year Award. In 1988, she joined the California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office in Sacramento, as the Specialist for the Disabled Students Program and Services.

In 1989, Karen Halliday became the Vice President of Student Services at Las Positas. In 2002, she was named president of Las Positas College. During her tenure, she successfully led the college through the passage of Measure B, a $498 million district facilities bond.

In 2003, thanks to her encouragement and guidance, the Las Positas College Foundation was created to ''foster growth and success, both in its students and in the communities it serves.'' Later that year, the foundation was granted 501(c)3 status.

Karen Halliday has been a member of the Executive Board for the Association of California Community College Administrators and the Chair of the Legislative Commission for the California League of Community Colleges. She has authored several publications, along with numerous Board of Governors Agenda Items related to Matriculation, DSPS, and Student Services.

As Karen Halliday retires, I would like to thank her for her dedication to higher education in our community, and her contribution to the field of disabled students' services. I wish her the best of luck in her future endeavors.

IN CELEBRATION OF ALICE BERNICE HILL

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 14, 2007

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, I rise to draw attention to the life of a remarkable woman, who despite all her illnesses lived a wonderful life. Alice Bernice Hill was afflicted with asthma and other diseases early in her life, yet through all her ailments lived past 85.

Born in Harlem Hospital on December 1, 1919, Alice was sent to the West Indies for ''two years, one month and eight days'' due to her severe illnesses. She never had a lot of money, and had even less when on disability, and still she was able to support herself.

In her early years, Alice was forced to join the workforce to support her family, as required by the welfare program. She later rose through the ranks and became a union administrator, with groups like the International Ladies Garment Workers Union and the United Auto Workers. Through union courses at Cornell University, she obtained a bachelor's degree in labor relations.

Her efforts to refuse to let her ailments cripple her saved her life. Surviving a stroke, Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD) and arthritis, lived on to watch her brother Arthur, six nieces and nephews, two grandchildren and one grandnephew grow.

Truly a woman of great dignity and honor, Alice is deserving of this recognition for her strength, intelligence, and compassion. I ask my colleagues in the House to join me in recognizing the life of Alice Bernice Hill and her relentless strength.

TRIBUTE TO MOTHER'S DAY

HON. PATRICK J. KENNEDY

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 14, 2007

Mr. KENNEDY. Madam Speaker, yesterday, mothers from across the Nation were besieged with flowers, candy, homemade cards, and gifts in celebration of Mother's Day. As we all take a moment to honor the women in our lives, it is important for Congress to do the same. For the past several years, the Breast Cancer and Environmental Research Act has been stalled in the Congress. This critical legislation would authorize a research program at the National Institutes of Health to study the potential links between breast cancer and the environment. It would also include consumer advocates in the peer review and programmatic review process. While it is generally believed that the environment plays some role in the development of breast cancer, the extent of that role remains a mystery. Less than 30 percent of breast cancers are explained by known risk factors, which means that up to 70 percent of those who suffer are still searching for answers.

As with other cancers, if we know what causes it, we can do so much more to prevent it from ever occurring. On this Mother's Day, let's pass the Breast Cancer and Environmental Research Act for our moms, for our daughters and future moms-to-be, and for everyone who has ever been touched by a loved one with breast cancer. It is time to celebrate the women in our lives with more than pink flowers and pajamas; it is time to celebrate them with the honor and commitment to medical research that will soon save their lives.

TRIBUTE TO THE MERRITT ESTATE WINERY FOR ITS CONTINUED EXCELLENCE

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 14, 2007

Mr. HIGGINS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the achievements of Merritt Estate Winery, located in Forestville, NY. Merritt Estate Winery recently was awarded a gold medal for their Bella Rosa at the San Diego International Wine Competition. Their Chautauqua Niagara vintage was awarded a silver medal in the competition.

Merritt Estate Winery is run by a father and son duo that have dedicated themselves to their small vineyard and their fruit which has resulted in their award winning wines. The winery was created in 1976 by William Merritt, who has had the estate in his family since the 1800's. Merritt Estates Bella Rosa was awarded the gold medal at the 24th annual San Diego International Wine Competition. The awards won by Merritt Estate are the result of hard work and dedication that have resulted in wines that rival some of the best in the world.

Western New York is home to the largest continuous acreage of concord grapes in the world. The regional grape industry contributes $3.3 billion in economic value to the New York State economy each year. As a member of the Wine and Grape Caucus, I am proud that

such outstanding products come from the grapes and hard work of local growers in western New York.

CLARIFICATION OF LEGISLATIVE INTENT ON SANTA ROSA ISLAND

HON. DUNCAN HUNTER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 14, 2007

Mr. HUNTER. Madam Speaker, after reading an opinion from the Department of the Interior Solicitor, I feel compelled to clarify the intent of Section 1077 (c) of P.L. 109–364. While others may misinterpret and even distort the actual impact of this language upon the healthy Kaibab Mule Deer and Roosevelt Elk herds that are currently living on Santa Rosa island, I want to make clear this section's intent is to protect both herds from extermination. It is just that simple and it does not do anything more narrow or broad. Nothing could emphasize this intent more clearly than Conference Report 109–702's explanation that Section 1077 was intended to ''prohibit the Secretary of the Interior from exterminating or nearly exterminating the deer and elk on the island.''

Clearly, when this provision became law, it directed the National Park Service (NPS) to allow the deer and elk that have thrived on Santa Rosa Island to remain on the Island beyond 2011—the last year of the term within the settlement agreement. The use of helicopters is included within the settlement agreement and referenced by Section 1077(c) as it is likely the most effective way to conduct an extermination program. Section 1077(c) was not intended to prohibit only that method of extermination. These beautiful and healthy animals should remain on the island for visitors to enjoy. They should not be ruthlessly and systematically destroyed for some ill-conceived notion of native versus non-native, as others advocate.

The Solicitor has acted inappropriately by pulling a theory of congressional intent out of the air. Clearly, the intent of the language was not to ''preclude the Department of the Interior from participating in any plan approved in the settlement agreement.'' In fact, the language, which is now law, was intended to do what it clearly states: (1) vitiate the settlement agreement with respect to the deer and elk drawdown and eradication plan and (2) allow the elk and deer to remain on Santa Rosa Island indefinitely. I want to highlight the intent of allowing the deer to remain on the Island and make it clear that means these herds must be left to live on Santa Rosa Island. The congressional intent of this section was not to protect them only from slaughter, but also to protect them from relocation.

I must add, I find it deeply troubling that the administration, when testifying against the same provision before the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources on May 16, 2006, testified that this provision would, ''. . . require the Secretary of the Interior to stop the plan to remove the deer and elk from the island as required by a court-ordered settlement agreement. This provision would effectively overturn the 1998 settlement agreement, that the NPS is legally bound to, that requires the phase-out of non-native deer and elk over several years and their complete removal from the Island by the end of 2011.'' I am bewildered why such an about-face has been made on a provision that is identical to the current law provision, having just passed the House of Representatives.

In closing, I hope this statement clarifies the intent of both P.L. 109–364 and the accompanying Conference Report 109–702. Both are clear on their face, but as the lead House negotiator of the Conference Committee of H.R. 5122, I felt it important to clear up any uncertainty brought forward by interpretations following a short-sighted agenda. This important conservation provision must stand and be properly interpreted so that the elk and deer are not slaughtered. Simply restated, it would be a tragedy to have these healthy populations of elk and mule deer exterminated from public lands to forward a misguided agenda of what belongs on Santa Rosa Island. Section 1077(c) is intended to prevent such eradication carried out by NPS or other parties to the settlement agreement.

My intent was clearly for the elk and deer herds to remain on Santa Rosa. This intent was clearly manifested in my numerous floor and committee statements in which I described my intent that wounded veterans are to be allowed to hunt these animals following the transfer of Santa Rosa from private ownership. My committee and floor statements regarding Santa Rosa Island, particularly floor statements made on December 16, 2005, and May 10, 2006, demonstrate this intent.

I also discussed the Santa Rosa provision with CNN's Anderson Cooper on June 13, 2006. A transcript of the interview follows:

JOE JOHNS, CNN CORRESPONDENT: 25 miles off the coast of Santa Barbara, more than triple the size of Manhattan, the crown jewel of the Channel Islands National Park. The remote and largely untouched Santa Rosa Island. Canyons, coastline, chaparral and pines and you own it. Taxpayers pay $30 million for Santa Rosa Island. A treasure trove of ancient artifacts.

TORREY RICK, ARCHAEOLOGIST: It's incredible. I mean you don't get this kind of stuff anywhere else in the world, really.

JOHNS: Human bones found here date back 13,000 years. It's also unique for its inhabitants. The little island fox, endangered but so far not extinct. With all this at stake and more, the question before Congress is whether this park should be protected and open to all Americans year-round. Or should it also be used as a place where disabled veterans can come to hunt deer and elk? Which means tourists have to be kept safely out of the crossfire. Congressman Duncan Hunter, the powerful chairman of the House Armed Services Committee, has been pushing for months to give the vets special privileges on Santa Rosa.

REP. DUNCAN HUNTER, (R) CALIFORNIA: I was driving south with a bunch of marines, some guys fresh back from Iraq and one of them said, there's Santa Rosa Island and they're going to close it and they're going to wipe out the entire deer and elk herd.

JOHNS: But the idea of handing over hunting rights on an island that's supposed to be for everybody has infuriated some Democrats from California, who say it's like telling the public you bought it, now keep out.

REP. LOIS CAPPS, (D) CALIFORNIA: It's outrageous and I told him so. This is a Republican leadership that wants to kick taxpayers off a national park that they paid $30 million for. Makes you wonder, first it's Channel Islands National Park, is it going to be Yellowstone, is it going to be the Shenandoah's?

JOHNS: It's not that disabled veterans aren't important. It's just that there are plenty of good hunting spots that aren't in national parks. For instance, military bases in remote areas. It's a battle playing out all-over America but especially in the west, over how best to use national parks. In this case whether to restore the park to its pristine condition or to allow other uses.

Much of this is about the animals. The park service only wants animals here that are native to Santa Rosa. So the deer and elk shipped in nearly a century ago by the family that used to own the land must now go. So what about a compromise? Why not allow both hunting and tourists full-time? Well hikers and bullets are not a great trail mix. So long as there's hunting here, the park service has to keep the public out. The park service says the game needs to go.

RUSSELL GALLIPEAU, U.S. PARK SERVICE: I'm not against providing access to anybody. I just think that hunting and public use of this island are not compatible. And it's not a purpose for which this park was set aside.

JOHNS: So as taxpayers you paid for a remote national park, but now a powerful congressman says it should be managed as a place for disabled war vets to hunt deer and elk. For $30 million, Santa Rosa may well be the biggest game trophy out there. Joe Johns, CNN, Santa Rosa Island, California.

COOPER: Well as Joe just mentioned Congressman Duncan Hunter is the force behind the move to keep the elk and deer on the island for hunting. We spoke earlier.

COOPER: So Congressman Hunter, you know your critics say look, taxpayers spent $30 million to buy Santa Rosa Island. But as long as there's hunting there, 90 percent of it's closed to non-hunters for about half of the year. They say that's unfair.

HUNTER: Well, let me—let's put this in context. My son, who's a marine, did a couple of tours in Iraq and when he came back, he and I started taking wounded marines and soldiers hunting. We went to Arizona, Colorado, lots of good places. We had one hunt we took a person with a spinal disability. That is, a paralyzed veteran into Colorado, into the big national forest. And it's very difficult for them to have a real quality experience. Now, this island, Santa Rosa Island, which is off the California coast, which is 52,000 acres, has a very small number of public visitors. About 15 a day from the statistics I've seen.

COOPER: But the reason that there are only 15, the national park says about 5,000 people a year visit Santa Rosa Island. The reason more people aren't able to do it is because they can only visit about 10 percent of the island for half the year because of this hunting. If you close down the hunting, then the whole island basically would be open to visitors and to taxpayers who paid for it.

HUNTER: Listen, here's all we want. All we want is about two weeks a year for the paralyzed veterans to come over. I would be happy to stipulate that no congressman come over, no VIPs. Only people who are paralyzed veterans, who are very disabled veterans. And actually the reason most people don't go over to Santa Rosa Island is because it's a major boat trip or a plane trip. And tourists who are driving down the coast of California don't want to take a plane or a boat to simply get to another island. So we could easily accommodate the paralyzed veterans, they could have a great time. They could have the adventure of a lifetime.

And you know something, they may be wheelchair-bound but their spirits are free, they like adventure. This is a great place to take your family. And this could be a special niche for those people. And you know something else, the people of the United States, if the taxpayers knew that this was going to be used by paralyzed veterans, they'd say fine.

This is the park service that says, we want to wipe out this deer and elk herd because they're not native. They just want to do it because they've got the power to do it. They could easily accommodate our veterans.

COOPER: Is this the role of a national park? The national park service which runs this, basically would be subsidizing a hunting program. They say and critics say, look, there are other places for people with disabilities to hunt. We talked to the Paralyzed Veterans Association they say you know some states even allow those with disabilities to hunt from their cars.

HUNTER: Listen, the reason the national park people have their nice jobs and the reasons we as members of the American public get to enjoy national parks is because of people who wear uniforms who go out in dangerous parts of the world and secure our freedom. So let in some paralyzed veterans, many of whom have been injured in combat, to come have a small piece of this island that almost nobody goes to anyway, is a small repayment for their service to our country. I think the taxpayers would appreciate that.

COOPER: Congressman Hunter, appreciate you joining us, thanks.

Lastly, a letter provided by the Wounded Warrior Project reaffirms discussions and the intent to allow wounded and disabled veterans to enjoy Santa Rosa Island. The letter follows:

AUGUST 28, 2006.

Hon. DUNCAN L. HUNTER,
Chairman, House Committee on Armed Services, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN HUNTER: On behalf of the Wounded Warrior Project (WWP), I am responding to your legislation that will cease the elimination of all elk and deer on Santa Rosa Island in California and could provide unrivaled hunting opportunities for severely wounded veterans.

The Wounded Warrior Project applauds any effort that supports our endeavors to assist severely injured military personnel. WWP has reached thousands of wounded service men and women, providing assistance in the transition from a hospital bed to an independent and productive life and we believe that Santa Rosa could offer the wounded another chance to participate in meaningful and enriching recreational activities such as fishing, hunting and camping.

This legislation is consistent with Wounded Warrior Project's adaptive sports and outdoors programs like hunting and fishing, snow and water skiing, canoeing and diving. For that reason we encourage the House of Representatives to pass this provision to potentially allow the use of the island for disabled service members.

We hope that together with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and other federal organizations, a viable and sustainable daily operations system for the management of Santa Rosa Island can be developed and that our nation's wounded warriors will be able to enjoy the world class hunting that the island has to offer.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

JOHN MELIA,
Executive Director.

SUPPORT FOR H.R. 1678

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 14, 2007

Ms. MCCOLLUM of Minnesota. Madam Speaker, I rise today to express my support for H.R. 1678, The Torture Victims Relief Reauthorization Act of 2007. This legislation continues and improves a much needed and valuable safety net to help victims of torture recover from their trauma and rebuild successful lives.

Every member of this body knows that torture is a tool used to enforce a level of terror among preyed upon people. Not only can the physical scars of torture last forever, the emotional pain experienced by victims can last a lifetime. Frequently, the aim of brutal torture is not to kill the victim, but to break their will. Victims are humiliated, crippled, traumatized and then returned to their communities as a brutal message of intimidation to others. In many instances, doctors and medical personnel participate during torture sessions to ensure the victim will not die. Groups that sanction, sponsor and commit torture focus on inflicting terror, intimidation and fear on entire communities.

But through appropriate help, services and intervention, victims of torture can heal. The Torture Victims Relief Act provides critical funds to improve access to the health, legal and social services critical to victims and their families through domestic treatment centers for rehabilitation and research and training for health care providers. H.R. 1678 also makes grants available to foreign countries to carry out projects that work to treat the psychological and physical effects of torture.

Treatment is critical, but there is more that can be done. This legislation also creates a partnership by increasing funding for foreign treatment centers and strengthening our commitment to the United Nations Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture. This bill sends a strong message to the international community that treating victims of torture is a priority for Congress, and that we welcome the support of our like-minded friends around the globe.

This issue is important in my district. Minnesota is a new home for a growing number of immigrants and refugees and the late Senator Wellstone was a true champion for victims of torture. In addition, Minnesota is proud to be home to the Center for Victims of Torture—a world renowned center for the treatment and healing of torture victims.When the center opened in 1985, it became the first of its kind in the United States and only the third treatment center in the entire world. Today, with centers in Minneapolis, St. Paul, Washington, DC, Sierra Leone and Liberia, CVT is helping thousands of torture survivors from 60 countries.

Madam Speaker, torture is a crime against humanity and unacceptable at any time, by any nation. Any nation that tortures or tolerates torture is truly not free. I strongly encourage all my colleagues to support this legislation and commend the gentleman from New Jersey for his commitment to this issue and his work on this bipartisan legislation.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TIM MURPHY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 14, 2007

Mr. TIM MURPHY of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, on Thursday, May 10, 2007, my vote on the Motion to Recommit with Instructions to H.R. 2082, the Intelligence Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2008 (rollcall vote 340) was recorded as a "yes" vote when I intended to cast a "no" vote. I wish to clarify on the record my miscast vote and my strong support for the National Drug Intelligence Center (NDIC).

As the Nation's principal center for strategic domestic counterdrug intelligence, the National Drug Intelligence Center (NDIC) in Johnstown, PA, provides critical information on national drug trafficking and abuse trends in the United States. I was pleased to support funding for the NDIC in the Intelligence Authorization bills in both the 108th and 109th Congress.

Not only does the NDIC serve a vital role in our nationwide effort to combat drug trafficking, this center is critically important to the southwestern Pennsylvania region. Having these resources readily available in close proximity to the district I represent in Congress is a tremendous benefit to my constituents. NDIC field representatives on average have more than 30 years' experience in Federal, State, or local drug law enforcement and stand ready to assist my local law enforcement agencies and provide necessary intelligence and training. We are fortunate to have the Center in our backyard and look forward to benefiting from its work in the future.

The NDIC's comprehensive annual report on national drug trafficking and abuse trends within the United States is one of the key tools for the Federal Government to respond to the threat posed by drugs to our families, schools and communities. Formulated in partnership with Federal, State, and local agencies with information from more than 3,400 State and local law enforcement agencies as well as thousands of personal interviews with law enforcement and public health officials, this report is one of the most comprehensive and detailed reports that our Federal Government receives on both domestic and foreign drug threats to our country.

I look forward to continuing my support of the critical intelligence work of the NDIC to protect our families and the Nation.

CONGRATULATING THE DEVOLUTION OF GOVERNMENT IN NORTHERN IRELAND

HON. JAMES T. WALSH

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 14, 2007

Mr. WALSH of New York. Madam Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to join my colleagues here in the House in congratulating the people of Northern Ireland on the formation of their own duly elected government.

This remarkable achievement, the formal implementation of the Good Friday Agreement, sends a message of hope to the entire world. In Martin McGuinness's words, "This marks an end to 800 years of conflict." Surely if the Irish can reach a peaceful conclusion to their differences other troubled places around the world should celebrate the possibilities for themselves.

Much credit goes to the political leadership of Sinn Fein and the Democratic Unionist Party. Gerry Adams and Martin McGuinness showed great courage in leading their Nationalist side. Rev. Ian Paisley, noted for saying no, said yes to an agreement he helped construct. British Prime Minister Blair and Irish

Prime Minister Ahern never lost focus or patience.

For America it was a wonderful foreign policy success. President Bush and Clinton played important and constructive roles. In the Congress, both houses linked arms and worked together. It was a case of everyone sticking together with one purpose.

But the most credit should go to the people of Northern Ireland who expressed their hope for the future, first by supporting (as did the Republic) the Good Friday Agreement and most recently by giving Sinn Fein and DUP leaders a mandate to proceed. Optimism was expressed in the vote and the leaders need to move forward and do the hard work of governing.

I know all Americans join together with our Irish friends in celebrating this miraculous achievement.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ELIJAH E. CUMMINGS

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 14, 2007

Mr. CUMMINGS. Madam Speaker, on May 7, 2007, due to a family illness, I missed the following recorded votes: rollcall vote No. 302, on H.R. 407—The Columbia Pacific National Heritage Area Study Act. Had I been present, I would have voted ''aye''; rollcall vote No. 303, on H.R. 1025—The Lower Republican River Basin Study Act. Had I been present, I would have voted ''aye''; and rollcall vote No. 304, on H. Res. 371—In Observance of National Physical Education and Sports Week. Had I been present, I would have voted ''aye.''

VIETNAMESE HUMAN RIGHTS DAY

HON. ZOE LOFGREN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 14, 2007

Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California. Madam Speaker, I rise because May 11 is Vietnamese Human Rights Day, and my conscience will not let me stay quiet on this very troubling issue. I also rise today to applaud the efforts of the U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom on their recent report on the status of religious freedom in the world.

I am deeply troubled by the findings of the Commission, but I can't say that I'm surprised. The Commission made the same recommendation last year: Vietnam should be placed on the State Department's list of Countries of Particular Concern because of government repression towards many religious believers.

The Vietnamese government's campaign to force people to renounce their faith, their detainment of dozens of religious prisoners, and the harassment and physical mistreatment of some believers and their families amounts to inexcusable human rights violations.

In Vietnam's quest to gain Permanent Normal Trade Relations with the United States, and access to the WTO, the Vietnamese embarked on a disingenuous public relations campaign to cleanse its image as a human rights violator.

Secretary Rice caved in to the campaign of their communist government and removed Vietnam from the Countries of Particular Concern list.

But some of us in Congress were not fooled by this advertising campaign.

My constituent, Cong Thanh Do, a United States citizen, was unjustly arrested in Vietnam last August while on a family vacation. Mr. Do is no criminal. He is nothing more than a peaceful democracy and human rights activist who wrote articles that he then posted on the internet while he was living in the United States.

Vietnam held Cong Thanh Do imprisoned for over a month before he was released after we pressured the Vietnamese government.

Because of the evidence suggesting that Vietnam made little progress on human rights—especially given the detention of my constituent, Cong Thanh Do—I told the administration it would be a mistake to grant Permanent Normal Trade Relations with Vietnam and I voted against it.

Three of Mr. Do's supporters in Vietnam were tried and sentenced yesterday for 3 to 5 years of prison each. Their crime? Promoting a multi-party democratic system in Vietnam through peaceful means and sending email communication to my constituent.

After Vietnam joined the WTO, I think it is obvious that the conditions of religious freedom in Vietnam did not improved. They have worsened severely.

The Vietnamese government removed Father Nguyen Van Ly from his parish and on March 30th sentenced him to 8 years in prison for allegedly conducting propaganda activities to harm the security of the state. His sentence is an outrage.

Vietnamese police, on March 6, 2007, arrested a pair of human-rights lawyers, Nguyen Van Dai (''Die'') and Le Thi Cong Nhan (pronounced ''Lay Tee Kohng Nhun''), for organizing training sessions for political activists in the capital. There are many other dissidents who have been imprisoned simply for expressing their thoughts and attempting to practice their faith freely and openly. Nguyen Van Dai has since been charged with disseminating propaganda against the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, and faces up to 20 years in prison if convicted. Their trials and sentencing are scheduled for this Friday in Vietnam.

Le Quoc Quan (''Lay Kwook Kwun'') and his law colleague Tran Thuy Trang (''Truhn Twee Trahng'') were arrested on the day Mr. Quan returned to Vietnam from his congressionally-sponsored National Endowment for Democracy fellowship in the United States. His arrest is not only a human rights violation, it is a calculated insult to America and specifically to the United States Congress.

With all of the human rights problems in Vietnam, the question we must ask is, ''What can we do to help?'' The United States has the power to influence Vietnam on these important moral issues through the use of our many diplomatic and economic tools—if only we have the political will and moral courage to use these tools.

One tool is the Countries of Particular Concern list.

I believe it was a mistake to take Vietnam off the list. I agree with the U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom that Secretary Rice should redesignate Vietnam a Country of Particular Concern.

I believe the U.S. Ambassador to Vietnam, Michael Marine, should provide financial support to the loved ones of the political detainees, using the Human Rights Defender's fund. The wives of many of these political prisoners are left without any financial support. We have a moral commitment not just to these people who have been imprisoned unjustly; we have a moral obligation to relieve the financial burden that these arrests have caused for the families of the brave.

Vietnam claims it has made significant progress in allowing more freedom of religion under its Ordinance on Belief and Religion, but this is simply untrue. Under this law, affiliated organizations of recognized churches may ''register for religious operation.'' In practice, however, only 2.5 percent of all house churches have been approved for registration. And of the one hundred house churches that actually have been registered, only five have been registered for religious operation. No real progress has been made.

Until Vietnam makes real progress on religious freedoms and human rights, instead of paying lip service in order to get trade agreements, I will continue to press this administration to stand up for the rights of the Vietnamese people to speak their minds and practice their faith.

SUPPORT FOR H.R. 1429, IMPROVING HEAD START ACT

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 14, 2007

Ms. MCCOLLUM of Minnesota. Madam Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 1429, the Improving Head Start Act. Having had the opportunity to serve on the Education and Workforce committee for 6 years, I am very pleased to have the opportunity today to finally vote for a Head Start reauthorization bill that will improve on the success of this critical program.

Head Start is one of the most successful programs funded by Congress. Research shows that children who attend Head Start enter school better prepared, are less likely to need special education services, and are more likely to graduate. The Minneapolis Federal Reserve Bank reported a few years ago that there is actually a 16 percent rate of return on investment in quality early education. In my opinion, funding education for our youngest children is the most efficient and important investment we can make.

The biggest challenge facing Head Start has been lack of resources. In Minnesota, less than half the children eligible for Head Start are served due to funding shortages. And nationwide, only 2 percent of children eligible for Early Head Start receive services. We can do better. Increasing access to Head Start is good for children, for families, for communities and for the federal budget.

The Improving Head Start Act will expand and improve Head Start. It will allow access for 10,000 more children and prioritize expanding Early Head Start. It increases teacher qualifications and helps to attract quality teachers by improving salaries. It will also improve coordination with other early education programs, ensure that parents continue to play

an important role in governing Head Start and strengthen the focus on health, mental health, and obesity prevention.

Equally important are the things this bill does not include. It prohibits further use of the National Reporting System—high stakes testing that was inappropriate for 4-year olds and was draining time and dollars from Head Start programs. It does not include block grants to the states which would have diluted Head Start's high standards and comprehensive programming. And finally, I join with faith groups in Minnesota and around the country in applauding the successful efforts to defeat a provision to allow discrimination in hiring with Head Start dollars.

I congratulate Chairman MILLER and Speaker PELOSI for making our children's education a priority for the 110th Congress. I am pleased to support H.R. 1429 and look forward to continuing to put the interests of our children and our families first.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO KEVIN IRWIN

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 14, 2007

Mr. PORTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Clark County Firefighter Kevin Irwin for his selfless role in saving nine of his fellow firefighter's lives.

On February 17, 2007, Clark County firefighters were dispatched to a fire in a large commercial warehouse in Las Vegas, Nevada. On this particular day, Firefighter Kevin Irwin arrived on the scene with the crew from Station 15, and served as an acting Engineer for the day. As the firefighters were battling the flames, Kevin noticed one of the exterior walls in the warehouse was giving in. In a rush to save the rest of the crew, Kevin quickly alerted the other men of their imminent danger and subsequently prevented their deaths.

Humbled about being referred to as a hero, Kevin says it is all a part of the job. He has served with the Clark County Fire Department for four years and has been under Captain Christian Grimes in Station 15 for the last two years. Kevin has been a resident of Nevada since 1991 and is married to wife Debora with two children, Jacob and Ashlyn.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to honor Kevin Irwin for his heroism and his quick approach that saved nine fellow firefighters' lives. The service firefighters like Kevin provide, to save lives while risking their own is truly commendable. I applaud Kevin for his leadership and wish him continued success in his career.

IN MEMORY OF FORMER REPRESENTATIVE MENDEL DAVIS OF SOUTH CAROLINA

HON. JOHN M. SPRATT, JR.

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 14, 2007

Mr. SPRATT. Madam Speaker, when Mendel Davis came to Congress, he had some big shoes to fill. His namesake and predecessor, Mendel Rivers, had chaired the House Armed Services Committee at a time when committee chairmen were powerful, and he had ruled the roost. He had secured for Charleston military installations, ranging from the Navy Yard, home port to surface ships and submarines, to Charleston Air Force Base, which boasted the first of the C–5As.

After Mendel Rivers died, Mendel Davis ran an impressive race, won a special election, and obtained a seat on the Science Committee and then on the House Armed Services Committee. He served there effectively and with distinction, and had he served long enough, he would have matched his namesake in influence and output.

Mendel Davis served ten years and never quite matched Mendel Rivers' seniority, but he worked every bit as hard, if not harder, for his constituents. From his seat on Armed Services, Mendel Davis never forgot where he came from or who sent him here, and he cared for his constituency. He helped bring the USS *Yorktown* to Patriot's Point, and with Senator Hollings' help, he helped fund and keep in place all that Mendel Rivers had brought to Charleston.

I came to Congress shortly after Mendel Davis had left, but I found that everyone who knew him remembered him and highly respected him. I did not see him often, but always enjoyed the opportunities we did encounter. Like all of his friends and acquaintances, I will long remember him and his great service to our country and to the House. His wife, Jane, and all his family have my deepest sympathy.

IN MEMORY OF WILLIAM F. ''BABE'' MARCELLINO

HON. EDWARD J. MARKEY

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 14, 2007

Mr. MARKEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of a dear friend and former member of my staff, William F. ''Babe'' Marcellino. The Babe passed away on May 9, 2007, after 90 glorious years. While I am saddened by his passing, I can't help smiling when I think about his life.

Babe Marcellino was an American original in every sense. He was a well respected political sage on Beacon Hill and in Boston City Hall. He served as a close advisor to Governor Foster Furcolo, Senate President Maurice Donahue and Mayor Kevin White. He came to work for me later in life and stayed with me into his 80s. He was the essence of wisdom and quiet elegance. When constituents walked through the door to my office, the Babe would greet them with a wink and a smile. When they broke down in tears under the weight of their problems, Babe would tell them he was on their side. And he always was. He helped hundreds of constituents solve their problems with the federal government. I especially relied on Babe to help with particularly difficult constituent matters, because of his incredible ability to put people at ease.

I will never forget his mastery of policy and his generosity of spirit following a terrible fire that ravaged an entire block of businesses right across from my Medford, MA, district office in February of 1994. Together, Babe Marcellino and I worked with the Small Business Administration and others in the federal government to bring relief to devastated business owners in Medford Square and to rebuild the downtown. Babe Marcellino was an exemplary public servant.

Babe also was a wonderful teacher. He eagerly took younger staff members under his wing to impart his wisdom. Many of those former staffers have told me over the years that their experience in public service was richer for having known and learned from the Babe.

He dearly loved his alma mater Holy Cross, and devoted a large portion of his time ensuring that Holy Cross became a national educational treasure that could be enjoyed by all students, regardless of their socio-economic condition.

Babe was blessed with an extraordinary family for which his love was strong and enduring. He was remarkable for having two wonderful marriages. With his beloved first wife Maidie, he produced six incredible children—William Marcellino Jr., James Marcellino, Mary Zouberis, Richard Marcellino, John ''Jocko'' Marcellino, and Sister Noella Marcellino. After Maidie passed away, the Babe married the fabulous Marie, herself a widow. He ''inherited'' five terrific step-children—Cathy Doran, Jane Driscoll, Stephen Doran, Mark Doran and the late Daniel Doran. Babe leaves 21 grandchildren, each with their unique and special memories of their grandfather.

Watching Babe and Marie was like watching Fred and Ginger—they made a marvelous couple full of grace, style and class.

When you were in Babe's presence, you could not help but to feed off of his optimism and his incredible inner strength. He was the quintessential gentleman. He often remarked after an enjoyable time or conversation together that the experience had been ''like a chunk of heaven. ''

Babe, it was an honor to have known you and worked with you—and I am proud to honor your exemplary public service, your extraordinary love of family, and your unwavering faith in God and the United States of America. Your whole life was a chunk of heaven and all of us who love you will miss you dearly.

A TRIBUTE TO SUE SARILYN WASHINGTON

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 14, 2007

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, it is with sadness and deep regret that many of us in this body rise to pay tribute to a wonderful lady and a close friend of mine—Mrs. Sue Sarilyn Washington. The words most often associated with her are ''grace'' and ''compassion,'' and with those I wholeheartedly agree.

Just a quick glimpse of her professional life attests to her unselfish spirit. Sue Sarilyn Washington was an inspiration to those around her, and dedicated her time and spirit to many outstanding local and national organizations, including: the VA Medical Center of Dallas; Jack & Jill of America; Links, Inc. Dallas Chapter; Carrousels, Dallas Chapter; Board of Trustees, Lutheran High School; the

Board of Directors, Children's Theater of Dallas; Deacon, Royal Lane Baptist Church; and the St. Marks Boy Scouts. Through these organizations, Sue touched the lives of countless individuals.

A devoted mother of three, Sue also consistently showed her love for God and others. She delicately balanced the rigors of professional life with the demands of caring for their family; yet, she still made time for friends.

Madam Speaker, it is a great honor for me to rise today to pay tribute to a lady who faithfully served her community with dedication and integrity. Sue Sarilyn Washington will be sorely missed in North Texas.

INTRODUCTION OF THE ALS REGISTRY ACT OF 2007

HON. LEE TERRY

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 14, 2007

Mr. TERRY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge the introduction of The ALS Registry Act of 2007 by my colleague ELIOT ENGEL of New York and myself. A similar bill introduced in the 109th Congress, H.R. 4033, garnered the support of 215 of our colleagues, nearly 50 percent of the members of the House of Representatives. Today, we are joined by 80 additional original cosponsors in this effort.

Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS) is a fatal, progressive, neurodegenerative disease affecting motor nerve cells in the brain and spinal cord. Approximately 5,600 people in the U.S. are diagnosed with ALS, also known as Lou Gehrig's Disease, each year. It is estimated that as many as 30,000 Americans have the disease. The average life expectancy for a person with ALS is 2 to 5 years from the time of diagnosis. There is no known cure for ALS.

There is currently no single national patient registry which collects and stores information on the prevalence and incidence of ALS in existence in the United States. The establishment of a national registry will help identify the occurrence and frequency of ALS and other motor neuron disorders and collect data which is badly needed for ALS research, disease management and the development of standards of care in order to significantly enhance the nation's efforts to find a treatment and cure for ALS.

All diseases bring hardships on those afflicted, but ALS is particularly cruel in the quickness of the onset, the severity of the symptoms and the fatal nature of the condition. The provisions in our bill creating a nationwide registry for persons afflicted with ALS are important steps forward in strengthening the efforts to understand, treat and one day eradicate this terrible disease. I urge my colleagues to support and cosponsor the ALS Registry Act and I am proud to join my friend Mr. ENGEL in bringing forward this important legislation.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. EMANUEL CLEAVER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 14, 2007

Mr. CLEAVER. Madam Speaker, I was unavoidably detained for Rollcall votes 337 through 341 held on Thursday, May 10, 2007, beginning with Rollcall 337.

Madam Speaker, had I been present, I would have cast the following votes on H.R. 2082: to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2008 for intelligence and intelligence-related activities of the United States Government, the Community Management Account, and the Central Intelligence Agency Retirement and Disability System, and for other purposes. On passage Passed by recorded vote: 225–197 (rollcall No. 341). I would have voted "yes."

Madam Speaker, had I been present for the motion to recommit with instructions, rollcall No. 340, I would have voted "no."

Madam Speaker, had I been present for the Schiff amendment rollcall No. 339, I would have voted "yes."

Madam Speaker, had I been present for the Rogers (MI) amendment rollcall No. 338, I would have voted "yes."

Madam Speaker, had I been present for the Hoekstra amendment rollcall No. 337, I would have voted "no."

PAYING TRIBUTE TO JOYCE HOLLAND

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 14, 2007

Mr. PORTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Ms. Joyce Holland, a registered nurse, who is a distinguished and devoted professional in her field.

In 1992, Joyce earned her associates degree in Nursing. She later joined the nursing staff of Boulder City Hospital as a registered nurse/medical decision support coordinator in 2000. Joyce served as RN/MDS Coordinator for 6 years before retiring in 2006. After a brief retirement, Joyce returned to Boulder City Hospital in 2007 as the long term care director, the position she holds today. Throughout her career at Boulder City Hospital, Joyce's high degree of professionalism and enduring compassion have earned her the respect of her colleagues and have made her invaluable to her patients.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to honor Joyce Holland. Her passion and her love of nursing have improved the lives of countless patients in Las Vegas. I thank her for her dedication and commitment to the community and wish her the best in her future endeavors.

INTRODUCTION OF THE ALS REGISTRY ACT OF 2007

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 14, 2007

Mr. ENGEL. Madam Speaker, I rise to re-introduce the ALS Registry Act of 2007 with my good friend, LEE TERRY of Nebraska. We are proud to have the support of over 80 other bipartisan members of Congress today as original co-sponsors of this important legislation.

Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS) is a fatal, progressive neurodegenerative disease that affects motor nerve cells in the brain and spinal cord. While the great baseball player, Lou Gehrig, put a national face on ALS over 65 years ago, my own family was personally affected when my grandmother, Dora Engel, was diagnosed with the fatal disease and passed away when she was only in her 50s. Unfortunately, families across the Nation face the challenges and experience the suffering associated with ALS every single day. 5,600 people in the U.S. are diagnosed with ALS each year, and it is estimated that as many as 30,000 Americans have the disease at any given time. The average life expectancy for a person with ALS is two to five years from the time of diagnosis. The causes of ALS are not well understood and there is no known cure. We must provide hope to change this tragedy today.

Surprisingly, a single national patient registry which collects and stores information on the prevalence and incidence of ALS does not currently exist in the United States today. The legislation I am re-introducing with Congressman TERRY, would build on a fiscal year 2006 Congressional appropriation which directed the Centers for Disease Control to evaluate the science to guide the creation of a national ALS Registry. The Engel/Terry legislation will create an ALS registry at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and will aid in the search for a cure to this devastating disease. The registry will collect data concerning: the incidence and prevalence of ALS in the United States; the environmental and occupational factors that may contribute to the disease; the age, race or ethnicity, gender and family history of individuals diagnosed; and other information essential to the study of ALS. The information gained from the ALS registry will also strengthen a disease clearinghouse's ability to put patients in contact with scientists conducting clinical trials and scientists studying the environmental and genetic causes of ALS.

We need to provide our Nation's researchers and clinicians with the tools and information they need to make progress in the fight against ALS. The data made available by a national registry will potentially allow scientists to identify causes of the disease, and maybe even lead to the discovery of new treatment, a cure for ALS, or even a way to prevent the disease in the first place. This is good public policy.

The establishment of a registry will bring new hope to thousands of patients and their families that ALS will no longer be a death sentence. I strongly urge the swift consideration and passage of the ALS Registry Act of 2007.

RECOGNIZING JEREMY ALLEN PATANIA FOR ACHIEVING THE RANK OF EAGLE SCOUT

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 14, 2007

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Jeremy Allen Patania, a

very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 857, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Jeremy has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the years Jeremy has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Jeremy Allen Patania for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

U.S. TROOP READINESS, VETERANS' CARE, KATRINA RECOVERY, AND IRAQ ACCOUNTABILITY APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 10, 2007

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 2206, the "U.S. Troop Readiness, Veterans' Health, Katrina Recovery, and Iraq Accountability Act." This legislation includes the important funding that has already passed this chamber to provide resources for servicemen and women, for military and veterans' health care, and for valuable programs like LIHEAP and SCHIP.

This bill ensures accountability. H.R. 2206 provides 3 months of funding for the war in Iraq but requires the president to report back to Congress about whether certain goals are met before the rest of the funds will be released by subsequent legislation.

It is time for the president to listen to the American people and support this reasonable legislation to help bring an end to this war.

STUDENT LOAN SUNSHINE ACT

HON. DEBBIE WASSERMAN SCHULTZ

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 14, 2007

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. Speaker, the most important goal of the Student Loan Sunshine Act is to protect students and parents and help them receive the most affordable loan possible. With that in mind, I would like to mention that recently, a number of my colleagues and I sent a letter to Secretary Spellings regarding the urgent need to reopen the national student loan database for students and parents to receive low interest consolidation loans before the rates are changed on July 1st.

Although, we fully support new and better safeguards to protect student privacy which many student loan companies advocate, it is crucial that both students and lenders have safe and secure access to this information.

IN RECOGNITION OF JOSEPH A. DART, PRESIDENT OF MASSACHUSETTS BUILDING TRADES COUNCIL, AFL–CIO

HON. STEPHEN F. LYNCH

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 14, 2007

Mr. LYNCH. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of a good friend and tremendous labor leader, Joseph A. Dart. Joe has dedicated his life to improving the lives of working men and women throughout Massachusetts.

Joining Local 257 Painter & Allied Trades in 1974, Joe's hard work and leadership skills propelled his rise through the ranks. In 1980, Joe became a Business Agent and the following year advanced to Business Manager. By 1985, Joe held the position of President of the Pioneer Valley Building Trades Council. Joe's ability to advance his union and provide the fellow members of his trade with employment exemplifies the characteristics in which all members of the Building Trades should strive.

Between 1994 and 1996, Joe added three new positions to his impressive list of accomplishments, all of which he holds to this day. In 1994, Joe became President of the Massachusetts Building Trades Council, an organization which is comprised of 72 local unions and 10 Local Building Trades Councils representing 75,000 construction trades men and women in Massachusetts. In 1995, Joe became Co-Chair of the Labor-Management Construction Safety Alliance, where he succeeded in passing the OSHA 10-Hour Law requiring all construction workers on public projects to be trained in safety. In 1996, Joe became the Executive Vice President of the Massachusetts AFL–CIO.

Throughout his career in the Building Trades, Joe has been an advocate for workers rights and fought to provide his fellow brothers and sisters of labor with fair wages and skilled training. Joe has negotiated dozens of Project Labor Agreements to guarantee good wages, hours, and working conditions on massive construction sites. These agreements have also guaranteed employers access to a skilled workforce and eliminated labor relations problems. In 1988, Joe was instrumental in defeating a ballot question, which was intended to remove Prevailing Wage Laws in the state of Massachusetts. Ten years later, Joe was essential in the passage of an amendment to the Massachusetts Payment of Wages Law, which increased penalties on employers who willfully and intentionally violated payment rights of employees.

Madam Speaker, it is my distinct honor to join with Joe's family, friends and brothers and sisters of labor to thank him for his incredible dedication and commitment to the fight for workers' rights and service to the American Labor Movement. I hope my colleagues will join me in celebrating Joe's distinguished career and wishing him good health and success in all his future endeavors.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO SUZANNE LICHNER

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 14, 2007

Mr. PORTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Ms. Suzanne Lichner, a licensed practical nurse, who is a distinguished and devoted professional in her field.

Prior to joining the nursing staff at Boulder City Hospital, Suzanne worked as an LPN in home health care and hospice care. Suzanne began her career at Boulder City Hospital in 2000 with the Skilled Nursing Facility, where she quickly demonstrated her ability, talent, dedication, and compassion towards her patients. During the past 7 years, Suzanne's strengths as a health care professional have earned her the respect of her peers and colleagues. In 2006, Suzanne transferred to the Medical/ Surgical Unit at Boulder City Hospital, where she serves as a medical surgical nurse.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to honor Suzanne Lichner. Her passion and her love of nursing have improved the lives of countless patients in Las Vegas. I thank her for her dedication and commitment to the community and wish her the best in her future endeavors.

IN RECOGNITION OF SIGNATURE LEARNING CENTER

HON. BRAD ELLSWORTH

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 14, 2007

Mr. ELLSWORTH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Signature Learning Center in Evansville for being recognized as one of the top charter schools in the nation by the Center for Education Reform (CER). The Center is one of only 53 schools to receive the National Charter School of the Year Award and was selected based on student achievement, satisfaction of parents, and its policies and programs.

The Signature Learning Center has approximately 275 students with an average class size of 20. Its students excel academically with 100 percent enrollment in advanced college preparatory courses and 100 percent graduation rate. For these reasons and others, the school was listed by Newsweek as one of the top 100 High Schools in the nation in 2006.

Signature Learning Center joins nearly 4,000 charter schools nationwide in educating over 1 million American children.

Children are our nation's greatest resource. The quality of education they receive has a direct impact on the strength of our economy, the safety of our communities, and the ability of our nation to compete in the world. The Signature Learning Center is providing children in southern Indiana with the tools they need to meet their full potential and make a difference in our world. I am proud to recognize them for their accomplishments today.

SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate on February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules Committee—of the time, place, and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled, and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Monday, May 14, 2007 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

MAY 15

10 a.m.

Energy and Natural Resources

To hold hearings to examine the short-term energy outlook for summer 2007, focusing on oil and gasoline.

SD–366

Environment and Public Works

To hold hearings to examine green buildings, focusing on benefits to health, the environment, and the bottom line.

SD–406

Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

To hold hearings to examine equal representation in Congress, focusing on providing voting rights to the District of Columbia.

SD–342

Judiciary

To hold hearings to examine the Department of Justice politicizing the hiring and firing of United States Attorneys, focusing on preserving prosecutorial independence.

SD–226

Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

Retirement and Aging Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine Alzheimer's disease, focusing on current and future breakthrough research.

SD–628

2:30 p.m.

Energy and Natural Resources

National Parks Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine S. 553, to amend the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act to designate certain segments of the Eightmile River in the State of Connecticut as components of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System, S. 800, to establish the Niagara Falls National Heritage Area in the State of New York, S. 916, to modify the boundary of the Minidoka Internment National Monument, to establish the Minidoka National Historic Site, to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to convey certain land and improvements of the Gooding Division of the Minidoka Project, Idaho, S. 1057, to amend the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act to designate certain segments of the New River in the States of North Carolina and Virginia as a component of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System, S. 1209, to provide for the continued administration of Santa Rosa Island, Channel Islands National Park, in accordance with the laws (including regulations) and policies of the National Park Service, S. 1281, to amend the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act to designate certain rivers and streams of the headwaters of the Snake River System as additions to the National Wild and Scenic River System, H.R. 161, to adjust the boundary of the Minidoka Internment National Monument to include the Nidoto Nai Yoni Memorial in Bainbridge Island, Washington, H.R. 247, to designate a Forest Service trail at Waldo Lake in the Willamette National Forest in the State of Oregon as a national recreation trail in honor of Jim Weaver, a former Member of the House of Representatives, and H.R. 376, to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a special resource study to determine the suitability and feasibility of including the battlefields and related sites of the First and Second Battles of Newtonia, Missouri, during the Civil War as part of Wilson's Creek National Battlefield or designating the battlefields and related sites as a separate unit of the National Park System.

SD–366

MAY 16

9:30 a.m.

Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs

Business meeting to consider an original bill entitled ''Foreign Investment and National Security Act of 2007'', an original bill to make technical corrections to Title III of SAFETEA–LU; H.R. 1675, to suspend the requirements of the Department of Housing and Urban Development regarding electronic filing of previous participation certificates and regarding filing of such certificates with respect to certain low-income housing investors, H.R. 1676, to reauthorize the program of the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development for loan guarantees for Indian housing, S. 254, to award posthumously a Congressional gold medal to Constantino Brumidi, and the nominations of David George Nason, of Rhode Island, to be an Assistant Secretary of the Treasury for Financial Institutions, Mario Mancuso, of New York, to be Under Secretary of Commerce for Export Administration, Michael W. Tankersley, of Texas, to be Inspector General, Export-Import Bank, Robert M. Couch, of Alabama, to be General Counsel of the Department of Housing and Urban Development, and Janis Herschkowitz, of Pennsylvania, and Nguyen Van Hanh, of California, and David George Nason, of Rhode Island, each to be a Member of the Board of Directors of the National Consumer Cooperative Bank.

SD–538

Appropriations

Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2008 for the National Institutes of Health: A New Vision for Medical Research.

SD–116

Joint Economic Committee

To hold hearings to examine the explosive costs of elder care and determine if they are hurting family finances and business competition.

SH–216

10 a.m.

Environment and Public Works

Clean Air and Nuclear Safety Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine the state of mercury regulation, science, and technology.

SD–406

Appropriations

Defense Subcommittee

To hold hearings to receive testimony from sundry public witnesses.

SD–192

Finance

To hold hearings to examine the efficacy of United States preference programs.

SD–215

Judiciary

To hold hearings to examine rogue online pharmacies, focusing on the growing problem of internet drug trafficking.

SD–226

Veterans' Affairs

To hold hearings to examine the nomination of Michael K. Kussman, of Massachusetts, to be Under Secretary for Health of the Department of Veterans Affairs.

SD–562

10:30 a.m.

Aging

To hold hearings to examine Medicare Advantage marketing and sales, focusing on who has the advantage.

SD–106

2 p.m.

Small Business and Entrepreneurship

Business meeting to markup S. 1256, to amend the Small Business Act to reauthorize loan programs under that Act.

SR–428A

2:30 p.m.

Commerce, Science, and Transportation

Business meeting to consider pending calendar business.

SR–253

3 p.m.

Appropriations

Financial Services and General Government Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2008 for the United States Securities and Exchange Commission.

SD–192

MAY 17

9:30 a.m.

Armed Services

To hold hearings to examine the United States European Command in review of the Defense Authorization Request for Fiscal Year 2008 and the Future Years Defense Program.

SH–216

Indian Affairs

To hold an oversight hearing to examine law enforcement in Indian Country.

SR–485

Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

Oversight of Government Management, the Federal Workforce, and the District of Columbia Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine the federal government's security clearance process, focusing on evaluating progress and identifying obstacles to improvement.

SD–342

10 a.m.
Judiciary
Business meeting to consider S. 1027, to prevent tobacco smuggling, to ensure the collection of all tobacco taxes, S. 221, to amend title 9, United States Code, to provide for greater fairness in the arbitration process relating to livestock and poultry contracts, S. 376, to amend title 18, United States Code, to improve the provisions relating to the carrying of concealed weapons by law enforcement officers, S. 1079, to establish the Star-Spangled Banner and War of 1812 Bicentennial Commission, S. Res. 138, honoring the accomplishments and legacy of Cesar Estrada Chavez, S. Res. 132, recognizing the Civil Air Patrol for 65 years of service to the United States, and S. Res. 130, designating July 28, 2007, as ''National Day of the American Cowboy'', and possible authorization of subpoenas in the connection with investigation into the replacement of U.S. attorneys.
SD–226

2:30 p.m.
Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs
Securities, Insurance and Investment Subcommittee
To hold hearings to examine consolidation of National Association of Securities Dealers and the regulatory functions of the New York Stock Exchange, focusing on working towards improved regulation.
SD–538

Intelligence
Closed business meeting to markup an original bill authorizing funds for fiscal year 2008 for the intelligence community.
SH–219

MAY 18

10:30 a.m.
Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs
Oversight of Government Management, the Federal Workforce, and the District of Columbia Subcommittee
To hold hearings to examine growth trends in health care premiums for active and retired federal employees.
SD–342

MAY 21

2 p.m.
Appropriations
Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies Subcommittee
To continue hearings to examine proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2008 for the National Institutes of Health: A New Vision for Medical Research.
SD–116

MAY 22

9 a.m.
Armed Services
SeaPower Subcommittee
Closed business meeting to markup those provisions which fall under the subcommittee's jurisdiction of the proposed National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2008.
SR–222

10 a.m.
Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions
Employment and Workplace Safety Subcommittee
To hold hearings to examine the progress of the Mine Improvement and New Emergency Response Act (Public Law 109–236).
SD–628

Judiciary
To hold hearings to examine restoring habeas corpus, focusing on protecting American values and the Great Writ.
SD–226

Armed Services
Personnel Subcommittee
Closed business meeting to markup those provisions which fall under the subcommittee's jurisdiction of the proposed National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2008.
SR–232A

Commerce, Science, and Transportation
Surface Transportation and Merchant Marine Infrastructure, Safety and Security Subcommittee
To hold hearings to examine rail safety reauthorization.
SR–253

12:30 p.m.
Armed Services
Airland Subcommittee
Closed business meeting to markup those provisions which fall under the subcommittee's jurisdiction of the proposed National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2008.
SR–222

2:30 p.m.
Commerce, Science, and Transportation
Aviation Operations, Safety, and Security Subcommittee
To hold hearings to examine improving air service to small and rural communities.
SR–253

4 p.m.
Armed Services
Readiness and Management Support Subcommittee
Closed business meeting to markup those provisions which fall under the subcommittee's jurisdiction of the proposed National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2008.
SR–222

5:30 p.m.
Armed Services
Emerging Threats and Capabilities Subcommittee
Closed business meeting to markup those provisions which fall under the subcommittee's jurisdiction of the proposed National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2008.
SR–232A

MAY 23

9:30 a.m.
Veterans' Affairs
To hold hearings to examine health legislation.
SD–562

10 a.m.
Commerce, Science, and Transportation
To hold hearings to examine communications, taxation and federalism.
SR–253

11:30 a.m.
Armed Services
Strategic Forces Subcommittee
Closed business meeting to markup those provisions which fall under the subcommittee's jurisdiction of the proposed National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2008.
SR–222

2:30 p.m.
Armed Services
Closed business meeting to markup the proposed National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2008.
SR–222

MAY 24

9:30 a.m.
Armed Services
Closed business meeting to markup the proposed National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2008.
SR–222

10 a.m.
Commerce, Science, and Transportation
To hold hearings to examine the nominations of Michael E. Baroody, of Virginia, to be Chairman and Commissioner of the Consumer Product Safety Commission, and Charles Darwin Snelling, of Pennsylvania, to be a Member of the Board of Directors of the Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority.
SR–253

Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe
To hold hearings to examine Russia, focusing on the reemergence of Russia as a major political and economic power.
B318RHOB

3 p.m.
Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs
Disaster Recovery Subcommittee
To hold hearings to examine issues relative to residents of Louisiana affected by Hurricane Katrina or Rita, focusing on the goals, costs, management and impediments facing Louisiana's Road Home Program.
SD–342

JUNE 13

9:30 a.m.
Veterans' Affairs
Business meeting to markup pending legislation.
SD–562

10 a.m.
Rules and Administration
To hold hearings to examine nominations to the Federal Election Commission.
SR–301

JUNE 27

9:30 a.m.
Veterans' Affairs
To hold an oversight hearing to examine the Department of Veterans Affairs and the Department of Defense, focusing on cooperation on employment issues.
SD–562

POSTPONEMENTS

MAY 15

9:30 a.m.

Armed Services

Business meeting to consider pending military nomination.

SR–222

2:30 p.m.

Intelligence

To hold hearings to examine the nomination of John A. Rizzo, of the District of Columbia, to be General Counsel of the Central Intelligence Agency.

SD–106

MAY 17

10 a.m.

Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

Employment and Workplace Safety Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine the efficacy of the United States Department of Labor, focusing on enforcing the law.

SD–628

Commerce, Science, and Transportation

To hold hearings to examine violence in the media.

SR–253

Daily Digest

Senate

Chamber Action

Routine Proceedings, pages S6033–S6078

Measures Introduced: Fourteen bills and three resolutions were introduced, as follows: S. 1376–1389, and S. Res. 196–198. **Pages S6054–55**

Measures Passed:

National Nurses Week: Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions was discharged from further consideration of S. Res. 192, recognizing National Nurses Week on May 6 through May 12, 2007, and the resolution was then agreed to. **Page S6077**

National MPS Awareness Day: Senate agreed to S. Res. 198, designating May 15, 2007, as ''National MPS Awareness Day''. **Pages S6077–78**

American Hellenic Educational Progressive Association Anniversary: Committee on the Judiciary was discharged from further consideration of H. Con. Res. 71, commemorating the 85th Anniversary of the founding of the American Hellenic Educational Progressive Association (AHEPA), a leading association for the Nation's 1.3 million American citizens of Greek ancestry, and Philhellenes, and the resolution was then agreed to. **Page S6078**

Measures Considered:

Water Resources Development Act: Senate began consideration of H.R. 1495, to provide for the conservation and development of water and related resources, to authorize the Secretary of the Army to construct various projects for improvements to rivers and harbors of the United States, and taking action on the following amendments proposed thereto: **Pages S6036–50**

Pending:

Boxer/Inhofe Amendment No. 1065, in the nature of a substitute. **Page S6036**

Boxer (for Feingold) Amendment No. 1086 (to Amendment No. 1065), to establish a Water Resources Commission to prioritize water resources projects in the United States. **Page S6036**

Reid (for Levin/Reid) Amendment No. 1097 (to the language proposed to be stricken by Amendment No. 1065), to provide for military readiness and benchmarks relative to Iraq. **Pages S6036–38**

Reid Amendment No. 1098 (to Amendment No. 1097), to provide for a transition of the Iraq mission. **Pages S6038–43**

Coburn Amendment No. 1089 (to Amendment No. 1065), to prioritize federal spending to ensure the needs of Louisiana residents who lost their homes as a result of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita are met before spending money to design or construct a nonessential visitors center. **Pages S6043–44**

Coburn Amendment No. 1090 (to Amendment No. 1065), to prioritize federal spending to ensure the residents of the city of Sacramento are protected from the threat of floods before spending money to add sand to beaches in San Diego. **Pages S6044–50**

A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing for further consideration of the bill at 11 a.m., on Tuesday, May 15, 2007, and that the time until 11:45 a.m. be for debate with respect to Coburn Amendment No. 1090 (listed above), with the time equally divided and controlled between Senators Boxer and Coburn, or their designees; that at 11:45 a.m., Senate vote on or in relation to Coburn Amendment No. 1090, with no intervening amendment in order prior to the vote; provided further, that any cloture motions filed on Reid Amendments No. 1097 and 1098 (listed above) be considered as having been filed on Monday, May 15, 2007 prior to the motion to proceed to consideration of S. 1348. **Page S6050**

Comprehensive Immigration Reform—Cloture: Senate began consideration of the motion to proceed to consideration of S. 1348, to provide for comprehensive immigration reform. **Page S6077**

A motion was entered to close further debate on the motion to proceed to consideration of the bill, and, in accordance with the provisions of Rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, a vote on cloture will occur on Wednesday, May 16, 2007, at a time determined by the Majority Leader, following consultation with the Republican Leader. **Page S6077**

Subsequently, the motion to proceed was withdrawn. **Page S6077**

Messages from the House: **Pages S6050–51**

Measures Referred: Page S6051
Measures Placed on the Calendar: Page S6051
Petitions and Memorials: Pages S6051–54
Additional Cosponsors: Pages S6055–57
Statements on Introduced Bills/Resolutions: Pages S6057–72
Additional Statements: Pages S6050–57
Amendments Submitted: Pages S6072–77
Notices of Hearings/Meetings: Page S6077

Adjournment: Senate convened at 2 p.m., and adjourned at 5:30 p.m., until 10 a.m. on Tuesday, May 15, 2007. (For Senate's program, see the remarks of the Majority Leader in today's Record on page S6078.)

Committee Meetings

No committee meetings were held.

House of Representatives

Chamber Action

Public Bills and Resolutions Introduced: 22 public bills, H.R. 2289–2310; 1 private bill, H.R. 2311; and 5 resolutions, H. Con. Res. 148; and H. Res. 398–401 were introduced. Pages H4965–66

Additional Cosponsors: Pages H4966–68

Reports Filed: A report was filed on May, 11, 2007 as follows:

H.R. 1585, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2008 for military activities of the Department of Defense and to prescribe military personnel strengths for fiscal year 2008, with an amendment (H. Rept. 110–146).

Reports were filed today as follows:

H.R. 1773, to limit the authority of the Secretary of Transportation to grant authority to motor carriers domiciled in Mexico to operate beyond United States municipalities and commercial zones on the United States-Mexico border, with an amendment (H. Rept. 110–147);

H.R. 916, to provide for loan repayment for prosecutors and public defenders, with an amendment (H. Rept. 110–148);

H.R. 1615, to amend title 18, United States Code, to provide penalties for aiming laser pointers at airplanes, with an amendment (H. Rept. 110–149); and

H.R. 1700, to amend the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 to enhance the COPS ON THE BEAT grant program, with an amendment (H. Rept. 110–150).

H.R. 1585, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2008 for military activities of the Department of Defense and to prescribe military personnel strengths for fiscal year 2008, with an amendment (H. Rept. 110–146, Part II) Page H4965

Speaker: Read a letter from the Speaker wherein she appointed Representative Costa to act as Speaker Pro Tempore for today. Page H4917

Recess: The House recessed at 10:38 a.m. and reconvened at noon. Page H4918

Chaplain: The prayer was offered by the guest Chaplain, Dr. Alan Keiran, Senate Chaplain's Office, Washington D.C. Page H4918

Suspensions: The House agreed to suspend the rules and pass the following measures:

Extending the District of Columbia College Access Act of 1999: H.R. 1124, to extend the District of Columbia College Access Act of 1999, by a ⅔ yea-and-nay vote of 268 yeas to 100 nays, Roll No. 342; Pages H4918–20, H4930–31

Supporting the goals and ideals of a National Day of Remembrance for Murder Victims: H. Res. 223, to support the goals and ideals of a National Day of Remembrance for Murder Victims, by a ⅔ yea-and-nay vote of 369 yeas with none voting "nay", Roll No. 343; Pages H4920–22, H4931–32

Claude Ramsey Post Office Designation Act: H.R. 1260, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 6301 Highway 58 in Harrison, Tennessee, as the "Claude Ramsey Post Office"; Pages H4922–23

Harriett F. Woods Post Office Building Designation Act: H.R. 1617, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 561 Kingsland Avenue in University City, Missouri, as the "Harriett F. Woods Post Office Building"; Pages H4923–24

Willye B. White Post Office Building Designation Act: H.R. 2025, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 11033 South

State Street in Chicago, Illinois, as the "Willye B. White Post Office Building"; **Pages H4924–26**

S/Sgt Lewis G. Watkins Post Office Building Designation Act: H.R. 1335, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 508 East Main Street in Seneca, South Carolina, as the "S/Sgt Lewis G. Watkins Post Office Building"; **Pages H4926–27**

Recognizing National AmeriCorps Week: H. Res. 385, to recognize National AmeriCorps Week, by a ⅔ yea-and-nay vote of 346 yeas to 21 nays with 1 voting "present", Roll No. 344; and **Pages H4927–29, H4932–33**

Commending the Juniata College volleyball team for winning the NCAA Division III Women's Volleyball Championship: H. Res. 216, to commend the Juniata College volleyball team for winning the NCAA Division III Women's Volleyball Championship. **Pages H4929–30**

Recess: The House recessed at 1:36 p.m. and reconvened at 6:30 p.m. **Page H4930**

Moment of Silence: The House observed a moment of silence in honor of Mendel Davis, former Member of Congress. **Page H4932**

Senate Message: Message received from the Senate by the Clerk and subsequently presented to the House today appears on page H4918.

Senate Referral: S. Con. Res. 29 was held at the desk. **Page H4918**

Amendments: Amendments ordered printed pursuant to the rule appear on page H4968.

Quorum Calls—Votes: Three yea-and-nay votes developed during the proceedings of today and appear on pages H4930–31, H4931–32, H4932. There were no quorum calls.

Adjournment: The House met at 10:30 a.m. and adjourned at 10:34 p.m.

Committee Meetings

FEDERAL CROP INSURANCE PROGRAM

Committee on Agriculture: Subcommittee on General Farm Commodities and Risk Management held a hearing to review the Federal Crop Insurance Program. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

SELECT INTELLIGENCE OVERSIGHT PANEL

Committee on Appropriations: Select Intelligence Oversight Panel met in executive session on Domestic Agencies Intelligence Programs. Testimony was heard from Charles Allen, Assistant Secretary, Intelligence and Analysis, Department of Homeland Security; Rolf Mowatt-Larssen, Director, Intelligence and Counterintelligence, Department of Energy; and Willie T. Hulon, Executive Assistant Director, National Security Branch, FBI, Department of Justice.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR TUESDAY, MAY 15, 2007

(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

Senate

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources: to hold hearings to examine the short-term energy outlook for summer 2007, focusing on oil and gasoline, 10 a.m., SD–366.

Subcommittee on National Parks, to hold hearings to examine S. 553, to amend the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act to designate certain segments of the Eightmile River in the State of Connecticut as components of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System, S. 800, to establish the Niagara Falls National Heritage Area in the State of New York, S. 916, to modify the boundary of the Minidoka Internment National Monument, to establish the Minidoka National Historic Site, to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to convey certain land and improvements of the Gooding Division of the Minidoka Project, Idaho, S. 1057, to amend the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act to designate certain segments of the New River in the States of North Carolina and Virginia as a component of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System, S. 1209, to provide for the continued administration of Santa Rosa Island, Channel Islands National Park, in accordance with the laws (including regulations) and policies of the National Park Service, S. 1281, to amend the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act to designate certain rivers and streams of the headwaters of the Snake River System as additions to the National Wild and Scenic River System, H.R. 161, to adjust the boundary of the Minidoka Internment National Monument to include the Nidoto Nai Yoni Memorial in Bainbridge Island, Washington, H.R. 247, to designate a Forest Service trail at Waldo Lake in the Willamette National Forest in the State of Oregon as a national recreation trail in honor of Jim Weaver, a former Member of the House of Representatives, and H.R. 376, to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a special resource study to determine the suitability and feasibility of including the battlefields and related sites of the First and Second Battles of Newtonia, Missouri, during the Civil War as part of Wilson's Creek National Battlefield or designating the battlefields and related sites as a separate unit of the National Park System, 2:30 p.m., SD–366.

Committee on Environment and Public Works: to hold hearings to examine green buildings, focusing on benefits to health, the environment, and the bottom line, 10 a.m., SD–406.

Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions: Subcommittee on Retirement and Aging, to hold hearings to examine Alzheimer's disease, focusing on current and future breakthrough research, 10 a.m., SD–628.

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs: to hold hearings to examine equal representation in Congress, focusing on providing voting rights to the District of Columbia, 10 a.m., SD–342.

Committee on the Judiciary: to hold hearings to examine the Department of Justice politicizing the hiring and firing of United States Attorneys, focusing on preserving prosecutorial independence, 10 a.m., SD–226.

House

Committee on Agriculture, Subcommittee on Horticulture and Organic Agriculture, hearing to review industry response to the safety of fresh and fresh-cut produce, 10 a.m., 1300 Longworth.

Committee on Education and Labor, hearing on Best Practices for Making College Campuses Safe, 10 a.m., 2175 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Workforce Protections, hearing on Private Sector Whistleblowers: Are There Sufficient Legal Protections? 2 p.m., 2175 Rayburn.

Committee on Energy and Commerce, Subcommittee on Commerce, Trade and Consumer Protection, hearing entitled ''Protecting Our Children: Current Issues in Children's Product Safety,'' 10 a.m., 2123 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Health, hearing entitled ''Medicare Savings Plan and Low Income Subsidy: Keeping Medicare's Promise for Seniors and People with Disabilities,'' 2 p.m., 2123 Rayburn.

Committee on Foreign Affairs, hearing on U.S. Re-Engagement in the Global Effort to Fight Climate Change, 10 a.m., 2172 Rayburn.

Committee on Homeland Security, hearing entitled ''The 2007 Hurricane Season: Are We Prepared?'' 1 p.m., 311 Cannon.

Committee on Natural Resources, Subcommittee on National Parks, Forests, and Public Lands, hearing on the following bills: H.R. 1239, National Underground Railroad Network to Freedom Reauthorization Act of 2007; H.R. 1388, Star-Spangled Banner National Historic Trail Act; H.R. 1483, To amend the Omnibus Parks and Public Lands Management Act of 1996 to extend the authorization for certain national heritage areas; and H.R. 1528, New England National Scenic Trial Designation Act, 10 a.m., 1324 Longworth.

Committee on Rules, to consider the following: H.R. 1427, Federal Housing Finance Reform Act of 2007; and H.R. 1585, National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2008, 3 p.m., H–313 Capitol.

Committee on Science and Technology, Subcommittee on Energy and Environment, hearing on Prospects for Advanced Coal Technologies: Efficient Energy Production, Carbon Capture and Sequestration, 1 p.m., 2318 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Research and Science Education, hearing on Federal STEM Education Programs: Educator's Perspectives, 10 a.m., 2318 Rayburn.

Committee on Veterans' Affairs, to markup the following bills: H.R. 612, Returning Servicemember VA Health Insurance Act of 2007; H.R. 67, Veterans Outreach Improvement Act of 2007; H.R. 1660, To direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to establish a national cemetery for veterans in the southern Colorado region; H.R. 1470, Chiropractic Care Available to All Veterans Act; and H.R. 2199, to amend title 38, United States Code, to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to provide certain improvements in treatment of individuals with traumatic brain injuries, 2 p.m., 334 Cannon.

Committee on Ways and Means, Subcommittee on Health, hearing on Payments to Certain Medicare Fee-for-Service Providers, 2 p.m., 1100 Longworth.

Subcommittee on Income Security, hearing on challenges Facing the Child Welfare System, 10 a.m., B–318 Rayburn.

Next Meeting of the **SENATE**

10 a.m., Tuesday, May 15

Senate Chamber

Program for Tuesday: After the transaction of any morning business (not to extend beyond 60 minutes), Senate will continue consideration of H.R. 1495, Water Resources Development Act, and vote on or in relation to Coburn Amendment No. 1090 at approximately 11:45 a.m.

(Senate will recess from 12:30 p.m. until 2:15 p.m. for their respective party conferences.)

Next Meeting of the **HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

9 a.m. Tuesday, May 15

House Chamber

Program for Tuesday: Consideration of the following suspensions: (1) H.R. 1700—COPS Improvements Act of 2007; (2) H.R. 692—Army Specialist Joseph P. Micks Federal Flag Code Amendment Act of 2007; (3) H.R. 1593—Second Chance Act of 2007; (4) H.R. 916—John R. Justice Prosecutors and Defenders Incentive Act of 2007; (5) H.R. 634—American Veterans Disabled for Life Commemorative Coin; (6) H. Res. 263—Recognizing National Foster Care Month as an opportunity for Congress to improve the foster care system throughout the United States; (7) H.R. 1773—Safe American Roads Act of 2007; (8) H.R. 1505—To designate the Federal building located at 131 East 4th Street in Davenport, Iowa, as the ''James A. Leach Federal Building''; (9) H.R. 1036—To authorize the Administrator of General Services to convey a parcel of real property to the Alaska Railroad Corporation; (10) H. Con. Res. 79—Authorizing the use of the Capitol Grounds for the Greater Washington Soap Box Derby; (11) H. Con. Res. 123—Authorizing the use of the Capitol Grounds for the District of Columbia Special Olympics Law Enforcement Torch Run; (12) H. Res. 352—Supporting the goals and ideals of National Public Works Week; (13) H. Res. 343—Commemorating the marinas of the United States and expressing support for the designation of the sixth annual National Marina Day; and (14) H. Res. 386—Recognizing the Coast Guard, the Coast Guard Auxiliary, and the National Safe Boating Council for their efforts to promote National Safe Boating Week.

Extensions of Remarks, as inserted in this issue

HOUSE

Cleaver, Emanuel, Mo., E1042
Cummings, Elijah E., Md., E1040
Ellsworth, Brad, Ind., E1043
Engel, Eliot L., N.Y., E1042
Garrett, Scott, N.J., E1034
Graves, Sam, Mo., E1042
Higgins, Brian, N.Y., E1037
Hunter, Duncan, Calif., E1038
Johnson, Eddie Bernice, Tex., E1041
Kennedy, Patrick J., R.I., E1037
Lofgren, Zoe, Calif., E1040
Lynch, Stephen F., Mass., E1043
McCollum, Betty, Minn., E1033, E1034, E1036, E1039, E1040
Maloney, Carolyn B., N.Y., E1043
Markey, Edward J., Mass., E1041
Murphy, Tim, Pa., E1034, E1039
Nunes, Devin, Calif., E1036
Porter, Jon C., Nev., E1041, E1042, E1043
Rangel, Charles B., N.Y., E1037
Rogers, Mike, Ala., E1035
Ros-Lehtinen, Ileana, Fla., E1034
Sessions, Pete, Tex., E1034
Spratt, John M., Jr., S.C., E1041
Tauscher, Ellen O., Calif., E1033, E1037
Terry, Lee, Nebr., E1042
Thompson, Mike, Calif., E1033, E1036
Walden, Greg, Ore., E1035
Walsh, James T., N.Y., E1039
Wasserman Schultz, Debbie, Fla., E1043
Wolf, Frank R., Va., E1035

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