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House of Representatives

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

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
December 4, 2007.

I hereby appoint the Honorable TIM HOLDEN to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

NANCY PELOSI,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Daniel P. Coughlin, offered the following prayer:

Lord of heaven and Earth, darkness descends upon us as the days grow shorter, and the cold chastens us to withdraw inside.

Be for us the light we long for. The very promise of change creates expectation.

By the first hints of Your dawn, banish all fear and hesitation. May those who live on the margins of America's rich blessings have peace and prosperity too.

Strengthen us with Your mighty arm, that this Congress may be unified in lifting Your people to renewed hope.

For You are always faithful and can be trusted, now and forever.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

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

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentlewoman from Guam (Ms. BORDALLO) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Ms. BORDALLO 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.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE BLUE CROSS/BLUE SHIELD OF SOUTH CAROLINA FOUNDATION

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

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and thank the Blue Cross/Blue Shield of South Carolina Foundation for the hard work on behalf of the citizens of South Carolina.

The purpose of the Blue Cross/Blue Shield Foundation is to promote the health and well-being of economically disadvantaged South Carolinians through expanded access to quality and affordable health care. Through the awarding of grants, the foundation provides necessary resources to free clinics, health education programs, and school nursing programs. Realizing that it is often children and young adults most adversely affected by inadequate health care, the foundation focuses on providing grant money to services that will assist children and adolescents who are either uninsured or underinsured.

This year they have embarked on a state-wide tour to recognize the $1.6 million in grants that they will be awarding. This is part of over $7 million in grants they have awarded since 2003.

I want to thank the foundation's executive director, Harvey Galloway, and the CEO of Blue Cross/Blue Shield, Ed Sellers, for their strong leadership.

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

FUND OUR VETERANS

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

Mrs. DRAKE. Mr. Speaker, this is day 65. That's 65 days so far that our veterans have not had the use of the increased funding for their benefits and health care. That's $18.5 million a day not able to be used.

This bill has been done for months and the President has already agreed to sign it. But instead of moving the bill forward, the Democratic leadership in Congress chose to adjourn early for the Thanksgiving holiday.

I'm calling on the Speaker to pass this bill, and I call on all Americans to contact their Representatives and tell the Democratic leadership to send a clean veterans appropriation bill to the President now.

Our veterans are heroes. We must provide all possible benefits and health care for our veterans now.

HONORING THE LIFE OF CONGRESSMAN HENRY HYDE

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

Mr. STEARNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and accomplishments of a terrific Member, former Congressman Henry Hyde. He's often recognized for his wisdom and his eloquence of speaking. But, frankly, there were some other sides of him that were very precious. He was a man of quick wit and a keen sense of humor, to which I was always a willing audience.

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Above all, he was passionately committed to protecting and improving the lives of Americans, all Americans, both born and the unborn. He was an effective pro-life advocate, through prohibiting Federal funding of abortions with the Hyde amendment and his advocacy for the ban on partial-birth abortions. Conservative estimates indicate that there are about 2 million Americans alive today as a direct result of his work.

Henry Hyde leaves behind a legacy that inspires and challenges those of us who remain behind today.

My deepest condolences and sympathy to his family, and may God bless Henry Hyde.

IN RECOGNITION OF TIM CULBERTSON

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

Mr. CHABOT. Mr. Speaker, I'd like to take a moment today to recognize Tim Culbertson and all the members of the Cheviot-Western Hills Chapter of the Military Order of the Purple Heart, Chapter 3620.

The primary mission of the Military Order of the Purple Heart is to foster an environment of goodwill and camaraderie among wounded combat veterans, to promote patriotism, and to provide service to all veterans and their families.

Tim Culbertson, a Vietnam veteran and Purple Heart recipient himself, has spent decades advocating on behalf of his fellow veterans, and his service with the Military Order of the Purple Heart makes him a great asset to our whole community.

In 2000, Mr. Culbertson was instrumental in the establishment of Chapter 3620, and his dedication and patriotism were recognized earlier this year at the annual National Purple Heart Convention, where he was named the top Americanism Officer in the United States, an honor he truly deserves.

The sense of spirit, patriotism and generosity exhibited by the members of Chapter 3620 reflect the dedication, enthusiasm and commitment of their Americanism Officer, Tim Culbertson. It gives me great pleasure to recognize Tim for his accomplishments, and I congratulate him on receiving this national award, and I thank him for his contributions to all the veterans of the First District of Ohio.

LET'S STICK TO OUR GUNS

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

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Well, what do you know, Mr. Speaker. After months of drum beat urging that we take a more aggressive posture toward Iran, mention by the President of a potential World War III, the assumptions, the assertions by the White House that Iran is aggressively pursuing a nuclear weapons program, we now find that as with Iraq, this was not true.

But, differently from what happened with Iraq, this time those professional, courageous civil servants in our national intelligence agencies stood up to intimidation from the White House and spoke the truth objectively and detailed it with facts. We're very proud of them.

All the more reason why we should not yield to the President's threats to furlough over 200,000 civilian employees and contractors just before Christmas unless the Congress approves another $50 billion in war spending.

Mr. Speaker, we need to stick to our guns. We've approved $459 billion in defense spending. That's enough.

SOUND POLICY FOR AMERICA'S ENERGY NEEDS, NOT HOLLOW PROMISES

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

Mr. BOUSTANY. Mr. Speaker, when it comes to a national energy policy, here we go again.

In January, the Democratic leadership promised to work across party lines to come up with a sound, comprehensive energy bill that would address Americans' anxieties about dramatically high gas prices and escalating home heating costs.

However, the Democratic energy proposals have lacked any substance to outline a blueprint for increasing our domestic supply.

Make no mistake: we must boost our domestic energy supply. The American people want stable prices at the pump, and we can begin to address these problems; but we in Congress must make reasoned energy policy.

By promoting a level playing field for technologies, diversifying energy supplies, and increasing our domestic opportunities, we can harness our ingenuity and natural resources to relieve our current difficulties.

The American people expect more from Congress. We must increase our supply without overburdening energy producers with unwieldy bureaucracy. Let's work together to help the American people and provide some relief to the anxiety they face this winter.

RESIGNATION FROM THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following resignation from the House of Representatives:

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, November 26, 2007.

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

DEAR MADAM SPEAKER: This is to inform you that I have sent a letter to Illinois Governor Rod R. Blagojevich informing him that I am resigning my position as the United States Representative for the 14th District of Illinois effective 10:59 p.m. CST, November 26th, 2007.

Madam Speaker, it has been a high honor to serve in the House of Representatives for almost 21 years. I am grateful to the people of Illinois for giving me that honor.

Let me also thank you, Madam Speaker, for the many courtesies you have afforded to me as a former Speaker during the past year and I wish you and all my colleagues God's blessing as you continue in your service.

I am sincerely,

J. DENNIS HASTERT,
Member of Congress.

Enc: Letter to Governor Rod R. Blagojevich.

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, November 26, 2007.

Hon. ROD R. BLAGOJEVICH,
Governor, State of Illinois,
Springfield, IL.

DEAR GOVERNOR BLAGOJEVICH: I am hereby resigning my position as the United States Representative for the 14th District of Illinois effective 10:59 p.m. CST, November 26, 2007.

I have chosen this date because I have been advised that it allows you sufficient time to call a special primary to select candidates to run to fill my unexpired term on February 5, 2008, an already established primary day. This will minimize inconvenience to the voters and expense to the counties in the 14th Congressional District.

Serving the people of the 14th District of Illinois in the United States House of Representatives has been a high honor that I will long cherish.

I am sincerely,

J. DENNIS HASTERT,
Member of Congress.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under clause 5(d) of rule XX, the Chair announces to the House that, in light of the resignation of the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. HASTERT), the whole number of the House is 432.

RECOGNIZING THE SUCCESS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII'S UNDEFEATED FOOTBALL TEAM

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

Ms. HIRONO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the University of Hawaii, my alma mater, and to congratulate its football team for an undefeated season. Coach June Jones and the entire team deserve recognition for all that they have accomplished this season. Their perfect record of 12 wins and no losses is the best in the school's history, and they are the champions of the Western Athletic Conference. UH is the only unbeaten team in the Nation; and, as a result, the Warriors have qualified for a BCS bowl game. The team has been led by star quarterback Colt Brennan, who is my candidate for the Heisman Trophy.

I'm holding footballs signed by Coach June Jones and Colt Brennan, and I

keep them prominently displayed in my office in D.C. as reminders of the Warriors' success.

I join the rest of the Aloha State in cheering on the University of Hawaii and wish the team good luck in the Sugar Bowl.

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, November 16, 2007.

Hon. NANCY PELOSI,
The Speaker, H-232 The Capitol,
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 November 16, 2007, at 3:34 p.m.:

That the Senate passed S. 1679.
That the Senate passed S. 2168.
That the Senate passed S. 2110.
That the Senate passed S. 2290.
That the Senate passed S. 2174.
That the Senate passed S. 2272.
That the Senate agreed to S. Con. Res. 55.
That the Senate agreed to S. Con. Res. 56.
That the Senate passed with an amendment H.R. 2761.
That the Senate passed without amendment H.R. 50.
That the Senate passed without amendment H.R. 465.
That the Senate passed without amendment H.R. 3572.
That the Senate passed without amendment H.R. 3446.
That the Senate passed without amendment H.R. 3382.
That the Senate passed without amendment H.R. 3325.
That the Senate passed without amendment H.R. 3308.
That the Senate passed without amendment H.R. 3530.
That the Senate passed without amendment H.R. 3518.
That the Senate passed without amendment H.R. 3307.
That the Senate passed without amendment H.R. 3297.
That the Senate passed without amendment H.R. 2276.
That the Senate passed without amendment H.R. 2089.

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 4 of rule I, the following enrolled bills were signed:

By Speaker pro tempore Van Hollen on Tuesday, November 20, 2007:

H.R. 50, Multinational Species Conservation Funds Reauthorization Act of 2007

H.R. 465, Asian Elephant Conservation Reauthorization Act of 2007

H.R. 2089, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 701 Loyola Avenue in New Orleans, Louisiana, as the ''Louisiana Armed Services Veterans Post Office''

H.R. 2276, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 203 North Main Street in Vassar, Michigan, as the ''Corporal Christopher E. Esckelson Post Office Building''

H.R. 3297, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 950 West Trenton Avenue in Morrisville, Pennsylvania, as the ''Nate DeTample Post Office Building''

H.R. 3307, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 570 Broadway in Bayonne, New Jersey, as the ''Dennis P. Collins Post Office Building''

H.R. 3308, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 216 East Main Street in Atwood, Indiana, as the ''Lance Corporal David K. Fribley Post Office''

H.R. 3325, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 235 Mountain Road in Suffield, Connecticut, as the ''Corporal Stephen R. Bixler Post Office''

H.R. 3382, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 200 North William Street in Goldsboro, North Carolina, as the ''Philip A. Baddour, Sr. Post Office''

H.R. 3446, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 202 East Michigan Avenue in Marshall, Michigan, as the ''Michael W. Schragg Post Office Building''

H.R. 3518, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1430 South Highway 29 in Cantonment, Florida, as the ''Charles H. Hendrix Post Office Building''

H.R. 3530, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1400 Highway 41 North in Inverness, Florida, as the ''Chief Officer Aaron Weaver Post Office Building''

H.R. 3572, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 4320 Blue Parkway in Kansas City, Missouri, as the ''Wallace S. Hartsfield Post Office Building''

By the Speaker on Friday, November 30, 2007:

H.R. 3963, to amend title XXI of the Social Security Act to extend and improve the Children's Health Insurance Program, and for other purposes

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COMMUNICATION FROM DEPUTY CHIEF OF STAFF OF THE HONORABLE RICK BOUCHER, MEMBER OF CONGRESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from Laura L. Lee, Deputy Chief of Staff of the Honorable RICK BOUCHER, Member of Congress:

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, November 21, 2007.

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

DEAR MADAM SPEAKER: This is to notify you formally, pursuant to Rule VIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, that I have been served with a subpoena, issued in the U.S. District Court for the Western District of Virginia, for testimony in a criminal case.

After consultation with the Office of General Counsel, I have determined that compliance with the subpoena is consistent with the precedents and privileges of the House.

Sincerely,

LAURA L. LEE,
Deputy Chief of Staff.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE HON. TOM LANTOS, MEMBER OF CONGRESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Honorable TOM LANTOS, Member of Congress:

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,
COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS,
Washington, DC, November 28, 2007.

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

DEAR MADAM SPEAKER: This is to formally notify you pursuant to Rule VIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives that I have been served with a trial subpoena for testimony issued by the Superior Court of the District of Columbia.

The underlying case has since been voluntarily dismissed. Accordingly, the subpoena is now moot and it is unnecessary for me to make the determinations required by Rule VIII.

Sincerely,

TOM LANTOS,
Chairman.

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.

RECOGNIZING 200 YEARS OF RESEARCH, SERVICE, AND STEWARDSHIP BY NOAA AND ITS PREDECESSOR AGENCIES

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 147) recognizing 200 years of research, service to the people of the United States, and stewardship of the marine environment by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and its predecessor agencies, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the concurrent resolution.

The text of the concurrent resolution is as follows:

H. CON. RES. 147

Whereas the Act of February 10, 1807 (chapter VIII; 2 Stat. 413), signed by President Thomas Jefferson, authorized and requested the President ''to cause a survey to be taken of the coast of the United States . . . together

with such other matters as he may deem proper for completing an accurate chart of every part of the coasts'';

Whereas the Coast Survey was established to carry out the duties established under such Act, and was the first Federal science agency of the United States;

Whereas over time additional duties were granted to such agency, including geodetic surveying and tide and current monitoring and predictions, and such agency was later renamed the Coast and Geodetic Survey;

Whereas in addition to providing charts and information vital to our young Nation's economic and commercial success, such pioneering agency led some of the Nation's earliest oceanographic research, undertaking surveys of the Gulf Stream to determine temperatures, depths, direction, and velocity, as well as the character of the seafloor and forms of vegetation and marine life;

Whereas the early technicians and scientists of such agency invented and supported the development of many innovative tools that led to advances in hydrographic, shoreline, and geodetic surveying and cartographic methods, the first real-time water level stations, and deep-sea anchoring;

Whereas during the 20th century such agency, by then renamed the Coast and Geodetic Survey, advanced the development and marine applications of electronics and acoustics, including the development of Radar Acoustic Ranging, radio sono-buoys, and the Roberts Radio Current Meter Buoy;

Whereas throughout their history these programs have provided services in support of the Nation's commerce and defense, serving in all theaters of the Civil War and in World Wars I and II as hydrographers, cartographers, topographers, and scouts, including the production of more than 100 million maps and charts for United States and Allied forces;

Whereas as our Nation's interests and economy became increasingly interwoven with the marine and atmospheric environment, a number of Federal science agencies with complimentary functions, including the Weather Bureau and the Bureau of Commercial Fisheries, were combined with the Coast Survey to create the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA);

Whereas today these mapping and charting, geodesy, and tide and current data programs are located in the National Ocean Service of NOAA in the Coast Survey, the National Geodetic Survey, and the Center for Operational Oceanographic Products and Services;

Whereas these programs promote NOAA's commerce and transportation goals and continue to support the research, development, and application of state-of-the-art surveying, mapping, charting, ocean observing, modeling, and Internet-based product delivery services to promote safe and efficient commerce and transportation and contributing to the advancement of integrated ocean and earth observing systems;

Whereas these programs continue to demonstrate relevance, value, importance, and service promoting and employing innovative partnerships with other agencies, State and local authorities, academia, and the private sector;

Whereas these programs work internationally as the United States representative to the International Hydrographic Organization and through other organizations to promote integrated and uniform standards, protocols, formats, and services;

Whereas in addition to commerce and transportation these programs also advance NOAA's weather and water, climate, and ecosystem missions including marine resource conservation, coastal management, and the protection of life and property from coastal storms and other hazards, as most recently demonstrated in responding to and facilitating the recovery of communities and commerce in the hurricane stricken Gulf Coast; and

Whereas the devotion, industry, efficiency, and enterprise of these people and programs over their 200-year history have set an enviable record of public service: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring), That the Congress—

(1) recognizes that for over 200 years, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and its predecessor agencies have been providing to the Nation research to improve human understanding of the oceans and atmosphere, service, and stewardship of the marine environment, through products and services that protect lives and property, strengthen the economy, and support and sustain our coastal and marine resources;

(2) recognizes the vision of President Thomas Jefferson in supporting the advancement of science, and the survey of the coast in particular, to the welfare and commercial success of the Nation;

(3) recognizes the contributions made over the last 200 years by the past and current employees and officers of the Coast Survey, the National Geodetic Survey, and the Center for Operational Oceanographic Products and Services of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration; and

(4) encourages the people of the United States to salute and share in the planned celebrations of these historic programs during 2007 with ceremonies designed to give appropriate recognition to one of our oldest and most respected Federal agencies on the occasion of its bicentennial anniversary.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Guam (Ms. BORDALLO) and the gentlewoman from Washington (Mrs. MCMORRIS RODGERS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Guam.

GENERAL LEAVE

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

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

There was no objection.

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

House Concurrent Resolution 147 recognizes the contributions that the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and the agencies which preceded it, together with their employees, have made in improving our understanding of the oceans and the marine environment. The resolution also recognizes the vision of Thomas Jefferson when he recognized that the survey of our Nation's coast is critical to our welfare and commercial success.

This month represents the culmination of ceremonies and commemorative events that have occurred across the country during 2007 recognizing 200 years of invaluable research, service, and stewardship of the marine environment provided by NOAA and its predecessor agencies.

As the chairwoman of the Subcommittee on Fisheries, Wildlife and Oceans, I too recognize the work of NOAA's dedicated civil servants, the NOAA Corps, and NOAA's partners in fulfilling the NOAA mission. The agency benefits from the strong and able leadership of Vice Admiral Conrad Lautenbacher, the current NOAA Administrator.

Lastly, I want to thank my colleague and good friend from South Carolina, the ranking member of the committee (Mr. BROWN), for his work in sponsoring this resolution. I am honored to join him in recognizing NOAA on this occasion, and I have enjoyed working with him this past year and am looking forward to our work together on the subcommittee in the next session.

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

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

I rise in support of House Concurrent Resolution 147, sponsored by Congressman HENRY BROWN.

President Thomas Jefferson had the foresight in 1807 to initiate surveys of our Nation's coasts to promote the safe transport of vessels into American ports and along our Nation's coastlines. Since the mid 1960s, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, NOAA, has been responsible for conducting coastal and hydrographic surveys.

House Concurrent Resolution 147 acknowledges the vision of President Thomas Jefferson and recognizes NOAA and its predecessor agencies for 200 years of research, service to the people of the United States, and their stewardship of the marine environment.

Mr. Speaker, at this time I would like to yield 3 minutes to my colleague, the gentleman from South Carolina, the author of this legislation (Mr. BROWN).

Mr. BROWN of South Carolina. I appreciate the gentlewoman from Washington for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of House Concurrent Resolution 147. I am pleased we are considering this measure today on the House floor. I would like to thank my friend and the chairwoman of the Fisheries, Ocean and Wildlife Subcommittee, Congresswoman MADELEINE BORDALLO, for her hard work on cosponsorship of this resolution.

And what a real pleasure it is to work along with you as your ranking member.

And I would also like to thank Chairman NICK RAHALL and Ranking Member DON YOUNG of the Natural Resources Committee as well as my colleagues on the House Science Committee for their support of this resolution.

House Concurrent Resolution 147 recognizes NOAA and its predecessor agencies for 200 years of research and service to the people of the United

States and its stewardship of the marine environment.

It was the foresight of the third President, Thomas Jefferson, that started us down this path of surveying our coastal areas for the benefit of the Nation and laid the blueprint for what we now all know as the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

My district is home to several outstanding NOAA facilities including the Hollings Marine Laboratory and the Coastal Services Center, both of which are located in Charleston. These facilities and their work are an important part of the coastal South Carolina community.

NOAA has shown its dedication to our Nation's ocean and coastal resources. NOAA's management and conservation actions have allowed all of us to continue to enjoy our Nation's oceans and coastal resources.

I urge my colleagues to vote ''yes'' on this important resolution, and I congratulate NOAA for their 200 years.

Mrs. McMORRIS RODGERS. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Guam (Ms. BORDALLO) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution, H. Con. Res. 147.

The question was taken.

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

Ms. BORDALLO. 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 motion will be postponed.

AMERICA'S HISTORICAL AND NATURAL LEGACY STUDY ACT

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3998) to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to conduct special resources studies of certain lands and structures to determine the appropriate means for preservation, use, and management of the resources associated with such lands and structures, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 3998

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 ''America's Historical and Natural Legacy Study Act''.

SEC. 2. SECRETARY.

For the purposes of this Act, the term ''Secretary'' means the Secretary of the Interior.

SEC. 3. TABLE OF CONTENTS.

The table of contents is as follows:

Sec. 1. Short title.
Sec. 2. Secretary.
Sec. 3. Table of contents.
TITLE I—HARRY S TRUMAN BIRTHPLACE STUDY ACT
Sec. 101. Short title.
Sec. 102. Special resource study.
TITLE II—LEWIS AND CLARK NATIONAL HISTORIC TRAIL EXTENSION STUDY ACT
Sec. 201. Short title.
Sec. 202. Definitions.
Sec. 203. Special resource study.
TITLE III—BATTLE OF MATEWAN STUDY ACT
Sec. 301. Short title.
Sec. 302. Special resource study.
TITLE IV—BATTLE OF CAMDEN STUDY ACT
Sec. 401. Short title.
Sec. 402. Special resource study.
TITLE V—MISSISSIPPI RIVER STUDY ACT
Sec. 501. Short title.
Sec. 502. Special resource study.
TITLE VI—FORT SAN GERONIMO STUDY ACT
Sec. 601. Short title.
Sec. 602. Definitions.
Sec. 603. Special resource study.
TITLE VII—WOLF HOUSE STUDY ACT
Sec. 701. Short title.
Sec. 702. Special resource study.
TITLE VIII—RIM OF THE VALLEY CORRIDOR STUDY ACT
Sec. 801. Short title.
Sec. 802. Special resource study.
TITLE IX—BUTTERFIELD OVERLAND TRAIL STUDY ACT
Sec. 901. Short title.
Sec. 902. Special resource study.
TITLE X—HUNTING AND FISHING
Sec. 1001. Hunting and fishing.
TITLE XI—SENSE OF CONGRESS
Sec. 1101. Sense of congress.

TITLE I—HARRY S TRUMAN BIRTHPLACE STUDY ACT

SEC. 101. SHORT TITLE.

This title may be cited as the ''Harry S Truman Birthplace Study Act''.

SEC. 102. SPECIAL RESOURCE STUDY.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall complete a special resource study of the Harry S Truman Birthplace State Historic Site in Lamar, Missouri to determine—

(1) the suitability and feasibility of adding the birthplace site to the Harry S Truman National Historic Site or designating the site as a separate unit of the National Park System; and

(2) the methods and means for the protection and interpretation of the Harry S Truman Birthplace State Historic Site by the National Park Service, other Federal, State, or local government entities or private or non-profit organizations.

(b) STUDY REQUIREMENTS.—The Secretary shall conduct the study in accordance with section 8(c) of Public Law 91–383 (16 U.S.C. 1a–5).

(c) REPORT.—Not later than 3 years after the date on which funds are made available to carry out this Act, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Natural Resources of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate a report containing—

(1) the results of the study; and

(2) any recommendations of the Secretary.

TITLE II—LEWIS AND CLARK NATIONAL HISTORIC TRAIL EXTENSION STUDY ACT

SEC. 201. SHORT TITLE.

This title may be cited as the ''Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail Extension Study Act''.

SEC. 202. DEFINITIONS.

In this title:

(1) EASTERN LEGACY SITES.—The term ''Eastern Legacy sites'' means the sites associated with the preparation or return phases of the Lewis and Clark expedition, commonly known as the ''Eastern Legacy'', including sites in Virginia, the District of Columbia, Maryland, Delaware, Pennsylvania, West Virginia, Ohio, Kentucky, Tennessee, Indiana, Missouri, and Illinois. This includes the routes followed by Meriwether Lewis and William Clark, whether independently or together.

(2) TRAIL.—The term ''Trail'' means the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail designated by section 5(a)(6) of the National Trails System Act (16 U.S.C. 1244(a)(6)).

SEC. 203. SPECIAL RESOURCE STUDY.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall complete a special resource study of the Eastern Legacy sites to determine—

(1) the suitability and feasibility of adding these sites to the Trail; and

(2) the methods and means for the protection and interpretation of these sites by the National Park Service, other Federal, State, or local government entities or private or non-profit organizations.

(b) STUDY REQUIREMENTS.—The Secretary shall conduct the study in accordance with section 5(b) of the National Trails System Act (16 U.S.C. 1244(b)).

(c) REPORT.—Not later than 3 years after the date on which funds are made available to carry out this title, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Natural Resources of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate a report containing—

(1) the results of the study; and

(2) any recommendations of the Secretary.

TITLE III—BATTLE OF MATEWAN STUDY ACT

SEC. 301. SHORT TITLE.

This title may be cited as the ''Battle of Matewan Study Act''.

SEC. 302. SPECIAL RESOURCE STUDY.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall complete a special resource study of the sites and resources at Matewan, West Virginia, associated with the Battle of Matewan (also known as the Matewan Massacre) of May 19, 1920 to determine—

(1) the suitability and feasibility of designating certain historic areas of Matewan, West Virginia as a unit of the National Park System; and

(2) the methods and means for the protection and interpretation of these sites by the National Park Service, other Federal, State, or local government entities or private or non-profit organizations.

(b) STUDY REQUIREMENTS.—The Secretary shall conduct the study in accordance with section 8(c) of Public Law 91–383 (16 U.S.C. 1a–5).

(c) REPORT.—Not later than 3 years after the date on which funds are made available to carry out this title, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Natural Resources of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate a report containing—

(1) the results of the study; and

(2) any recommendations of the Secretary.

TITLE IV—BATTLE OF CAMDEN STUDY ACT

SEC. 401. SHORT TITLE.

This title may be cited as the ''Battle of Camden Study Act''.

SEC. 402. SPECIAL RESOURCE STUDY.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall complete a special resource study of the site of the Battle of Camden fought in South Carolina on August 16, 1780, and the site of Historic Camden, which is currently a National Park System Affiliated Area, to determine—

(1) the suitability and feasibility of designating these sites as a unit or units of the National Park System; and

(2) the methods and means for the protection and interpretation of these sites by the National Park Service, other Federal, State, or local government entities or private or non-profit organizations.

(b) STUDY REQUIREMENTS.—The Secretary shall conduct the study in accordance with section 8(c) of Public Law 91–383 (16 U.S.C. 1a–5).

(c) REPORT.—Not later than 3 years after the date on which funds are made available to carry out this title, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Natural Resources of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate a report containing—

(1) the results of the study; and

(2) any recommendations of the Secretary.

TITLE V—MISSISSIPPI RIVER STUDY ACT

SEC. 501. SHORT TITLE.

This title may be cited as the ''Mississippi River Study Act''.

SEC. 502. SPECIAL RESOURCE STUDY.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall complete a special resource study along the route of the Mississippi River in the counties contiguous to the river from its headwaters in the State of Minnesota to the Gulf of Mexico to evaluate—

(1) a range of alternatives for protecting and interpreting the resources along the route of the Mississippi River, including alternatives for potential addition of all or portions of the route to the National Trails System; and

(2) the methods and means for the protection and interpretation of the route by the National Park Service, other Federal, State, or local government entities or private or non-profit organizations.

(b) STUDY REQUIREMENTS.—The Secretary shall conduct the study in accordance with section 8 (c) of Public Law 91–383 (16 U.S.C. 1a–5) or section 5(b) of the National Trails System Act (16 U.S.C. 1244(b)) as appropriate.

(c) REPORT.—Not later than 3 years after the date on which funds are made available to carry out this title, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Natural Resources of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate a report containing—

(1) the results of the study; and

(2) any recommendations of the Secretary.

TITLE VI—FORT SAN GERÓNIMO STUDY ACT

SEC. 601. SHORT TITLE.

This title may be cited as the ''Fort San Gerónimo Study Act''.

SEC. 602. DEFINITIONS.

For the purposes of this title:

(1) FORT SAN GERÓNIMO.—The term ''Fort San Gerónimo'' (also known as ''Fortín de San Gerónimo del Boquerón'') means the fort and grounds listed on the National Register of Historic Places and located near Old San Juan, Puerto Rico.

(2) RELATED RESOURCES.—The term ''related resources'' means other parts of the fortification system of old San Juan that are not currently included within the boundary of San Juan National Historic Site, such as sections of the City Wall or other fortifications.

SEC. 603. SPECIAL RESOURCE STUDY.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall complete a special resource study of Fort San Gerónimo and other related resources, to determine—

(1) the suitability and feasibility of including Fort San Gerónimo and other related resources in the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico as part of San Juan National Historic Site; and

(2) the methods and means for the protection and interpretation of Fort San Gerónimo and other related resources by the National Park Service, other Federal, State, or local government entities or private or non-profit organizations.

(b) STUDY REQUIREMENTS.—The Secretary shall conduct the study in accordance with section 8(c) of Public Law 91–383 (16 U.S.C. 1a–5).

(c) REPORT.—Not later than 3 years after the date on which funds are made available to carry out this title, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Natural Resources of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate a report containing—

(1) the results of the study; and

(2) any recommendations of the Secretary.

TITLE VII—WOLF HOUSE STUDY ACT

SEC. 701. SHORT TITLE.

This title may be cited as the ''Wolf House Study Act''.

SEC. 702. SPECIAL RESOURCE STUDY.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall complete a special resource study of the Wolf House located on Highway 5 in Norfork, Arkansas, to determine—

(1) the suitability and feasibility of designating the Wolf House as a unit of the National Park System; and

(2) the methods and means for the protection and interpretation of the Wolf House by the National Park Service, other Federal, State, or local government entities or private or non-profit organizations.

(b) STUDY REQUIREMENTS.—The Secretary shall conduct the study in accordance with section 8(c) of Public Law 91–383 (16 U.S.C. 1a–5).

(c) REPORT.—Not later than 3 years after the date on which funds are made available to carry out this title, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Natural Resources of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate a report containing—

(1) the results of the study; and

(2) any recommendations of the Secretary.

TITLE VIII—RIM OF THE VALLEY CORRIDOR STUDY ACT

SEC. 801. SHORT TITLE.

This title may be cited as the ''Rim of the Valley Corridor Study Act''.

SEC. 802. SPECIAL RESOURCE STUDY.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall complete a special resource study of the area known as the Rim of the Valley Corridor, generally including the mountains encircling the San Fernando, La Crescenta, Santa Clarita, Simi, and Conejo Valleys in California, to determine—

(1) the suitability and feasibility of designating all or a portion of the corridor as a unit of the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area; and

(2) the methods and means for the protection and interpretation of this corridor by the National Park Service, other Federal, State, or local government entities or private or non-profit organizations.

(b) DOCUMENTATION.—In conducting the study authorized under subsection (a), the Secretary shall document—

(1) the process used to develop the existing Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area Fire Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement (September 2005); and

(2) all activity conducted pursuant to the plan referred to in paragraph (1) designed to protect lives and property from wildfire.

(c) STUDY REQUIREMENTS.—The Secretary shall conduct the study in accordance with section 8(c) of Public Law 91–383 (16 U.S.C. 1a–5).

(d) REPORT.—Not later than 3 years after the date on which funds are made available to carry out this title, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Natural Resources of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate a report containing—

(1) the results of the study; and

(2) any recommendations of the Secretary.

TITLE IX—BUTTERFIELD OVERLAND TRAIL STUDY ACT

SEC. 901. SHORT TITLE.

This title may be cited as the ''Butterfield Overland Trail Study Act''.

SEC. 902. SPECIAL RESOURCE STUDY.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall complete a special resource study along the ''Ox-Bow Route'' of the Butterfield Overland Trail in the States of Missouri, Tennessee, Arkansas, Oklahoma, Texas, New Mexico, Arizona, and California to evaluate—

(1) a range of alternatives for protecting and interpreting the resources of the trail area, including alternatives for potential addition of the trail area to the National Trails System; and

(2) the methods and means for the protection and interpretation of this trail by the National Park Service, other Federal, State, or local government entities or private or non-profit organizations.

(b) STUDY REQUIREMENTS.—The Secretary shall conduct the study in accordance with section 8(c) of Public Law 91–383 (16 U.S.C. 1a–5) or section 5(b) of the National Trails System Act (16 U.S.C. 1244(b)) as appropriate.

(c) REPORT.—Not later than 3 years after the date on which funds are made available to carry out this title, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Natural Resources of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate a report containing—

(1) the results of the study; and

(2) any recommendations of the Secretary.

TITLE X—HUNTING AND FISHING

SEC. 1001. HUNTING AND FISHING.

Each study authorized by this Act shall document the State and local laws governing hunting and fishing within the study area.

TITLE XI—SENSE OF CONGRESS

SEC. 1101. SENSE OF CONGRESS.

It is the sense of Congress that any subsequent legislation affecting the status of the areas subject to the special resources studies authorized under this Act shall be supported by the results of the relevant studies authorized by this Act.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Guam (Ms. BORDALLO) and the gentlewoman from Washington (Mrs. MCMORRIS RODGERS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Guam.

GENERAL LEAVE

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

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

There was no objection.

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

H.R. 3998 was introduced by our colleague from Arizona, the chairman of the National Parks, Forests and Public

Land Subcommittee, Representative RAÚL GRIJALVA.

This bill, America's Historical and National Legacy Study Act, would direct the Secretary of the Interior to study nine sites to determine the best way to preserve and interpret them, including an evaluation of whether they merit inclusion in the National Park System or the National Trails System.

Special resource studies are an important tool in preserving and interpreting the Nation's natural and cultural history. Even if a study concludes that involvement of the Federal Government is not recommended, these studies provide important information and options for the local, the State, or the private landowners charged with managing these resources.

Mr. Speaker, hearings have been held on eight of the measures included in this legislation over the course of this year. The ninth study passed the House in the last Congress. These study proposals have been sponsored or cosponsored by more than 50 of our colleagues, both Democrats and Republicans. The studies range geographically from California to Puerto Rico and from President Truman's birthplace to Lewis and Clark's expedition of discovery.

Mr. Speaker, special resource studies are some of the most common and popular types of legislation that our colleagues ask the Natural Resources Committee to consider. So we are happy to recommend these worthy study proposals to the House.

I urge all of my colleagues to support H.R. 3998.

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

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

While H.R. 3998 contains titles that are a concern to some, it also contains studies that are worthy of special recognition for the effort and diligence that their sponsors put into them. In particular, I would like to thank Representative BOOZMAN and his staff for their hard work on the Butterfield Overland Trail Study Act. Congressman BOOZMAN reached out to all Members whose districts will be a part of this study and made sure that they had no objections. He also ensured that all private property rights would be protected. His actions are exemplary and should be commended.

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

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

Mrs. MCMORRIS RODGERS. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Utah (Mr. BISHOP).

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. I appreciate the time being yielded.

Mr. Speaker, one of the processes of this particular bill is one that I hope we do not replicate very often because indeed there are nine separate bills tied together into one package. Each bill has a separate amount of merits to those particular bills. Some of them, like the bill by Mr. SKELTON, the chairman from Missouri, is a very well-written bill. I particularly would like to thank the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. BOOZMAN) for writing a bill that I think went above and beyond the call of duty in trying to ensure that the rights of citizens who would be in this study area are protected, as well as ensuring that the maximum amount of participation can be given to those people who are living in that particular area.

There are also some elements in the bill as it came out of committee that I found personally egregious. Those have been removed from the bill that is here. I would like to thank the chairman of the committee and the subcommitees respectively as well as Democratic staff for making changes in this particular bill in a way that I find very appealing. I appreciate them for entering into discussions in an effort to find some kind of bipartisan cooperation with this, and I also am very appreciative of the professional manner in which the Democrat staff worked with our staff in coming up with a bill that I think is very positive coming out of here.

With the bill that is now before us, I certainly have no objections to this particular bill, and I wish to express my appreciation for putting this particular piece of legislation in a form that I think is commendable, and we can commend it and represent it and encourage our fellow Members of the House to vote for it.

Mrs. MCMORRIS RODGERS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. BOOZMAN).

Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 3998, in particular title X of the bill, the Butterfield Overland Trail Study Act. This title directs the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a special resource study of the Butterfield Overland Trail, which stretches from Missouri to California. Before the railroad and even the famed Pony Express, the Butterfield Trail was the only connection between the eastern United States and the rapidly expanding west coast.

□ 1430

Commissioned by Congress in 1857, John Butterfield established a trail that could be traveled by stagecoach from the Mississippi River to San Francisco in a remarkable 25 days.

While the original purpose of the trail has long been surpassed by modern technology, the trail survives with the potential to be a great link to our Nation's past, attracting tourists with its educational and historic appeal, as well as a tool to educate our children about our country's storied history.

I have worked with the National Resources Committee to ensure that extreme caution is given to protecting private property rights, and clear language is contained in the bill so that any future action will not compromise private land.

Mr. Speaker, as our country continues to rapidly grow and develop in the spirit of the old American West, it is so important that we remember what brought us to this point. It is our duty to our children and grandchildren that we take the time to mark the paths our ancestors took across our country.

I respectfully ask my colleagues to vote in favor of H.R. 3998. And I want to thank the committee so much, and the committee staff. It has really been a pleasure to work with you guys to help us as we worked forward in ironing out the kinks.

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

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to reclaim my time.

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

There was no objection.

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from South Carolina, the Honorable JOHN SPRATT.

Mr. SPRATT. I thank the gentlelady for the generous grant of time and I rise in support, Mr. Speaker, of the America's Historical and National Legacy Study Act.

This bill authorizes studies into the suitability of 10 sites as candidates for the National Park System. It is the first step towards preserving some of our most important historical sights and some of our most precious national resources, many of which are vulnerable to development unless we act, and act now. One of the 10 sites is located in the heart of my district, the Battle of Camden.

I introduced the Battle of Camden Study Act in the 108th Congress, and I am thankful that Congress is now finally considering it as part of this National Legacy Study Act. This site has been a national historic landmark since 1962, but it does not enjoy the support and protection offered by being an official unit of the National Park System.

The Battle of Camden was fought on August 16, 1780, and was a crushing defeat for American patriot forces. Indeed, some regard it as the high watermark of British supremacy in the Southern colonies. So it's fair to ask, if this battle was such a crushing defeat for the American patriots, why should we commemorate it at all?

Well, to start with, this battle was lost by General Horatio Gates. The hero of Saratoga was a political favorite in the Continental Congress, and after the fall of Charleston, the Congress sent him south to command what remained of our forces. Congress appointed Gates without consulting Washington, who would have sent Nathaniel Greene.

Gates came and drove his ill-provisioned troops into battle even after discovering that Cornwallis had reinforced his ranks the day before with fresh troops from Charleston. The result was a rout, a disaster, and a retreat to Charlotte led by Gates himself.

For its part, the Congress learned from this bitter experience its proper role in assigning general officers, and years later that principle was built into the Constitution. In replacing Gates after the Battle of Camden, Congress deferred to Washington and Washington dispatched Greene to the Carolinas.

With Charleston and then Camden subdued, Cornwallis began a drive north to mop up resistance with Major Ferguson on the west side of the Broad River and General Cornwallis on the east.

The Battle of Camden left new doubts about local militia, and how reliable or effective they could be, other than to harass British troops. But as Cornwallis' forces moved through the upcountry, they learned the Carolina patriot militia could not be taken lightly.

As Ferguson made his way through the foothills of the Blue Ridge, he threatened to apply ''fire and steel'' to anyone who refused allegiance to the crown. Settlers from over the mountain got the message. More than a thousand mustered at Sycamore Shoals for a fight with Ferguson. On October 7, 1780, they found Ferguson encamped on the top of Kings Mountain; and after settling on tactics, they attacked systematically. In less than an hour, Ferguson was dead, and hundreds of his troops were also dead, wounded or taken prisoner.

Kings Mountain is widely regarded as the turning point of the Revolution in the South, but we cannot fully appreciate its significance unless we understand its context, the Battles of Camden and Charleston.

Three months later, Morgan would meet Tarleton at Hannah's Cowpens, just 15 miles from Kings Mountain. Tarleton's defeat at Cowpens and Cornwallis' pursuit of Morgan into Virginia would eventually lead Cornwallis to Yorktown in total defeat.

The Revolutionary War was a very near thing which could easily have gone either way, and that's why the Battle of Camden is so essential to understanding the Revolutionary War. The Continentals and the patriots may have lost that battle, but they learned from bitter experience and came back to fight and win another day.

I thank the committee, in particular Chairmen RAHALL and GRIJALVA, Ms. BORDALLO, and my good colleague from South Carolina, HENRY BROWN, for including the Battle of Camden in your bill; and I encourage every Member to vote for the adoption of this fine piece of legislation.

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, let me take this means to express my support for H.R. 3998, which includes a piece of legislation entitled the ''Harry S. Truman Birthplace Study Act,'' which I introduced on July 31, 2007. That particular bill would direct the Interior Secretary to study the feasibility of adding the Harry S. Truman Birthplace State Historic Site in Lamar, MO, to our system of National Parks.

I was honored to introduce this legislation on behalf of the people of Lamar, a community located in Southwestern Missouri that has done much groundwork for the inclusion of the State Historic Site in our Federal system. The bill would further honor the 33rd President of the United States and Missouri's favorite son, President Harry S. Truman.

On May 8, 1884, Harry Truman was born in a downstairs bedroom of a small frame house in Lamar, MO. The Truman birthplace, which the family occupied until Harry was 11 months old, was built between 1880 and 1882. In 1959, the United Auto Workers donated the home to the State of Missouri, after buying it some years earlier to preserve its rich cultural significance. Since its addition to the Missouri State Parks System, much work has been done to maintain the dignity and historical relevance of the residence, and many Americans make their way through the site each year.

When the Mayor of Lamar, Keith Divine, wrote to me earlier this year asking me to introduce legislation to begin the process of including President Truman's birthplace in our National Park System, I was honored to oblige. In my view and in the view of the local community, doing so would add perhaps the most critical piece of Harry Truman's life, the place of his birth, to the current group of national historic sites that honor the legacy of our 33rd President. And, doing so would foster economic development in Lamar and in Barton County.

As a matter of record, let me share with you briefly my personal connection with President Truman and with the legislation creating the original Harry S. Truman National Historic Site in Independence, MO.

I came to personally know President Truman through my father, Ike Skelton, Sr., who developed a friendship with him some 78 years ago at the dedication of the Pioneer Mother Statue—the Madonna of the Trail—located in my hometown of Lexington, MO. At that time, Harry Truman was a county commissioner in neighboring Jackson County and my father was a well-known lawyer and Democrat. Through the years, I developed my own friendship with this genuinely nice person we call the ''Man from Independence.''

He was a son of rural Missouri whose handshake was firm, whose honesty and personal integrity were never questioned, and whose devotion to his beloved wife, Bess, to his daughter Margaret Truman Daniel, and to his friends was enduring. He led our country through some difficult periods and made courageous, principled decisions during his presidency.

In the past, Congress has honored President Truman by designating sites in Missouri important to his life as part of America's National Park System. In 1982 and 1983, I worked with the late Senator Tom Eagleton and former Senator Jack Danforth to pass legislation designating the home of Harry and Bess Truman in Independence, MO, as the Harry S. Truman National Historic Site. The site, which consisted at that time of President and Mrs. Truman's home at 219 N. Delaware Street, was willed to the Archivist of the United States when Mrs. Truman passed away in October 1982.

Because the National Park Service, rather than the Archivist, has the Federal responsibility of administering national historic sites, the property and its historic contents became stuck in limbo, with only minimal protection and threatened by possible vandalism, theft, or fire. At that time, there was an urgent need to protect this important property, so I requested the Secretary of the Interior to exercise his authority to designate and administer President Truman's home as a national historic site. The Department refused, and I quickly introduced legislation to establish the site. My bill passed the House on December 13, 1982, but the Senate failed to act on it before the end of the session.

Fortunately, the Interior Secretary came to his senses and signed a secretarial order designating the home as a national historic site. In 1983, however, I wrote legislation to codify the Secretary's directive. In May 1983, Congress unanimously approved and President Ronald Reagan signed into law my bill that created the Harry S. Truman National Historic Site in Independence.

Since that time, Congress has authorized the National Park Service to add other historically significant Truman family sites to the Federal property—in 1989, additional family homes near 219 Delaware Street and in 1993, the Truman Farm Home near Grandview, MO.

So, here we are on December 4, 2007, considering my legislation to direct the Interior Secretary to study whether it is feasible to include another important historic site—President Truman's birthplace—to our National Park System.

As someone who cherishes the life and legacy of Harry Truman, I am hopeful this bill will become law and that the National Park Service's study will proceed quickly and will yield favorable results.

Over the years, Lamar, the State of Missouri, and the University of Missouri Extension have put into place a development plan for the Harry S. Truman Birthplace State Historic Site. If approved, I am confident the Federal study will look favorably upon the community's work and will take into consideration the positive economic impact for the Lamar and Barton County area, which has experienced considerable economic hardship in recent months because a major employer, O'Sullivan Industries, closed its doors.

I urge my colleagues to approve H.R. 3998 today.

Mrs. MCMORRIS RODGERS. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Guam (Ms. BORDALLO) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3998, as amended.

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 motion will be postponed.

VALIDATING CONVEYANCES MADE BY THE UNION PACIFIC RAILROAD COMPANY

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2246) to validate certain conveyances made by the Union Pacific Railroad Company of lands located in Reno, Nevada, that were originally conveyed by the United States to facilitate construction of transcontinental railroads, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 2246

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

SECTION 1. RAILROAD LANDS DEFINED.

For the purposes of this Act, the term ''railroad lands'' means those lands within the City of Reno, Nevada, located within portions of sections 10, 11, and 12 of T.19 N., R. 19 E., and portions of section 7 of T.19 N., R. 20 E., Mount Diablo Meridian, Nevada, that were originally granted to the Union Pacific Railroad under the provisions of the Act of July 1, 1862, commonly known as the Union Pacific Railroad Act.

SEC. 2. RELEASE OF REVERSIONARY INTEREST.

Any reversionary interests of the United States (including interests under the Act of July 1, 1862, commonly known as the Union Pacific Railroad Act) in and to the railroad lands as defined in section one of this Act are hereby released.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Guam (Ms. BORDALLO) and the gentlewoman from Washington (Mrs. MCMORRIS RODGERS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Guam.

GENERAL LEAVE

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

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

There was no objection.

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, the Union Pacific Railroad operates a rail line through downtown Reno, Nevada. Like similar corridors across the West, the rail line was created on Federal land in the 19th century to facilitate development of a transcontinental rail system. The grant to the railroad includes a requirement that the land revert back to Federal ownership should it ever be abandoned by the railroad.

The City of Reno has undertaken a massive project to move approximately two miles of the rail line into a concrete trench constructed alongside the existing track to improve safety and traffic flow through downtown. As part of the project, the railroad apparently conveyed portions of the right-of-way to the city for construction of the trench. It is not clear whether Union Pacific had authority to make such a conveyance given the Federal reversionary interest. H.R. 2246, as amended, would simply release any Federal reversionary interest in the specific parcels involved in the project. So given the City's enormous investment in this project and that the parcels in question will continue to be used for purposes related to the operation of the rail line, clearing title to these parcels is appropriate. So I urge all of our colleagues to support H.R. 2246.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, the gentlewoman from Guam has explained the bill very well. I thank her, as well as Chairman GRIJALVA, for working with us to move this legislation out of committee and through the House.

I would like to recognize the sponsor of this legislation, Congressman DEAN HELLER from Nevada, and yield him such time as he may consume.

Mr. HELLER of Nevada. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 2246, which will resolve outdated Federal reversionary interests in land important to the City of Reno, Nevada, which I represent.

The reversionary interest concerns a rail line that goes through downtown Reno. The City of Reno and the Union Pacific/Southern Pacific join together to submerge a portion of the track below street level as a result of merger between the two railroads.

As part of the project, known as RETRAC, the railroad agreed to grant the City of Reno title to the land immediately surrounding the right-of-way for the project within the city. This bill assists in the revitalization and economic development in this community.

Title for these lands was originally granted to the railroad in 1866 to facilitate construction of a transcontinental rail system. However, when the United States granted the right-of-way to the railroad, it retained a reversionary interest in the land to ensure that it was, in fact, used to facilitate the building of the railroad. This purpose obviously was satisfied many years ago.

This reversionary interest is an obsolete restriction on the title of the land granted to the City of Reno, and H.R. 2246 instructs the Secretary of the Interior to release the reversionary interest originally created in 1866.

I appreciate the chairman of the committee, and also Chairman GRIJALVA and his staff, for the work they have done on this legislation. I also want to thank Reno Mayor Cashell, who came out to Washington to testify on this piece of legislation, and the City of Reno for their continued support and the efforts by their citizens. I would encourage all of my colleagues to support this legislation.

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

Mrs. MCMORRIS RODGERS. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time, and I want to thank the gentlewoman from Washington (Mrs. MCMORRIS RODGERS) for co-managing our bills today from the Resources Committee.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Guam (Ms. BORDALLO) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2246, as amended.

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

The title was amended so as to read: ''A bill to provide for the release of any reversionary interest of the United States in and to certain lands in Reno, Nevada.''.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

NORTH BAY WATER REUSE PROGRAM ACT OF 2007

Mrs. NAPOLITANO. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 236) to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to create a Bureau of Reclamation partnership with the North Bay Water Reuse Authority and other regional partners to achieve objectives relating to water supply, water quality, and environmental restoration, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 236

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 ''North Bay Water Reuse Program Act of 2007''.

SEC. 2. PROJECT AUTHORIZATION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Reclamation Wastewater and Groundwater Study and Facilities Act (Public Law 102-575, title XVI; 43 U.S.C. 390h et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''SEC. 16____. NORTH BAY WATER REUSE PROGRAM.

''(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

''(1) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—The term 'eligible entity' means a member agency of the North Bay Water Reuse Authority of the State located in the North San Pablo Bay watershed in—

''(A) Marin County;

''(B) Napa County;

''(C) Solano County; or

''(D) Sonoma County.

''(2) WATER RECLAMATION AND REUSE PROJECT.—The term 'water reclamation and reuse project' means a project carried out by the Secretary and an eligible entity in the North San Pablo Bay watershed relating to—

''(A) water quality improvement;

''(B) wastewater treatment;

''(C) water reclamation and reuse;

''(D) groundwater recharge and protection;

''(E) surface water augmentation; or

''(F) other related improvements.

''(3) STATE.—The term 'State' means the State of California.

''(b) NORTH BAY WATER REUSE PROGRAM.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—Contingent upon a finding of feasibility, the Secretary, acting through a cooperative agreement with the State or a subdivision of the State, is authorized to enter into cooperative agreements with eligible entities for the planning, design, and construction of water reclamation and reuse facilities and recycled water conveyance and distribution systems.

''(2) COORDINATION WITH OTHER FEDERAL AGENCIES.—In carrying out this section, the Secretary and the eligible entity shall, to the maximum extent practicable, use the design work and environmental evaluations initiated by—

''(A) non-Federal entities; and

''(B) the Corps of Engineers in the San Pablo Bay Watershed of the State.

''(3) PHASED PROJECT.—A cooperative agreement described in paragraph (1) shall require that the North Bay Water Reuse Program carried out under this section shall consist of 2 phases as follows:

''(A) FIRST PHASE.—During the first phase, the Secretary and an eligible entity shall complete the planning, design, and construction of the main treatment and main conveyance systems.

''(B) SECOND PHASE.—During the second phase, the Secretary and an eligible entity shall complete the planning, design, and construction of the sub-regional distribution systems.

''(4) COST SHARING.—

''(A) FEDERAL SHARE.—The Federal share of the cost of the first phase of the project authorized by this section shall not exceed 25 percent of the total cost of the first phase of the project.

''(B) FORM OF NON-FEDERAL SHARE.—The non-Federal share may be in the form of any in-kind services that the Secretary determines would contribute substantially toward the completion of the water reclamation and reuse project, including—

''(i) reasonable costs incurred by the eligible entity relating to the planning, design, and construction of the water reclamation and reuse project; and

''(ii) the acquisition costs of land acquired for the project that is—

''(I) used for planning, design, and construction of the water reclamation and reuse project facilities; and

''(II) owned by an eligible entity and directly related to the project.

''(C) LIMITATION.—The Secretary shall not provide funds for the operation and maintenance of the project authorized by this section.

''(5) EFFECT.—Nothing in this section—

''(A) affects or preempts—

''(i) State water law; or

''(ii) an interstate compact relating to the allocation of water; or

''(B) confers on any non-Federal entity the ability to exercise any Federal right to—

''(i) the water of a stream; or

''(ii) any groundwater resource.

''(6) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated for the Federal share of the total cost of the first phase of the project authorized by this section $25,000,000, to remain available until expended.''.

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—The table of sections in section 2 of Public Law 102–575 is amended by inserting after the last item relating to title XVI the following:

''Sec. 16____. North Bay water reuse program.''.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from California (Mrs. NAPOLITANO) and the gentlewoman from Washington (Mrs. MCMORRIS RODGERS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from California.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mrs. NAPOLITANO. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the bill under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

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

This legislation, introduced by our colleague from California, Representative MIKE THOMPSON, authorizes the Secretary of the Interior to provide limited financial assistance for planning, design, and construction of the North Bay Water Reuse Program in Northern California. This is an innovative regional water recycling project that will allow North Bay Water Reuse Authority and many of the other regional partners to improve water supplies and water quality and to implement environmental restoration work.

Similar legislation was introduced by Congressman THOMPSON in the 109th Congress, and I certainly want to thank Representative THOMPSON for his hard work on this important legislation, and my co-chair, Mrs. MCMORRIS RODGERS.

Mr. Speaker, this measure receives strong bipartisan support, and we strongly support this noncontroversial bill. I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 236, as amended.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, Chairwoman GRACE NAPOLITANO has done a great job of describing this bill. We have no objection and applaud the effort of those that have been involved in passing it.

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

Mrs. NAPOLITANO. Mr. Speaker, I have no requests for time, so I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from California (Mrs. NAPOLITANO) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 236, as amended.

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 motion will be postponed.

□ 1445

BUREAU OF RECLAMATION SITE SECURITY COSTS ACT OF 2007

Mrs. NAPOLITANO. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1662) to amend the Reclamation Safety of Dams Act of 1978 to authorize improvements for the security of dams and other facilities, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1662

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 ''Bureau of Reclamation Site Security Costs Act of 2007''.

SEC. 2. TREATMENT OF CAPITAL COSTS.

Costs incurred by the Secretary of the Interior for the physical fortification of Bureau of Reclamation facilities to satisfy increased post-September 11, 2001, security needs, including the construction, modification, upgrade, or replacement of such facility fortifications, shall be nonreimbursable.

SEC. 3. TREATMENT OF SECURITY-RELATED OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE COSTS.

(a) REIMBURSABLE COSTS.—The Secretary of the Interior shall include no more than $18,900,000 per fiscal year, indexed each fiscal year after fiscal year 2008 according to the preceding year's Consumer Price Index, of those costs incurred for increased levels of guards and patrols, training, patrols by local and tribal law enforcement entities, operation, maintenance, and replacement of guard and response force equipment, and operation and maintenance of facility fortifications at Bureau of Reclamation facilities after the events of September 11, 2001, as reimbursable operation and maintenance costs under Reclamation law.

(b) COSTS COLLECTED THROUGH WATER RATES.—In the case of the Central Valley Project of California, site security costs allocated to irrigation and municipal and industrial water service in accordance with this Act shall be collected by the Secretary exclusively through inclusion of these costs in the operation and maintenance water rates.

SEC. 4. TRANSPARENCY AND REPORT TO CONGRESS.

(a) POLICIES AND PROCEDURES.—The Secretary is authorized to develop policies and procedures with project beneficiaries, consistent with the requirements of subsections (b) and (c), to provide for the payment of the reimbursable costs described in section 3.

(b) NOTICE.—On identifying a Bureau of Reclamation facility for a site security measure, the Secretary shall provide to the project beneficiaries written notice—

(1) describing the need for the site security measure and the process for identifying and implementing the site security measure; and

(2) summarizing the administrative and legal requirements relating to the site security measure.

(c) CONSULTATION.—The Secretary shall—

(1) provide project beneficiaries an opportunity to consult with the Bureau of Reclamation on the planning, design, and construction of the site security measure; and

(2) in consultation with project beneficiaries, develop and provide timeframes for the consultation described in paragraph (1).

(d) RESPONSE; NOTICE.—Before incurring costs pursuant to activities described in section 3, the Secretary shall consider cost containment measures recommended by a project beneficiary that has elected to consult with the Bureau of Reclamation on such activities. The Secretary shall provide to the project beneficiary—

(1) a timely written response describing proposed actions, if any, to address the recommendation; and

(2) notice regarding the costs and status of such activities on a periodic basis.

(e) REPORT.—The Secretary shall report annually to the Natural Resources Committee of the House of Representatives and the Energy and Natural Resources Committee of the Senate on site security actions and activities undertaken pursuant to this Act for each fiscal year. The report shall include a summary of Federal and non-Federal expenditures for the fiscal year and information relating to a 5-year planning horizon for the program, detailed to show pre-September 11, 2001, and post-September 11, 2001, costs for the site security activities.

SEC. 5. PRE-SEPTEMBER 11, 2001 SECURITY COST LEVELS.

Reclamation project security costs at the levels of activity that existed prior to September 11, 2001, shall remain reimbursable.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from California (Mrs. NAPOLITANO) and the gentlewoman from Washington (Mrs. MCMORRIS RODGERS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from California.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mrs. NAPOLITANO. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the bill under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

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

I introduced H.R. 1662 to address the question of how we, the Federal Government, should pay for increased security mandated and required by the Bureau of Reclamation facilities after the attacks of September 11, 2001. As amended by the Committee on Natural Resources, H.R. 1662 sets a firm cap, $18.9 million annually, indexed to inflation, on costs that can be passed on to water and power customers to pay for guards, patrol expenses and other things like that.

The bill, as amended, also includes reporting requirements that are reasonable and appropriate to keep the Congress and project beneficiaries advised of Bureau of Reclamation site security activities.

I commend our ranking member, CATHY MCMORRIS RODGERS, for her bipartisan support of this bill.

Mr. Speaker, I strongly support enactment of this noncontroversial bill. I ask my colleagues to support H.R. 1662, as amended.

I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, this bipartisan bill protects much of our critical water and power infrastructure in the West and gives consumers cost certainty in how these facilities are protected. Many of the dams in the West are multipurpose in nature. For example, the Grand Coulee Dam in eastern Washington provides irrigation water and renewable hydropower benefits but also plays a major role in preventing floods, allowing millions to enjoy our public lands and waterways and helping the environment.

Water and power beneficiaries of Grand Coulee will pay for the major portion of the post-9/11 security costs under this legislation. But this bill also reflects the reality that these dams are national treasures that provide national benefits by capping the costs to local water and power customers.

This bill also requires our government to be more transparent in how it does business by requiring commonsense reports in how it spends its site security dollars. This bill has truly been a bipartisan effort that has spanned the past three Congresses. Through every step of the process, Republicans and Democrats have worked together to draft this legislation and bring about a much-needed way for the Bureau of Reclamation to carry out this program. I applaud the chairwoman of the Water and Power Subcommittee, GRACE NAPOLITANO, for taking the lead to get the legislation passed through this Congress and urge my colleagues to support this important bipartisan measure.

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

Mrs. NAPOLITANO. Mr. Speaker, I certainly want to thank Ranking Member CATHY MCMORRIS RODGERS for her role in this. She described the bill very aptly. We are asking our colleagues to support H.R. 1662, as amended.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from California (Mrs. NAPOLITANO) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1662, as amended.

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

The title was amended so as to read: ''A bill to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to seek limited reimbursement for site security activities, and for other purposes.''.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

MCGEE CREEK PROJECT PIPELINE AND ASSOCIATED FACILITIES CONVEYANCE ACT

Mrs. NAPOLITANO. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2085) to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to convey to the McGee Creek Authority certain facilities of the McGee Creek Project, Oklahoma, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 2085

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 ''McGee Creek Project Pipeline and Associated Facilities Conveyance Act''.

SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) AGREEMENT.—The term ''Agreement'' means the agreement numbered 06–AG–60–2115 and entitled ''Agreement Between the United States of America and McGee Creek Authority for the Purpose of Defining Responsibilities Related to and Implementing the Title Transfer of Certain Facilities at the McGee Creek Project, Oklahoma''.

(2) AUTHORITY.—The term ''Authority'' means the McGee Creek Authority located in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.

(3) SECRETARY.—The term ''Secretary'' means the Secretary of the Interior.

SEC. 3. CONVEYANCE OF MCGEE CREEK PROJECT PIPELINE AND ASSOCIATED FACILITIES.

(a) AUTHORITY TO CONVEY.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—In accordance with all applicable laws and consistent with any terms and conditions provided in the Agreement, the Secretary may convey to the Authority all right, title, and interest of the United States in and to the pipeline and any associated facilities described in the Agreement, including—

(A) the pumping plant;

(B) the raw water pipeline from the McGee Creek pumping plant to the rate of flow control station at Lake Atoka;

(C) the surge tank;

(D) the regulating tank;

(E) the McGee Creek operation and maintenance complex, maintenance shop, and pole barn; and

(F) any other appurtenances, easements, and fee title land associated with the facilities described in subparagraphs (A) through (E), in accordance with the Agreement.

(2) EXCLUSION OF MINERAL ESTATE FROM CONVEYANCE.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The mineral estate shall be excluded from the conveyance of any land or facilities under paragraph (1).

(B) MANAGEMENT.—Any mineral interests retained by the United States under this Act shall be managed—

(i) consistent with Federal law; and

(ii) in a manner that would not interfere with the purposes for which the McGee Creek Project was authorized.

(3) COMPLIANCE WITH AGREEMENT; APPLICABLE LAW.—

(A) AGREEMENT.—All parties to the conveyance under paragraph (1) shall comply with the terms and conditions of the Agreement, to the extent consistent with this Act.

(B) APPLICABLE LAW.—Before any conveyance under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall complete any actions required under—

(i) the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.);

(ii) the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.);

(iii) the National Historic Preservation Act (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.); and

(iv) any other applicable laws.

(b) OPERATION OF TRANSFERRED FACILITIES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—On the conveyance of the land and facilities under subsection (a)(1), the Authority shall comply with all applicable Federal, State, and local laws (including regulations) in the operation of any transferred facilities.

(2) OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE COSTS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—After the conveyance of the land and facilities under subsection (a)(1)

and consistent with the Agreement, the Authority shall be responsible for all duties and costs associated with the operation, replacement, maintenance, enhancement, and betterment of the transferred land and facilities.

(B) LIMITATION ON FUNDING.—The Authority shall not be eligible to receive any Federal funding to assist in the operation, replacement, maintenance, enhancement, and betterment of the transferred land and facilities, except for funding that would be available to any comparable entity that is not subject to reclamation laws.

(c) RELEASE FROM LIABILITY.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Effective beginning on the date of the conveyance of the land and facilities under subsection (a)(1), the United States shall not be liable for damages of any kind arising out of any act, omission, or occurrence relating to any land or facilities conveyed, except for damages caused by acts of negligence committed by the United States (including any employee or agent of the United States) before the date of the conveyance.

(2) NO ADDITIONAL LIABILITY.—Nothing in this subsection adds to any liability that the United States may have under chapter 171 of title 28, United States Code.

(d) CONTRACTUAL OBLIGATIONS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in paragraph (2), any rights and obligations under the contract numbered 0–07–50–X0822 and dated October 11, 1979, between the Authority and the United States for the construction, operation, and maintenance of the McGee Creek Project, shall remain in full force and effect.

(2) AMENDMENTS.—With the consent of the Authority, the Secretary may amend the contract described in paragraph (1) to reflect the conveyance of the land and facilities under subsection (a)(1).

(e) APPLICABILITY OF THE RECLAMATION LAWS.—Notwithstanding the conveyance of the land and facilities under subsection (a)(1), the reclamation laws shall continue to apply to any project water provided to the Authority.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, gentlewoman from California (Mrs. NAPOLITANO) and the gentlewoman from Washington (Mrs. MCMORRIS RODGERS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from California.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mrs. NAPOLITANO. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the bill under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

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

H.R. 2085, as introduced by our colleague, Congresswoman MARY FALLIN of Oklahoma, authorizes the transfer of certain facilities of McGee Creek Project, currently held by the United States through the Bureau of Reclamation. Ownership of these facilities will be transferred to the McGee Creek Authority, which has repaid the costs of building this water supply project. The Bureau of Reclamation testified in support of this bill at a Water and Power Subcommittee hearing on September 18, 2007, moved out of subcommittee, and received bipartisan support.

We have no objection to passage of H.R. 2085.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mrs. MCMORRIS RODGERS. Mr. Speaker, this legislation is sponsored by my colleague from the Natural Resources Committee, Congresswoman MARY FALLIN, and I yield to her such time as she may consume to explain the legislation.

Ms. FALLIN. Mr. Speaker, I would like to begin today by thanking Chairman RAHALL of the Natural Resources Committee and Ranking Member DON YOUNG, as well as the Water and Power Subcommittee Chairwoman NAPOLITANO and Ranking Member CATHY MCMORRIS RODGERS for their continued support of this legislation. Finally, I would like the thank Congressman DAN BOREN from Oklahoma for his hard work and assistance on this piece of legislation, too.

In short, H.R. 2085 is a straightforward land transfer, a prepaid bill that is supported by all parties involved. The McGee Creek Project Pipeline and Associated Facilities and Conveyance Act would formally and legally transfer ownership of 23.8 acres of land surrounding McGee Creek Reservoir, as well as facilities like water pipelines, storage space and a pumping plant.

Ownership of these facilities would be transferred from the Federal Bureau of Reclamation to the McGee Creek Authority. This bill does not transfer ownership of either the reservoir or the dam itself. In addition, the costs of the lands, the buildings and the facilities to be transferred have already been paid by the McGee Creek Authority to the Bureau of Reclamation.

This title transfer protects the financial interests of the Federal Government by reducing administrative burdens on reclamation, including periodic facility reviews and the processing of paperwork that consumes significant staff time. It will also ensure that the long-term responsibility for the operation, the maintenance, management and the regulation, as well as the liability for the transferred land and facilities, will rest with the Authority.

Again, this bill is supported by both the Federal Bureau of Reclamation and the locally run McGee Creek Authority, as well as the Oklahoma City residents. In 2006, the Authority and the Bureau of Reclamation signed a memorandum encouraging congressional authorization of a title transfer. H.R. 2085 would formalize that agreement than make it Federal policy.

Mr. Speaker, thank you for your consideration. I now ask my colleagues for their support of H.R. 2085.

Mrs. MCMORRIS RODGERS. Mr. Speaker, having no more speakers, I urge support and yield back the balance of my time.

Mrs. NAPOLITANO. Mr. Speaker, Ms. FALLIN has made a very good point of her bill, and it does merit support from both sides. So I do request the consideration by our colleagues on this very, very worthwhile project.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from California (Mrs. NAPOLITANO) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2085.

The question was taken.

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

Mrs. NAPOLITANO. 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 motion will be postponed.

WILLIAM WILBERFORCE TRAFFICKING VICTIMS PROTECTION REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2007

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3887) to authorize appropriations for fiscal years 2008 through 2011 for the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000, to enhance measures to combat forced labor, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 3887

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE AND TABLE OF CONTENTS.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the ''William Wilberforce Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act of 2007''.

(b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents for this Act is as follows:

Sec. 1. Short title and table of contents.

TITLE I—COMBATTING INTERNATIONAL TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS

Sec. 101. Interagency Task Force to Monitor and Combat Trafficking.
Sec. 102. Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking.
Sec. 103. Prevention and prosecution of trafficking in foreign countries.
Sec. 104. Assistance for victims of trafficking in other countries.
Sec. 105. Increasing effectiveness of anti-trafficking programs.
Sec. 106. Minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking.
Sec. 107. Actions against governments failing to meet minimum standards.
Sec. 108. Research on domestic and international trafficking in persons.
Sec. 109. Presidential Award for Extraordinary Efforts to Combat Trafficking in Persons.
Sec. 110. Responsibilities of consular officers of the Department of State.
Sec. 111. Report on activities of the Department of Labor to monitor and combat forced labor and child labor.
Sec. 112. Sense of Congress regarding multilateral framework between labor exporting and labor importing countries.

TITLE II—COMBATTING TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS IN THE UNITED STATES

Subtitle A—Ensuring Availability of Possible Witnesses and Informants

Sec. 201. Protecting trafficking victims against retaliation.
Sec. 202. Information for work-based nonimmigrants on legal rights and resources.
Sec. 203. Relief for certain victims pending actions on petitions and applications for relief.
Sec. 204. Expansion of authority to permit continued presence in the United States.
Sec. 205. Implementation of Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act of 2005.

Subtitle B—Assistance for Trafficking Victims

Sec. 211. Victim of trafficking certification process.
Sec. 212. Assistance for certain nonimmigrant status applicants.
Sec. 213. Interim assistance for child victims of trafficking.
Sec. 214. Ensuring assistance for all victims of trafficking in persons.

Subtitle C—Penalties Against Traffickers and Other Crimes

Sec. 221. Enhancing trafficking and other related offenses.
Sec. 222. Jurisdiction in certain trafficking offenses.
Sec. 223. Amendment of other crimes related to trafficking.
Sec. 224. New model statute provided to States.

Subtitle D—Activities of the United States Government

Sec. 231. Annual report by the Attorney General.
Sec. 232. Anti-trafficking survey and conferences.
Sec. 233. Senior Policy Operating Group.
Sec. 234. Efforts by Departments of Justice and Labor to combat human trafficking.
Sec. 235. Preventing United States travel by traffickers.
Sec. 236. Enhancing efforts to combat the trafficking of children.
Sec. 237. Temporary increase in fee for certain consular services.

TITLE III—AUTHORIZATIONS OF APPROPRIATIONS

Sec. 301. Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000.
Sec. 302. Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act of 2005.
Sec. 303. Rule of construction.
Sec. 304. Technical amendments.

TITLE IV—PREVENTION OF THE USE OF CHILD SOLDIERS

Sec. 401. Short title.
Sec. 402. Definitions.
Sec. 403. Findings.
Sec. 404. Sense of Congress.
Sec. 405. Prohibition on provision of military assistance to foreign governments that recruit or use child soldiers.
Sec. 406. Reports.
Sec. 407. Training for Foreign Service officers.

TITLE I—COMBATTING INTERNATIONAL TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS

SEC. 101. INTERAGENCY TASK FORCE TO MONITOR AND COMBAT TRAFFICKING.

Section 105(b) of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 (22 U.S.C. 7103(b)) is amended by inserting ''the Secretary of Education,'' after ''the Secretary of Homeland Security,''.

SEC. 102. OFFICE TO MONITOR AND COMBAT TRAFFICKING.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 105(e) of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 (22 U.S.C. 7103(e)) is amended to read as follows:

''(e) OFFICE TO MONITOR AND COMBAT TRAFFICKING.—

''(1) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary of State shall establish within the Department of State an Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking, which shall be headed by a Director, who shall be appointed by the President, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate, with the rank of Ambassador-at-Large.

''(2) RESPONSIBILITIES.—The Director shall have the following responsibilities:

''(A) The Director shall have primary responsibility for assisting the Secretary of State in carrying out the purposes of this division, shall provide assistance to the Task Force, and may have additional responsibilities as determined by the Secretary of State.

''(B) The Director shall consult with nongovernmental organizations and multilateral organizations, and with trafficking victims or other affected persons. The Director shall have the authority to take evidence in public hearings or by other means.

''(C) The Director shall, in coordination and cooperation with the Assistant Secretary for International Labor Affairs and other officials at the Department of State involved in corporate responsibility and other relevant officials of the United States Government, be responsible for promoting, building, and sustaining partnerships between the United States Government and private entities (including foundations, universities, corporations, community-based organizations, and other nongovernmental organizations) to ensure that United States citizens do not use any item, product, or material produced or extracted with the use of labor from victims of severe forms of trafficking and to ensure that such entities do not contribute to trafficking in persons involving sexual exploitation, such as through work with the airlines and tourism industries.

''(D) The Director shall be solely responsible for all policy, funding, and programming decisions regarding funds made available for trafficking in persons programs that are centrally controlled by the Department of State.

''(3) COORDINATION.—Any trafficking in persons programs of the Department of State or the United States Agency for International Development that are not centrally controlled by the Department of State shall be carried out with concurrence of the Director.''.

(b) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) the Secretary of State should make every effort to locate the Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking, established pursuant to section 105(e) of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 (as amended by subsection (a) of this section), at the headquarters for the Department of State, known as the Harry S. Truman Federal Building, located in the District of Columbia; and

(2) the Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking should be assigned office space in such building that reflects the importance of the implementation of such Act and the broad and historic mission of the Office to end modern-day slavery.

SEC. 103. PREVENTION AND PROSECUTION OF TRAFFICKING IN FOREIGN COUNTRIES.

(a) PREVENTION.—Section 106 of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 (22 U.S. C. 7104) is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

''(i) ADDITIONAL MEASURES TO PREVENT AND DETER TRAFFICKING.—The President shall establish and carry out programs to prevent and deter trafficking in persons. Such programs may include—

''(1) technical assistance and other support for the capacity of foreign governments to investigate, identify, and carry out inspections of private entities, including labor recruitment centers, at which trafficking victims may be exploited, particularly exploitation involving forced and child labor;

''(2) technical assistance and other support for foreign governments and nongovernmental organizations to provide immigrant populations with information regarding the rights of such populations in the foreign country and any information regarding in-country nongovernmental organization-operated hotlines of the type described in section 107(a)(1)(A) of this Act, with such information to be provided in the native languages of the major immigrant groups of such populations;

''(3) technical assistance to provide legal frameworks and other programs to foreign governments and nongovernmental organizations to ensure that foreign migrant workers are provided protection equal to nationals of the foreign country, that labor recruitment firms are regulated, and that workers providing domestic services in households are provided protection under labor rights laws; and

''(4) assistance to foreign governments to register vulnerable populations as citizens or nationals of the country to reduce the ability of traffickers to exploit such populations.''.

(b) PROSECUTION.—Section 134(a)(2) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2152d(a)(2)) is amended by adding at the end before the semi-colon the following: '', including investigation of individuals and entities that may be involved in trafficking in persons involving sexual exploitation''.

SEC. 104. ASSISTANCE FOR VICTIMS OF TRAFFICKING IN OTHER COUNTRIES.

Section 107(a) of Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 (22 U.S.C. 7105(a)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1)—

(A) in the second sentence, by inserting at the end before the period the following: '', and shall be carried out in a manner which takes into account the cross-border, regional, and transnational aspects of trafficking in persons''; and

(B) by adding at the end the following new subparagraph:

''(F) In cooperation and coordination with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, the International Organization of Migration, and other relevant organizations (including private nongovernmental organizations that contract with the United States Government to assist refugees and internally displaced persons), support for increased protections for refugees and internally displaced persons, including outreach and education efforts to prevent such refugees and internally displaced persons from being exploited by traffickers and ensuring performance of best interest determinations for unaccompanied and separated children to identify child trafficking victims and assist their safe integration, reintegration, and resettlement.''; and

(2) in paragraph (2), by adding at the end the following new sentence: ''In carrying out this paragraph, the Secretary and the Administrator shall take all appropriate steps to ensure that cooperative efforts among foreign countries are undertaken on a regional basis.''.

SEC. 105. INCREASING EFFECTIVENESS OF ANTI-TRAFFICKING PROGRAMS.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress makes the following findings:

(1) United States assistance programs require enhanced monitoring and evaluation to ensure that United States funds are appropriately spent.

(2) Such monitoring and evaluation should measure results—the actual effects of assistance—as well as outcomes—the numerical product of assistance, such as the number of individuals assisted, systems established, and funds provided through programs.

(3) While the results of programs related to trafficking in persons may be difficult to measure because of the criminal and underground nature of trafficking in persons, making efforts to measure such results are critical to learning the extent to which United States assistance programs affect the nature and severity of trafficking and change the fundamental conditions that facilitate trafficking.

(b) AMENDMENT.—The Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 (22 U.S.C. 7101 et seq.) is amended by inserting after section 107 the following new section:

"SEC. 107A. INCREASING EFFECTIVENESS OF ANTI-TRAFFICKING PROGRAMS.

''(a) AWARDING OF GRANTS, COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS, AND CONTRACTS.—The head of each department and agency of the United States Government that administers funds made available for programs described in this division and the amendments made by this division in the United States and foreign countries shall—

''(1) make solicitations of grants, cooperative agreements, and contracts for such programs publicly available;

''(2) award grants, cooperative agreements, and contracts on a full and open competitive basis, consistent with existing law; and

''(3) ensure that internal department or agency review process for such grants, cooperative agreements, and contracts is not subject to ad hoc or intermittent review by individuals or organizations outside the United States Government not otherwise provided for in the process described in paragraphs (1) and (2).

''(b) EVALUATION OF TRAFFICKING PROGRAMS.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—The President shall establish and implement a system to monitor and evaluate the effectiveness and efficiency of assistance provided under anti-trafficking programs established and carried out under this division and the amendments made by this division on a program-by-program basis in order to maximize the long-term sustainable development impact of such assistance.

''(2) REQUIREMENTS.—In carrying out paragraph (1), the President shall—

''(A) establish performance goals for assistance described in paragraph (1) and express such goals in an objective and quantifiable form, to the extent practicable;

''(B) ensure that performance indicators are used for each United States program authorized by this division and the amendments made by this division to measure and assess the achievement of the performance goals described in subparagraph (A); and

''(C) provide a basis for recommendations for adjustments to assistance described in paragraph (1) to enhance the impact of such assistance.

''(c) TARGETED USE OF TRAFFICKING PROGRAMS.—The Director of the Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking shall undertake efforts to provide assistance to foreign countries and nongovernmental organizations under this division and the amendments made by this division based on the priorities and country assessments contained in the most recent report submitted by the Secretary of State to Congress pursuant to section 110(b) of this Act.

''(d) CONSISTENCY WITH OTHER PROGRAMS.—The President shall take steps to ensure that the design, monitoring, and evaluation of United States assistance programs for emergency relief, development, and poverty alleviation under part I and chapter 4 of part II of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 and other similar United States assistance programs are carried out in a manner that takes into account and are consistent with United States policies and other United States programs relating to combatting trafficking in persons.

''(e) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—For each of the fiscal years 2008 through 2011, up to 2 percent of the amounts made available to carry out this division and the amendments made by this division may be used to carry out this section.''.

SEC. 106. MINIMUM STANDARDS FOR THE ELIMINATION OF TRAFFICKING.

(a) MINIMUM STANDARDS.—Subsection (a) of section 108 of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 (22 U.S.C. 7106) is amended in the matter preceding paragraph (1) by striking ''a significant number of''.

(b) CRITERIA.—Subsection (b) of such section is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1)—

(A) in the first sentence, by inserting at the end before the period the following: '', including in all appropriate cases requiring incarceration of individuals convicted of such acts''; and

(B) by inserting after the first sentence the following new sentence: ''For purposes of the preceding sentence, suspended or significantly-reduced sentences for convictions of principal actors in cases of severe forms of trafficking in persons shall not be considered to be an indicator of serious and sustained efforts to eliminate severe forms of trafficking in persons.'';

(2) in paragraph (2), by inserting at the end before the period the following: '', including by providing training to law enforcement and immigration officials in the identification and treatment of trafficking victims using approaches that focus on the needs of the victims'';

(3) in paragraph (3), by striking '', measures to reduce the demand for commercial sex acts and for participation in international sex tourism by nationals of the country'' and inserting '', measures to establish the identity of local populations, including birth registration, citizenship, and nationality''; and

(4) by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

''(11) Whether the government of the country has made serious and sustained efforts to reduce the demand for—

''(A) commercial sex acts; and

''(B) participation in international sex tourism by nationals of the country.''.

SEC. 107. ACTIONS AGAINST GOVERNMENTS FAILING TO MEET MINIMUM STANDARDS.

(a) COUNTRIES ON SPECIAL WATCH LIST RELATING TO TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS FOR TWO CONSECUTIVE YEARS.—Subsection (b)(3) of section 110 of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 (22 U.S.C. 7107) is amended by adding the following at the end the following new subparagraph:

''(D) COUNTRIES ON SPECIAL WATCH LIST FOR TWO CONSECUTIVE YEARS.—If a country is included on the special watch list described in subparagraph (A) for two consecutive years, such country shall be included on the list of countries described in paragraph (1)(C), unless the Secretary of State determines that (i) the country has a written plan to begin making significant efforts to bring itself into compliance with the minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking, (ii) the plan, if implemented, would constitute making such significant efforts, and (iii) the country is devoting sufficient resources to implement the plan, and, as part of the report required by paragraph (1) and the interim assessment required by subparagraph (B), the Secretary provides to the appropriate congressional committees credible evidence that the country meets the requirements of clauses (i) through (iii). The Secretary may make a determination under the preceding sentence with respect to a country for not more than two consecutive years.''.

(b) CLARIFICATION OF MEASURES AGAINST CERTAIN FOREIGN COUNTRIES.—Subsection (d)(1)(A)(ii) of such section is amended by striking ''the United States will not provide'' and inserting ''the United States will not provide such assistance to the government of the country for the subsequent fiscal year and will not provide''.

(c) TRANSLATION OF TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS REPORT.—

(1) TRANSLATION REQUIRED.—The Secretary of State shall expand the timely translation of the annual report required under section 110(b) of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 (22 U.S.C. 7107(b)) into the principal languages of as many countries as possible, with particular emphasis on those countries on the lists described in subparagraphs (B) and (C) of paragraph (1) of such section and shall ensure that such translations are made available to the public, including through postings on appropriate Internet websites.

(2) MATTERS TO BE INCLUDED.—The translation required by paragraph (1) shall include the introduction, other sections of general interest, and the relevant country narratives of the annual report. The Secretary of State shall ensure that such translations are available on the Internet website of the Department of State.

SEC. 108. RESEARCH ON DOMESTIC AND INTERNATIONAL TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subsection (a)(5) of section 112A of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 (22 U.S.C. 7109a) is amended by adding at the end the following new sentence: ''Such mechanism shall include, not later than two years after the date of the enactment of the William Wilberforce Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act of 2007, the establishment of an integrated data base by combining all applicable data collected by each Federal department and agency represented on the Interagency Task Force to Monitor and Combat Trafficking (established under section 105 of this Act) and, to the maximum extent practicable, applicable data from relevant international organizations, for the purposes of improving coordination of the collection of data related to trafficking in persons by each agency of the United States Government that collects such data, promoting uniformity of such data collection and standards and systems related to such collection, and undertaking a meta-analysis of patterns of trafficking in persons, slavery, and slave-like conditions.''.

(b) ROLE OF GOVERNMENT.—Subsection (b) of such section is amended by inserting after ''subsection (a)(4)'' the following: ''and the second sentence of subsection (a)(5)''.

SEC. 109. PRESIDENTIAL AWARD FOR EXTRAORDINARY EFFORTS TO COMBAT TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS.

The Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 (22 U.S.C. 7101 et seq.) is amended by inserting after section 112A the following new section:

"SEC. 112B. PRESIDENTIAL AWARD FOR EXTRAORDINARY EFFORTS TO COMBAT TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS.

''(a) ESTABLISHMENT OF AWARD.—The President is authorized to establish an award for extraordinary efforts to combat trafficking in persons, to be known as the 'Presidential Award for Extraordinary Efforts to Combat Trafficking in Persons'. To the maximum extent practicable, the Secretary should make the award annually to up to 5 individuals or organizations, including individuals who are United States citizens or foreign nationals and United States or foreign nongovernmental organizations.

''(b) SELECTION.—The President shall establish procedures for selecting recipients of the award authorized under subsection (a).

''(c) CEREMONY.—The President shall host an annual ceremony for recipients of the award authorized under subsection (a) at the time the report required by section 110(b) of this Act is submitted by the Secretary of State to Congress pursuant to such section. The Secretary of State is authorized to pay the costs associated with travel by each recipient and a guest of the recipient to the ceremony.

''(d) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—To carry out this section, there are authorized to be appropriated such sums as may be necessary for each of the fiscal years 2008 through 2011.''.

SEC. 110. RESPONSIBILITIES OF CONSULAR OFFICERS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE.

(a) INTERVIEWS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—In the case of a consular interview of an alien for an employment- or education-based nonimmigrant visa, the consular officer conducting the interview shall ensure that the alien has received, both orally in a language that the applicant understands and though the pamphlet required under section 202, information relating to the following:

(A) The illegality of slavery, peonage, trafficking in persons, sexual assault, extortion, blackmail and worker exploitation in the United States, and the right of the alien to retain the alien's passport in the alien's possession at all times.

(B) The availability of services for victims of human trafficking and worker exploitation in the United States, including the contact information for relevant community organizations that provide services to trafficking victims (to the extent practicable), Federal law enforcement and victim services complaint lines, and a general description of the types of victims services available if an individual is subject to trafficking in persons.

(C) The legal rights of immigrant victims of trafficking in persons, worker exploitation, and other related crimes under immigration, labor, and employment law, including the right to report abuse without retaliation, the availability of immigration and public benefits to such victims, and the right to seek redress in United States courts.

(D) If applicable, the requirements that section 202(g)(2) places upon persons engaging in foreign labor contracting activity.

(2) REVIEW.—Before conducting an interview described in paragraph (1), the consular officer shall review the summary of the pamphlet required under section 202.

(3) DEFINITION.—In this subsection, the term ''employment- or education-based nonimmigrant visa'' has the meaning given such term in section 202(h).

(b) SPECIAL PROVISIONS RELATING TO ALIENS ISSUED A–3 AND G–5 VISAS.—

(1) ELEMENTS OF MANDATORY INTERVIEW.—The interview required under subsection (a) shall be required for the issuance to an alien of a nonimmigrant visa under subparagraph (A)(iii) or (G)(v) of section 101(a)(15) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101(a)(15)). The consular officer conducting the interview shall ensure that the employment contract of the alien is in a language that the alien can understand.

(2) FEASIBILITY OF OVERSIGHT OF EMPLOYEES OF DIPLOMATS AND REPRESENTATIVES OF OTHER INSTITUTIONS.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of State shall submit to the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate a report on the feasibility of—

(A) establishing a system to monitor the treatment of aliens who have been admitted to the United States as nonimmigrants described in subparagraph (A)(iii) or (G)(v) of section 101(a)(15) of the Immigration and Nationality Act; and

(B) a range of compensation approaches, such as a bond program, compensation fund, or insurance scheme, to ensure that nonimmigrants described in subparagraph (A)(iii) or (G)(v) of section 101(a)(15) of the Immigration and Nationality Act receive appropriate compensation if their employer violates the terms of their employment contract and, with respect to each proposed compensation approach, an evaluation and proposal of how claims of rights violations will be adjudicated, compensation determinations will be made, and the program, fund, or scheme will be administered.

(3) ASSISTANCE TO LAW ENFORCEMENT INVESTIGATIONS.—The Secretary of State shall cooperate, to the fullest extent possible consistent with the United States obligations under the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations, done at Vienna, April 18, 1961, (23 U.S.T. 3229), with any investigation by United States law enforcement authorities of crimes related to trafficking in persons, worker exploitation, or other related violations of United States law with respect to an alien described in paragraph (1).

(4) ZERO TOLERANCE FOR ABUSE.—

(A) LIMITATION.—The Secretary of State shall direct consular officers not to issue a visa to an alien who applies for a visa under subparagraph (A)(iii) or (G)(v) of section 101(a)(15) of the Immigration and Nationality Act if the person who would employ such an alien serves at a diplomatic mission or an international institution described in subparagraph (B) of this paragraph.

(B) MISSION OR INSTITUTION.—A diplomatic mission or international institution is referred to in subparagraph (A) if—

(i) the Secretary of State determines that an alien described in paragraph (1) has been subjected to trafficking of persons, worker exploitation, or other related violations of United States law, by an individual serving at such a mission or institution during the two year period before the date of the application for a visa referred to in subparagraph (A); or

(ii) an individual serving at such a mission or institution has departed the United States and there is credible evidence that such individual trafficked, exploited, or otherwise abused an alien described in paragraph (1).

(C) EXCEPTION.—The Secretary of State may suspend the application of the limitation under subparagraph (A) if the Secretary determines and reports to the committees specified in paragraph (2) that a mechanism is in place to ensure that such trafficking, exploitation, or abuse does not occur again with respect to any alien employed by such mission or institution.

(5) REPORT.—Not later than June 1, 2008, and annually thereafter, the Secretary of State shall submit to the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate a report describing the diplomatic missions or international institutions that are subject to the visa restriction referred to in subparagraph (A) of paragraph (4), any exceptions that have been made pursuant to subparagraph (C) of such paragraph (4), and any requests for waivers of diplomatic immunity that have been made that are related to actions involving trafficking of persons, worker exploitation, or other related violations of United States law. Such report may be combined with the annual report required by section 110(b) of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 (22 U.S.C. 7107(b)).

SEC. 111. REPORT ON ACTIVITIES OF THE DEPARTMENT OF LABOR TO MONITOR AND COMBAT FORCED LABOR AND CHILD LABOR.

(a) INTERIM REPORT.—Not later than 120 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Labor shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees an interim report on the implementation of section 105(b) of the Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act of 2005 (22 U.S.C. 7112(b)), which shall include a description of the progress made toward developing the list of goods described in paragraph (2)(C) of such section.

(b) FINAL REPORT; PUBLIC AVAILABILITY OF LIST.—Not later than January 15, 2009, the Secretary of Labor shall—

(1) submit to the appropriate congressional committees a final report on the implementation of section 105(b) of the Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act of 2005, which shall include an initial list of goods described in paragraph (2)(C) of such section; and

(2) make available to the public such list of goods in accordance with paragraph (2)(C) of such section.

(c) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES DEFINED.—In this section, the term ''appropriate congressional committees'' has the meaning given the term in section 103 of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 (22 U.S.C. 7102).

SEC. 112. SENSE OF CONGRESS REGARDING MULTILATERAL FRAMEWORK BETWEEN LABOR EXPORTING AND LABOR IMPORTING COUNTRIES.

It is the sense of Congress that the Secretary of State, in conjunction with the International Labor Organization, the United Nations Office of Drug and Crime Prevention, and other relevant international and nongovernmental organizations, should seek to establish a multilateral framework between labor exporting and labor importing countries to ensure that workers migrating between such countries are protected from trafficking in persons and worker exploitation of any kind.

TITLE II—COMBATTING TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS IN THE UNITED STATES

Subtitle A—Ensuring Availability of Possible Witnesses and Informants

SEC. 201. PROTECTING TRAFFICKING VICTIMS AGAINST RETALIATION.

(a) T VISAS.—Section 101(a)(15)(T) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101(a)(15)(T)) is amended—

(1) in clause (i)—

(A) in the matter preceding subclause (I), by striking ''Security and the Attorney General jointly;'' and inserting ''Security, in consultation with the Attorney General,'';

(B) in subclause (I), by striking the comma at the end and inserting a semicolon;

(C) in subclause (II), by adding at the end the following: ''including physical presence on account of the alien having been allowed entry into the United States for participation in investigative or judicial processes;'';

(D) in subclause (III)—

(i) in item (aa), by striking ''or'' at the end;

(ii) in item (bb), by striking '', and'' at the end and inserting ''; and'';

(iii) by redesignating item (bb) as item (cc); and

(iv) by inserting after item (aa) the following:

''(bb) in the Secretary's sole and unreviewable discretion, in consultation with the Attorney General, that the alien is unlikely or unable to cooperate with such a request due to physical or psychological trauma; or''; and

(E) in subclause (IV), by adding ''and'' at the end;

(2) in clause (ii)—

(A) in subclause (I), by striking ''or'' at the end;

(B) in subclause (II), by striking ''and'' at the end and inserting ''or''; and

(C) by adding the following at the end:

''(III) any parents or siblings of an alien described in subclause (I) or (II) who face a present danger of retaliation, as attested to by a representative of a law enforcement agency, as a result of the alien's escape from the severe form of trafficking or cooperation with law enforcement.''; and

(3) by striking clause (iii).

(b) REQUIREMENTS FOR T VISA ISSUANCE.—Section 214(o) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1184(o)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (7)(B)—

(A) by striking ''subparagraph (A) if a Federal'' and inserting the following:

''subparagraph (A) if—

''(i) a Federal'';

(B) by striking the period at the end and inserting ''; or''; and

(C) by adding at the end the following:

''(ii) the Secretary of Homeland Security determines, as a matter of the Secretary's sole discretion, that an extension of the period of such nonimmigrant status is warranted due to exceptional circumstances.''; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

''(8) In determining whether extreme hardship described in section 101(a)(15)(T)(i)(IV) exists, the Secretary of Homeland Security, in consultation with the Attorney General and relevant investigators, prosecutors, and individuals responsible for working with victims and witnesses, may consider whether the country to which the alien is likely to be removed can adequately address security concerns and the mental and physical health needs of the alien and of persons described in section 101(a)(15)(T)(ii).''.

(c) CONDITIONS ON NONIMMIGRANT STATUS FOR CERTAIN CRIME VICTIMS.—Section 214(p)(6) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1184(p)(6)) is amended by adding at the end the following: ''The Secretary of Homeland Security may extend the authorized period of status of an alien as a nonimmigrant under section 101(a)(15)(U) of this title for a period exceeding 4 years if the Secretary determines, as a matter of the Secretary's sole discretion, that an extension of such period is warranted due to exceptional circumstances.''.

(d) ADJUSTMENT OF STATUS FOR TRAFFICKING VICTIMS.—Section 245(l) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1255(l)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1), in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by striking ''the Attorney General,,'' and inserting ''the Secretary of Homeland Security in consultation with the Attorney General,'';

(2) in paragraph (1)(B), by inserting ''subject to paragraph (6),'' after ''(B)'';

(3) in paragraph (1)(C)(ii), by striking '', or in the case of subparagraph (C)(i), the Attorney General,'';

(4) in paragraph (3), by striking the period at the end and inserting the following: '', unless the absence is in order to assist in the investigation or prosecution or unless an official involved in the investigation or prosecution certifies that the absence was otherwise justified.''; and

(5) by adding at the end the following:

''(6) For purposes of paragraph (1)(B), the Secretary of Homeland Security, in the Secretary's sole and unreviewable discretion, may waive consideration of a disqualification from good moral character (described in section 101(f)) with respect to an alien if the disqualification was caused by, or was incident to, the trafficking described in section 101(a)(15)(T)(i)(I).''.

(e) ADJUSTMENT OF STATUS FOR CRIME VICTIMS.—Section 245(m)(1) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1255(m)(1)) is amended, in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by striking ''unless the Attorney General'' and inserting ''unless the Secretary, in consultation with the Attorney General,''.

SEC. 202. INFORMATION FOR WORK-BASED NONIMMIGRANTS ON LEGAL RIGHTS AND RESOURCES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Homeland Security, in consultation with the Secretary of State, the Attorney General, and the Secretary of Labor, shall develop an information pamphlet, as described in subsection (b), on legal rights and resources for aliens applying for employment- or education-based nonimmigrant visas, and shall distribute and make such pamphlet available as described in subsection (e). In preparing the information pamphlet, the Secretary of Homeland Security shall consult with nongovernmental organizations with expertise on the legal rights of workers and victims of severe forms of trafficking in persons.

(b) INFORMATION PAMPHLET.—The information pamphlet developed under subsection (a) shall include information on employment- or education-based nonimmigrant visas or on student or cultural exchanges, as follows:

(1) The nonimmigrant visa application processes, including information about whether the particular employment- or education-based nonimmigrant visa program includes portability of employment or educational institution.

(2) The illegality of slavery, peonage, trafficking in persons, sexual assault, extortion, blackmail, and worker exploitation in the United States.

(3) Services for victims of severe forms of trafficking in persons and worker exploitation in the United States, including Federal law enforcement and victim services complaint lines.

(4) The legal rights of immigrant victims of worker exploitation and other crimes in immigration, criminal justice, family law, and other matters, including the right of access to immigrant and labor rights groups, the right to seek redress in United States courts, and the right to report abuse without retaliation.

(5) The requirements that subsection (g) places upon a person engaging in foreign labor contracting activity, including the disclosure of any debts.

(c) SUMMARIES.—The Secretary of Homeland Security, in consultation with the Attorney General and the Secretary of State, shall develop summaries of the information pamphlet developed under subsection (a) that shall be used by Federal officials when reviewing the pamphlet in interviews required by section 110.

(d) TRANSLATION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—In order to best serve the language groups having the greatest concentration of employment- or education-based nonimmigrant visas, the information pamphlet developed under subsection (a) shall, subject to paragraph (2), be translated by the Secretary of State into foreign languages, including Russian, Spanish, Tagalog, Vietnamese, Chinese, Ukrainian, Thai, Korean, Polish, Japanese, French, Creole, Arabic, Portuguese, Hindi, and such other languages as the Secretary of State, in the Secretary's discretion, may specify.

(2) REVISION.—Every two years, the Secretary of Homeland Security, in consultation with the Attorney General and the Secretary of State, shall determine at least 14 specific languages into which the information pamphlet shall be translated based on the languages spoken by the greatest concentrations of employment- or education-based nonimmigrant visas.

(e) AVAILABILITY AND DISTRIBUTION.—

(1) POSTING ON FEDERAL WEBSITES.—The information pamphlet developed under subsection (a) shall be posted on the websites of the Department of State and the Department of Homeland Security, as well as on the websites of all United States consular posts processing applications for nonimmigrant visas.

(2) OTHER DISTRIBUTION.—The information pamphlet developed under subsection (a) shall also be made available to any foreign labor broker, government agency, or nongovernmental advocacy organization.

(f) DEADLINE FOR PAMPHLET DEVELOPMENT AND DISTRIBUTION.—The information pamphlet developed under subsection (a) shall be distributed and made available (including in the languages specified under subsection (d)) not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act.

(g) PROTECTIONS FOR WORKERS RECRUITED ABROAD.—

(1) DEFINITIONS.—In this section—

(A) the term ''foreign labor contractor'' means any person who for any money or other consideration paid or promised to be paid, performs any foreign labor contracting activity;

(B) the term ''foreign labor contracting activity'' means recruiting, soliciting, hiring, employing, or furnishing, an individual who resides outside of the United States to be employed in the United States; and

(C) the term ''worker'' means an individual who is the subject of foreign labor contracting activity.

(2) DISCLOSURE.—Any person who engages in foreign labor contracting activity shall ascertain and disclose in writing, in English and in a language understood by the worker being recruited, to each worker who is recruited for employment, at the time of the worker's recruitment, the following information:

(A) The location and period of employment, and any travel or transportation expenses to be assessed.

(B) The compensation for the employment and any other employee benefit to be provided and any costs to be charged for each benefit.

(C) A description of employment requirements and activities.

(D) The existence of any labor organizing effort, strike, lockout, or other labor dispute at the place of employment.

(E) The existence of any arrangement with any person involving the receipt of a commission or any other benefit for the provision of items or services to workers.

(F) The extent to which workers will be compensated through workers' compensation, private insurance, or other means for injuries or death.

(G) Any education or training to be provided or required, including the nature and cost of such training and the person who will pay such costs, and whether the training is a condition of employment, continued employment, or future employment.

(3) RESTRICTION.—No foreign labor contractor or employer who engages in foreign labor contracting activity shall knowingly provide materially false or misleading information to any worker concerning any matter required to be disclosed under paragraph (2). The disclosure required by this section is a document concerning the proper administration of a matter within the jurisdiction of a department or agency of the United States for the purposes of section 1519 of title 18, United States Code.

(4) REGISTRATION.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Before engaging in any foreign labor contracting activity, any person who is a foreign labor contractor shall obtain a certificate of registration from the Secretary of Labor pursuant to regulations promulgated by the Secretary under subparagraph (B).

(B) ISSUANCE.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall promulgate regulations to establish an efficient electronic process for the timely investigation and approval of an application for a certificate of registration of foreign labor contractors, including—

(i) requirements under paragraphs (1), (4), and (5) of section 102 of the Migrant and Seasonal Agricultural Worker Protection Act (29 U.S.C. 1812);

(ii) an expeditious means to update registrations and renew certificates; and

(iii) any other requirements that the Secretary may prescribe.

(C) TERM OF REGISTRATION.—Unless suspended or revoked, a certificate under this subparagraph shall be valid for two years.

(D) REFUSAL TO ISSUE; REVOCATION.—In accordance with regulations promulgated by the Secretary of Labor, the Secretary shall refuse to issue or renew, or shall revoke, after notice and an opportunity for a hearing, a certificate of registration under this subparagraph if—

(i) the applicant for, or holder of, the certification has knowingly made a material misrepresentation in the application for such certificate;

(ii) the applicant for, or holder of, the certification is not the real party in interest in the application or certificate of registration and the real party in interest—

(I) is a person who has been refused issuance or renewal of a certificate;

(II) has had a certificate revoked; or

(III) does not qualify for a certificate under this paragraph;

(iii) the applicant for, or holder of, the certification has been convicted within the preceding five years of any crime described in subparagraph (A) or (B) of section 103(a)(5) of the Migrant and Seasonal Agricultural Worker Protection Act (29 U.S.C. 1813(a)(5)); or

(iv) the applicant for, or holder of, the certification has knowingly or recklessly failed to comply with this subsection.

(E) COMPLAINTS AND INVESTIGATIONS.—The Secretary of Labor shall establish a process for the receipt, investigation, and disposition of complaints filed by any person, including complaints initiated by the Secretary, respecting a foreign labor contractor's compliance with this subsection. No investigation or hearing shall be conducted on a complaint concerning a violation of this subsection unless the complaint was filed not later than 12 months after the date of the violation. The Secretary may conduct an investigation under this paragraph if there is reasonable cause to believe that such a violation occurred.

(F) MAINTENANCE OF LISTS.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall maintain a list of all foreign labor contractors registered under this subsection; and

(ii) PUBLIC AVAILABILITY.—The Secretary shall make the list described in clause (i) publicly available, including through publication on the Internet.

(G) RE-REGISTRATION OF VIOLATORS.—The Secretary shall provide a procedure by which a foreign labor contractor that has had its registration revoked may seek to re-register under this paragraph by demonstrating to the Secretary's satisfaction that the foreign labor contractor has not violated this subsection in the previous 5 years.

(5) AMENDMENT TO IMMIGRATION AND NATIONALITY ACT.—Section 214 of the Immigration and Nationality Act is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(s) A visa shall not be issued under the subparagraph (A)(iii), (B)(i) (but only for domestic servants described in clause (i) or (ii) of section 274a.12(c)(17) of title 8, Code of Federal Regulations (as in effect on December 4, 2007)), (G)(v), (H), (J), (L), (Q), or (R) of section 101(a)(15) until the consular officer—

''(1) has provided to and reviewed with the applicant, in the applicant's language (or a language the applicant understands), a copy of the information and resources pamphlet required by section 202 of the William Wilberforce Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act of 2007; and

''(2) has reviewed and made a part of the visa file the foreign labor recruiter disclosures required by such section 202.''.

(6) ENFORCEMENT PROVISIONS.—

(A) ADMINISTRATIVE ENFORCEMENT.—The Secretary of Labor may impose against any foreign labor contractor, for knowingly or recklessly failing to comply with the requirements of this subsection—

(i) a fine in an amount not more than $4,000 per violation; and

(ii) upon the occasion of a third violation or a failure to comply with representations, a fine of not more than $10,000 per violation.

(B) CIVIL ACTION.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Labor may bring a civil action against any foreign labor contractor in any court of competent jurisdiction—

(I) to seek remedial action, including injunctive relief;

(II) to recover damages on behalf of any worker harmed by a violation of this subsection; and

(III) to ensure compliance with requirements of this subsection.

(ii) SUMS RECOVERED.—Any sums recovered by the Secretary on behalf of a worker under clause (i) shall be held in a special deposit account and shall be paid, on order of the Secretary, directly to each employee affected. Any such sums not paid to an employee because of inability to do so within a period of three years shall be credited as an offsetting collection to the appropriations account of the Secretary of Labor for expenses for the administration of this subsection and shall remain available to the Secretary until expended.

(iii) REPRESENTATION.—Except as provided in section 518(a) of title 28, United States Code, the Solicitor of Labor may appear for and represent the Secretary of Labor in any civil litigation brought under this paragraph. All such litigation shall be subject to the direction and control of the Attorney General.

(C) AGENCY LIABILITY.—Beginning 180 days after the Secretary of Labor has promulgated regulations pursuant to paragraph (4)(B), an employer who retains the services of a foreign labor contractor shall only use those foreign labor contractors who are registered under paragraph (4). An employer who uses a foreign labor contractor who is not registered under paragraph (4) after such time period, or who uses a foreign labor contractor knowing or in reckless disregard that such contractor has violated any provision of this subsection, shall be subject to the provisions of this paragraph for violations committed by such foreign labor contractor to the same extent as if the employer were the foreign labor contractor who had committed the violation.

(D) RETALIATION.—An individual who is a victim of a violation of section 1512(A)(2)(D), 1512(b)(4), or 1513(B)(3) of title 18, United States Code, may, in a civil action, recover appropriate relief (including reasonable attorneys' fees) with respect to that violation. Any civil action under this subparagraph shall be stayed during the pendency of any criminal action arising out of the violation.

(E) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this section shall be construed to preempt or alter any other rights or remedies, including any causes of action, available under any other Federal or State law.

(h) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) EMPLOYMENT- OR EDUCATION-BASED NONIMMIGRANT VISA.—The term ''employment- or education-based nonimmigrant visa'' means a nonimmigrant visa issued for the purpose of employment, education, or training in the United States, including a visas issued under subparagraph (A)(iii), (B)(i) (but only for domestic servants described in clause (i) or (ii) of section 274a.12(c)(17) of title 8, Code of Federal Regulations (as in effect on December 4, 2007)), (G)(v), (H), (J), (L), (Q), or (R) of section 101(a)(15) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101(a)(15)).

(2) SEVERE FORMS OF TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS.—The term ''severe forms of trafficking in persons'' has the meaning given the term in section 103 of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 (22 U.S.C. 7102).

SEC. 203. RELIEF FOR CERTAIN VICTIMS PENDING ACTIONS ON PETITIONS AND APPLICATIONS FOR RELIEF.

Section 237 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1227) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(d)(1) In the case of an alien in the United States for whom an application for nonimmigrant status (whether as a principal alien or a derivative relative) under section 101(a)(15)(T) has been filed, if the application sets forth a prima facie case for approval, the Secretary of Homeland Security may grant the alien a stay of removal or deportation until the application is approved or the application is denied after exhaustion of administrative appeals. Any appeal of the denial of a stay of removal or deportation under this paragraph must accompany any appeal of the underlying substantive petition or application for benefits.

''(2) During a period in which an alien is provided a stay of removal under this subsection, the alien shall not be removed or deported.

''(3) Nothing in this subsection shall be construed as limiting the authority of the Secretary of Homeland Security to grant a stay of removal or deportation in any case not described in this subsection.''.

SEC. 204. EXPANSION OF AUTHORITY TO PERMIT CONTINUED PRESENCE IN THE UNITED STATES.

(a) EXPANSION OF AUTHORITY.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 107(c)(3) of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 (22 U.S.C. 7105(c)(3)) is amended to read as follows:

''(3) AUTHORITY TO PERMIT CONTINUED PRESENCE IN THE UNITED STATES.—

''(A) TRAFFICKING VICTIMS.—

''(i) IN GENERAL.—Upon application from a Federal law enforcement official that makes a prima facie showing that an alien is a victim of a severe form of trafficking and a potential witness to such trafficking, in order to effectuate investigation and prosecution

of those responsible, the Secretary of Homeland Security may permit an alien's continued presence in the United States.

''(ii) SAFETY.—Federal law enforcement officials described in clause (i), in investigating and prosecuting traffickers, shall endeavor to protect the safety of trafficking victims, including taking measures to protect trafficked persons and their family members from intimidation, threats of reprisals, and reprisals from traffickers and their associates.

''(iii) CONTINUATION OF PRESENCE.—The Secretary shall continue to permit the continued presence of an alien described in clause (i) if such alien has filed a civil action under section 1595 of title 18, United States Code, until such action is concluded. Failure to exercise due diligence in pursuing such a civil action, as determined by the Secretary in consultation with the Attorney General, may result in revocation of continued presence.

''(B) PAROLE FOR RELATIVES.—Pursuant to section 240A(b)(6) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1229b(b)(b)), as added by section 204(b) of the William Wilberforce Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act of 2007, law enforcement officials may submit a written request to the Secretary of Homeland Security to permit the parole into the United States of certain relatives of an alien described in subparagraph (A)(i).

''(C) STATE AND LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT.—The Secretary of Homeland Security, in consultation with the Attorney General, shall develop materials for State and local law enforcement on working with Federal law enforcement to obtain continued presence for victims of a severe form of trafficking in cases investigated or prosecuted at the State or local level, for distribution to State and local law enforcement by each Immigration and Customs Enforcement Special Agent in Charge.''.

(2) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by paragraph (1) shall take effect on the date of the enactment of this Act and shall apply to requests for continued presence filed pursuant to section 107(c)(3) of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act (22 U.S.C. 7105(c)(3)) before, on, or after such date, except that this paragraph does not permit the application of section 107(c)(3)(A) of such Act, as added by paragraph (1), to an alien who is not present in the United States.

(b) PAROLE FOR DERIVATIVES OF TRAFFICKING VICTIMS.—Section 240A(b) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1229b(b)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(6) RELATIVES OF TRAFFICKING VICTIMS.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—Upon written request by a law enforcement official, the Secretary of Homeland Security may grant parole under section 212(d)(5) to any alien who is a relative of an alien granted continued presence pursuant to section 107(c)(3)(A) of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act (22 U.S.C. 7105(c)(3)(A)), if the relative—

''(i) was, on the date on which law enforcement applied for such continued presence—

''(I) in the case of an alien granted continued presence who is under 21 years of age, the spouse, child, parent, or unmarried sibling under 18 years of age, of the alien; or

''(II) in the case of an alien granted continued presence who is 21 years of age or older, the spouse or child of the alien, or

''(ii) is a parent or sibling of the alien who, in the judgment of the requesting law enforcement official, is in present danger of retaliation as a result of the alien's escape from the severe form of trafficking or cooperation with law enforcement, irrespective of age.

''(B) DURATION OF PAROLE.—

''(i) IN GENERAL.—The grant of parole under subparagraph (A) shall extend until the date an application filed by the principal alien under section 101(a)(15)(T)(ii) has been finally adjudicated.

''(ii) OTHER LIMITS ON DURATION.—If no such application is filed, the grant of parole shall extend until the later of—

''(I) the date on which the principal alien's continued presence in the United States under section 107(c)(3)(A) of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act (22 U.S.C. 7105(c)(3)(A)) is terminated; or

''(II) the date on which a civil action filed by the principal alien under section 1595 of title 18, United States Code, is concluded.

''(iii) DUE DILIGENCE.—Failure by the principal alien to exercise due diligence in filing a visa petition on behalf of an alien described in clause (i) or (ii) of subparagraph (A), or in pursuing the civil action described in clause (ii)(II) (as determined by the Secretary of Homeland Security in consultation with the Attorney General), may result in revocation of parole.''.

SEC. 205. IMPLEMENTATION OF TRAFFICKING VICTIMS PROTECTION REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2005.

Not later than 120 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Homeland Security shall issue interim regulations regarding the adjustment of status to permanent residence for nonimmigrants admitted into the United States under section 101(a)(15)(T) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101(a)(15)(T)). If the regulations are not issued before such deadline, the Secretary shall submit a report to the Committee on Foreign Affairs and the Committee on the Judiciary of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Foreign Relations and the Committee on the Judiciary of the Senate explaining in detail the reasons such regulations have not been issued .

Subtitle B—Assistance for Trafficking Victims

SEC. 211. VICTIM OF TRAFFICKING CERTIFICATION PROCESS.

Section 107(b)(1)(E) of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 (22 U.S.C. 7105(b)(1)(E)), is amended—

(1) in clause (i)—

(A) in the matter preceding subclause (I), by striking ''consultation'' and all that follows through ''person'' and inserting ''consultation with the Attorney General and the Secretary of Homeland Security, that the person'';

(B) in subclause (I), by adding at the end before the semicolon the following: ''or is unlikely or unable to cooperate with such a request due to physical or psychological trauma;''; and

(C) in subclause (II)(bb), by striking ''United States'' and all that follows through ''ensuring'' and inserting ''United States the Secretary of Homeland Security is ensuring''; and

(2) in clause (ii), by striking ''so long as'' and all that follows through ''determines'' and inserting ''so long as the Secretary of Homeland Security determines''.

SEC. 212. ASSISTANCE FOR CERTAIN NONIMMIGRANT STATUS APPLICANTS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 431(c) of the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996 (8 U.S.C. 1641(c)) is amended—

(1) by striking ''or'' at the end of paragraph (2)(B);

(2) by striking the period at the end of paragraph (3)(B) and inserting ''; or''; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

''(4) an alien who has had approved, or has pending, a petition that sets forth a prima facie case for status as a nonimmigrant under section 101(a)(15)(T) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101(a)(15)(T)).''.

(b) CONSTRUCTION.—The provisions of section 431(c)(4) of the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996 (8 U.S.C. 1641(c)(4)), as added by subsection (a), are in addition to the access to public benefits provided in the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 and the Trafficking Victims Reauthorization Act of 2003.

(c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by subsection (a) apply to applications for public benefits and public benefits provided on or after the date of the enactment of this Act without regard to whether regulations to carry out such amendments are implemented.

SEC. 213. INTERIM ASSISTANCE FOR CHILD VICTIMS OF TRAFFICKING.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subsection (b)(1) of section 107 of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 (22 U.S.C. 7105) is amended by adding at the end the following new subparagraphs:

''(F) ELIGIBILITY OF INTERIM ASSISTANCE FOR CHILD VICTIMS.—

''(i) DETERMINATION.—With respect to a person referred to in subparagraph (C)(ii)(I) who is seeking assistance under this paragraph, if credible information is presented on behalf of the person that the person has been subjected to a severe form of trafficking in persons, the Secretary of Health and Human Services shall promptly make a determination of the person's eligibility under this paragraph.

''(ii) EXCLUSIVE AUTHORITY.—The Secretary of Health and Human Services shall have exclusive authority in making determinations of eligibility under clause (i).

''(iii) DURATION.—Assistance provided under this paragraph for an individual determined to be eligible under clause (i) may be provided for up to 90 days and may be extended for an additional 30 days.

''(iv) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that—

''(I) to ensure the best interests of the child and to create an increased chance of cooperation by child victims of severe forms of trafficking in persons, the United States Government should provide assistance to protect and care for such child victims during the pendency of proceedings to determine whether a child is a victim of severe forms of trafficking; and

''(II) in order to further the objective of subclause (I), the Secretary of Health and Human Services should make the determination of eligibility for assistance under clause (i) on the basis of the information provided and the Secretary's own assessment of such information without regard to the assessments by other departments and agencies of the United States Government regarding whether such child victim's application for relief or benefits under this Act or the Immigration and Nationality Act will be approved.

''(G) NOTIFICATION OF CHILD VICTIMS FOR INTERIM ASSISTANCE.—

''(i) FEDERAL OFFICIALS.—Any Federal official who has reason to believe that a person may be a juvenile victim of trafficking referred to in subparagraph (C)(ii)(I) shall notify the Secretary of Health and Human Services not later than 48 hours after the official first learns that the person may be a juvenile victim of trafficking for the purpose of facilitating the provision of interim assistance under subparagraph (F).

''(ii) STATE AND LOCAL OFFICIALS.—Any State or local official who has reason to believe that a person may be a juvenile victim of trafficking referred to in subparagraph (C)(ii)(I) shall notify the Secretary of Health

and Human Services not later than 72 hours after the official first learns that the person may be a juvenile victim of trafficking for the purpose of facilitating the provision of interim assistance under subparagraph (F).''.

(b) TRAINING OF GOVERNMENT PERSONNEL.—Subsection (c)(4) of such section is amended—

(1) by striking ''and the Department of Justice'' and inserting '', the Department of Homeland Security, and the Department of Health and Human Services'';

(2) by inserting before the period at the end the following: '', including the identification of juvenile victims of trafficking''; and

(3) by adding at the end the following new sentence: ''The Attorney General and the Secretary of Heath and Human Services shall provide education and guidance to State and local officials on the identification of aliens who are the victims of severe forms of trafficking, and in particular child victims of trafficking, including education and guidance on the requirements of subsection (b)(1)(G)(ii).''.

SEC. 214. ENSURING ASSISTANCE FOR ALL VICTIMS OF TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS.

(a) AMENDMENTS TO THE TRAFFICKING VICTIMS PROTECTION ACT OF 2000.—

(1) ASSISTANCE FOR UNITED STATES CITIZENS AND LAWFUL PERMANENT RESIDENTS.—Section 107 of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 (22 U.S.C. 7105) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(h) ASSISTANCE FOR UNITED STATES CITIZENS AND LAWFUL PERMANENT RESIDENTS.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Health and Human Services and the Attorney General, in consultation with the Secretary of Labor, are authorized to establish a program to provide assistance to citizens of the United States, and aliens who are lawfully admitted for permanent residence (as defined in section 101(a)(20) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101(a)(20))), who are victims of severe forms of trafficking. In determining the types of assistance that would be most beneficial for such victims, the Secretary of Health and Human Services and the Attorney General shall consult with nongovernmental organizations that provide services to victims of severe forms of trafficking in the United States.

''(2) USE OF EXISTING PROGRAMS.—In addition to such other specialized services as may be required for victims described in paragraph (1), the program established pursuant to paragraph (1) shall facilitate communication and coordination between the providers of assistance to such victims, and provide a means of identifying such providers and making referrals to programs for which such victims are already eligible (including programs administered by the Department of Justice and the Department of Health and Human Services).

''(3) GRANTS.—The Secretary of Health and Human Services and the Attorney General may make grants to States, Indian tribes, units of local government, and non-profit, nongovernmental victims' service organizations to develop, expand, and strengthen victim service programs authorized under this subsection. The Federal share of a grant made under this subsection may not exceed 75 percent of the total costs of the projects described in the application submitted.''.

(2) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—Section 113 of such Act (22 U.S.C. 7110) is amended—

(A) in subsection (b), by adding at the end the following new sentence: ''To carry out the purposes of section 107(h), there are authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary of Health and Human Services $2,500,000 for fiscal year 2008, $5,000,0000 for fiscal year 2009, $10,000,000 for fiscal year 2010, and $15,000,000 for fiscal year 2011.''; and

(B) in subsection (d), by adding at the end the following new sentence: ''To carry out the purposes of section 107(h), there are authorized to be appropriated to the Attorney General $2,500,000 for fiscal year 2008, $5,000,0000 for fiscal year 2009, $10,000,000 for fiscal year 2010, and $15,000,000 for fiscal year 2011.''.

(3) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—Section 107(b)(2)(B)(ii) of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 (22 U.S.C. 7105(b)(2)(B)(ii)) is amended to read as follows:

''(ii) five percent for training and technical assistance, including increasing capacity and expertise on security for and protection of service providers from intimidation or retaliation for their activities.''.

(b) ASSISTANCE FOR POTENTIAL VICTIMS OF TRAFFICKING AND RELATED CRIMES.—

(1) VICTIMS OF CRIME ACT.—The Victims of Crime Act of 1984 (42 U.S.C. 10601 et seq.)) is amended by inserting after section 1404E the following new section:

''SEC. 1404F. VICTIMS OF COMMERCIAL SEXUAL EXPLOITATION AND OTHER CRIMES.

''Notwithstanding any statutory or regulatory limitation on providing assistance for offender rehabilitation or for any individual who may have violated Federal or State law, and except as provided in sections 1404B and 1404C, in this chapter the terms 'victim', 'crime victim', and 'victim of crime' include an individual who is exploited or otherwise victimized by any person who is in violation of an offense described by chapter 117 of title 18, United States Code, or section 1328 of title 8, United States Code, or any similar offense under State law, regardless of whether such offense involves participation by such individual in any commercial sex act (as defined in section 2429 of title 18, United States Code).''.

(2) USE OF EXISTING PROGRAMS.—The President is authorized to facilitate communication and coordination between the providers of assistance to persons victimized in cases brought under chapter 117 of title 18, United States Code, and to provide a means of identifying such providers and making referrals to programs for which such victims are already eligible (including programs administered by the Department of Justice and the Department of Health and Human Services).

(3) EFFECT ON OTHER PROGRAMS.—Nothing in this section or the amendments made by this section shall derogate from the programs for victims of sexual abuse or commercial sexual exploitation or survivors of sexual abuse or commercial sexual exploitation authorized by section 202 of the Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization of 2005.

(c) PARTNERSHIPS AMONG ORGANIZATIONS.—Beginning not later than 120 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, all applications for grants made by the Attorney General or the Secretary of Health and Human Services to States, Indian tribes, units of local government, and nonprofit, nongovernmental victims' service organizations to establish or maintain assistance programs for victims of severe forms of trafficking in persons or sex trafficking that occurs, in whole or in part, within the territorial jurisdiction of the United States shall include a statement by the applicant of whether the services will be available to both United States citizens and foreign trafficking victims, or if the applicant intends to specialize in serving a particular victim population, what referral mechanisms or collaborative relationships they will undertake to ensure that all victims are assisted regardless of alienage. The statement required by this section will not be used to make a determination regarding the award of the grant.

(d) STUDY.—

(1) REQUIREMENT.—Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Attorney General and the Secretary of Health and Human Services shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report identifying the existence or extent of any service gap between foreign and United States citizen victims of severe forms of trafficking and victims of sex trafficking, as defined in section 103 of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000.

(2) ELEMENTS.—In carrying out the study under subparagraph (1), the Attorney General and Secretary of Health and Human Services shall—

(A) investigate factors relating to the legal ability of foreign and United States citizen victims of trafficking to access government-funded social services in general, including the application of the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996 (8 U.S.C. 1641(c)(5)) and the Illegal Immigration and Immigrant Responsibility Act of 1996 (division C of Public Law 104–208; 110 Stat. 3009 et seq.);

(B) investigate any other impediments to the access of foreign and United States citizen victims of trafficking to government-funded social services in general;

(C) investigate any impediments to the access of foreign and United States citizen victims of trafficking to government-funded services targeted to victims of severe forms of trafficking and victims of sex trafficking;

(D) investigate the effect of trafficking service-provider infrastructure development, continuity of care, and availability of caseworkers on the eventual restoration and rehabilitation of foreign and United States citizen victims of trafficking; and

(E) include findings, best practices, and recommendations based on the study of the elements in subparagraphs (A) through (D) and any other related information.

Subtitle C—Penalties Against Traffickers and Other Crimes

SEC. 221. ENHANCING TRAFFICKING AND OTHER RELATED OFFENSES.

(a) TRANSFER AND MODIFICATION OF SECTION 1591.—

(1) NEW SECTION.—Chapter 117 of title 18, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

''§ 2429. Aggravated sex trafficking

''(a) Whoever knowingly—

''(1) in or affecting interstate or foreign commerce, or within the special maritime and territorial jurisdiction of the United States, recruits, entices, harbors, transports, provides, or obtains by any means a person; or

''(2) benefits, financially or by receiving anything of value, from participation in a venture which has engaged in an act described in violation of paragraph (1),

knowing that force, fraud, or coercion will be used to cause the person to engage in a commercial sex act, or, in the case of a person who has not attained the age of 18 years, that the person will be caused to engage in a commercial sex act, or attempts to do so, shall be punished as provided in subsection (b).

''(b) In a prosecution under this subsection, the Government need not prove that the defendant knew that the person had not attained the age of 18 years.

''(c) The punishment for an offense under this section is—

''(1) if the offense was effected by force, fraud, or coercion or if the person recruited, enticed, harbored, transported, provided, or obtained had not attained the age of 14 years at the time of such offense, by a fine under this title and imprisonment for any term of years not less than 15 or for life; or

''(2) if the offense was not so effected, and the person recruited, enticed, harbored, transported, provided, or obtained had attained the age of 14 years but had not attained the age of 18 years at the time of such offense, by a fine under this title and imprisonment for not less than 10 years or for life.

''(d)(1) Section 1593 (relating to mandatory restitution) applies to an offense under this section to the same extent and in the same manner as it applies to an offense under chapter 77.

''(2) Section 1595 (relating to civil remedy) applies with respect to a violation of this section to the same extent and in the same manner it applies to a violation of a section to which section 1595 is made applicable by section 1595.

''(e) In this section—

''(1) the term 'commercial sex act' means any sex act, on account of which anything of value is given to or received by any person;

''(2) the term 'coercion' means—

''(A) threats of serious harm to or physical restraint against any person;

''(B) any scheme, plan, or pattern intended to cause a person to believe that failure to perform an act would result in serious harm to or physical restraint against any person; or

''(C) the abuse or threatened abuse of law or the legal process; and

''(3) the term 'venture' means any group of two or more individuals associated in fact, whether or not a legal entity.''.

(2) REPEAL OF TRANSFERRED SECTION.—Section 1591 of title 18, United States Code, is repealed.

(3) ELIMINATION OF CROSS REFERENCES TO REPEALED SECTION.—

(A) Section 1594 of title 18, United States Code, is amended by striking ''1590, or 1591'' and inserting ''or 1591''.

(B) Section 1595 of title 18, United States Code, is amended by striking '', 1590, or 1591'' and inserting ''or 1591''.

(4) CLERICAL AMENDMENTS TO TABLES OF SECTIONS.—

(A) The table of sections for chapter 77 of title 18, United States Code, is amended by striking the item relating to section 1591.

(B) The table of sections for chapter 117 of title 18, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new item:

''2429. Aggravated sex trafficking.''.

(5) CHANGE IN CHAPTER HEADINGS.—

(A) The heading for chapter 77 of title 18, United States Code, is amended to read as follows:

''CHAPTER 77—PEONAGE, SLAVERY, AND TRAFFICKING INTO SERVITUDE''.

(B) The heading for chapter 117 of title 18, United States Code, is amended to read as follows:

''CHAPTER 117—SEX TRAFFICKING, SEX TOURISM, AND OTHER TRANSPORTATION FOR ILLEGAL SEXUAL ACTIVITY''.

(C) The table of chapters at the beginning of part I of title 18, United States Code, is amended—

(i) so that the item relating to chapter 77 reads as follows:

''77. Peonage, Slavery, and Trafficking into Servitude ..... 1581''; and

(ii) so that the item relating to chapter 117 reads as follows:

''117. Sex Trafficking, Sex Tourism, and Other Transportation for Illegal Sexual Activity ..... 2421''.

(b) COMPELLED SERVICE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 1592 of title 18, United States Code, is amended to read as follows:

''§ 1592. Unlawful compelled service

''(a) GENERALLY.—Whoever knowingly, with intent to obtain or maintain the labor or services of a person or to obtain or maintain a person for use in a commercial sex act (as defined in section 2429)—

''(1) destroys, conceals, removes, confiscates, or possesses any actual or purported passport or other immigration document, or any other actual or purported government identification document, of another person to prevent or restrict or to attempt to prevent or restrict, without lawful authority, the person's ability to move or travel;

''(2) acts or fails to act, or threatens to do so, under color of official right;

''(3) blackmails another person; or

''(4) causes or exploits financial harm or a fear of financial harm on the part of that person;

shall be fined under this title or imprisoned not more than 5 years, or both.

''(b) DEFINITION.—For purposes of this paragraph, 'financial harm' includes the factors set forth in section 892(b) of this title, and fees charged for foreign labor contracting activity, as defined in section 202(g) of the William Wilberforce Trafficking Reauthorization Act of 2007, that are not reasonably related to services provided to the foreign worker.''.

(2) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The item relating to section 1592 in the table of sections at the beginning of chapter 77 of title 18, United States Code, is amended to read as follows:

''1592. Unlawful compelled service.''.

(c) RESTITUTION OF FORFEITED ASSETS.—(1) Section 1593(b) of title 18, United States Code, is amended by inserting at the end the following:

''(4) The distribution of proceeds among multiple victims in an order of restitution under this section shall govern the distribution of forfeited funds through the processes of remission or restoration under this section or any other statute that explicitly authorizes restoration or remission of forfeited property.''

(2) Section 1594 of title 18, United States Code, is amended—

(A) in subsection (b), by striking ''The court,'' and inserting ''Subject to remission or restoration, the court,''; and

(B) in subsection (c), by adding at the end the following:

''(3) The Attorney General shall grant restoration or remission of property to victims of an offense under this chapter that result in forfeiture under this section or under any other statute that explicitly authorizes restoration or remission of forfeited property.

''(4) In a prosecution brought under any other provision of Federal law, the Attorney General may grant restoration or remission of property to victims of severe forms of trafficking as defined in section 103 of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000, in accordance with section 1594(b)(4).''.

(d) ENHANCEMENT OF CIVIL ACTION.—Section 1595 of title 18, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subsection (a) by—

(A) by striking ''of section 1589, 1590, or 1591''; and

(B) by inserting ''(or any person who knowingly benefits, financially or by receiving anything of value from participation in a venture which has engaged in an act in violation of this chapter)'' after ''perpetrator''.

(2) by adding at the end the following:

''(c) No action shall be maintained under this section unless it is commenced within 10 years after the cause of action arose.''.

(e) RETALIATION IN FOREIGN LABOR CONTRACTING.—Title 18, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in section 1512(a)(2)—

(A) by striking ''or'' at the end of subparagraph (B);

(B) by striking ''proceedings;'' at the end of subparagraph (C) and inserting ''proceedings; or''; and

(C) by inserting immediately after subparagraph (C) the following:

''(D) hinder, delay or prevent the disclosure of information concerning a violation with respect to aliens of the requirements of an employment-based visa or any Federal labor or employment law;'';

(2) in section 1512(b)—

(A) by striking ''or'' at the end of paragraph (2);

(B) by striking ''proceedings;'' at the end of paragraph (3) and inserting ''proceedings; or''; and

(C) by inserting immediately after paragraph (3) the following:

''(4) hinder, delay, or prevent the cooperation of any person in an investigation or other proceeding concerning compliance with respect to aliens with the requirements of employment-based visas or any Federal labor or employment law;'';

(3) in section 1513(b)—

(A) by striking ''or'' at the end of paragraph (1);

(B) by inserting ''or'' at the end of paragraph (2); and

(C) by inserting immediately after paragraph (2) the following:

''(3) hinder, delay, or prevent the cooperation of any person in an investigation or other proceeding concerning compliance with respect to aliens with the requirements of employment-based visas or any other Federal labor or employment law;''; and

(4) in section 1515(a)—

(A) by striking ''and'' at the end of paragraph (5);

(B) by striking the period at the end of paragraph (6) and inserting ''; and''; and

(C) by adding at the end the following:

''(7) the term 'employment-based visa' means a nonimmigrant visa issued for the purpose of employment, student exchange employment, or job training in the United States, including those issued under subparagraph (A)(iii), (B)(i) (but only for domestic servants described in clause (i) or (ii) of section 274a.12(c)(17) of title 8, Code of Federal Regulations (as in effect on December 4, 2007)), (G)(v), (H), (J), (L), (Q), or (R) of section 101(a)(15) of the Immigration and Nationality Act.''.

(f) SEX TRAFFICKING.—

(1) NEW OFFENSE.—Chapter 117 of title 18, United States Code, is amended by inserting at the end the following:

''§ 2430. Sex trafficking

''Whoever knowingly, in or affecting interstate or foreign commerce, within the special maritime and territorial jurisdiction of the United States, or in any territory or possession of the United States, persuades, induces, or entices any individual to engage in prostitution for which any person can be charged with an offense, or attempts to do so, shall be fined under this title or imprisoned not more than 10 years, or both''.

(2) AMENDMENT TO THE TABLE OF SECTIONS.—The table of sections at the beginning of chapter 117 of title 18, United States Code, is amended by inserting at the end the following new item:

''2430. Sex trafficking.''.

(g) SEX TOURISM.—

(1) GENERALLY.—Chapter 117 of title 18, United States Code, is amended by inserting at the end the following:

''§ 2431. Sex tourism

''(a) ARRANGING TRAVEL AND RELATED CONDUCT.—Whoever, for the purpose of commercial advantage or private financial gain,

knowingly arranges, induces, or procures the travel of a person in foreign commerce for the purpose of engaging in any commercial sex act (as defined in section 2429), or attempts to do so, shall be fined under this title, imprisoned not more than 10 years, or both.

''(b) INCREASED PENALTY FOR OFFENSES INVOLVING CHILDREN.—If the commercial sex act is with a person under 18 years of age, the maximum term of imprisonment for an offense under this section is 30 years.'';

(2) AMENDMENT TO TABLE OF SECTIONS.—The table of sections at the beginning of chapter 117 of title 18, United States Code, is amended by inserting at the end the following new item:

''2431. Sex tourism.''.

(h) AMENDMENT TO THE SENTENCING GUIDELINES.—Pursuant to its authority under section 994 of title 28, United States Code, and in accordance with this section, the United States Sentencing Commission shall review and, if appropriate, amend the sentencing guidelines and policy statements applicable—

(1) to persons convicted of offenses created by this section other than those created by subsections (f) and (g), to ensure conformity with the United States Sentencing Guidelines, sections 2H4.1 (peonage offenses) and 2H4.2 (labor offenses); and

(2) to persons convicted of offenses created by subsection (f) or (g) of this section, to ensure conformity with the United States Sentencing Guidelines, sections 2G1.1 (promoting commercial sex acts with persons other than minors) and 2G1.3 (promoting commercial sex acts or prohibited sexual conduct with a minor, and related offenses.

SEC. 222. JURISDICTION IN CERTAIN TRAFFICKING OFFENSES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 77 of title 18, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

''§ 1596. Additional jurisdiction in certain trafficking offenses

''(a) IN GENERAL.—In addition to any domestic or extra-territorial jurisdiction otherwise provided by law, the courts of the United States have extra-territorial jurisdiction over any offense (or any attempt or conspiracy to commit an offense) under section 1581, 1583, 1584, 1589, 1590, or 2429 if—

''(1) an alleged offender or victim of the offense is a national of the United States or an alien lawfully admitted for permanent residence (as those terms are defined in section 101 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101)); or

''(2) an alleged offender is present in the United States, irrespective of the nationality of the alleged offender.

''(b) LIMITATION ON PROSECUTIONS OF OFFENSES PROSECUTED IN OTHER COUNTRIES.—No prosecution may be commenced against a person under this section if a foreign government, in accordance with jurisdiction recognized by the United States, has prosecuted or is prosecuting such person for the conduct constituting such offense, except upon the approval of the Attorney General or the Deputy Attorney General (or a person acting in either such capacity), which function of approval may not be delegated.''.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections at the beginning of chapter 77 of title 18, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new item:

''1596. Additional jurisdiction in certain trafficking offenses.''.

SEC. 223. AMENDMENT OF OTHER CRIMES RELATED TO TRAFFICKING.

(a) ALIENS ENTERING THE UNITED STATES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 278 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1328) is amended to read as follows:

''ALIENS IN PROSTITUTION

''SEC. 278. (a) GENERALLY.—Whoever, for the purposes of prostitution or for any other sexual activity for which any person can be charged with a criminal offense—

''(1) knowingly imports or attempts to import any alien; or

''(2) knowing or in reckless disregard of the fact that an individual is an alien who lacks lawful authority to come to, enter, or reside in the United States, knowingly holds, keeps, maintains, supports, employs, or harbors the individual in any place in the United States, including any building or any means of transportation, or attempts to do so,

shall be fined under title 18, United States Code, or imprisoned not more than 10 years, or both.

''(b) SPECIAL EVIDENTIARY RULE.—In all prosecutions under this section, the testimony of a husband or wife shall be admissible and competent evidence against each other.''.

(2) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of contents of the Immigration and Nationality Act is amended by amending the item relating to section 278 to read as follows:

''Sec. 278. Aliens in prostitution.''.

(b) AMENDMENT TO THE SENTENCING GUIDELINES.—Pursuant to its authority under section 994 of title 28, United States Code, and in accordance with this section, the United States Sentencing Commission shall review and, if appropriate, amend the sentencing guidelines and policy statements applicable to persons convicted of offenses created by this section to ensure conformity with the United States Sentencing Guidelines, section 2H4.1 (peonage offenses) in violations involving a holding under section 278(a)(2) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1328(a)(2)), and section.2G1.1 otherwise.

(c) IMBRA VIOLATIONS.—Section 833(d)(5)(B) of the Violence Against Women and Department of Justice Reauthorization Act of 2005 (Public Law 109–162) is amended by striking ''interstate or foreign commerce, an international marriage broker that, within the special maritime and territorial jurisdiction of the United States, violates'' and inserting ''interstate or foreign commerce or within the special maritime and territorial jurisdiction of the United States, an international marriage broker that violates''.

SEC. 224. NEW MODEL STATUTE PROVIDED TO STATES.

(a) NEW MODEL STATUTE.—The Attorney General shall provide a new model law for State anti-trafficking offenses that shall reflect all concepts relating to trafficking in persons included in Chapters 77 and 117 of title 18, United States Code, as amended by this title, including crimes related to forced labor, sex trafficking, and related offenses, with the elements of force, fraud or coercion or age in sex trafficking used as the bases for aggravated crimes or sentencing enhancements.

(b) DISTRIBUTION.—The model law described in subsection (a) shall be posted on the website of the Department of Justice and shall be distributed to the States and at the anti-trafficking conference described in section 201(a)(2) of the Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act of 2005 (42 U.S.C. 14044(a)).

(c) ADOPTION OF MODEL STATUTE.—

(1) ASSISTANCE.—The Attorney General shall provide assistance to States and local governments to adopt and apply the model law described in subsection (a).

(2) REPORT.—Not later than six months after the enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter, the Attorney General shall submit to the Committees on Foreign Affairs and the Judiciary of the House and the Committees on Foreign Relations and the Judiciary of the Senate a report describing the assistance provided pursuant to paragraph (1) and the results achieved by such assistance, including a list of State and local governments that have adopted the model law.

Subtitle D—Activities of the United States Government

SEC. 231. ANNUAL REPORT BY THE ATTORNEY GENERAL.

Section 105(d)(7) of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 (22 U.S.C. 7103(d)(7)) is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (A)—

(A) by striking ''section 107(b)'' and inserting ''subsections (b) and (h) of section 107''; and

(B) by inserting ''the Attorney General,'' after ''the Secretary of Labor,'';

(2) in subparagraph (G), by striking ''and'' at the end;

(3) by redesignating subparagraph (H) as subparagraph (J); and

(4) by inserting after subparagraph (G) the following new subparagraphs:

''(H) activities by the Department of Defense to combat trafficking in persons, including educational efforts for and disciplinary actions taken against members of the United States Armed Forces, materials included in training of the armed forces of foreign countries, and efforts to ensure that United States Government contractors and their employees or United States Government subcontractors and their employees do not engage in trafficking in persons;

''(I) activities or actions by Federal departments and agencies to enforce—

''(i) section 106(g) of this Act and any similar provision of law, regulation, or policy relating to United States Government contractors and their employees or United States Government subcontractors and their employees that engage in severe forms of trafficking in persons, procurement of commercial sex acts, or use of forced labor, including debt bondage;

''(ii) section 307 of the Tariff Act of 1930 (19 U.S.C. 1307; relating to prohibition on importation of convict made goods), including any determinations by the Secretary of Homeland Security to waive the restrictions of such section; and

''(iii) prohibitions on the procurement by the United States Government of items or services produced by slave labor, consistent with Executive Order 13107 (December 10, 1998); and''.

SEC. 232. ANTI-TRAFFICKING SURVEY AND CONFERENCES.

(a) SURVEY.—Paragraph (1) of section 201(a) of the Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act of 2005 (42 U.S.C. 14044(a)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(C) ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS.—With respect to the study described in subparagraph (B)(ii), the Attorney General shall solicit on a biennial basis, beginning as soon as practicable after the date of the enactment of the William Wilberforce Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act of 2007, requests for proposals for such a study from nongovernmental entities with expertise in the field of illegal economic activities and shall complete such study not later than one year after the date of the enactment of such Act.''

(b) ANNUAL CONFERENCE.—Paragraph (2)(A) of such section is amended—

(1) in the first sentence, by striking ''in consultation'' and inserting ''in coordination with the Secretary of State and in consultation''; and

(2) in clause (ii), by inserting before the semicolon at the end the following: ''and the use of existing Federal and State criminal

laws that do not require force, fraud, or coercion as an element of a felony crime to prosecute such person.''.

SEC. 233. SENIOR POLICY OPERATING GROUP.

Section 206 of the Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act of 2005 (42 U.S.C. 14044d) is amended by striking '', as the department or agency determines appropriate,''.

SEC. 234. EFFORTS BY DEPARTMENTS OF JUSTICE AND LABOR TO COMBAT HUMAN TRAFFICKING.

(a) ACTIVITIES AT THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE.—

(1) ROLE OF CRIMINAL DIVISION IN TRAFFICKING CASES.—

(A) REDESIGNATION.—The Child Exploitation and Obscenity Section of the Criminal Division of the Department of Justice shall be redesignated as the Sexual Exploitation and Obscenity Section.

(B) EXPANSION.—The Attorney General shall expand the responsibilities of the Innocence Lost Task Forces to incorporate situations involving adults who are sexually exploited by persons in violation of offenses such as section 2430.

(C) RESPONSIBILITIES.—The chief of the section described in subsection (a) should work with other parts of the Department of Justice and State and local law enforcement to ensure effective prosecutions through the task force described in subparagraph (B).

(D) REFERENCES.—Any reference to the Child Exploitation and Obscenity Section of the Criminal Division in any law, regulation, rule, directive, instruction or other official United States Government document in effect on the date of enactment of this Act shall be deemed to refer to the Sexual Exploitation and Obscenity Section.

(2) CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this subsection shall be construed as affecting the activities of the Criminal Section of the Civil Rights Division relating to the 13th Amendment's prohibition of slavery and involuntary servitude.

(b) DEPARTMENT OF LABOR.—

(1) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary of Labor shall establish within the Department of Labor a Coordinator to Combat Human Trafficking.

(2) DUTIES.—In addition to any other responsibilities that the Secretary of Labor may assign, the Coordinator shall have the following responsibilities:

(A) Ensure coordination of policies relating to victims of trafficking, both in the United States and abroad, among the various offices and components of the Department of Labor, including the Office of the Solicitor, the Employment Standards Administration, the Wage and Hour Division, the Bureau of International Labor Affairs, and the Office of Child Labor, Forced Labor, and Human Trafficking.

(B) Ensure improved communication and coordination with State labor agencies relating to trafficking in persons.

(C) Represent the Department at interagency mechanisms relating to trafficking in persons, including assisting appropriate high-level officials of the Department of Labor who are members of the Senior Policy Operating Group.

(D) Serve, in conjunction with the Coordinator to Combat Human Trafficking of the Department of Justice (established pursuant to subsection (a)), as the executive secretariat of the Trafficking in Persons and Worker Exploitation Task.

(3) STAFF.—The Secretary of Labor shall ensure that the Coordinator has sufficient staff to carry out the duties described in paragraph (2).

(4) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated such sums as may be necessary to carry out this subsection.

(c) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this section shall be construed as affecting or derogating from the responsibilities of the Senior Policy Operating Group established by section 206 of the Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act of 2005.

(d) DEFINITION.—In this section, the term ''victim of trafficking'' has the meaning given the term in section 103 of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 (22 U.S.C. 7102).

SEC. 235. PREVENTING UNITED STATES TRAVEL BY TRAFFICKERS.

Section 212(a)(2)(H)(i) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1182(a)(2)(H)(i)) is amended by striking ''consular officer'' and inserting ''consular officer, the Secretary of Homeland Security, the Secretary of State,''.

SEC. 236. ENHANCING EFFORTS TO COMBAT THE TRAFFICKING OF CHILDREN.

(a) FINDINGS AND SENSE OF CONGRESS.—

(1) FINDINGS.—The Congress finds as follows:

(A) The United States Government currently estimates that up to 17,500 individuals are trafficked into the United States each year. Of these, some 50 percent are believed to be under the age of 18. Many of these children are victims of sex trafficking and are forced into prostitution and other exploitative activities in the United States.

(B) Despite the large number of children trafficked into the United States every year, the Department of Health and Human Services has identified an average of 20 children per year as trafficking victims through fiscal year 2006. This disparity between estimated and identified victims demonstrates that much more needs to be done in educating individuals who may be coming into contact with trafficked children.

(2) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of the Congress that, to the extent consistent with the treaties and other international agreements to which the United States is a party, and to the extent practicable, the United States Government should undertake efforts to protect children from severe forms of trafficking and ensure that it does not repatriate children in Federal custody into settings that would threaten their life or safety.

(b) COMBATTING CHILD TRAFFICKING AT THE BORDER AND PORTS OF ENTRY OF THE UNITED STATES.—

(1) POLICIES AND PROCEDURES.—In order to enhance the efforts of the United States to prevent trafficking in persons, the Secretary of State, in conjunction with the Secretary of Homeland Security and the Secretary of Health and Human Services, shall develop policies and procedures to ensure that unaccompanied alien children in the United States are safely repatriated to their country of nationality or of last habitual residence.

(2) SPECIAL RULES FOR CHILDREN FROM CONTIGUOUS COUNTRIES.—

(A) DETERMINATIONS.—Any unaccompanied alien child who is a national or habitual resident of a country that is contiguous with the United States shall be treated in accordance with subparagraph (B), if the Secretary of Homeland Security determines, on a case-by-case basis, that—

(i) such child has not been a victim of a severe form of trafficking in persons, and there is no credible evidence that such child is at risk of being trafficked upon return to the child's country of nationality or of last habitual residence;

(ii) such child does not have a fear of returning to the child's country of nationality or of last habitual residence owing to a credible fear of persecution; and

(iii) the child is able to make an independent decision to withdraw the child's application for admission to the United States.

(B) RETURN.—An immigration officer who finds an unaccompanied alien child described in subparagraph (A) at a land border or port of entry of the United States and determines that such child is inadmissible under the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101 et seq.) may—

(i) permit such child to withdraw the child's application for admission pursuant to section 235(a)(4) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1225(a)(4)); and

(ii) return such child to the child's country of nationality or country of last habitual residence.

(C) CONTIGUOUS COUNTRY AGREEMENTS.—The Secretary of State shall negotiate agreements between the United States and countries contiguous to the United States with respect to the repatriation of children. Such agreements shall be designed to protect children from severe forms of trafficking in persons, and shall, at a minimum, provide that—

(i) no child shall be returned to the child's country of nationality or of last habitual residence unless returned to appropriate officials or employees of the accepting country's government;

(ii) no child shall be returned to the child's country of nationality or of last habitual residence outside of reasonable business hours; and

(iii) border personnel of the countries that are parties to such agreements are trained in the terms of such agreements.

(3) RULE FOR OTHER CHILDREN.—The custody of unaccompanied alien children not described in paragraph (2)(A) who are apprehended at the border of the United States or at a United States port of entry shall be treated in accordance with subsection (c).

(4) SCREENING.—Within 48 hours of the apprehension of a child who is believed to be described in paragraph (2)(A), but in any event prior to returning such child to the child's country of nationality or of last habitual residence, the child shall be screened to determine whether the child meets the criteria listed in paragraph (2)(A). If the child does not meet such criteria, or if no determination can be made within 48 hours of apprehension, the child shall immediately be transferred to the Secretary of Health and Human Services and treated in accordance with subsection (c).

(5) ENSURING THE SAFE REPATRIATION OF CHILDREN.—

(A) REPATRIATION PILOT PROGRAM.—To protect children from trafficking and exploitation, the Secretary of State shall create a pilot program, in conjunction with non-governmental organizations and other national and international agencies and experts, to develop and implement best practices to ensure the safe and secure repatriation and reintegration of unaccompanied alien children into their country of nationality or of last habitual residence, including placement with their families or other sponsoring agencies.

(B) REPORT ON REPATRIATION OF UNACCOMPANIED ALIEN CHILDREN.—Not later than 18 months after the date of the enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter, the Secretary of Homeland Security, in conjunction with the Secretary of State and Secretary of Health and Human Services, shall submit a report to the Committee on the Judiciary of the Senate and the Committee on the Judiciary of the House of Representatives on efforts to repatriate unaccompanied alien children. Such report shall include—

(i) the number of unaccompanied alien children ordered removed and the number of such children actually removed from the United States;

(ii) a statement of the nationalities, ages, and gender of such children;

(iii) a description of the policies and procedures used to effect the removal of such children from the United States and the steps taken to ensure that such children were safely and humanely repatriated to their country of nationality or of last habitual residence, including a description of the repatriation pilot program created pursuant to subparagraph (A);

(iv) a description of the type of immigration relief sought and denied to such children; and

(v) statistical information and other data on unaccompanied alien children as provided for in section 462(b)(1)(J) of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 279(b)(1)(J)).

(C) PLACEMENT IN REMOVAL PROCEEDINGS.—Any unaccompanied alien child sought to be removed by the Department of Homeland Security, except for an unaccompanied alien child from a contiguous country subject to exceptions under subsection (b)(2), shall be placed in removal proceedings under section 240 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1229a).

(c) COMBATTING CHILD TRAFFICKING AND EXPLOITATION IN THE UNITED STATES.—

(1) CARE AND CUSTODY OF UNACCOMPANIED ALIEN CHILDREN.—Consistent with section 462 of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 279), and except as otherwise provided under subsection (b), the care and custody of all unaccompanied alien children, including responsibility for their detention, where appropriate, shall be the responsibility of the Secretary of Health and Human Services.

(2) NOTIFICATION.—Each department or agency of the Federal Government shall notify the Department of Health and Human services within 48 hours upon—

(A) the apprehension or discovery of an unaccompanied alien child; or

(B) any claim or suspicion that an alien in the custody of such department or agency is under 18 years of age and is unaccompanied.

(3) TRANSFERS OF UNACCOMPANIED ALIEN CHILDREN.—Any department or agency of the Federal Government that has an unaccompanied alien child in its custody shall transfer the custody of such child to the Secretary of Health and Human Services within 72 hours, except in the case of exceptional circumstances, upon a determination that such child is an unaccompanied alien child.

(4) AGE DETERMINATIONS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Health and Human Services shall make an age determination for an alien described in paragraph (2)(B) and take whatever other steps are necessary to determine whether such alien is eligible for treatment under this section or section 462 of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 279).

(B) PROCEDURES.—The Secretary of Health and Human Services, in consultation with the Secretary of Homeland Security, shall develop procedures to make a prompt determination of the age of an alien, which shall be used by the Secretary of Homeland Security and the Secretary of Health and Human Services for children in their respective custody. At a minimum, these procedures shall permit the presentation of multiple forms of evidence, including the non-exclusive use of radiographs, to determine the age of the unaccompanied alien.

(d) PROVIDING SAFE AND SECURE PLACEMENTS FOR CHILDREN.—

(1) POLICIES AND PROGRAMS.—The Secretary of Health and Human Services, Secretary of Homeland Security, Attorney General, and Secretary of State shall establish policies and programs to ensure that unaccompanied alien children in the United States are protected from traffickers and other persons seeking to victimize or otherwise engage such children in criminal, harmful, or exploitative activity, including policies and programs reflecting best practices in witness security programs.

(2) SAFE AND SECURE PLACEMENTS.—Subject to section 462(b)(2) of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 279(b)(2)), an unaccompanied alien child in the custody of the Secretary of Health and Human Services shall be promptly placed in the least restrictive setting that is in the best interest of the child. In making such placements, the Secretary of Health and Human Services may consider danger to self, danger to the community, and risk of flight. Placement of child trafficking victims may include placement with competent adult victims of the same trafficking scheme in order to ensure continuity of care and support. A child shall not be placed in a juvenile delinquency or other secure detention facility (as defined in section 103(12) of the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act of 1974 (42 U.S.C. 5603(12)) absent a determination that the child poses a danger to others or has been accused of having committed a criminal offense.

(3) SAFETY AND SUITABILITY ASSESSMENTS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Subject to the requirements of subparagraph (B), an unaccompanied alien child may not be placed with a person or entity unless the Secretary of Health and Human Services makes a determination that the proposed custodian is capable of providing for the child's physical and mental well-being. Such determination shall, at a minimum, include verification of the custodian's identity and relationship to the child, if any, as well as an independent finding that the individual has not engaged in any activity that would indicate a potential risk to the child.

(B) HOME STUDIES.—Before placing the child with an individual, the Secretary of Health and Human Services shall determine whether a home study is first necessary. A home study shall be conducted for a child who is a victim of a severe form of trafficking in persons, a special needs child with a disability (as defined in section 3 of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 12102(2))), or a child who has been a victim of physical or sexual abuse under circumstances that indicate that the child's health or welfare has been significantly harmed or threatened. The Secretary of Health and Human Services shall conduct follow-up services, during the pendency of removal proceedings, on children and custodians for whom a home study was conducted.

(C) ACCESS TO INFORMATION.—Upon request from the Secretary of Health and Human Services, the Secretary of Homeland Security shall provide information necessary to conduct suitability assessments from appropriate Federal, State, and local law enforcement and immigration databases.

(4) LEGAL ORIENTATION PRESENTATIONS.—The Secretary of Health and Human Services shall cooperate with the Executive Office for Immigration Review to ensure that custodians receive legal orientation presentations provided through the Legal Orientation Program administered by the Executive Office for Immigration Review. At a minimum, such presentations shall address the custodian's responsibility to ensure the child's appearance at all immigration proceedings and to protect the child from mistreatment, exploitation, and trafficking.

(5) ACCESS TO COUNSEL.—The Secretary of Health and Human Services shall ensure, to the greatest extent practicable and consistent with section 292 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1362), that all unaccompanied alien children who are or have been in the custody of the Secretary or the Secretary of Homeland Security, and who are not described in subsection (b)(2)(A), have competent counsel to represent them in legal proceedings or matters and protect them from mistreatment, exploitation, and trafficking. To the greatest extent practicable, the Secretary of Health and Human Services shall make every effort to utilize the services of competent pro bono counsel who agree to provide representation to such children without charge.

(6) CHILD ADVOCATES.—The Secretary of Health and Human Services is authorized to appoint independent child advocates for child trafficking victims and other vulnerable unaccompanied children. A child advocate shall be provided access to materials necessary to effectively advocate for the best interest of the child. The child advocate shall not be compelled to testify or provide evidence in any proceeding concerning any information or opinion received from the child in the course of serving as a child advocate. The child advocate shall be presumed to be acting in good faith and be immune from civil and criminal liability for lawful conduct of duties as described in this paragraph.

(e) PERMANENT PROTECTION FOR CERTAIN AT-RISK CHILDREN.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 101(a)(27)(J) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101(a)(27)(J)) is amended—

(A) in clause (i), by striking ''State and who has been deemed eligible by that court for long-term foster care due to abuse, neglect, or abandonment;'' and inserting ''State, or an individual or entity appointed by a State or juvenile court located in the United States, and whose reunification with one or both of the immigrant's parents is not viable due to abuse, neglect, abandonment, or a similar basis found under State law;'';

(B) in clause (iii), in the matter preceding subclause (I), by striking ''the Attorney General expressly consents to the dependency order serving as a precondition to the grant of special immigrant juvenile status;'' and inserting ''the Secretary of Homeland Security consents to the grant of special immigrant juvenile status,''; and

(C) in clause (iii)(I), by striking ''in the actual or constructive custody of the Attorney General unless the Attorney General specifically consents to such jurisdiction;'' and inserting ''in the custody of the Secretary of Health and Human Services unless the Secretary of Health and Human Services specifically consents to such jurisdiction;''.

(2) ADJUSTMENT OF STATUS.—Section 245(h)(2)(A) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1255(h)(2)(A)) is amended to read as follows:

''(A) paragraphs (4), (5)(A), (6)(A), (6)(C), (6)(D), (7)(A), and (9)(C)(i)(I) of section 212(a) shall not apply; and''.

(3) ELIGIBILITY FOR ASSISTANCE.—A child who has been granted special immigrant status under section 101(a)(27)(J) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101(a)(27)(J)) and who was either in the custody of the Secretary of Health and Human Services at the time a dependency order was granted for such child or who was receiving services pursuant to section 501(a) of the Refugee Education Assistance Act of 1980 (8 U.S.C. 1522 note) at the time such dependency order was granted, shall be eligible for placement and services under section 412(d) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1522(d)) until the earlier of—

(A) the date on which the child reaches the age designated in section 412(d)(2)(B) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1522(d)(2)(B)); or

(B) the date on which the child is placed in a permanent adoptive home.

(4) STATE COURTS ACTING IN LOCO PARENTIS.—A department or agency of a State, or an individual or entity appointed by a State court or juvenile court located in the United States, acting in loco parentis, shall not be considered a legal guardian for purposes of this section or section 462 of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 279).

(5) TRANSITION RULE.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, an alien described in section 101(a)(27)(J) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101(a)(27)(J)), as amended by paragraph (1), may not be denied special immigrant status under such section after the date of the enactment of this Act based on age if the alien was a child on the date on which the alien applied for such status.

(6) ACCESS TO ASYLUM PROTECTIONS.—Section 208 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1158) is amended—

(A) in subsection (a)(2), by adding at the end the following:

''(E) APPLICABILITY.—Subparagraphs (A) and (B) shall not apply to an unaccompanied alien child (as defined in section 462(g) of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 279(g))).''; and

(B) in subsection (b)(3), by adding at the end the following:

''(C) INITIAL JURISDICTION.—An asylum officer (as defined in section 235(b)(1)(E)) shall have initial jurisdiction over any asylum application filed by an unaccompanied alien child (as defined in section 462(g) of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 279(g))), regardless of whether filed in accordance with this section or section 235(b).''.

(7) SPECIALIZED NEEDS OF CHILDREN.—Applications for asylum and other forms of relief from removal in which a child is the principal applicant shall be governed by regulations which take into account the specialized needs of children and which address both procedural and substantive aspects of handling children's cases.

(f) TRAINING.—The Secretary of State, the Secretary of Homeland Security, the Secretary of Health and Human Services and the Attorney General shall provide specialized training to all Federal personnel who come into contact with unaccompanied alien children. Such personnel shall be trained to work with unaccompanied alien children, including identifying children who are a victim of a severe form of trafficking in persons, and children for whom asylum or special immigrant relief may be appropriate, including children described in subsection (b)(2).

(g) AMENDMENTS TO THE HOMELAND SECURITY ACT OF 2002.—

(1) ADDITIONAL RESPONSIBILITIES.—Section 462(b)(1)(L) of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 279(b)(1)(L)) is amended by striking the period at the end and inserting '', including regular follow-up visits to such facilities, placements, and other entities, to assess the continued suitability of such placements.''.

(2) TECHNICAL CORRECTIONS.—Section 462(b) of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 279(b)) is amended—

(A) in paragraph (3), by striking ''paragraph (1)(G),'' and inserting ''paragraph (1),''; and

(B) by adding at the end the following:

''(4) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in paragraph (2)(B) may be construed to require that a bond be posted for an unaccompanied alien child who is released to a qualified sponsor.''.

(h) DEFINITION OF UNACCOMPANIED ALIEN CHILD.—For purposes of this section, the term ''unaccompanied alien child'' has the meaning given such term in section 462(g) of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 279(g)).

(i) EFFECTIVE DATE.—This section shall take effect on the date that is 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act.

(j) GRANTS AND CONTRACTS.—The Secretary of Health and Human Services may award grants to, and enter into contracts with, voluntary agencies to carry out this section and section 462 of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 279).

SEC. 237. TEMPORARY INCREASE IN FEE FOR CERTAIN CONSULAR SERVICES.

(a) INCREASE IN FEE.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, not later than October 1, 2008, the Secretary of State shall increase by $2.00 the fee or surcharge assessed under section 140(a) of the Foreign Relations Authorization Act, Fiscal Years 1994 and 1995 (Public Law 103–236; 8 U.S.C. 1351 note) for processing machine readable nonimmigrant visas and machine readable combined border crossing identification cards and nonimmigrant visas.

(b) DEPOSIT OF AMOUNTS.—Notwithstanding section 140(a)(2) of the Foreign Relations Authorization Act, Fiscal Years 1994 and 1995 (Public Law 103–236; 8 U.S.C. 1351 note), fees collected under the authority of subsection (a) shall be deposited in the Treasury.

(c) DURATION OF INCREASE.—The fee increase authorized under subsection (a) shall terminate on the date that is 2 years after the date on which such fee is first collected.

TITLE III—AUTHORIZATIONS OF APPROPRIATIONS

SEC. 301. TRAFFICKING VICTIMS PROTECTION ACT OF 2000.

Section 113 of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 (22 U.S.C. 7110) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)—

(A) in the first sentence—

(i) by striking ''104,''; and

(ii) by striking ''$1,500,000'' and all that follows through ''2007'' and inserting ''$5,000,000 for each of the fiscal years 2008 through 2011''; and

(B) in the second sentence—

(i) by inserting ''$1,500,000 for additional personnel for each of the fiscal years 2008 through 2011'' after ''Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking''; and

(ii) by striking ''2006 and 2007'' and inserting ''2008 through 2011'';

(2) in the first sentence of subsection (b), by striking ''$5,000,000'' and all that follows through ''2007'' and inserting ''$15,000,000 for each of the fiscal years 2008 through 2011'';

(3) in subsection (c)—

(A) in paragraph (1)—

(i) by striking ''2004, 2005, 2006, and 2007'' each place it appears and inserting ''2008 through 2011'';

(ii) in subparagraph (B)—

(I) by striking ''$15,000,000'' and inserting ''$10,000,000''; and

(II) by adding at the end the following new sentence: ''To carry out the purposes of section 107(a)(1)(F), there are authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary of State $500,000 for fiscal year 2008, $750,000 for fiscal year 2009, and $1,000,000 for each of the fiscal years 2010 and 2011.''; and

(iii) in subparagraph (C), by inserting ''(as added by section 109)'' after ''section 134 of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961'';

(B) by striking paragraph (2);

(C) by redesignating paragraph (3) as paragraph (2); and

(D) in paragraph (2) (as redesignated by subparagraph (C))—

(i) by striking ''section 104'' and inserting ''sections 116(f) and 502B(h) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (as added by section 104)''; and

(ii) by striking '', including the preparation'' and all that follows through ''section'';

(4) in subsection (d)—

(A) in the first sentence, by striking ''$10,000,000'' and all that follows through ''2007'' and inserting ''$15,000,000 for each of the fiscal years 2008 through 2011''; and

(B) in the second sentence, by striking ''$250,000'' and all that follows through ''2007'' and inserting ''$500,000 for each of the fiscal years 2008 through 2011'';

(5) in subsection (e)—

(A) in paragraph (1), by striking ''$5,000,000'' and all that follows through ''2007'' and inserting ''$15,000,000 for each of the fiscal years 2008 through 2011'';

(B) in paragraph (2)—

(i) by striking ''section 109'' and inserting ''section 134 of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (as added by section 109)''; and

(ii) by striking ''$5,000,000'' and all that follows through ''2007'' and inserting ''$15,000,000 for each of the fiscal years 2008 through 2011''; and

(C) in paragraph (3), by striking ''$300,000'' and all that follows through ''2007'' and inserting ''$1,000,000 for each of the fiscal years 2008 through 2011'';

(6) in subsection (f)—

(A) by striking ''section 107(b)'' and inserting ''section 107(b) of this Act and section 202(g) of the William Wilberforce Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act of 2007''; and

(B) by striking ''$5,000,000'' and all that follows through ''2007'' and inserting ''$15,000,000 for each of the fiscal years 2008 through 2011'';

(7) in subsection (h), by striking ''fiscal year 2006'' and inserting ''each of the fiscal years 2008 through 2011''; and

(8) in subsection (i), by striking ''$18,000,000'' and all that follows through ''2007'' and inserting ''$18,000,000 for each of the fiscal years 2008 through 2011''.

SEC. 302. TRAFFICKING VICTIMS PROTECTION REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2005.

The Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act of 2005 (Public Law 109–164) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (7) of section 102(b), by striking ''2006 and 2007'' and inserting ''2008 through 2011'';

(2) in subsection (b) of section 105, by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

''(3) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—To carry out this subsection, there are authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary of Labor $1,000,000 for each of the fiscal years 2008 through 2011.'';

(3) in subsection (c) of section 201—

(A) in paragraph (1), by striking ''$2,500,000 for each of the fiscal years 2006 and 2007'' each place it appears and inserting ''$3,000,000 for each of the fiscal years 2008 through 2011''; and

(B) in paragraph (2), by striking ''$1,000,000'' and all that follows through ''2007'' and inserting ''$1,000,000 for each of the fiscal years 2008 through 2011'';

(4) in subsection (d) of section 202, by striking ''$10,000,000'' and all that follows through ''2007'' and inserting ''$15,000,000 for each of the fiscal years 2008 through 2011'';

(5) in subsection (g) of section 203, by striking ''$5,000,000'' and all that follows through ''2007'' and inserting ''$5,000,000 for each of the fiscal years 2008 through 2011''; and

(6) in subsection (d) of section 204, by striking ''$25,000,000'' and all that follows through ''2007'' and inserting ''$25,000,000 for each of the fiscal years 2008 through 2011''.

SEC. 303. RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.

The amendments made by sections 301 and 302 shall not be construed to affect the availability of funds appropriated pursuant to the authorizations of appropriations under the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 (division A of Public Law 106–386; 22 U.S.C. 7101 et seq.) and the Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act of 2005 (Public

Law 109–164) before the date of the enactment of this Act.

SEC. 304. TECHNICAL AMENDMENTS.

(a) TRAFFICKING VICTIMS PROTECTION ACT OF 2000.—Sections 103(1) and 105(d)(7) of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 (22 U.S.C. 7102(1) and 7103(d)(7)) are amended by striking ''Committee on International Relations'' each place it appears and inserting ''Committee on Foreign Affairs''.

(b) TRAFFICKING VICTIMS PROTECTION REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2005.—Section 102(b)(6) and subsections (c)(2)(B)(i) and (e)(2) of section 104 of the Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act of 2005 (Public Law 109–164) are amended by striking ''Committee on International Relations'' each place it appears and inserting ''Committee on Foreign Affairs''.

TITLE IV—PREVENTION OF THE USE OF CHILD SOLDIERS

SEC. 401. SHORT TITLE.

This title may be cited as the ''Child Soldier Prevention Act of 2007''.

SEC. 402. DEFINITIONS.

In this title:

(1) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES.—The term ''appropriate congressional committees'' means—

(A) the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives; and

(B) the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate.

(2) CHILD SOLDIER.—Consistent with the provisions of the Optional Protocol, the term ''child soldier''—

(A) means—

(i) any person under age 18 who takes a direct part in hostilities as a member of governmental armed forces, where the government has failed to take all feasible measures to ensure that members of its armed forced under age 18 do not take a direct part in hostilities;

(ii) any person under age 18 who has been compulsorily recruited into governmental armed forces;

(iii) any person under age 16 voluntarily recruited into governmental armed forces; and

(iv) any person under age 18 recruited or used in hostilities by armed forces distinct from the armed forces of a state, where the government has failed to take all feasible measures to prevent such recruitment and use, including the adoption of legal measures necessary to prohibit and criminalize such practices; and

(B) includes any person described in clauses (ii), (iii), and (iv) of subparagraph (A) who is serving in any capacity, including in a support role such as a cook, porter, messenger, medic, guard, or sex slave.

(3) OPTIONAL PROTOCOL.—The term ''Optional Protocol'' means the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the Involvement of Children in Armed Conflict, which establishes 18 as the minimum age for conscription or forced recruitment and requires states party to take all feasible measures to ensure that members of their armed forces under the age of 18 do not take a direct part in hostilities

(4) UNITED STATES MUNITIONS LIST.—The term ''United States Munitions List'' means the list referred to in section 38(a)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act (22 U.S.C. 2778(a)(1)).

SEC. 403. FINDINGS.

Congress makes the following findings:

(1) According to the September 7, 2005, report to the General Assembly of the United Nations by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict, ''In the last decade, two million children have been killed in situations of armed conflict, while six million children have been permanently disabled or injured. Over 250,000 children continue to be exploited as child soldiers and tens of thousands of girls are being subjected to rape and other forms of sexual violence.''.

(2) According to the Center for Emerging Threats and Opportunities (CETO), Marine Corps Warfighting Laboratory, ''The Child Soldier Phenomenon has become a post-Cold War epidemic that has proliferated to every continent with the exception of Antarctica and Australia.''.

(3) Many of the children currently serving in armed forces or paramilitaries were forcibly conscripted through kidnapping or coercion, a form of human trafficking, while others joined military units due to economic necessity, to avenge the loss of a family member, or for their own personal safety.

(4) Some military and militia commanders force child soldiers to commit gruesome acts of ritual killings or torture, including acts of violence against other children.

(5) Many female child soldiers face the additional psychological and physical horrors of rape and sexual abuse, enslavement for sexual purposes by militia commanders, and severe social stigma should they return home.

(6) Some military and militia commanders target children for recruitment because of their psychological immaturity and vulnerability to manipulation and indoctrination. Children are often separated from their families in order to foster dependence on military units and leaders. Consequently, many of these children suffer from deep trauma and are in need of psychological counseling and rehabilitation.

(7) Child soldiers are exposed to hazardous conditions and are at risk of physical injury and disability, psychological trauma, sexually transmitted diseases, respiratory and skin infections, and often death.

(8) On May 25, 2000, the United Nations adopted and opened for signature, ratification, and accession the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the Involvement of Children in Armed Conflict.

(9) On June 18, 2002, the Senate unanimously approved the resolution advising and consenting to the ratification of the Optional Protocol.

(10) On December 23, 2002, the United States presented the ratified Optional Protocol to the United Nations.

(11) More than 110 governments worldwide have ratified the Optional Protocol, establishing a clear international norm concerning the use of children in combat.

(12) On December 2, 1999, the United States ratified International Labour Convention 182, the Convention concerning the Prohibition and Immediate Action for the Elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labour, which includes the use of child soldiers among the worst forms of child labor.

(13) On October 7, 2005, the Senate gave its advice and consent to the ratification of the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, Supplementing the United Nations Convention Against Transnational Organized Crime.

(14) It is in the national security interest of the United States to reduce the chances that members of the United States Armed Forces will be forced to encounter children in combat situations.

(15) Section 502B(a)(3) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2304(a)(3)) provides that ''the President is directed to formulate and conduct international security assistance programs of the United States in a manner which will promote and advance human rights and avoid identification of the United States, through such programs, with governments which deny to their people internationally recognized human rights and fundamental freedoms, in violation of international law or in contravention of the policy of the United States as expressed in this section or otherwise''.

SEC. 404. SENSE OF CONGRESS.

It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) the United States Government should condemn the conscription, forced recruitment or use of children by governments, paramilitaries, or other organizations in hostilities;

(2) the United States Government should support and, where practicable, lead efforts to establish and uphold international standards designed to end this abuse of human rights;

(3) the United States Government should expand ongoing services to rehabilitate recovered child soldiers and to reintegrate them back into their communities by—

(A) offering ongoing psychological services to help victims recover from their trauma and relearn how to deal with others in nonviolent ways such that they are no longer a danger to their community, taking into consideration the needs of girl soldiers, who may be at risk of exclusion from disarmament, demobilization, and reintegration programs;

(B) facilitating reconciliation with their communities through negotiations with traditional leaders and elders to enable recovered abductees to resume normal lives in their communities; and

(C) providing educational and vocational assistance;

(4) the United States should work with the international community, including, where appropriate, third country governments, nongovernmental organizations, faith-based organizations, United Nations agencies, local governments, labor unions, and private enterprise—

(A) on efforts to bring to justice rebel organizations that kidnap children for use as child soldiers, including the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) in Uganda, Fuerzas Armadas Revolucionarias de Colombia (FARC), and Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) in Sri Lanka, including, where feasible, by arresting the leaders of such groups; and

(B) on efforts to recover those children who have been abducted and to assist them in their rehabilitation and reintegration into communities;

(5) the Secretary of State, the Secretary of Labor, and the Secretary of Defense should coordinate programs to achieve the goals specified in paragraph (3), and in countries where the use of child soldiers is an issue, whether or not it is supported or sanctioned by the governments of such countries, United States diplomatic missions should include in their mission program plans a strategy to achieve the goals specified in such paragraph;

(6) United States diplomatic missions in countries in which governments use or tolerate child soldiers should develop, as part of annual program planning, strategies to promote efforts to end this abuse of human rights, identifying and integrating global best practices, as available, into such strategies to avoid duplication of effort; and

(7) in allocating or recommending the allocation of funds or recommending candidates for programs and grants funded by the United States Government, United States diplomatic missions should give serious consideration to those programs and candidates deemed to promote the end to this abuse of human rights.

SEC. 405. PROHIBITION ON PROVISION OF MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO FOREIGN GOVERNMENTS THAT RECRUIT OR USE CHILD SOLDIERS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subject to subsections (b), (c), and (d), none of the funds made available to carry out sections 516 or 541 of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2321j or 2347) or section 23 of the Arms Export Control Act (22 U.S.C. 2763) may be used to provide assistance to the government of a country that the Secretary of State determines has governmental armed forces or government supported armed groups, including paramilitaries, militias, or civil defense forces, that recruit or use child soldiers.

(b) PUBLICATION OF LIST OF FOREIGN GOVERNMENTS AND NOTIFICATION TO FOREIGN GOVERNMENTS.—

(1) PUBLICATION OF LIST OF FOREIGN GOVERNMENTS.—The Secretary of State shall include a list of the foreign governments subject to the prohibition in subsection (a) in the report required by section 110(b) of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 (22 U.S.C. 7107(b)).

(2) NOTIFICATION TO FOREIGN GOVERNMENTS.—The Secretary of State shall formally notify each foreign government subject to the prohibition in subsection (a).

(c) NATIONAL INTEREST WAIVER.—

(1) WAIVER.—The President may waive the application to a foreign government of the prohibition in subsection (a) if the President determines that such waiver is in the interest of the United States.

(2) PUBLICATION AND NOTIFICATION.—The President shall publish each waiver granted under paragraph (1) in the Federal Register and shall notify the appropriate congressional committees of each such waiver, including the justification for the waiver, in accordance with the regular notification procedures of such committees.

(d) REINSTATEMENT OF ASSISTANCE.—The President may provide to a foreign government assistance otherwise prohibited under subsection (a) upon certifying to the appropriate congressional committees that the foreign government—

(1) has implemented effective measures to come into compliance with the standards of this title; and

(2) has implemented effective policies and mechanisms to prohibit and prevent future use of child soldiers and to ensure that no children are recruited, conscripted, or otherwise compelled to serve as child soldiers.

(e) EXCEPTIONS.—

(1) ASSISTANCE TO ADDRESS THE PROBLEM OF CHILD SOLDIERS AND PROFESSIONALIZATION OF THE MILITARY.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The President may provide to a foreign government assistance under section 541 of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2347; relating to international military education and training) otherwise prohibited under subsection (a) upon certifying to the appropriate congressional committees that—

(i) the government is implementing effective measures to demobilize child soldiers in its forces or in government supported paramilitaries and to provide demobilization, rehabilitation, and reintegration assistance to those former child soldiers; and

(ii) the assistance provided by the United States Government to the government will go to programs that will directly support professionalization of the military.

(B) LIMITATION.—The exception under subparagraph (A) may not remain in effect for more than 2 years following the date of notification specified in subsection (b)(2).

(2) ASSISTANCE FOR DEMINING ACTIVITIES, THE CLEARANCE OF UNEXPLODED ORDINANCE, THE DESTRUCTION OF SMALL ARMS, AND RELATED ACTIVITIES.—The President may use funds made available under section 23 of the Arms Export Control Act (22 U.S.C. 2763; relating to credit sales) to provide to a foreign government assistance otherwise prohibited under subsection (a) if the purpose of the assistance is to carry out demining activities, the clearance of unexploded ordinance, the destruction of small arms, or related activities.

(3) ASSISTANCE TO FURTHER COOPERATION WITH THE UNITED STATES TO COMBAT INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM.—The President may provide to a foreign government assistance under any provision of law specified in subsection (a) if the purpose of the assistance is specifically designed to further cooperation between the United States and the foreign government to combat international terrorism.

(f) EFFECTIVE DATE; APPLICABILITY.—This section takes effect 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act and shall apply to funds made available for the first fiscal year beginning after such effective date and each subsequent fiscal year.

SEC. 406. REPORTS.

(a) PREPARATION OF REPORTS REGARDING CHILD SOLDIERS.—The Secretary of State shall ensure that United States missions abroad thoroughly investigate reports of the use of child soldiers in the countries in which such missions are located.

(b) INFORMATION FOR ANNUAL HUMAN RIGHTS REPORTS.—In preparing those portions of the Department of State's annual Country Reports on Human Rights Practices that relate to child soldiers, the Secretary of State shall ensure that such portions include a description of the use of child soldiers in each foreign country, including—

(1) trends toward improvement in such country of the status of child soldiers or the continued or increased tolerance of such practices; and

(2) the role of the government of such country in engaging in or tolerating the use of child soldiers.

(c) NOTIFICATION TO CONGRESS.—Not later than June 15 of each year for 10 years following the date of the enactment of this Act, the President shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees—

(1) a list of any waivers or exceptions exercised under section 405;

(2) a justification for those waivers and exceptions; and

(3) a description of any assistance provided pursuant to section 405.

(d) REPORT ON IMPLEMENTATION OF TITLE.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the President shall submit to appropriate congressional committees a report setting forth a strategy for achieving the policy objectives of this title, including a description of an effective mechanism for coordination of United States Government efforts to implement this strategy.

(e) REPORT ON CHILD SOLDIERS IN BURMA.—Not later than 120 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of State shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report of the recruitment and use of child soldiers by the governmental armed forces or government-supported armed groups of the Government of Burma, including paramilitaries, militias, or civil defense forces.

SEC. 407. TRAINING FOR FOREIGN SERVICE OFFICERS.

Section 708 of the Foreign Service Act of 1980 (22 U.S.C. 4028) is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

''(c) The Secretary of State, with the assistance of other relevant officials, shall establish as part of the standard training provided after January 1, 2008, for members of the Service, including chiefs of mission, instruction on matters related to child soldiers and the terms of the Child Soldier Prevention Act of 2007.''.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON-LEE) and the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Texas.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the bill under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the gentlemen from Michigan (Mr. CONYERS) control 10 minutes of the time allocated for H.R. 3887, the William Wilberforce Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act of 2007.

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

There was no objection.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of this resolution, and I yield myself such time as I my consume.

It is all too common these days to see headlines in media around and about the rise of modern-day slavery. The stories are enough to turn anyone's stomach. Cambodian mothers driven by intense poverty selling their daughters into prostitution; children as young as 5 shipped to Nigeria to slave away in underground granite mines; hundreds of African boys and girls smuggled to Britain, forced to work as domestic servants; brutish uniformed soldiers dragging Burmese men and women from their homes to labor on government construction projects; and even though it is not directly related, women in Saudi Arabia victimized by getting the lash and being convicted even though they have been a victim of rape and being utilized as sex tools or toys and sometimes being utilized as slaves.

These nightmares unfolding thousands of miles from our shores are deeply tragic. But to many, they seem profoundly disconnected from our comfortable lives here in America. They are not. Human trafficking happens here at home right under our noses.

Let me, of course, thank Chairman LANTOS and Ranking Member ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN for working with Congressman CONYERS and many of us on this important legislation. Let me thank Congressman CONYERS for his constant and consistent leadership on this important legislation, and as well his continued work as the chairman of the House Judiciary Committee, on which I serve with him.

Just a few weeks ago, a frightened young Tanzanian woman bravely came

before the Foreign Affairs Committee to testify. For more than 4 years, she had been forced to do domestic work without pay for a diplomat at the Tanzanian Embassy in Washington. She was denied medical care. And when this frail young woman complained that her feet were infected, she was forced outside without shoes to shovel snow. While we would all like to view this heart-rending case as an isolated incident, it is sadly part of a growing international trend in which millions of men, women and children are forced into sexual slavery, labor or indentured servitude each year.

Think for a moment if each of these individuals had a little camera on their back or their shoulder and we could truly see this woman with infected feet in icy snow shoveling snow, or someone who was never able to leave their house and never have any time off even here in the United States, or some of the other examples that we have already highlighted, we had a camera to see the harshness of it, the shame of it, the sadness of it, the cruelty of it.

Trafficking is the world's fastest growing international organized crime, and one of the most profitable, yielding up to $17 billion each year. Every year traffickers move between 700,000 and 2 million women and children across international borders for the purpose of serving in the sex trade or in forced labor. Congress has worked for nearly a decade to ramp up our country's efforts to prevent trafficking, protect victims and prosecute perpetrators.

With approval of the bill before the House today, we can redouble these efforts and dramatically increase the ability the United States has to work to end the scourge of modern-day slavery. H.R. 3887 requires the administration to compile data from every U.S. agency, international organizations and private sources so that the executive branch can prepare a comprehensive analysis of trafficking patterns. This will help us better understand where victims are actually going and how to free them. It also provides help for countries to prevent trafficking by registering vulnerable populations that currently go unrecognized so that potential victims can be identified and educated. And it provides assistance to increase inspections abroad where forced labor occurs to help trafficking victims from slave-like conditions.

The legislation also prevents new visas for domestic servants for diplomats in the United States who belong to any embassy where abuse of such workers occurs. This will encourage self-policing of such embassies by their ambassadors.

The bipartisan bill before the House will not end trafficking overnight but it will dramatically increase America's ability to stop trafficking here at home and to work with other countries to battle this rapidly growing international crime.

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The legislation shows that it is still possible for Republicans and Democrats to work together to get something big and important done and to save lives.

Mr. Speaker, let me thank my good friend and colleague, the ranking member of the Subcommittee on Africa and Global Health, CHRIS SMITH, for his extraordinary leadership on the trafficking issue for many years and for his many contributions to this important legislation. Let me also thank Chairman PAYNE for working with him on this issue and working together with the full committee.

Two centuries ago, William Wilberforce moved mountains to convince the British Parliament to ban slavery in the United Kingdom. In fact, there is a Historically Black College named after him: Wilberforce University. More than 140 years ago our Nation adopted a 13th amendment banning slavery right here at home. But slavery in many forms still stubbornly persists in our country, in Britain, and in nations around the world.

Mr. Speaker, enough is enough. Modern-day slavery must end. Our country already plays a leadership role in bringing about this supremely moral objective, but we simply must do more.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all Members to support this legislation.

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

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, as an original cosponsor, I rise in favor of the bill before us, H.R. 3887, the William Wilberforce Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act. This was introduced by the chairman of our committee, the Committee on Foreign Affairs, Mr. LANTOS; and it remains one of the premier issues facing us today, Mr. Speaker.

Human trafficking is modern-day slavery. It is a major source of revenue for international criminal syndicates, and it is a grave abuse against human dignity. Hundreds of thousands of people are trafficked across international borders every year. It is estimated that 80 percent of those are women, and half are children. Millions more are trafficked into sexual servitude and forced labor within their own countries.

In Iran, children are trafficked into sexual slavery and forced into involuntary servitude as beggars and day laborers. In Syria, women trafficked from South and Southeast Asia are forced to work as domestic servants, and women from Eastern Europe and Iraq are forced into prostitution. In China, up to 90 percent of North Korean refugee women fall prey to traffickers who sell them into sexual slavery. In our own hemisphere, Mr. Speaker, Cuba has been shamefully promoted as a destination for sex tourism that exploits large numbers of Cuban children.

The dehumanization and the brutality suffered by trafficking victims are nearly incomprehensible. I am proud that the Congress has helped turn this former non-issue into a priority for our United States Government and an issue, indeed, of international concern.

The enactment of the original Trafficking Victims Protection Act 7 years ago was a watershed event. I want to commend the author of that act and the gentleman from New Jersey, Mr. CHRIS SMITH, whose leadership on these issues has been central to the progress that we have made so far.

While there have been some signs of improvement, such as a larger number of countries that have enacted anti-trafficking legislation, other problems remain widespread. The number of countries, for example, listed in tier three, that is the most problematic category in the State Department's annual Trafficking in Persons Report, has actually increased from 12 countries to 16 since last year. Some of the governments with the worst records, such as Burma, Cuba, Iran, North Korea, Sudan and Venezuela, continue to resist making even basic efforts to protect vulnerable children and women.

A number of problem countries like Russia and China sit on the tier two ''Watch List'' year after year after year without further consequences, even though that category was originally created as a warning that countries are about to slip into the tier three category.

The bill before us today, Mr. Speaker, will not only reauthorize key aspects of prior trafficking legislation but it will also enhance our international anti-trafficking efforts, our domestic law enforcement and victim assistance activities, and efforts to fight the use of child soldiers worldwide. It will improve our Nation's victim-centered approach to fight human trafficking by strengthening each of the so-called ''Three P's,'' prevention, protection, prosecution.

I want to commend the author of this bill again, Mr. Speaker, Chairman LANTOS, and my fellow cosponsors for the perseverance and the compromise that they have invested in ensuring that this bill receive wide bipartisan support throughout consideration by the three committees of jurisdiction: Foreign Affairs, Judiciary, and Energy and Commerce. The revised text before us today also has been endorsed by an impressively broad array of organizations and experts from across the political spectrum.

The William Wilberforce Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act of 2007 is a vital weapon in our fight against the heartbreaking scourge of human trafficking, and it deserves our full support.

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

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, as chairman of the committee, I rise to yield myself such time as I may consume.

Ladies and gentlemen of the House of Representatives, although we passed

the constitutional amendment against slavery in 1865, slavery still exists, not just in the world, but in the United States of America. And so we begin an examination of H.R. 3887, commending the Committee on Foreign Affairs, Republicans and Democrats, and commending those members of the House Judiciary Committee, Republicans and Democrats, that have come together today to pass under suspension H.R. 3887.

Slavery is a social, ugly circumstance that still controls and guides the destiny of so many people in this country. It is important that the 13th amendment's guarantee of freedom operates, whether it involves forced prostitution, whether it operates in farms or sweat shops, or in domestic service.

Mr. Speaker, if you could have heard the powerful testimony that was given by our witnesses on this bill. It shocked me. People were forced to live and work under conditions of fear and terror that was extended to their parents. A young woman, who couldn't even use her real name in the committee, told about the trafficking of human beings inside of America, in the City of Detroit, where this club was using her to commit all kinds of acts and raise huge amounts of money at the same time. As one of the television shows on NBC showed yesterday morning, guess what? There is more money being taken out of prostitution in America than in the drug industry. Drugs come number two to prostitution and involuntary servitude.

This is what brings all of us to the floor today. I am very proud of these two committees in the House that are dealing with new enforcement tools to combat modern-day slavery, whether the exploitation is by unscrupulous labor recruiters, by diplomats who abuse their services, or by brutal street pimps who coerce and keep under their domain these women, young women, at that.

Mr. Speaker, I want to just take a moment here to respond to concerns to that an aspect of this bill, that it will somehow federalize prostitution. That is not the case. That is not what we are trying to do. The sex slavery offense, renamed ''aggravated sex trafficking,'' still captures cases of coercion that implicate the 13th amendment. The new ''sex trafficking offenses'' improves the Mann Act to allow prosecution of pimps who affect commerce but don't actually cross State lines.

This new tool should not diminish other anti-slavery efforts or the fight against child exploitation. We expect it to be used consistently with the principles of Federal prosecution that defer to local authority as appropriate. We want the States to control the prosecution of this offense.

There is no place in today's America for slavery. And for that reason, H.R. 3887 is critically important, because it puts new potency in the Thirteenth Amendment's guarantee of freedom: whether on farms or sweatshops, in domestic service or forced prostitution.

In a recent hearing before the House Judiciary Committee, we heard moving and powerful testimony from a young woman who has further inspired us to work together to bring this bill to the floor, to draw the line against modern slavery.

The bravery of that young woman, her story, and her willingness to speak on behalf of all victims of human trafficking, are an example for all of us, and a call to action for us to meet again our Nation's ongoing mission to deliver on the promise of freedom that has been enshrined in our Constitution since the Civil War.

The Thirteenth Amendment's prohibition against involuntary servitude and slavery is as important and basic a civil right today as it was at the time of Emancipation. Its promise of freedom is a sacred trust, written in the suffering of all of those who have been held in bondage. As a country, we owe it to them to never stop fighting for freedom.

This bill is named in honor of William Wilberforce, the famous English antislavery legislator of the Nineteenth Century.

It will equip our law enforcers with tough new enforcement tools to combat modern slavery, whether the exploitation is by unscrupulous labor recruiters, by diplomats who abuse their servants, or by brutal pimps.

It will protect immigrants and U.S. citizens alike within our country, and provide law enforcement training and victim protections overseas as well.

I would like to take a minute to respond to concerns that aspects of the bill could somehow ''federalize'' all prostitution and pimping. This is not the case.

The servitude offense—which the bill renames ''aggravated sex trafficking''—still captures only those prostitution offenses that implicate a liberty interest under the 13th amendment because they involve coercion.

The new ''compelled service'' crime allows more flexibility in proving enslavement.

And the crime entitled ''sex trafficking'' improves the Mann Act to allow prosecution of pimps whose activities affect interstate commerce, not just those who actually cross a State line.

It is not our intent to redirect resources away from child exploitation, terrorism, or other important law enforcement, or to depart from the principles of federal prosecution that defer to local prosecutions where possible and serve as a ''backstop'' to catch the worst of the worst.

This approach maintains the structure and definitions of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000, and builds upon the good work of the Civil Rights Division and its antitrafficking task forces around the country. As was noted in yesterday's New York Times, these Federal and State task forces are vigorously confronting modern slavery in forced prostitution and forced labor alike.

We expect those efforts to continue, and now to intensify with these additional enforcement tools. This bill brings law enforcement officials and service providers together, to punish traffickers and to protect victims and their families. And it provides critical immigration mechanisms to protect children and other vulnerable people.

In the 1800s, escaped slaves such as Frederick Douglass and Sojourner Truth spoke out against chattel slavery. Their voices, and the voices and efforts of many others, led to a constitutional commitment that everyone in this country would be forevermore free from slavery and involuntary servitude.

The young woman who testified before our committee did not allow her enslavement and incarceration to silence her either. She became a voice not only for herself, but for other victims of slavery in its various forms, many of whom remain in bondage.

We owe it to her, and to the millions who continue under the oppression of modern slavery and involuntary servitude, to support this bill.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as she may consume to the gentlewoman from Virginia (Mrs. DRAKE).

Mrs. DRAKE. Mr. Speaker, the abolition of slavery was never fully achieved in our country, or anywhere else in the world. While the slavery that exists today looks different from the slavery of our country's past, it is still a widespread, horrific reality. Human trafficking is modern-day slavery. It manifests itself in many forms: forced and bonded labor, sex slavery, and even militant activity, as has been seen with child soldiers.

I am outraged that such an offense against humanity and against the ideals of our country is allowed to flourish on our soil and abroad. As the co-chair of the Congressional Caucus on Human Trafficking, I am proud to be an original co-sponsor to H.R. 3887. This reauthorization brings renewed attention to the fight against human trafficking.

Mr. Speaker, trafficking is a shared global problem which will require a global response. Congress has rightly taken the lead in putting this issue on the international agenda. Human trafficking is an issue that transcends political ideology and every faith. We have a moral imperative to put an end to this modern-day slavery. For this reason, I support H.R. 3887, because I believe it will put us on the right path to finally abolishing slavery in our country and around the world.

Mr. Speaker, only through increasing public awareness to this global problem and demanding action will we bring an end to slavery. I commend the sponsor of this bill and the many Members of Congress who have joined together to bring an end to slavery once and for all.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to yield 2½ minutes to the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. MALONEY), the co-chair of the Human Trafficking Caucus.

(Mrs. MALONEY of New York asked and was given permission to revise and extend her remarks.)

□ 1515

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of the William Wilberforce Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act, that I believe it is fair to describe as historic. As cochair of the Human Trafficking Caucus and as an original cosponsor, I am pleased that this bill

will provide strong, new, innovative, flexible tools to combat modern-day slavery, whether labor exploiters, diplomats who abuse their servants, or brutal pimps.

I want to commend the extra offered leadership of Chairman LANTOS and Chairman CONYERS, as well as LAMAR SMITH and RANDY FORBES, and their staffs, for bringing this important bill to the floor. I truly do believe that books will be written about this effort, a major one, to end this terrible abuse of human people.

I ask my colleagues to look at this picture. I want them to see that the lives of trafficking victims are pure horror. If you look at the first line, each girl looks different, but after one or two years, they all look the same, shells of people. In the end, they have been abused, psychologically captured, broken and devastated at the hands of their pimps.

The fight against human trafficking has brought together Democrats and Republicans, liberals and conservatives, religious leaders and secular leaders. I will place in the RECORD a list of the very large bipartisan coalition that was sent to the Department of Justice and our colleagues and signed by many advocates, including Gloria Steinem, Jessica Neuwirth, Kim Gandy, Tony Campolo, Jim Wallis, Ron Sider, Walter Fauntroy and Beverly LaHaye, among many others.

The bipartisan bill before us is historic and will dramatically strengthen our capability to fight human trafficking.

Mr. Speaker, I became interested in this when Big Apple Oriental Tours in my district was advertising sex tours, sex trafficking. Come to the Philippines, come here, come there, and we will give you a young girl, many young girls. We could not close them down.

With this Congress in a bipartisan way, we have strengthened the laws to crack down on this terrible human abuse. This bill before us gives law enforcement even greater tools to go after the predators.

COALITION AGAINST
TRAFFICKING IN WOMEN,
New York, NY, October 5, 2007.

Hon. PETER KEISLER,
Acting Attorney General of the United States, Department of Justice, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. ACTING ATTORNEY GENERAL: Founded in 1988, the Coalition Against Trafficking in Women is the first international non-governmental organization to challenge the trafficking of women and girls as an acute form of gender discrimination and a severe violation of human rights. The one hundred representative signers of this letter include leaders of organizations and communities that range across the country's religious, ideological and political spectrums. What unites us is our collective outrage at human trafficking and our commitment to end it.

More than six months ago, Congresswoman Maloney and Congressmen Wolf and Scott wrote to former Attorney General Gonzales to express their concerns with the Department's anti-trafficking policies and strategies. They did so in the context of his public statements that the initiative against domestic trafficking was a matter of high priority to the Department. We share these views and applaud these statements. The multibillion dollar ''industry'' operated within the United States by criminal traffickers enslaves and devastates hundreds of thousands of girls and women in a manner eerily reminiscent of the 19th Century African slave trade.

We write because of the Department's apparent rejection of the views expressed in the Maloney-Scott-Wolf letter and because of our serious concerns about the Department's anti-trafficking activities. First, we fail to understand why the Department has called on States to enact a model statute that effectively requires proof of fraud, force or coercion for the conviction of sex traffickers, instead of encouraging State and local prosecutors to strengthen and enforce existing statutes under which traffickers can be convicted on proof that they have ''merely'' engaged in sex trafficking. Our concern about the Department's model law is made particularly grave by its seriously misguided definition of prostitution as a form of ''labor or services.'' The effect of conceptualizing prostitution as a form of ''work'' not only conflicts with public statements that former Attorney Generals Ashcroft and Gonzales and other administration officials have made, it also effectively converts the pimps, brothel owners and others who profit from the prostitution ''industry'' into presumptively legal employers. The Department's ''labor or services'' definition is thus in clear conflict with repeated statements of the President, with his National Security Policy Directive 22 and with almost all State and local laws on the subject.

What the Department's trafficking policy as embodied in the model law dangerously ignores is the acute difficulty of gaining testimonial evidence of fraud, force or coercion from terrified and brutalized victims of trafficking, and the potential danger that such a requirement poses to victims' safety. It is well documented that many victims enslaved by traffickers suffer from traumatic bonding and related conditions that make it impossible for them to give the testimony essential to the prosecution of fraud, force or coercion cases. In fact, we believe that the Department's policy will cause predatory traffickers to increase their acts of violence and psychological abuse in order to ensure that the persons they abuse will not serve as prosecution witnesses.

Requiring proof of force, fraud, and coercion has not only had a detrimental effect on the prosecution of cases of domestic trafficking. Such proof requirements have been cited by anti-trafficking leaders in other countries as obstacles to holding traffickers accountable for their systematic acts of violence against girls and women. If trafficking victims are afraid to testify against their traffickers in the U.S., as they are, they are more afraid to do so in foreign countries with even more violent traffickers and often less protective legal systems.

The approach of the Department's model law appears to be replicated in the Department's prosecution policies and strategies. We are gravely concerned by the Department's failure to more fully utilize D.C. Criminal Code § 22–2707, which makes sex trafficking per se a felony offense. In enforcing the D.C. Criminal Code, the Department functions much like State and local prosecutors, so that vigorous utilization of Section 22–2707 would send a powerful leadership message to those prosecutors, one that would help ameliorate the negative effects of the Department's model State law. In the same vein, we are troubled by the Department's failure to more fully utilize 18 U.S. Code § 2422(a), a statute recently amended by Congress that requires no proof of fraud, force or coercion and that would be of particular value in jurisdictions where major cities in different States border each other.

There are a number of additional aspects of the Department's anti-trafficking policies and strategies that trouble us, and about which we ask your views:

The Department has given domestic traffickers effective immunity from criminal tax laws, when otherwise legal business owners are prosecuted for such acts as failing to provide W–2 forms. Congresswoman Maloney has recently introduced legislation that would ensure that traffickers are prosecuted for violating criminal tax laws, a leadership act that builds on Senator Grassley's leadership in the 109th Congress. The Grassley bill was unanimously endorsed by the Senate Finance Committee. Will the Department support this initiative?

In the face of persuasive research conducted by Equality Now, the Department has failed to utilize existing criminal statutes to prosecute so-called ''sex tourism'' operators. Do you agree?

The Department prioritizes the prosecution of traffickers of girls and women brought into the United States from foreign countries. Are American citizens who have been subjected to trafficking any less worthy of the Department's protection?

The Department, through its grants under the Violence Against Women Act and like programs, often denies support to applicants who operate programs for trafficking survivors. Clearly, victims of domestic trafficking, routinely subjected to rape and battery, are as much in need of and as much entitled to assistance and services as victims of other forms of gender-based violence. Do you share this view, and do you believe that victims of domestic trafficking are underserved?

The Department has failed to pursue funds for the grant programs and the survey of the unlawful domestic commercial sex industry that were authorized by the Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act of 2005. Is it not important for the Department, and the country, to know as much about the predatory world of trafficking as is known about the country's gambling and drug operations?

There is an apparent lack of coordination within the Department of its anti-trafficking activities. We believe it essential, as called for in the Maloney-Scott-Wolf letter, for there to be a single, accountable office headed by an experienced criminal prosecutor to whom Congress and the American public can look for results in the conduct of the Department's anti-trafficking activities. Do you share this view?

The Departmental leadership on the trafficking issue has been vested in the Civil Rights Division even though the Division's sole jurisdiction is the prosecution of traffickers who have committed provable acts of fraud, force, or coercion against adult victims. While we celebrate the highly professional and committed prosecutors who have brought such cases, we are deeply concerned that the anti-trafficking strategy adopted by the Department will shield traffickers from prosecution while encouraging them to intensify their acts of violence and psychological abuse. Do you believe this concern legitimate?

Attached is a report prepared by Professor Donna Hughes of the March 13 Human Trafficking Training session conducted by the head of the Civil Rights Division's Anti-Trafficking Unit—a session broadcast to United States Attorneys throughout the country. The Hughes report demonstrates the Department's seeming disinterest in enforcing per se statutes against trafficking.

The report also shows that the Department's anti-trafficking initiative is directed against provable physical violence rather than trafficking per se.

We are dismayed by the comments of Department officials described in the Hughes report that leaders of the country's trafficking survivor community are ''not . . . ready'' to engage in education, awareness and service initiatives on behalf of trafficked women. Is this your perception, or the Department's, of the groundbreaking and courageous work of such survivor-led groups as GEMS, Dignity House, Veronica's Voice, SAGE, and Breaking Free?

Congress, the administration, and a broad and fully engaged anti-trafficking coalition now in place can in our view make history, and do so this year, in ending the reign of terror and enslavement long practiced by traffickers operating within this country.

Additionally, effective prosecution of domestic traffickers, and committed Federal government support for their victims, will strengthen the capacity of the State Department's Trafficking in Persons Office to deal with countries that are complicit or indifferent to mass trafficking within their borders. Such action would save millions of trafficked and at risk girls and women throughout the world.

The Department has significantly increased the number of its trafficking prosecutions and the resources it has committed to anti-trafficking activities. Yet in spite of this, there has been no decline in the incidence of domestic trafficking or in the number of girls and women abused and destroyed by domestic traffickers during the five year period in which the Department has conducted its costly antitrafficking initiative. Moreover and critically, the model law promoted by the Department has produced few if any State prosecutions or convictions—an outcome that we are certain will continue for the reasons set forth in this letter. Until the Department begins prosecuting and calling for the prosecution of traffickers on a per se basis, and ends its effective call for limiting such prosecutions to cases where fraud, force or coercion can be proven, domestic and international trafficking will continue to flourish and grow. Human trafficking can and must be ended within our borders. But it is only through strong and strategic measures that we will do so. Accordingly, we respectfully request a meeting to discuss the matters set forth in this letter.

Respectfully,

Dorchen Leidholdt, President, Coalition Against Trafficking in Women.

Norma Ramos, Co-Executive Director, Coalition Against Trafficking in Women.

Winnie Bartel, Board Member, National Association of Evangelicals.

Michelle Battle, Chief Operating Officer, The National Congress of Black Women, Inc.

Gary Bauer, President, American Values.

Dr. David Black, President, Eastern University.

Twiss Butler, Board Member, Coalition Against Trafficking in Women.

Tony Campolo, Professor Emeritus, Eastern University.

Phyllis Chesler, Ph.D., Co-Founder, National Women's Health Network.

Hon. David N. Cicilline, Mayor, Providence, Rhode Island.

Richard Cizik, VP, Government Affairs, National Association of Evangelicals.

Michael Cromartie, Ethics and Public Policy Center

Catherine J. Douglass, Executive Director, inMotion, Inc..

Janice Shaw Crouse, Director, Beverly LaHaye Institute, Concerned Women for America.

Barrett Duke, PhD, Ethics and Religious Liberty Commission, Southern Baptist Convention.

Geri B. Elias, LCSW, National Outreach Manager, Jewish Women International.

Bonnie Erbe, Scripps Howard Columnist.

Bonaventure N. Ezekwenna, Publisher, Africans in America.

Melissa Farley, PhD Director, Prostitution Research & Education.

Rev. Walter Fauntroy, Former DC Delegate to Congress, Pastor, New Bethel Church.

Georgette Forney, President, Anglicans for Life.

Commissioner Israel Gaither, National Commander, The Salvation Army USA.

Commissioner Eva Gaither, National President of Women's Ministries, The Salvation Army USA.

Kim A. Gandy, President, National Organization for Women.

Todd Gitlin, Professor of Journalism and Sociology, Columbia University.

Victor Goode, Former Executive Director, National Association for Black Lawyers.

Rabbi David Greenstein, The Academy for Jewish Religion, Riverdale, NY.

Joseph K. Grieboski, President, Institute on Religion and Public Policy.

Agnes Gund, Art Historian, Activist.

Dr. David P. Gushee, Distinguished University Professor of Christian Studies, Mercer University.

Mimi Haddad, PhD, President, Christians for Biblical Equality.

Rev. Dr. James V. Heidinger, II, President Good News Movement.

Rabbi Shmuel Herzfeld Coalition of Jewish Concerns—Amcha.

Michael Horowitz, Senior Fellow, Hudson Institute.

Bishop Clyde M. Hughes, International Pentecostal Church of Christ.

Donna M. Hughes, Carlson Chair Professor, Women's Studies Program, University of Rhode Island.

Sandra Hunnicutt, Executive Director, Captive Daughters.

Rt. Rev. Jack L. Iker, Bishop of Fort Worth, Episcopal Church.

Richard Israel, Former Attorney General, Rhode Island.

Kristin Komamicki, Editor, PRISM Magazine, Evangelicals for Social Justice.

James M. Kushiner, Executive Director, The Fellowship of St. James.

Mrs. Beverly LaHaye, Founder, Chair, Concerned Women for America.

Nancy Lewis, UN Representative, International Immigrants Foundation.

Sister LeeAnn Mackeprang, Good Shepherd, Contemplative Sisters.

Catharine A. MacKinnon, Elizabeth A. Long, Professor, University of Michigan Law School.

Frederica Mathewes-Green, Speaker, Author.

Faith McDonnell, Director, Religious Liberty Program, Institute on Religion and Democracy.

Alyssa Milano, Actress, Human Rights Activist.

John R. Miller, Research Professor in International Studies, George Washington University.

Ronna J. Miller, Director, MHGS Conferences.

Richard J. Mouw, President, Fuller Seminary.

Patricia Murphy, North American Coordinating Center, School Sisters of Notre Dame.

Jessica Neuwirth, President, Equality Now.

Susan O'Malley, Business and Professional Women International.

Katherine R. Parisi, CSJP, PhD, Justice & Peace Coordinator, Congregation of the Sisters, St. Joseph of Peace.

Kathryn Cameron Porter, Founder, President, Leadership Council for Human Rights.

Margaret Purvis, Founder, President, Faces of Children, Midland, TX.

Dana Raphael, PhD, Director, Human Lactation Center.

Judith A. Reisman, PhD, President, Institute for Media Education.

Shirley Rodriguez Remeneski, President, 100 Hispanic Women, Inc.

Eva H. Richter, International Federation of Business and Professional Women.

Elizabeth D. Rios, Founder, Board President, Center for Emerging Female Leadership.

Rev. David Runnion-Bareford, Executive Director, Biblical Witness Fellowship, United Church of Christ.

Austin Ruse, President, Catholic Family & Human Rights Institute.

Diana E.H. Russell, PhD, Emerita Professor of Sociology, Mills College.

Denise Scotto, International Federation of Women in Legal Careers (FIFCJ).

Nadia Shmigel, World Federation of Ukrainian Women's Organizations.

L. Faye Short, President, RENEW Women's Network.

Ron Sider, President, Evangelicals for Social Action.

Lucianne Siers, Director, Partnership for Global Justice.

Deborah Sigmund, Founder, Innocence at Risk.

Carol Smolenski, Executive Director, ECPAT–USA.

Gloria Steinem, Co-Founder, Ms. Magazine.

Cheryl Thomas, Director, Women's Human Rights Program, Advocates for Human Rights.

Jim Wallis, President, CEO, Sojourners/Call to Renewal.

Rev. Gloria E. White-Hammond, M.D., Co-Founder, My Sister's Keeper, Co-Pastor, Bethel AME Church.

Wendy Wright, President, Concerned Women for America.

SERVICE PROVIDERS

Anne Bissell, Executive Director, Voices for Justice.

Vednita Carter, Executive Director, Breaking Free.

Rita Chaikin, Anti-Trafficking Project Coordinator, Isha L'Isha—Haifa Feminist Center, Haifa, Israel.

Kristy Childs, Executive Director, Founder VERONICA'S Voice.

Katherine Chon, Executive Director, Co-Founder, Polaris Project.

Rachel Durchslag, Executive Director, Chicago Alliance Against Sexual Exploitation.

Laurel W. Eisner, Executive Director, Sanctuary for Families, New York, NY.

Juliette Engel, Founding Director, MiraMed Institute, Moscow, Russia.

Sid Ford, Founder, Director, YANA (You are Never Alone), Baltimore, MD.

Leah Gruenptere Gold, Director, Machon Toda'a Awareness Center, Israel.

Patricia Green, Founder, RAHAB INTERNATIONAL, World Outreach International, Berlin, Germany.

Norma Hotaling, Founder, Director, SAGE, San Francisco, CA.

Phyllis Kilbourn, Director, Crisis Care Training International, Rainbows of Hope.

Chong N. Kim, Founder, MASIE (Minorities & Survivor Improving Empowerment), USA.

Donna Robin Lippman, Director, Incest and Rape Recovery Center, New York.

Rachel Lloyd, Executive Director, Founder, GEMS, New York City.

Kathleen Mitchell, Founder, Catholic Charities DIGNITY Services.

Beatrice Okezie, Founding Board Member, Chairperson of Board of Directors, Africans in America, Inc.

Moira Olson, Adults Saving Kids, Minneapolis, MN.
Artika Roller, PRIDE, Minneapolis, MN.
Donna Sabella, M.Ed, MSN, RN, Director, Phoenix Project, Philadelphia, PA.
Ed Shurna, Executive Director, Coalition for the Homeless, Chicago, IL.
Shaleen Horrocks Silva, Executive Director, The Paul & Lisa Program, Inc.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN), an esteemed member of the Judiciary Committee.

Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California. Mr. Speaker, women brought to Northern California from China with false promises of life in a far-off land, only to be trapped in prostitution; Mexican women forced to serve up to 50 men each day in dingy brothels in New York; African teenagers held in servitude as nannies in Washington, D.C.; American women and girls lured on to the streets with promises of love and glamour, only to be held in prostitution through coercive force; the issue of human trafficking is a moral tragedy, perpetrated against the most vulnerable of our fellow human beings. Whether it be the sexual exploitation of children or the forced labor of young men in the drug trade recently chronicled in the London Economist, it is a transnational stain which should evoke the singular emotion of revulsion.

Human trafficking is tantamount to slavery, and therefore it is most fitting that H.R. 3887 be entitled be entitled the William Wilberforce Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act, for, as we know, William Wilberforce, was a leader among English abolitionists and played a crucial role in the passage of both the Slave Trade Act of 1807 and the Slave Abolition Act of 1833, shortly before his death.

The promise of freedom and the prohibition against involuntary servitude enshrined in the 13th amendment to our Constitution is a clear statement of the opprobrium which we hold for the notion that some human beings should be used as chattel for exploitation by others.

In fact, our commitment to this first principle predates the Constitution, for it was Thomas Jefferson who penned those immortal words in the preamble of our Nation's foundational statement of political philosophy that there are certain inalienable rights with which we are endowed as human beings by our Creator, and it is this source of ours rights which render them inviolable.

This was affirmed by that other bookend of human freedom, the Gettysburg Address, where President Lincoln visualized the fulfillment of the Declaration with the admonition that ''All men are created equal,'' or, as we would put it today, all human beings are created equal.

Thus, Mr. Speaker, the specter of a modern version of slavery cuts against our national aspirations as people. The Wilberforce Act is thus an appropriate expression of our collective outrage over this more recent transgression of basic human rights. And although I might have crafted the response to some of the issues addressed in this legislation differently, we must not allow the perfect to overcome or be the enemy of the good.

H.R. 3887 provides resources so that nongovernmental organizations, Federal and local law enforcement, and faith-based entities can work together towards a common aim of justice. The bill holds forth the promise of a new birth of freedom for those coerced into sexual slavery and child exploitation.

Finally, I would be remiss were I to fail to add that the Wilberforce Act exemplifies what is possible when Members of this body are willing to cross the aisle in order to address real-life problems which compel a response from all of us.

Mr. Speaker, I would ask for a unanimous vote in support of the Wilberforce Act.

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. SCOTT), the chairman of the Crime Subcommittee, who has worked with us in a highly cooperative way.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the William Wilberforce Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act of 2007. Human trafficking for exploitive labor, sex or other exploitive reasons, is equivalent to modern-day slavery in many instances and requires a concerted effort among the nations of the world not only to control it, but eventually to end it. I am pleased that the United States is leading an effort to root out this dreadful form of misery and suffering, and I am proud to be part of that effort.

Of course, we need to make sure that we do what we can to stop and prevent it here in the United States. In this regard, I am particularly pleased with the provisions in the bill which strengthen the ability of the Department of Justice to deal with abusive commercial sex traffickers who have been able to victimize women and children with relative impunity because of the difficulty of getting victims to testify as to force, fraud or coercive tactics or to show that they were trafficked across State lines.

The bill also strengthens the ability of the Department of Justice to address domestic sex trafficking by transferring the responsibility of the prosecuting domestic sex trafficking cases from the Civil Rights Division at the Department of Justice to the Criminal Division, both when it is commercial sex trafficking, where force, fraud and coercion can be proved, and when it is trafficking where force, fraud and coercion cannot be proved. The Civil Rights Division continues to have jurisdiction in cases where slavery is involved, but the existence of force, fraud or coercion in commercial sex trafficking cases in and of itself does not constitute the conditions of slavery which the Civil Rights Division prosecutes as a civil rights violation.

For these reasons, Mr. Speaker, I support the bill and urge my colleagues to support it.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. FORTENBERRY), a hard-working and esteemed member of our Foreign Affairs Committee.

Mr. FORTENBERRY. I would like to thank the distinguished ranking member of the Foreign Affairs Committee for the time.

Mr. Speaker, as we approach the end of the year with much serious legislative business remaining before us, we have a noteworthy opportunity today to pass a measure in which each and every American can justifiably take great pride. The William Wilberforce Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act represents the culmination of extensive work and exemplary bipartisan cooperation. It illustrates what we in this House can achieve when we unite in recognition of shared and enduring truth in an effort to defeat one of the world's most glaring injustices.

Human trafficking is a singularly merciless and degrading criminal activity. It has deeply tarnished every nation, including our own. Its ruthless perpetrators brutally exploit and devastate the lives of innocent persons, including children, often turning bastions of freedom and civil society into nightmarish realms seemingly beyond the reach of sanctuary.

Mr. Speaker, I want to also commend my distinguished colleagues Mr. SMITH of New Jersey and Mr. LANTOS of California for raising awareness about this cruel enterprise and for leading the Foreign Affairs Committee in taking substantive, credible actions to bring hope and healing to victims of this pernicious global trade in human beings. I also want to thank them for working to incorporate the Child Soldier Prevention Act of 2007 into this bill, bringing years of hard work to fruition and recognizing our Nation's commitment to ending the forced conscription, recruitment or use of children in combat, yet another grave affront to human dignity. I also wish to commend many individuals throughout our government and the many nongovernmental organizations whose tireless efforts have made this moment possible.

I urge my colleagues to join me in passing the William Wilberforce Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act. Together, let us end the nightmare of human trafficking and lead the world to see, in the poignant words of Alexis de Tocqueville, that America is great because America is good.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to yield 1½ minutes to the distinguished gentleman from Virginia (Mr. MORAN), a member of the Appropriations Committee and a committed and dedicated fighter against human trafficking.

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I thank my very good friend from Texas.

Mr. Speaker, human trafficking is one of the greatest human rights tragedies of our time. The passage of this legislation will bring thousands of victims of slavery out of the shadows and prosecute those that would take advantage of voiceless souls for a marginal profit.

One of the key provisions in this legislation is the prevention and punishment of diplomats who abuse their servants. As many as 50,000 women and children, according to the Department of State, are trafficked into the United States annually and are trapped in slavery-like situations, including forced prostitution.

Currently, no government agency tracks instances of forced domestic labor at the hands of diplomats. Last year, the State Department issued about 2,000 domestic worker visas. In the plush residences of diplomats, servants' passports can be withheld. Many are paid as little $1 a day and suffer emotional and physical abuse. While the Department of State has indicated that some diplomats are asked to leave because of domestic abuse, it is unclear how many are prosecuted.

We are redefining our policies on human trafficking, and I would hope that with these new provisions we are able to crack down on this loophole that makes it too easy for diplomats to abuse their domestic servants.

Diplomats currently hide behind diplomatic immunity. This should not be the case when it comes to serious crimes such as human trafficking. They abuse domestic servants, and it is increasingly hard to prosecute them. This has to change. This legislation will help prevent future instances of domestic servant abuse in diplomatic residences.

So I look forward to these new provisions being implemented by the Department of State as they attempt to eliminate all forms of slavery, and I thank both committees for getting this legislation to the floor and urge everybody to vote for it.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 7½ minutes to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SMITH), the author of the original Trafficking Victims Protection Act and the ranking member of the Subcommittee on Africa and Global Health.

Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. CONYERS) control the balance of my time.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlelady for yielding and for her outstanding leadership and for that of the chairman of the committee, TOM LANTOS. He has been extraordinarily effective in this fight against modern-day slavery, and I thank him for his leadership as well.

Mr. Speaker, the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000, Public Law 106–386, has made, I believe, an enormous positive difference in our efforts to end modern-day slavery, a nefarious enterprise that nets the exploiters billions of dollars each year.

The 7-year-old landmark law and its numerous reinforcing provisions to prevent trafficking, to protect victims and to prosecute to the max those who traffic, has been a model statute worldwide. Indeed, many of its provisions have been adopted into law in whole or in part by governments around the world.

Mr. Speaker, the TVPA of 2000 does not pull any punches. By naming the names of countries out of compliance with what we call minimum standards and by imposing smart sanctions that are prescribed in the act, the withholding of nonhumanitarian aid, for example, we have signaled to the world that ending this egregious practice is among the highest priorities of the United States.

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By protecting the victims and not sending them back to their home country where they are often exploited in a vicious cycle of exploitation, we say to the victims we will make every effort to make you safe and secure. By prosecuting the traffickers and imposing serious jail time, we are telling these exploiters we are coming after you, we will hunt you down, and you are going to pay for your crimes.

Since the enactment of the TVPA, the traffickers here and abroad are increasingly likely to face prosecution and conviction. In the 6-year period before its enactment, DOJ prosecuted 89 suspected traffickers. In the last 6 years, the Justice Department has prosecuted 360, representing more than a 300 percent increase. The Department has secured 238 convictions and guilty pleas, compared with 67 in the same period prior to the act. And it has opened 639 new investigations, an almost fourfold increase over the 128 opened prior to implementation of the law. Worldwide, nearly 6,000 traffickers were prosecuted last year alone, and more than 3,000 were convicted.

Notwithstanding these successes, it is clear that more has to be done to destroy this mob-infested, criminal enterprise known as human trafficking. According to research sponsored by the U.S. Government and completed in 2006, approximately 800,000 people are trafficked internationally and millions more are trafficked within their country. According to the same research, the vast majority of transnational victims, almost 80 percent, are women and girls, and almost half of those 800,000 victims are minors. These figures are low compared to those posited by the International Labor Organization, which estimates 12.3 million people are subjected to forced labor, bonded labor, forced child labor, and sexual servitude.

The bill before us today, Mr. Speaker, is a very good piece of bipartisan legislation; and I thank the gentleman from California (Mr. LANTOS) for his extraordinary leadership on this. We are working in a partnership, and it is really making a difference. The legislation that is before us aims to update, expand, and improve the TPVA.

There have been lessons learned since the first law was enacted 7 years ago and subsequently reauthorized in 2003 and 2005. They are incorporated into this legislation as we try to do an even better job in mitigating the suffering of the victims while simultaneously going after those who traffic and the countries that harbor traffickers who are also part of the problem themselves.

The bill is appropriately named after William Wilberforce, who was 21 years old when he was elected to the House of Commons in 1780. John Newton, the former slave captain turned convert to Christ, encouraged Wilberforce as well as others to fight the battle against slavery. Wilberforce agreed and then poured his heart into that battle.

Wilberforce once said: ''Never, never will we desist until we extinguish every trace of this bloody traffic to which our posterity, looking back to the history of those enlightened times, will scarce believe that it has been suffered to exist so long to disgrace and dishonor this country.''

He also said: ''So enormous, so dreadful, so remediable did the trade's wickedness quickly appear that my own mind was completely made up for its abolition.'' We need to fight with Wilberforce-like tenacity against this modern-day slave trade.

One of the most prominent provisions of the original TVPA was the establishment of the tier-ranking system that indicates how well or poorly a country is conforming to the minimum standards. We found when we created the watch list that some of the countries began to realize they could be ''parked'' there with no serious consequence for their failure. Tier 2 watch list countries found there was no penalty even though they made no improvements. That has to change: Two years and then you are off the watch list, up or down. If significant improvements fail to materialize, that country is put on tier three, subject to penalties.

Finally let me just say, Mr. Speaker, that effective cooperation, and especially the bipartisan cooperation we see here today, and partnership with other countries, is essential if we are to win this winnable war. Without it, we are doomed to either meager results or outright failure. With so many lives hanging in the balance, failure simply is not an option. None of us alone can stop human trafficking. Too much evil is involved here, and the prospect of making billions has enticed some of the most unsavory and cruel individuals on Earth, including organized crime.

Too much demand, enabled by crass indifference, unbridled hedonism and misogynistic attitudes has turned people, especially women, into objects, only valued for their utility in the brothel or in the sweatshop. And the relative lack of visibility makes the task of combating trafficking all the more difficult.

Trafficking, like germs, infection and disease, thrives in shadowy and murky places. But the contagion slows and it even dies when exposed to the light. This legislation brings more light, bright light, to this problem; and it will act as a powerful disinfectant.

So the challenge to us today is to bring this new light, the bright light of sustained scrutiny and enacting good laws, like this one, and then implementing them aggressively. We need to employ best practices and well-honed strategies in order to win the freedom of the slaves and to spare others unspeakable agony.

Together, we can make the pimps and the exploiters pay by doing serious jail time as well as the forfeiture of their assets, their boats, their villas, and their fat bank accounts.

We can end this barbaric, cruel modern-day slavery. Make no mistake about it, this is a winnable war but we need to fight in a way so as to win. This legislation further propels us in that fight, and we will win this and the slaves will be free.

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SMITH) first dusted off the 13th amendment of the Constitution in 1999, but it is the present chairman of the Constitution Subcommittee in the Judiciary, the gentleman from New York (Mr. NADLER), who has brought this incredibly important constitutional amendment, enacted in 1865, into real live use, and I am proud to recognize the chairman of that committee for 2¼ minutes.

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the William Wilberforce Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act of 2007.

This bill delivers on the promise of the 13th amendment by creating tough new enforcement tools to punish exploitation, whether by unscrupulous labor recruiters, diplomats who abuse their servants, or brutal pimps.

It provides resources so that nongovernmental organizations, Federal and local law enforcement, and the faith community can work together to liberate victims and bring their traffickers to justice.

It will protect victims of modern slavery in the United States and provide foreign aid and diplomatic tools to combat modern slavery overseas as well.

In many ways, the fight against modern slavery began in New York City in the mid-1990s. There was the infamous ''Bowery Brothel'' case in which Thai women were held in prostitution and literally chained to their beds. And there were the so-called ''Deaf Mexican'' trinket peddlers who were enslaved under our own eyes, unable to ask for help as they were forced to beg on the subways.

Since then, criminal civil rights investigators have uncovered examples of enslavement across the country, including many in the New York City area.

Recently, we have seen the liberation of Honduran women who were forced to drink and dance with clients in dance halls in New Jersey; Peruvian families freed from enslavement by a labor recruiter on Long Island; and the rescue of young American women from a street pimp in Connecticut. All of their traffickers have been convicted and imprisoned because they violated the Constitution prohibition against involuntary servitude and slavery.

More than a century after the abolition of slavery, we would expect slavery to be a closed chapter in our Nation's history. But, unfortunately, it is not. The Constitution promises to end the suffering of all those who have been held in bondage. As a country, we owe it to the victims of modern-day slavery never to stop fighting for their freedom.

This bill, the William Wilberforce Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act, renews our commitment to fulfilling the promise of the 13th amendment by providing new enforcement tools and more resources to remove the stain of modern-day slavery from our Nation.

I urge its adoption and thank the chairman of the committee and Mr. SMITH who was involved in developing the 2000 act and in developing this act, and I urge its adoption.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Mr. Speaker, this bill, the Wilberforce bill, tracks the definitions in the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of the year 2000, builds upon the good work of the civil rights division within the Department of Justice and its anti-trafficking task forces around the country which vigorously confront modern-day slavery which does exist in forced prostitution and forced labor alike. We expect these efforts to continue, and we will monitor them with great scrutiny.

In the 1800s, escaped slaves such as Frederick Douglass and Sojourner Truth, who came out of this brutal experience in America, spoke out against chattel slavery. Their voices and the voices of many others led to a constitutional commitment that everyone in this country would be forevermore free from bondage.

The young lady who testified with an assumed name before the Judiciary Committee did not allow her suffering to silence her. And neither will our voices be silenced. We urge that this bill pass, hopefully unanimously, from the House of Representatives.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Mr. Speaker, I urge the complete passage of this legislation, and I thank my colleagues for their convictions and their messages on the floor today.

Might I add for my colleagues' information, there are about 17,500 individuals trafficked in the United States, and we believe 50 percent of those may be children. In this legislation, we have language to combat the trafficking of our children.

Along with the other tragic stories we have heard today, we must be able to support our children and prevent the trafficking of our children.

I thank the gentlewoman from California (Ms. ZOE LOFGREN) for her efforts in this area, and I include an article from the San Jose Mercury News for the RECORD.

[The Mercury News, Dec. 4, 2007]

REACHING ACROSS PARTY LINES TO END MODERN-DAY SLAVERY

(By Zoe Lofgren and Dan Lungren)

They are age-old stories. Women brought to the Bay Area from China with false promises of life in a far-off land, only to be trapped in prostitution. Latino men laboring in debt bondage on ranches and farms in inland valleys. These stories may be redolent of the Gold Rush and frontier days, but in fact are situations that have been uncovered in present-day California. Some call it human trafficking, perhaps to make the crime less disturbing to confront. We call it modern slavery. It must be stopped.

Especially in the past decade, federal criminal civil rights prosecutions have uncovered cases of enslavement across the country. The litany of cases goes on and on, each one equally tragic: Mexican women forced to serve up to 50 men each day in dingy brothels in New York; African teenagers held in servitude as nannies in Washington, D.C.; American women and girls lured onto the streets with promises of love and glamour only to be held in prostitution through coercive force; African-American men laboring in orange groves of Florida trapped by drug addiction and ''company-store'' debts; Asian workers trapped in sweatshop garment factories in American Samoa and Saipan; Honduran women forced to drink and dance with clients in dance halls in Texas; and mentally ill white Americans forced to work on a Kansas farm.

From the beginning, the promise of freedom enshrined in the 13th Amendment has protected everyone in the United States, whether African-Americans, Latinos, Asians or Europeans.

Slavery might seem like a closed chapter in our nation's history, but it is worth remembering that the civil rights movement was only possible after the NAACP and the FBI worked together during the Roosevelt administration to dismantle the system of sharecropping and peonage in the American south.

Even today, farmworker advocates routinely have to fight against enslavement in the fields before they can address other concerns that the migrant community faces. Asian-American community activists and legal service providers have built their efforts upon the successful liberation of workers from the notorious El Monte sweatshop more than a decade ago.

The Constitution's promise of freedom is written in the suffering of all of those who have been held in bondage. As a country we

owe it to them to never stop fighting against servitude and slavery.

This week, the House of Representatives will consider a bill that we are co-sponsoring to update our anti-slavery statutes, the William Wilberforce Act. Named in honor of the famous English legislator who fought the transatlantic slave trade in the 19th century, the proposed law will provide new tools to protect against modern slavery. The law will protect people in the United States, both in the immigrant community and among American citizens, and will provide foreign aid and diplomatic tools to combat slavery and trafficking overseas as well.

The Wilberforce Act protects workers, ensures compassionate immigration treatment for children, and allows for the reunification of victims and their families. The bill delivers on the promise of freedom by creating tough new enforcement tools to punish exploitation, whether by unscrupulous labor recruiters, diplomats who abuse their servants or brutal pimps.

The bill provides resources so that nongovernmental organizations, federal and local law enforcement and the faith community can work together to liberate victims and bring their traffickers to justice. In our congressional districts—in the South Bay and Sacramento—such interdisciplinary task forces have begun the important work of implementing state and federal anti-trafficking statutes. The Wilberforce Act will allow them to intensify their efforts.

There are some who feel that there is no room for bipartisanship in Washington. Some say that the political parties are so far apart as to preclude any cooperation at all, especially on legislation that combines compassionate and pragmatic immigration solutions with tough law enforcement standards. The Wilberforce Act disproves that notion. We will continue to work together to ensure that no one is held in bondage in California or elsewhere.

Coretta Scott King once said ''Freedom is never really won—you earn it and win it in every generation.'' We are proud that the California congressional delegation can come together across party lines to lead the fight to guarantee the constitutional promise of liberty for all.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 3887, the William Wilburforce Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act of 2007. I would like to thank the Chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee, Mr. LANTOS, for introducing this important, bipartisan legislation that will authorize appropriations for FY 2008–2011 for the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000, enhancing measures to combat forced labor, as well as for your ongoing leadership on this and other crucial human rights issues. I am proud to join over 40 of my colleagues in cosponsoring this bill.

Mr. Speaker, the issue of the trafficking of persons is one of the utmost significance, one which no nation is exempt from. Within the United States, we pride ourselves on overcoming the historic stain of slavery, and we are comforted by the thought that while others may persist in this repulsive practice, we do not. This however, is simply not the case. According to the GAO, ''as many as 17,500 people are believed to be trafficked into the United States each year.'' The trafficking of persons is our problem; they are forced through our borders and used by our people. This extreme injustice can no longer go unnoticed.

The flow of human trafficking is no surprise; traffic flows from the less industrialized countries to the more industrialized countries. This fact makes the issue of human trafficking a problem for all nations alike on a political, social, and moral level. The U.S. Department of State estimates that 800,000 people are trafficked across national borders every year, in addition to the reported millions of people trafficked within their own countries. The trafficking industry generates billions of dollars annually, and, together with drugs and weapons, is now a leading source of profits for organized crime. According to most analysts, the largest number of victims trafficked internationally come from Asia, though significant numbers of women and girls trafficked to work in the commercial sex industry come from the former Soviet Union and southeastern Europe.

One subset of trafficking, and one of particular interest to the United States, is trafficking for forced labor, which the International Labor Organization defines as ''any situation in which work is carried out involuntarily under the menace of a penalty.'' The ILO estimates that some 12.3 million people have been the victims of forced labor, with agriculture, construction, domestic service, restaurants, and manufacturing sectors being the most prominent industries into which forced labor is trafficked.

In March of this year, the Committee on Homeland Security, on which I am a senior Member and I serve as Chairwoman of a subcommittee, held a hearing on the crossing of borders and victims of trafficking which produced a meaningful discourse on horrific implications of the trafficking of persons and sought to address said issues. However, 7 months later, the issue is not resolved. The current policy of the United States, under the Trafficking Victims Prevention Act of 2000, allows the government to support many types of anti-trafficking domestically and overseas. However, much more must be done. The GAO currently reports that, while the government allocated funds to combat trafficking, there was an overemphasis by the government on sex slavery, which came at a price for the majority of others who are a victim of human trafficking.

Reliable information and independent evaluations of the success of the United States in combating this human atrocity have been hard to come by. While the State Department points to progress by citing the increase of countries with anti-trafficking initiatives and an increase in the number of arrests and convictions for human traffickers, the GAO report cites a less optimistic reality. The U.S. Government has yet to develop a coordinated, interagency response to combat trafficking overseas or a systematic way to evaluate the effectiveness of its anti-trafficking policies. In addition, a July 2007 GAO report entitled ''Monitoring and Evaluation of International Projects Are Limited, But Experts Suggest Improvements,'' found that monitoring mechanisms are lacking in U.S.-funded international projects, and that the U.S. and international organizations have encountered difficulties collaborating with host governments that often lack the resources, capacity, and/or political will to address trafficking.

Given the very real and persistent nature of the crime of human trafficking, it is our responsibility as Members of the Congress of the most powerful nation in the world to address and resolve this atrocity once and for all. Nearly 150 years after our great country abolished slavery at home, it is our job to once again be a beacon of progress and hope and no longer allow one man to profit from the suffering of another.

I believe that this legislation makes important strides towards addressing this serious problem. After hearing the profoundly disturbing testimony presented before the Committee on Foreign Affairs in a hearing on this issue earlier this year, I am particularly pleased that this legislation includes provisions aimed at ensuring that individuals are trafficked into the United States to work in diplomatic missions and embassies. I an extremely concerned about this issue, and I look forward to working further with my colleagues to establish a mechanism capable of preventing such abuses in the future.

Mr. Speaker, this important reauthorization speaks directly to a serious but often hidden problem that we face, on both a national and an international level. I strongly urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this legislation.

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, I would like to express my support for H.R. 3887, the William Wilberforce Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2007. I have long worked to support action on what may be considered the most egregious human rights violation occurring in the world today. I was pleased to be an original cosponsor of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000, TVPA, which created an office at the U.S. State Department to monitor trafficking in persons around the world.

The trafficking of people and the effects on victims—mostly women and children—can only be described as evil. In many cases, women and children are misled and forced to move across borders, to live in a foreign country, alone, away from family, friends and any kind of support network. They are then bought, sold, and forced into the sex trade. Billions of dollars are generated each year through trafficking.

Unfortunately, the United States is also a destination for some of these victims. It is shocking to learn about women being held as sex slaves literally in houses and basements that I drive by every day on my way to the Nation's capital. This reauthorization addresses this aspect of international trafficking by protecting victims in the United States from retaliation by those who trafficked them; expanding and revising U.S. criminal violations to allow offenses against international trafficking criminals and sex tour operators; ensuring assistance to U.S. victims of trafficking, and preventing the trafficking of foreign children found in the United States by ensuring that they are not repatriated into the hands of traffickers or abusive families and are well cared for.

The focus and commitment of the administration on this issue is making a difference in Countries around the globe. We still have a long way to go, but this reauthorization bill is a significant step in giving the State Department the necessary tools to combat this appalling practice. It is a privilege for me to support this important legislation.

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, as we vote on H.R. 3887, I would like to express my thanks to those Members, like CHRIS SMITH and FRANK WOLF, who continue to provide leadership on human trafficking issues. I strongly believe we must work to ensure that we fix any loopholes in our laws or regulations that the brutal human traffickers might use to exploit their victims.

In light of Congress's desire to ensure that we do all in our power to support trafficking victims and prosecute traffickers, I would like to associate myself with the concerns expressed about the bill by the Departments of Justice, State, Homeland Security, and USAID. It is important that Congress works with the administration in order to amend the legislation to appropriately address their concerns. I look forward to working with my colleagues in the Senate on these concerns and on human trafficking issues in general.

Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased that today the House of Representatives passed H.R. 3887, the Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act of 2007.

This is an issue that impacts countries around the world, whether they are a source or destination for trafficked persons. Official estimates are that between 2 to 4 million persons are trafficked each year, including approximately 17,500 individuals who are trafficked into the United States.

One country that is a major source of trafficking victims is Vietnam. The congressional district that I represent in Orange County, California, is home to one of the largest Vietnamese constituencies outside of Vietnam. Hence, I have met with many people who have been trafficked from Vietnam, as well as advocates who work to help these victims.

I have personally visited Vietnam 3 times, and it has been apparent from my trips that human trafficking is a major problem facing women, children, and men in Vietnam. Vietnamese women are trafficked to other countries in Asia and elsewhere, where they are subsequently forced into marriage, labor, and prostitution.

Often, Vietnamese women are promised employment, and given fake working papers, but then they are instead sold into marriage, the commercial sex industry, or labor. These women often find themselves in a foreign country, with no legal status, and no ability to speak the language.

Given the large numbers of trafficked persons from Vietnam, and around the world, I am glad that the Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act adds technical assistance and support to assist foreign governments with the prevention and prosecution of human trafficking cases.

It is critical that the United States share its resources to combat trafficking with the rest of the world. All of the members of our world community must work together to fight human trafficking.

The United States must also work to improve its efforts to combat trafficking within our own borders. This bill will assist with enhancing the rights of victims, who are trafficked into the United States, and will provide special protections to child victims.

H.R. 3887 is an important step in the worldwide fight against human trafficking. At the same time, we must continue to work on this issue in our local communities. In my district, a number of agencies, including law enforcement, service providers, and community organizations have joined together to form the Orange County Human Trafficking, Task Force (OCHTTF).

This task force operated for several years without any funding. I am proud that I was able to help them secure funding to continue their collaborative efforts to fight human trafficking. I commend the OCHTTF for its efforts, and hope that more local communities will stand together to protect the rights of all persons to live free from forced marriage, prostitution, and labor.

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 3887, the William Wilberforce Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2007. This bill makes great strides in both the areas of prevention and in victim assistance and will strengthen our national commitment to ending this horrific practice.

Since its founding, our Nation has been committed to the promotion of human rights and personal dignity. Human trafficking contradicts every core principle upon which our Nation and our international partnerships are based.

In recent years, we have seen appalling examples of trafficking—from women sold into sexual slavery . . . to men being pressed into indentured servitude . . . to children forced to become soldiers.

Trafficking frequently is tied to other illicit crimes—prostitution, drug running, sweatshops, and armed rebellions. Sadly, the victims have few champions and even fewer resources. And, all too often, national leaders have turned a blind eye to this growing epidemic.

Today our strategy is twofold. First, we are extending care and assistance to the victims while protecting them from their traffickers. Second, we are bolstering our efforts to work with international and domestic law enforcement to prevent trafficking at the source. It is essential that we remain dedicated and committed to each track.

Additionally, while it is not included in this bill, it is my hope that the administrators of the programs will consider the special needs of the victims and will look into the ''reflection periods'' in place in several countries. This allows additional time for former victims to become comfortable in their new situations before taking further action against their traffickers.

As a member of the Foreign Affairs Committee, I am proud to support this legislation and to urge my colleagues to support its passage.

Mr. PEARCE. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise in support of the Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act of 2007.

Every year, over half a million people are sold into slavery and transported across international borders worldwide. Of those, more than 15,000 are brought into the United States. These individuals are sold into horrible living conditions which most often include forced labor and sexual slavery for many young girls and women.

The inhumane practice of involuntary servitude and sexual slavery must be stopped in the United States and victims should have proper protection from their captors. This deplorable treatment of human beings is intolerable. The idea of forced slavery is one which most Americans would find repugnant but unfortunately, it is all too often a reality.

Congressional action on this matter is woefully deficient. We must recognize the importance of stopping, monitoring, and capturing individuals as they illegally enter the United States. Fighting human trafficking at the borders would limit the trade of sex slaves in America as well as combat terror, crime and drugs to preserve American safety and quality of life.

Recent news reports have stated that Al Qaeda has been using our vast and poorly defended Southwestern borders to smuggle enemy combatants into the U.S.

Congress must find a way to stop smuggling of human beings across our borders. We must find a way to stop involuntary servitude and sexual slavery worldwide and we must find a way to help all people understand that America is the beacon of light and freedom that we all know it to be. The Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act of 2007 (H.R. 3887) will help us stop this terrible trade, give victims the ability to be free and face their accusers, and help America shine our light around the world.

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, as Chairman of the Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe, which has exercised unprecedented leadership in the global fight to combat trafficking in human beings, I rise in support of H.R. 3887, the Wilberforce Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act of 2007.

From our earliest awareness of this cruel phenomenon which enslaves an estimated 27 million victims, the Commission has led in the effort to mobilize nations to implement effective measures to combat human trafficking. My fellow Commissioner and former Chairman of the Commission, Representative CHRIS SMITH is among those who has led the effort to bring an end to this modern day form of slavery, authoring the trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 and its subsequent reauthorizations.

Today, the Commission continues its work to support efforts to combat this global crime within the framework of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe. Most recently, the Commission conducted an oversight hearing last October 11, to explore the progress made in combating human trafficking and the adequacy of resources dedicated to identifying victims of trafficking for forced labor, an area that we believe would benefit from additional resources and attention.

The reauthorization bill that we are taking action on today marks another important milestone in preventing the inhumane practice of human trafficking, protecting trafficking victims, and prosecuting the criminals that perpetrate these crimes.

In addition to bolstering the resources needed to continue various anti-trafficking programs, H.R. 3887, which I cosponsored, would strengthen mechanisms for fighting human trafficking overseas, through the provision of capacity building support to foreign governments to bolster investigative mechanisms and legal protective frameworks for immigrant populations and migrant workers. Importantly, the measure would also address the transnational nature of human trafficking by providing increased support and protection for refugees and internally displaced populations. This legislation also seeks to improve transparency and evaluation of trafficking programs, and would designate governments that remain on the special watch list for 2 consecutive years among those whose efforts to combat trafficking are inadequate.

This reauthorization bill will improve mechanisms to better identify and protect trafficking victims, while increasing accountability on the part of governments in their anti-trafficking efforts. It takes a comprehensive approach to a gross criminal exploitation, and I urge my colleagues to support the legislation.

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, the deplorable crime of human trafficking exploits the innocent while it promotes illegal immigration.

The legislation we are considering today builds upon the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000. That historic legislation combated the trafficking of persons into the sex trade and slavery in the United States and countries around the world through the prosecution of traffickers and through protection and assistance to victims of trafficking.

As Chairman of the Judiciary Committee's Immigration and Claims Subcommittee in 2000, I worked closely with the sponsors of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act to ensure that it protected victims of trafficking without encouraging the smuggling of illegal immigrants.

The legislation created a new nonimmigrant T visa for victims of severe forms of trafficking who have cooperated with U.S. law enforcement in the investigation and prosecution of traffickers.

The William Wilberforce Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act judiciously expands on the immigration provisions of the 2000 Act and also adds reasonable protections for unaccompanied alien minors apprehended by our immigration officers.

When I reviewed the original bill, my goal was to modify certain provisions that I was concerned would encourage illegal immigration and immigration fraud and leave us vulnerable to dangerous juveniles.

I want to thank Chairman CONYERS and Chairwoman LOFGREN for addressing those concerns.

I also want to thank Chairman CONYERS for addressing my concerns with the criminal provisions of the original bill.

The bill now lessens the burden on prosecutors to prove that criminals forced victims to work in sweatshops or as prostitutes.

I do remain concerned about increasing the Federal role in prosecuting cases involving pimping and pandering. These crimes are traditionally prosecuted at the State and local level and I believe that Federal jurisdiction is unnecessary. However, I will not oppose this bill on that basis.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

Mr. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON-LEE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3887, as amended.

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. SMITH of New Jersey. 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 motion will be postponed.

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Ms. Curtis, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate had passed without amendment a bill of the House of the following title:

H.R. 3688. An act to implement the United States-Peru Trade Promotion Agreement.

□ 1545

HOKIE SPIRIT MEMORIAL FUND TAX EXEMPTION

Mr. MCDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4118) to exclude from gross income payments from the Hokie Spirit Memorial Fund to the victims of the tragic event, loss of life and limb, at Virginia Polytechnic Institute & State University, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 4118

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

SECTION 1. EXCLUSION FROM INCOME FOR PAYMENTS FROM THE HOKIE SPIRIT MEMORIAL FUND.

For purposes of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, gross income shall not include any amount received from the Virginia Polytechnic Institute & State University, out of amounts transferred from the Hokie Spirit Memorial Fund established by the Virginia Tech Foundation, an organization organized and operated as described in section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, if such amount is paid on account of the tragic event on April 16, 2007, at such university.

SEC. 2. MODIFICATION OF PENALTY FOR FAILURE TO FILE PARTNERSHIP RETURNS.

For any return of a partnership required to be filed under section 6031 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 for a taxable year beginning in 2008, the dollar amount in effect under section 6698(b)(1) of such Code shall be increased by $1.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. HOLDEN). Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Washington (Mr. MCDERMOTT) and the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. GOODLATTE) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Washington.

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

Today, we stand united in this House as Americans without regard to political party so that we may honor the memory of the 32 people who lost their lives last year in the tragedy at Virginia Tech. The Nation mourned the loss of these innocent young people, and people across America responded generously in every way they could, including sending financial donations.

In a time of need, you can always count on the American people to open their hearts and their wallets and to show the world what it means to practice the common good. The Hokie Spirit Memorial Fund was established, and the American people collected and sent over $7 million to aid the families, establish scholarships, and help the Virginia Tech community through this tragedy.

Today, our role in the people's House is a legislative one. We can make a difference by passing H.R. 4118, which will ensure that all the money received from the Hokie Spirit Memorial Fund is not subjected to Federal income taxes. I urge my colleagues to join me in voting for this bill and, in so doing, rededicate themselves to strengthening our collective will to create a more just and civil Nation.

I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Earlier this year, the tranquil campus of Virginia Tech and the town of Blacksburg was shattered by the actions of a lone gunman. The horror that the Virginia Tech community has experienced is something that every parent, every American, hopes never to learn has affected their families and friends.

Although this horrendous and unspeakable violence showed the worst of mankind, it also showed what those of us who have been a part of Virginia Tech community for years have always known; the students, the instructors, the administrators, and the citizens of Blacksburg care deeply for one another and take great pride in their community.

Even in the worst circumstances, the Virginia Tech community showed great compassion for their fellow man and did what they could to help each other. Liviu Librescu, a survivor of the Holocaust, blocked the doorway of his classroom so that his students could climb out of the windows to safety. Ryan Clark, a resident advisor in the West Ambler Johnston Hall, rushed into the hallway to help his fellow students when the first attack came, and became the second victim. And I was deeply saddened to learn that one of my constituents, Henry Lee, a graduate of William Fleming High School in Roanoke, was one of those who died in the attack on Norris Hall.

In the days and months following this tragedy, the Virginia Tech community and Hokie Nation saw an outpouring of love and support from people around the country. The university saw donations come in excess of $7 million, as people sought to give aid to those affected. As time went on, the university had to decide how to use the money donated as a result of this horrific act, and the university made a wise and selfless choice. They decided that the best way to disburse this money was to put it in the hands of those who experienced and lost the most as a result of this unspeakable violence. So, recently Virginia Tech distributed the money to 79 families or individuals. These are the families that have lost the most and have experienced emotional trauma that no one should ever have to experience. This money, given by the people across our Nation, is a small way to help those directly affected by this horrendous act. These families can determine the best uses for these contributions. Some already have decided to endow memorial

scholarships at Virginia Tech or elsewhere. Some simply have bills to pay.

While the university has acted graciously to help the families, we have discovered that there is a new problem the families are facing, this time by the Federal Government. It has become apparent that the funds these families received will become significantly reduced because of taxes. These are funds some families desperately need to pay medical bills, funeral costs, and to simply rebuild their lives. The last thing these families need to worry about is an additional tax burden. And I guarantee that those who gave so generously want their money going to help those directly affected, not paying taxes. I do not believe that these funds should be taxed or that it is Congress' intent that they should be taxed.

In 2001, Congress passed Public Law 107–143. In this law, there is a provision that makes qualified disaster payments exempt from taxes. There is no doubt that the Virginia Tech tragedy was, in fact, a disaster. Ask any member of the Virginia Tech community, Hokie Nation, or citizen of the Commonwealth of Virginia, and to them it unequivocally was. In fact, the Governor of Virginia declared so that day.

Despite this well-intentioned law that Congress passed to make tax-exempt payments from qualified disasters, the families and the university have all been told it is likely these funds will be taxed. It was not the intention of the Congress that disaster payments should be taxed; and so, I am proud to join with my neighbor from the Ninth Congressional District, Congressman RICK BOUCHER, who actually represents Blacksburg and Virginia Tech, in introducing this legislation that seeks to have these funds, like those resulting from any other disaster, made tax exempt. I ask Members of this House to join us in passing this bill and help the Virginia Tech families rebuild their lives.

The tragedy at Virginia Tech will never leave our minds, but we in Congress have an opportunity to help rebuild this community. I ask all Members of Congress to join us in supporting this legislation. Let us help the families and those so personally affected as they seek to rebuild their lives.

I reserve the balance of my time.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. MCDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks on the bill, H.R. 4118.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. MCDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Virginia, Congressman BOUCHER.

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

Mr. BOUCHER. I thank the gentleman from Washington for yielding.

Before speaking on this measure, I wish to engage the gentleman from Washington State in colloquy.

The bill provides that certain payments transferred from the Hokie Spirit Memorial Fund be excluded from the gross income of the recipients of those payments. It is my understanding that, in providing for the exclusion, it is intended that both the transfer of the amounts by the Hokie Spirit Memorial Fund and the making of the payments by Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University are considered to be consistent with the exempt purpose of these respective entities, and that donors who made contributions to the fund are, in principle, allowed a charitable contribution deduction.

I would ask the gentleman if this is also his understanding of the intent of the bill.

Mr. MCDERMOTT. Yes, it is.

Mr. Speaker, I yield the balance of my time to the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. BOUCHER) to hold and manage the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the gentleman from Virginia will control the balance of the time.

There was no objection.

Mr. BOUCHER. I thank the gentleman from Washington for yielding, and I yield myself such time as I may consume.

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

Mr. BOUCHER. As my friend and colleague and neighbor from Virginia, Congressman GOODLATTE, mentioned in his remarks, I have the privilege of representing Virginia's Ninth Congressional District in which Virginia Tech is situated.

On April 16 of this year, a tragedy of a scale and senselessness that defies explanation befell that university, and it came to a campus that is known across our Nation for its friendliness, peacefulness, and for the normally close association that is found there among faculty and students.

In the wake of the tragedy, Virginia Tech President Charles Steger and the professional staff of the university reacted with poise, with dignity, and with strength under the most difficult and challenging circumstances imaginable.

The skilled first responders of the town of Blacksburg, of the university's own security staff, and of Montgomery County, Virginia provided an outstanding service that saved lives and that prevented the loss from being even greater.

In the intervening time, much healing has occurred. Virginia Tech has a proud tradition of teaching, learning, and research. That tradition endures. Following the violent and senseless act, campuswide and communitywide determination and cohesion emerged. The resilience of southwest Virginians and the spirit of the region in which we live that has helped to make Virginia Tech a great institution is assuring for the university a strong recovery and an even stronger future.

In the days following the tragedy, the university established a fund for the benefit of the tragedy's victims. It is called the Hokie Spirit Memorial Fund. In an outpouring of sympathy and generous support from Virginia Tech alumni and friends across our Nation, more than 21,000 financial contributions totaling $8.5 million were made to the fund. Last month, Virginia Tech distributed these funds to the victims of the shooting in varying amounts based on the severity of the injuries that were sustained. Approximately $7 million in direct cash payments were made. An additional $1.5 million in the form of scholarships and tuition assistance were disbursed.

Just as Congress acted in the wake of the Oklahoma and 9/11 tragedies to declare donations to the victims of those tragedies to be tax exempt to the recipients, the bill before the House this afternoon would declare that payments from the Hokie Spirit Memorial Fund not be taxable income to the victims and their families who received these payments. The colloquy in which I previously engaged with Mr. MCDERMOTT clarifies that it is our intent both that, in principle, contributions to the fund be eligible for a charitable deduction, and that payments from the fund not be taxed to the payments' recipients.

I want to thank the gentleman from New York (Mr. RANGEL), the chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee, and his able and very helpful staff, for the outstanding assistance they have provided to me and to my partner Mr. GOODLATTE in the process of bringing this measure to the House floor today. I want to thank Subcommittee Chairman MCDERMOTT for his assistance and for his gracious allotment of time to me this afternoon. And, I thank my friend and colleague and neighbor in southwest Virginia BOB GOODLATTE, the principle coauthor of this bipartisan measure. Mr. GOODLATTE and I have consulted over the past several months in the shaping of this legislation, and I thank him for the partnership that we have on this measure and on many other initiatives to improve quality of life in the region that we both represent. It is truly a pleasure working with him.

The bill before the House is also coauthored by our Virginia colleagues, Mr. CANTOR, Mr. SCOTT, Mrs. DRAKE, Mr. WOLF, and Mr. DAVIS, and I want to thank them for their cosponsorship.

Mr. Speaker, I urge the adoption of H.R. 4118.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, at this time it is my pleasure to yield such time as she may consume to the gentlewoman from Virginia, Congresswoman DRAKE.

Mrs. DRAKE. Mr. Speaker, we all were deeply affected by the tragic events of this past April at Virginia Tech. Our hearts and prayers go out to the families and friends of those who

lost loved ones and to those who are struggling to recover from their injuries. The days, weeks, and months since that dark day have been a time of healing for the Virginia Tech community, the Commonwealth of Virginia, and the Nation. I am moved by the outpouring of compassion and generosity that have been displayed since this tragedy.

Virginia Tech University established the Hokie Spirit Memorial Fund in order to aid in the healing process and generate financial support for those affected. Thousands of individuals gave graciously in the hope of assisting the victims' families in their time of need. In fact, Virginia Tech has distributed millions from the fund to the families of the 32 deceased victims and 47 injured students.

The least that this Congress can do in assisting these families is to exempt payments made from the Hokie Spirit Memorial Fund from Federal taxes, and I would like to thank Congressman BOUCHER for his leadership in crafting this bill and bringing it to the floor.

□ 1600

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the gentleman from the Ninth Congressional District of Virginia (Mr. BOUCHER), a good friend and colleague, for his leadership in introducing this legislation. It's been a pleasure to work with him.

And it is, I think, fair to say on behalf of not only all members of the Virginia delegation, but all Members of Congress, our heart goes out to the families of the victims and to the Virginia Tech Community who suffered this horrendous tragedy. This is just a small way that we can make right a part of that by ensuring that the generosity of thousands of Americans across the country to the Virginia Tech Hokie Spirit Fund will see that money in its entirety go to the benefit intended by those who donated it and for the purposes designated by the family members of the victims of this tragedy. So again, I thank Congressman BOUCHER.

I want to thank Congressman CANTOR for his leadership on the Ways and Means Committee, as well as the effort that Congressman MCCRERY, our ranking member, and Chairman RANGEL made in bringing this legislation to the floor as promptly as possible.

And I want to also thank the staff of the Ways and Means Committee, and the staff of Congressman BOUCHER and myself for the hard work that they put in to making sure that this was done and done in a way that would benefit the families of the victims of this tragedy.

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

Mr. BOUCHER. Mr. Speaker, I recognize myself for 1 minute to close.

Mr. Speaker, I urge approval of this measure. It would simply make payments to the victims of the tragedy that occurred in April of this year at Virginia Tech tax exempt to the recipients of those payments. Congress responded in a similar way following the Oklahoma City and 9/11 tragedies, and we ask that the House accord similar tax status to the payments that were recently made from the Hokie Spirit Memorial fund.

I want to thank all who have assisted in the construction of this measure. Particular thanks to my colleague, Mr. GOODLATTE, for his leadership and hard work in bringing this measure to the floor today. And thanks again to the Chair and the subcommittee Chair of the Ways and Means Committee and their very capable staff for the excellent assistance and cooperation they provided to us.

Mr. CANTOR. Madam Speaker, when an act of random cruelty bewilders us and pulls us down, exceptional displays of generosity, courage and heroism can serve as a potent counterforce. They comfort and replenish the bereaved, and they remind us of the extraordinary selflessness our people are capable of. Nowhere has this been truer than in the aftermath of the Virginia Tech massacre.

We saw numerous examples of students and faculty risking and giving their lives to spare others of the murderer's wrath. We saw a shaken Hokie Nation come together to begin a long healing process. But we also were moved by the outpouring of support from a deeply sympathetic Nation. Donors from across the country pumped over $7 million into the Hokie Spirit Memorial Fund, which makes direct contributions to the victims and their families, as well as to scholarships in the victims' names.

Sadly, recipients have to pay taxes on their donations, an injustice that we hope this bill will promptly correct. There can be no denying that the kind folks who made contributions did not intend to enrich the Federal government's coffers.

For many of the families and victims still suffering from the tragedy, this funding is urgent. As the grisly images and unprecedented horror of the Virginia Tech massacre recede further from the public's view, we mustn't turn our backs on Hokie Nation.

Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 4118, a bill that will exclude from gross income, payments received by the grieving families and victims of the tragic Virginia Tech massacre from the Hokie Spirit Memorial Fund.

Madam Speaker, April 16, 2007 is a day that will forever be seared into the collective memory of the American people as a day of terror, tragedy, loss, and mourning. It was a day when we were reminded of the frailty of life; and a day when we were reminded how much we, as a Nation, value the sanctity and freedom of our schools, colleges, and universities. For on that day, we learned that because of the murderous intentions of one person, the lives of 32 students and faculty members at the Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University had been snuffed out. One of the victims of this tragedy, Matthew La Porte, was a 20-year-old student from Dumont, New Jersey, and a constituent of mine.

In the aftermath of this tragedy, and in response to the generosity of people across the country, Virginia Tech founded the Hokie Spirit Memorial Fund. Many donors contributed to this fund in memory of the victims of the massacre, and in support of those who survived it. Today, the fund has received contributions of over $7 million. And while no amount of money can ever replace the loss of a loved one, this legislation will ensure that all of the victims, families of victims, and survivors of this tragedy receive payments from this fund without interference from the Internal Revenue Service.

Madam Speaker, it is during times of great tragedy that the kindness and generosity of the American people is most apparent. It is in that spirit of generosity, and in the memory of all the victims of the Virginia Tech massacre, that I ask my colleagues to support H.R. 4118.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Washington (Mr. MCDERMOTT) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4118, as amended.

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

The title was amended so as to read: ''A bill to exclude from gross income payments from the Hokie Spirit Memorial Fund to the victims of the tragic event at Virginia Polytechnic Institute & State University.''.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

PROVIDING FOR CONCURRENCE BY HOUSE WITH AMENDMENTS IN SENATE AMENDMENT TO H.R. 710, CHARLIE W. NORWOOD LIVING ORGAN DONATION ACT

Mr. INSLEE. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 837) providing for the concurrence by the House in the Senate amendment to H.R. 710, with amendments.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 837

Resolved, That, upon the adoption of this resolution, the House shall be considered to have taken from the Speaker's table the bill, H.R. 710, with the Senate amendment thereto, and to have concurred in the Senate amendment with the following amendments:

In lieu of the matter proposed to be inserted by the amendment of the Senate to the text of the bill, insert the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the ''Charlie W. Norwood Living Organ Donation Act''.

SEC. 2. AMENDMENTS TO THE NATIONAL ORGAN TRANSPLANT ACT.

Section 301 of the National Organ Transplant Act (42 U.S.C. 274e) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a), by adding at the end the following: ''The preceding sentence does not apply with respect to human organ paired donation.'' ; and

(2) in subsection (c), by adding at the end the following:

''(4) The term 'human organ paired donation' means the donation and receipt of human organs under the following circumstances:

''(A) An individual (referred to in this paragraph as the 'first donor') desires to make a living donation of a human organ specifically to a particular patient (referred to in this paragraph as the 'first patient'), but such donor is biologically incompatible as a donor for such patient.

''(B) A second individual (referred to in this paragraph as the 'second donor') desires to make a living donation of a human organ specifically to a second particular patient (referred to in this paragraph as the 'second patient'), but such donor is biologically incompatible as a donor for such patient.

''(C) Subject to subparagraph (D), the first donor is biologically compatible as a donor of a human organ for the second patient, and the second donor is biologically compatible as a donor of a human organ for the first patient.

''(D) If there is any additional donor-patient pair as described in subparagraph (A) or (B), each donor in the group of donor-patient pairs is biologically compatible as a donor of a human organ for a patient in such group.

''(E) All donors and patients in the group of donor-patient pairs (whether 2 pairs or more than 2 pairs) enter into a single agreement to donate and receive such human organs, respectively, according to such biological compatibility in the group.

''(F) Other than as described in subparagraph (E), no valuable consideration is knowingly acquired, received, or otherwise transferred with respect to the human organs referred to in such subparagraph.''.

SEC. 3. REPORT.

Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter, the Secretary of Health and Human Services shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a report that details the progress made towards understanding the long-term health effects of living organ donation.

SEC. 4. NO IMPACT ON SOCIAL SECURITY TRUST FUND.

Nothing in this Act (or an amendment made by this Act) shall be construed to alter or amend the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 301 et seq.) (or any regulation promulgated under that Act).

Amend the title so as to read: ''An Act to amend the National Organ Transplant Act to provide that criminal penalties do not apply to human organ paired donation and for other purposes.''.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Washington (Mr. INSLEE) and the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. DEAL) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Washington.

GENERAL LEAVE

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

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

There was no objection.

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

Madam Speaker, we're here today to pass the Charlie W. Norwood Living Kidney Donation Clarification Act. And like many of my colleagues, I was pleased when this bill finally first passed the House in March, and I'm happy to report now that we have an agreement with both Chambers of a provision that can pass and be signed by the President into law.

We all suffered a great loss with Dr. Norwood's loss, and we know he was the recipient of a lung transplant himself and was a committed champion of these causes while serving in Congress. So in addition to helping thousands of Americans today in a way to enhance the prospects of living donations, this bill will be a fitting tribute to Dr. Norwood and his efforts.

I also want to thank the Energy and Commerce Committee staff who've worked diligently on this for months, Jessica McNiece, Pete Goodloe, Katherine Martin and Ryan Long, getting this bill in a condition where it can be signed into law.

As many of my colleagues know, this legislation will clarify the procedure commonly known as paired organ donation to make clear that it is legal and, in doing so, will provide hope to thousands of Americans who now are waiting for transplants, particularly kidney transplants, across the United States. Paired organ donation will make it possible for thousands of people who wish to donate a kidney to a spouse, a family member or a friend but find that they're not medically compatible, still allowing them to become living kidney donors.

As of this afternoon, there are fully 97,000 candidates for organ donations waiting on the national waiting list. But there are only 28,931 transplants performed in total of 2006, and only 6,730 were from living donors. Clearly, we've got work to do.

This resolution will take a significant step towards reducing the number of patients on the waiting list and give much more hope for others to hope that, and know that their wait will not be endless.

It's imperative we make absolutely clear that there's no intent by Congress to bar this procedure. Simply put, we want this legislation to save lives immediately, and it will do so when enacted.

I also want to take a moment to salute and thank Dr. Connie Davis, who's a constituent and a friend and a very knowledgeable transplant physician from the University of Washington in Seattle. In addition to her years of caring for local transplant donors and recipients, she's advised me and others on transplant issues as chairwoman of the American Society of Transplantation, the largest organization in the world representing professionals engaged in the field of solid organ transplantation. And her help has been invaluable in putting this legislation together and making sure that those 90,000 patients get access.

So for those thousands of patients waiting today who spend costly and often arduous time on dialysis treatment, their time on the waiting list can be significantly shortened with passage of this bill.

And I want to thank my colleagues across the aisle who worked on this, Nathan Deal and others.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Madam Speaker, I rise today in strong support of this legislation, which was originally introduced by my dear friend, the late Congressman Charlie Norwood, and has now been renamed the Charlie W. Norwood Living Organ Donation Act. As a lung transplant recipient, Charlie believed in organ donation. This good piece of legislation will help facilitate life-giving organ donation by clarifying the intent of the National Organ Transplant Act to protect the commonsense practice of paired organ donation.

A paired donation occurs when a donor who is willing to give an organ to a family member or a friend, but is biologically incompatible, donates to another patient, who also has an incompatible donor. By cross-matching two or more incompatible donor recipient pairs, more patients can receive organs and more donors can give them.

The changes we're making this afternoon help conform the bill to an amendment that was offered in the Senate during consideration. The amendment helps to ensure this bill can adapt to advances in science should organs other than kidneys be eligible for paired donation.

As we pass this bill today and later send it to the President for his signature, we honor a great Member of this House and carry forward some of his goals.

I would like to thank Mr. INSLEE for his leadership on this issue, and I would urge my colleagues to join me in support of this legislation.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. DEAL of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I would like to yield such time as he may consume to another colleague of the Georgia delegation, Dr. PHIL GINGREY.

Mr. GINGREY. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding. I thank the gentleman from Washington, our friend, Representative INSLEE, and of course Representative NATHAN DEAL.

I am proud to be here to support this resolution, H.R. 710, in honor of our colleague, the late Dr. Norwood. Representative INSLEE described the magnitude of the issue. I wasn't even aware that there were, as a physician, maybe I should be, but over 90,000 people who are on a waiting list, and a fourth of them each year get transplants, and only a very small number get a transplant from a living donor, as Representative INSLEE pointed out. And of course Representative DEAL just explained to us exactly what this cross-living donor program, how it would work. So it is an easy bill, Madam

Speaker, to support for our late and dear friend and colleague, Dr. Charlie Norwood.

Earlier this year we passed a bill honoring Dr. Norwood by naming a VA Medical Center in Augusta, Georgia, the heart of his congressional district, in honor of the great work that he did on behalf of our veterans.

I think my colleagues, Madam Speaker, know that Charlie Norwood served as a dental officer in Vietnam, in combat, got two Bronze Stars, I think a medical combat award. He was a great spokesperson on behalf of our veterans.

But also, in regard to health care, before I was even thinking about running for this great office that I hold now, Madam Speaker, Charlie Norwood had that Patient Bill of Rights. I think a lot of my colleagues would remember that. Madam Speaker, you indeed probably were here at that time. And so this is just another opportunity for us, not just to honor Dr. Norwood, but to realize that he worked so diligently on behalf of veterans issues and health care issues. So it's a great honor to be here today.

And I'll tell you, on a personal note, my colleagues, Madam Speaker, I have a senior legislative assistant, Josh Waller, whose dad, Jerry, last year died while on a waiting list for a liver transplant. That was awfully painful for me to watch that happen to the dad of one of my great staff members. So this is a wonderful opportunity for us to do something really good for these people that Representative DEAL, Representative INSLEE described that are on these waiting lists, that suffer dialysis. And as Representative DEAL pointed out, the Senate amendment just changed it a little bit so that other organs, other than kidneys, indeed, Dr. Norwood himself, as Representative INSLEE pointed out, was the recipient of a lung transplant. Unfortunately, it did not work for him. But God bless him. And I'm proud to be here today to support this bill. I urge all of my colleagues to do the same.

Mr. DEAL of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I urge the unanimous adoption of this bill.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Washington (Mr. INSLEE) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 837.

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. INSLEE. Madam 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 motion will be postponed.

RECESS

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

Accordingly (at 4 o'clock and 14 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

□ 1733

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas) at 5 o'clock and 33 minutes p.m.

MOTION TO GO TO CONFERENCE ON H.R. 2082, INTELLIGENCE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2008

Mr. REYES. Madam Speaker, pursuant to clause 1 of rule XXII and by direction of the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, I move to take from the Speaker's table the bill (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, with a Senate amendment thereto, disagree to the Senate amendment, and agree to the conference asked by the Senate.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The motion was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

MOTION TO INSTRUCT OFFERED BY MR. HOEKSTRA

Mr. HOEKSTRA. Madam Speaker, I offer a motion to instruct conferees.

The Clerk read as follows:

Mr. Hoekstra moves that the managers on the part of the House at the conference on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses on the Senate amendment to the bill H.R. 2082 be instructed, to the maximum extent possible within the scope of the conference, to—

(1) eliminate any House or Senate provisions providing for earmarks as defined in clause 9(d) of rule XXI of the Rules of the House of Representatives; and

(2) insist on provisions authorizing the maximum level of funding permissible for human intelligence collection activities.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 7 of rule XXII, the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. HOEKSTRA) and the gentleman from Texas (Mr. REYES) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Michigan.

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

Madam Speaker, this motion to instruct is about priorities. America continues to face threats. We are engaged in a global struggle against radical jihadists. For a time of war, for a time of threats like this, the priorities of portions of this intelligence bill are completely misplaced in critical areas.

The motion to instruct would make our priorities clearer by eliminating provisions providing for earmarks and by ensuring the maximum level of funding for increasing human intelligence collection.

Our intelligence programs should be based on only one primary consideration: what best ensures that the intelligence community is able to do its job in the best interest of the national security of the United States.

This motion would ensure that we are appropriating and authorizing funding on a bipartisan basis to critical human intelligence programs based on the merit of these programs and the intelligence we learn from them.

The unclassified National Intelligence Estimate's key judgments released publicly just yesterday illustrate how important intelligence gathering is to our national security. As we take a look at where we want to put our priorities, it is clear from what we have learned and what we understand in this committee the importance of putting resources, the necessary resources on human intelligence, and to remove them from earmarks, Members' pet projects, which don't necessarily always go through the rigorous process necessary to ensure that the funding for these projects and these programs is appropriate.

I encourage my colleagues to vote for this motion to instruct to make sure that we put the resources where they will make maximum benefit to the intelligence community.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. REYES. Madam Speaker, I rise in opposition to the motion to instruct, and I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, this motion is not about policy. It is not even about priorities; it is about politics. This bill that we passed, this bill that passed the House, the bill we are talking about tonight, is legislation that sets unprecedented levels of commitment for our intelligence community, to the professionals who are charged with keeping this country safe. It sets the priorities for human intelligence. It sets record levels and expenditures from the House so that those professionals that are charged with keeping us safe, keeping this Nation secure, have the necessary resources to do that job.

This legislation also prioritizes the issue of diversifying the intelligence workforce. This legislation protects this country. This legislation prioritizes those issues that are vitally important that we pass here tonight.

So for those reasons and because for the first time in history we have had care and process with this legislation, setting record levels of expenditures for our intelligence community, I urge all my colleagues to vote ''no'' on the motion.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Madam Speaker, this is about priorities. It is about priorities in terms of allocating dollars to those programs which the intelligence community and the committee itself has taken a look at and thoroughly debated and thoroughly gone through and said this is where the money needs to be spent versus putting money into Members' projects.

This is not about a project for a school back home or things that we see in some of the other appropriations bills. These are national security, intelligence priority projects; and putting earmarks into this bill is something that we think is inappropriate, especially as we have gone through that process, at least for one of these, where the committee didn't go through a process where it went through the committee and wasn't identified as an earmark and we get to the floor and it is an earmark and it is for a significant amount of money and it is for programs that people have taken a look at and said: this is not a necessary program; and as a matter of fact, this is duplicative of other things that are already being done in the community or being done in the Federal Government. It is saying, no, we are not doing these earmarks, especially for those types of redundant and wasteful government spending.

It is important that as we focus on the intelligence community, that we spend the dollars where it makes the most sense. As we take a look at some of the earmarks in this bill, it is clear it is not the most effective way to spend taxpayer money in an area that is critical to the safety and the security of the American people.

It is why we have put into this motion to instruct to take earmarks out. We are going to go to conference, and we are encouraging that on the House and Senate side both that we bring a bill that is free of earmarks to the House and the Senate floor when this conference report comes out of a conference committee. We think that that sets an important principle and an important precedent for the intelligence bill to have a bill that is free from earmarks.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. HOEKSTRA. Madam Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. THORNBERRY), a member of the committee.

Mr. THORNBERRY. Madam Speaker, I agree with the chairman, there are many good things in this bill. This motion to instruct raises two issues. One is that human intelligence is very important, and the motion to instruct would insist on the provisions authorizing the maximum level of funding permissible for human intelligence collection activities.

Madam Speaker, gathering intelligence through human collection is in many ways classic intelligence work, but it is more important than ever in an age of terrorism where a very small number of individuals can get together and can do great damage.

So to find out about such a group, much less to find out what their intentions and capabilities may be, we require human intelligence. Technical collection is very, very important, and we have lots of debates on this floor about one particular aspect of that. But the rest of the story is war threats are moving underground and in places where technical collection is difficult. And so human intelligence which doesn't just spring overnight, which takes months, if not years, to develop, is absolutely crucial today in the fight against radical Islamic terrorists and tomorrow against all sorts of threats.

This motion to instruct says we have to insist on the maximum funding level today so the country will be better prepared tomorrow.

But the second thing that this motion to instruct does is it tries to strengthen, I would say, the integrity and the credibility of what this committee and this Congress do.

Intelligence is really the only part of government that operates outside of the scrutiny and oversight from the press and other people and institutions outside of the government. So that puts more responsibility on our shoulders, on this institution, on the Committee on Intelligence, and on the products we produce.

So if a bill that this committee or this Congress produces has specific earmarks for specific projects in specific Members' districts, when you don't have that outside scrutiny, I think it calls our credibility into question.

□ 1745

And it clearly does so because we have had a history, unfortunately, in this institution of a problem in that area.

So this year, the motion to instruct conferees says the better course is to remove all of those earmarks, to have a bill clean of earmarks. We have funding for individual programs and individual initiatives, most of which cannot be discussed on this floor. But the better course is to fund those things, many of the good things the chairman talked about, but take away the earmarks, the specific funding for specific programs in specific Members' districts that call our credibility into question. That is why I think this motion to instruct emphasizes the important good things in this bill, but it makes it stronger by increasing its integrity and credibility, and I hope Members will support it.

Mr. REYES. Madam Speaker, I rise and yield myself such time as I may consume.

Again, unfortunately this motion is not about policy, it is not about priorities, it is not even about earmarks; it is about politics. Using politics, I think, at a time when our intelligence professionals depend on us to provide them the means and the tools and the funds with which to keep us safe is unfortunate. Nonetheless, I urge my colleagues to vote ''no'' on this motion.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. HOEKSTRA. Madam Speaker, I thank my colleague, and yield myself such time as I may consume.

My colleague, the chairman, is exactly right, that it is important that we give our resources to the intelligence community for the activities they believe are most important, not perhaps what an individual Member of Congress may believe is important for them. It is why we are asking in this motion to instruct for a clean bill.

As my colleague from Texas on this side of the aisle talked about earlier, there have been unfortunate cases, not only on this committee but on other committees, about Members abusing the privilege and responsibility of putting in earmarks. This takes away that responsibility. This takes away that opportunity for Members to direct funding outside of the normal course of business of the committee.

What it does is it says, let's make sure that we fully fund human intelligence capabilities. Our dedication is to provide the resources to those people who are involved in human intelligence. That is, we take a look at the various groups that have taken a look at the intelligence community since 9/11 and determined that one of the critical weaknesses we had was in human intelligence, in many different facets: that we don't have enough of those resources, we don't have the resources with the right capabilities and the right places, and those types of things. And as we take a look at where we are today, not only is that the analysis of where we were shortly after 9/11, it is also a clear indication of, in many cases, where I believe that we still are today: that we are woefully inadequate in terms of having a balanced approach, in terms of technical collection and human intelligence, and these types of things. And the weak leg, the short leg on a three-legged stool continues to be human intelligence. And what we are saying is move the money from earmarks to making sure that we fully fund this extremely important capability in the intelligence community that for far too long has been neglected, in some cases neglected by this Congress and in other cases neglected by the community.

One of, I think, the strong parts of the intel community is that on a bipartisan basis we have been putting pressure in trying to get the intel community to respond and to put in place the resources, the capabilities, and the focus on building a very effective system of human intelligence. And this is just one more step to send a clear signal to the intelligence community that says we, as policymakers, believe that you still have not done enough to build up our human intelligence capabilities, and we are taking these additional steps in this bill to make sure that

these capabilities are enhanced and to send a clear signal to you that we want you and the community to do more. We want you to do more, we want you to do it sooner, we want you to do it quicker, and we need to you to do it better, because it continues to be an area that we have significant concern about.

And as we do this, what we are doing is we are taking money, again, as I identified, from programs, various sources in the media where some of these earmarks have been public and where various other government auditing agencies have taken a look at these programs and said: Wait a minute. This is duplicative, it is not effective, and it maybe doesn't even add anything to the intelligence capabilities of the United States of America.

So you have people in the intelligence community wondering and saying, if this is so important, if HUMINT is so important, then why are we funding these other types of programs, these Member requests?

This motion to instruct sends a very, very clear signal that says Member priorities are no longer Member priorities. As a matter of fact, the priority of this committee, the priority of this Congress, is to put the money where it needs to be and to put it in places that fills the gaps that we have identified in the intelligence community. And the biggest gap and the biggest area of weakness that we have today is human intelligence.

This sends a clear signal to the intelligence community that we have our priorities right; that it is about them and it is not about this House or individual Members or individual Members' districts; that it is about the bigger objective of getting things done in the intelligence community at a time when this country continues to be at risk, whether it is the nonstate actors, people like al Qaeda, other radical jihadist groups and those types of threats, or whether it is the threats that come from state actors, whether it is North Korea, whether it is Iran, whether it is Russia, whether it is Venezuela, or whatever emerging threat that is out here, it sends a very, very clear and distinct message that says those are our priorities, that is where we want to put our money, that is where the threats come from. And, as a signal of being aligned with the intelligence community, we as a committee and we as a Congress are willing, and not only willing, we are mandating, we are instructing the conferees to give up their earmarks, to give up their Member projects, to make sure that we get maximum effect for the dollars that we are spending in this area.

That is what this motion to instruct is about. It is about getting maximum effectiveness for the dollars that we allocate into the community. We spend a lot of money in this area, but we all know that some of the results that we get have not been the kind of leading edge or providing us with the insights into the threats that we would like to have. This motion to instruct says, clearly, it is not going to be about us taking money from the intelligence community and putting them into Member projects; it is going in the other direction, to make sure that if the intelligence community comes up short, but we really believe that it won't come up short, that we will be providing it with the resources that will enable it to do the job that we need it to do.

That is why this is an important motion to instruct. That is why we are asking our colleagues to support this motion to instruct, to make sure that we have got alignment between the Congress, and that we have got alignment between Congress and the intel community, and making sure that we put the dollars where they make the most difference and where they will be most effective. That is why I ask my colleagues to vote for this motion to instruct, to send a clear signal to the conferees as to where they want to go and where they need to go and what we want to see coming back from the conferees in a conference report: A bill that focuses resources on what will build this community and not what may build things within a Members' district.

Let's put the resources where they need to be. Let's put the resources addressing some of the weaknesses that this committee has identified through its oversight process over the last 12 months. Vote for this motion to instruct.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the previous question is ordered on the motion to instruct.

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion to instruct.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the noes appeared to have it.

Mr. HOEKSTRA. Madam Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

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 5 o'clock and 56 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess until approximately 6:30 p.m.

□ 1830

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mrs. JONES of Ohio) at 6 o'clock and 30 minutes p.m.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, proceedings will resume on questions previously postponed.

Votes will be taken in the following order:

Motions to suspend the rules with regard to H.R. 3998 and H.R. 3887;

Motion to instruct on H.R. 2082; and

Motion to suspend the rules with regard to House Resolution 837.

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

AMERICA'S HISTORICAL AND NATURAL LEGACY STUDY ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3998, as amended, 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 gentlewoman from Guam (Ms. BORDALLO) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3998, as amended.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 326, nays 79, not voting 26, as follows:

[Roll No. 1123]

YEAS—326

Abercrombie
Ackerman
Aderholt
Alexander
Allen
Altmire
Andrews
Arcuri
Baca
Baird
Baker
Baldwin
Barrow
Bartlett (MD)
Bean
Becerra
Berkley
Berman
Berry
Biggert
Bilbray
Bilirakis
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (NY)
Bishop (UT)
Blackburn
Blumenauer
Bonner
Bono
Boozman
Boren
Boswell
Boucher
Boustany
Boyd (FL)
Boyda (KS)
Brady (PA)
Brady (TX)
Braley (IA)
Brown (SC)
Brown-Waite, Ginny
Buchanan
Butterfield
Buyer
Camp (MI)
Campbell (CA)
Capito
Capps
Capuano
Cardoza
Carnahan
Carney
Castle
Castor
Chandler
Clarke
Clay
Cleaver
Clyburn
Cohen
Cole (OK)
Conyers
Cooper
Costa
Costello
Courtney
Cramer
Crenshaw
Crowley
Cuellar
Cummings
Davis (AL)
Davis (CA)
Davis (IL)
Davis, Lincoln
Davis, Tom
DeFazio
Delahunt
Dent
Diaz-Balart, L.
Diaz-Balart, M.
Dicks
Dingell
Doggett
Donnelly
Doyle
Drake
Edwards
Ehlers
Ellison
Ellsworth
Emanuel
Emerson
Engel
English (PA)
Eshoo
Etheridge
Everett
Fallin
Farr
Fattah
Feeney
Ferguson
Filner
Forbes
Fortenberry
Fossella
Frank (MA)
Frelinghuysen
Garrett (NJ)
Gerlach
Giffords
Gilchrest
Gillibrand
Gonzalez
Gordon
Granger
Graves
Green, Al
Green, Gene
Grijalva
Gutierrez
Hall (NY)
Hare
Harman
Hastings (FL)
Hastings (WA)
Heller
Hensarling
Herseth Sandlin
Higgins

Hill
Hinchey
Hirono
Hobson
Hodes
Hoekstra
Holden
Holt
Honda
Hoyer
Inglis (SC)
Inslee
Israel
Jackson (IL)
Jackson-Lee (TX)
Jefferson
Johnson (GA)
Johnson (IL)
Johnson, E. B.
Jones (OH)
Kagen
Kanjorski
Kaptur
Keller
Kennedy
Kildee
Kilpatrick
Kind
King (NY)
Kirk
Klein (FL)
Knollenberg
Kuhl (NY)
LaHood
Lampson
Langevin
Lantos
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Latham
LaTourette
Lee
Levin
Lewis (GA)
Lipinski
LoBiondo
Loebsack
Lofgren, Zoe
Lowey
Lynch
Mack
Mahoney (FL)
Maloney (NY)
Markey
Marshall
Matheson
Matsui
McCarthy (NY)
McCollum (MN)
McCotter
McCrery
McDermott
McGovern
McHugh
McIntyre
McMorris Rodgers
McNerney
McNulty
Meek (FL)
Meeks (NY)
Melancon
Mica
Michaud
Miller (FL)
Miller (MI)
Miller (NC)
Miller, George
Mitchell
Mollohan
Moore (KS)
Moore (WI)
Murphy (CT)
Murphy, Patrick
Murphy, Tim
Murtha
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal (MA)
Oberstar
Obey
Olver
Ortiz
Pallone
Pascrell
Pastor
Payne
Perlmutter
Peterson (MN)
Peterson (PA)
Petri
Pickering
Pitts
Platts
Pomeroy
Porter
Price (NC)
Pryce (OH)
Putnam
Rahall
Ramstad
Rangel
Regula
Rehberg
Reichert
Renzi
Reyes
Reynolds
Richardson
Rodriguez
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rogers (MI)
Ros-Lehtinen
Roskam
Ross
Rothman
Roybal-Allard
Royce
Ruppersberger
Rush
Ryan (OH)
Ryan (WI)
Salazar
Sánchez, Linda T.
Sanchez, Loretta
Sarbanes
Saxton
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schwartz
Scott (GA)
Scott (VA)
Serrano
Sestak
Shays
Shea-Porter
Sherman
Shuler
Shuster
Sires
Skelton
Slaughter
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Smith (WA)
Snyder
Solis
Souder
Space
Spratt
Stark
Stupak
Sutton
Tanner
Tauscher
Taylor
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Tierney
Tsongas
Turner
Udall (CO)
Udall (NM)
Upton
Van Hollen
Velázquez
Visclosky
Walsh (NY)
Walz (MN)
Waters
Watson
Watt
Waxman
Weiner
Welch (VT)
Wexler
Wicker
Wilson (NM)
Wilson (OH)
Wolf
Woolsey
Wu
Wynn
Yarmuth
Young (FL)

NAYS—79

Akin
Bachmann
Bachus
Barrett (SC)
Barton (TX)
Blunt
Boehner
Broun (GA)
Burgess
Burton (IN)
Calvert
Cannon
Cantor
Carter
Chabot
Coble
Conaway
Culberson
Davis (KY)
Davis, David
Deal (GA)
Doolittle
Dreier
Duncan
Flake
Foxx
Franks (AZ)
Gallegly
Gingrey
Gohmert
Goode
Goodlatte
Hayes
Herger
Hulshof
Issa
Johnson, Sam
Jones (NC)
Jordan
King (IA)
Kingston
Kline (MN)
Lamborn
Lewis (CA)
Lewis (KY)
Lungren, Daniel E.
Manzullo
Marchant
McCarthy (CA)
McCaul (TX)
McKeon
Moran (KS)
Musgrave
Myrick
Neugebauer
Pearce
Pence
Price (GA)
Radanovich
Rohrabacher
Sali
Schmidt
Sensenbrenner
Sessions
Shadegg
Shimkus
Stearns
Sullivan
Terry
Thornberry
Tiahrt
Tiberi
Walberg
Walden (OR)
Wamp
Weldon (FL)
Westmoreland
Whitfield
Wilson (SC)

NOT VOTING—26

Brown, Corrine
Carson
Cubin
DeGette
DeLauro
Hall (TX)
Hinojosa
Hooley
Hunter
Jindal
Kucinich
Linder
Lucas
McHenry
Miller, Gary
Moran (VA)
Nunes
Paul
Poe
Simpson
Smith (NE)
Tancredo
Towns
Wasserman Schultz
Weller
Young (AK)

□ 1855

Messrs. TERRY, GOODLATTE, HERGER, DAVIS of Kentucky, BURTON of Indiana, ROHRABACHER, SENSENBRENNER, DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California, BURGESS and Ms. FOXX changed their vote from ''yea'' to ''nay.''

Mr. INGLIS of South Carolina changed his vote from ''nay'' to ''yea.''

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

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

MOMENT OF SILENCE IN MEMORY OF FORMER REPRESENTATIVE JOSEPH MINISH OF NEW JERSEY

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

Mr. PASCRELL. I would like for us to pause from votes for just a few moments in order to recognize one of our congressional brothers who passed away last week.

As many of you know, last Wednesday, former Representative Joseph Minish died at the age of 91. We have lost a great man, a great New Jerseyan and true champion of the working class.

A native of Throop, Pennsylvania, Joe was the son of a coal miner. Joe never went to college, but he served in the Army during World War II and subsequently settled in Newark, New Jersey, where he worked as a machine operator and joined the staff of the Electrical Workers Union.

He was first elected in 1962. Joe represented Essex County in the House for 22 years. Throughout his tenure, he displayed talent, intelligence and capability. More important than anything, Madam Speaker, he showed kindness to everyone.

Joe was always looking out for the little guy. And after all, isn't that why we are all here? He was unassuming. He was a humble man. But he fought with intensity on behalf of the underdog, and he is an example of the very best of what public service is all about.

He believed in what Tip O'Neill believed, and that is that all politics is local. He was legendary back home for the constituent services he provided. He did it with little flair, asked nothing in return, and just got the job done.

In Washington, Joe pushed for truth-in-lending laws and rallied against the price gouging of consumers. He was an advocate for food safety reforms, including tougher Food and Drug Administration regulation, as well as for greater access to health care for all.

I represent part of Joe's old district, and as a long-time resident of West Orange, New Jersey, Joe was a constituent of mine.

I can only hope that I represent the good people of my district with the same decency in character that Joe Minish displayed throughout his tenure. He reached across the aisle. He was a giant among men. We will miss you, my friend.

I now ask that the House take a moment of silence in his honor.

□ 1900

MOMENT OF SILENCE IN MEMORY OF FORMER REPRESENTATIVE HENRY HYDE OF ILLINOIS

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

Mr. COSTELLO. Madam Speaker, I regret to inform the Members that former Congressman Henry Hyde died this past Friday, November 30. Henry served in the Illinois legislature for 8 years, from 1967 to 1974. Henry was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives in 1974 and served for 32 years until his retirement after the 109th Congress.

Henry was both liked and respected by those of us who served with him. He chaired both the Judiciary and International Relations Committee, presiding over both with the same intelligence and eloquence he brought to all floor debate. Last month, President Bush presented Henry with the Presidential Medal of Freedom award, our Nation's highest civilian honor, for his meritorious service to his country.

Members should know that directly after votes this evening, Mr. ROSKAM and I have reserved a Special Order to recognize and remember the service of Henry Hyde later on this evening. Those who want to participate can do so or submit a statement.

At this time I would yield to my friend from Illinois (Mr. ROSKAM).

Mr. ROSKAM. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Madam Speaker, many of us come to Washington, D.C. for our first time and we go out and about and we introduce ourselves. And I did that as a candidate, introduced myself to people, and they had no interest whatsoever in who I was. I tried then to seek a little bit of common ground and tell them where I am from. They had no interest whatsoever in where I was from.

And then I didn't play fair. Then I said to them, I am running to succeed Congressman Hyde. At that moment, the demeanor on every single person changed. They pulled me a little bit closer, they grabbed my elbow, and they would say, Henry Hyde, let me tell you about Henry Hyde. They would tell some unbelievable story about how Henry Hyde would come down to the well of this Chamber in a packed place and with the whole country watching and do what great statesmen do, and

that was to speak to the great weighty issues of the day. Or they would tell me about Henry Hyde and a kindness that he had extended to them out of the presence of anybody else, that no one would ever know about.

So it is with a great deal of regret that Mr. COSTELLO and I are here announcing the passing of a great man. This great man was my predecessor. He was known not only ultimately for what he accomplished and what he stood for but I think actually who he was.

Mr. COSTELLO. Madam Speaker, I would ask the House to observe a moment of silence in remembrance of our friend, Henry Hyde.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

There was no objection.

WILLIAM WILBERFORCE TRAFFICKING VICTIMS PROTECTION REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2007

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3887, as amended, 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 gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON-LEE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3887, as amended.

This will be a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 405, nays 2, not voting 24, as follows:

[Roll No. 1124]

YEAS—405

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
Berman
Berry
Biggert
Bilbray
Bilirakis
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (NY)
Bishop (UT)
Blackburn
Blumenauer
Blunt
Boehner
Bonner
Bono
Boozman
Boren
Boswell
Boucher
Boustany
Boyd (FL)
Boyda (KS)
Brady (PA)
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
Cardoza
Carnahan
Carney
Carter
Castle
Castor
Chabot
Chandler
Clarke
Clay
Cleaver
Clyburn
Coble
Cohen
Cole (OK)
Conaway
Conyers
Cooper
Costa
Costello
Courtney
Cramer
Crenshaw
Crowley
Cuellar
Culberson
Cummings
Davis (AL)
Davis (CA)
Davis (IL)
Davis (KY)
Davis, David
Davis, Lincoln
Davis, Tom
Deal (GA)
DeFazio
Delahunt
Dent
Diaz-Balart, L.
Diaz-Balart, M.
Dicks
Dingell
Doggett
Donnelly
Doolittle
Doyle
Drake
Dreier
Duncan
Edwards
Ehlers
Ellison
Ellsworth
Emanuel
Emerson
Engel
English (PA)
Eshoo
Etheridge
Everett
Fallin
Farr
Fattah
Feeney
Ferguson
Filner
Forbes
Fortenberry
Fossella
Foxx
Frank (MA)
Franks (AZ)
Frelinghuysen
Gallegly
Garrett (NJ)
Gerlach
Giffords
Gilchrest
Gillibrand
Gingrey
Gohmert
Gonzalez
Goode
Goodlatte
Gordon
Granger
Graves
Green, Al
Green, Gene
Grijalva
Gutierrez
Hall (NY)
Hare
Harman
Hastings (FL)
Hastings (WA)
Hayes
Heller
Hensarling
Herger
Herseth Sandlin
Higgins
Hill
Hinchey
Hirono
Hobson
Hodes
Hoekstra
Holden
Holt
Honda
Hoyer
Hulshof
Inglis (SC)
Inslee
Israel
Issa
Jackson (IL)
Jackson-Lee (TX)
Jefferson
Johnson (GA)
Johnson (IL)
Johnson, E. B.
Johnson, Sam
Jones (NC)
Jones (OH)
Jordan
Kagen
Kanjorski
Kaptur
Keller
Kennedy
Kildee
Kilpatrick
Kind
King (IA)
King (NY)
Kingston
Klein (FL)
Kline (MN)
Knollenberg
Kuhl (NY)
LaHood
Lamborn
Lampson
Langevin
Lantos
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Latham
LaTourette
Lee
Levin
Lewis (CA)
Lewis (GA)
Lewis (KY)
Lipinski
LoBiondo
Loebsack
Lofgren, Zoe
Lowey
Lucas
Lungren, Daniel E.
Lynch
Mack
Mahoney (FL)
Maloney (NY)
Manzullo
Marchant
Markey
Marshall
Matheson
Matsui
McCarthy (CA)
McCarthy (NY)
McCaul (TX)
McCollum (MN)
McCotter
McCrery
McDermott
McGovern
McHenry
McHugh
McIntyre
McKeon
McMorris Rodgers
McNerney
McNulty
Meek (FL)
Meeks (NY)
Melancon
Mica
Michaud
Miller (FL)
Miller (MI)
Miller (NC)
Miller, George
Mitchell
Mollohan
Moore (KS)
Moore (WI)
Moran (KS)
Murphy (CT)
Murphy, Patrick
Murphy, Tim
Murtha
Musgrave
Myrick
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal (MA)
Neugebauer
Oberstar
Obey
Olver
Ortiz
Pallone
Pascrell
Pastor
Payne
Pearce
Pence
Perlmutter
Peterson (MN)
Peterson (PA)
Petri
Pickering
Pitts
Platts
Pomeroy
Porter
Price (GA)
Price (NC)
Pryce (OH)
Putnam
Radanovich
Rahall
Ramstad
Rangel
Regula
Rehberg
Reichert
Renzi
Reyes
Reynolds
Richardson
Rodriguez
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rogers (MI)
Rohrabacher
Ros-Lehtinen
Roskam
Ross
Rothman
Roybal-Allard
Royce
Ruppersberger
Rush
Ryan (OH)
Ryan (WI)
Salazar
Sali
Sánchez, Linda T.
Sanchez, Loretta
Sarbanes
Saxton
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schmidt
Schwartz
Scott (GA)
Scott (VA)
Sensenbrenner
Serrano
Sessions
Sestak
Shadegg
Shays
Shea-Porter
Sherman
Shimkus
Shuler
Shuster
Simpson
Sires
Skelton
Slaughter
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Smith (WA)
Snyder
Solis
Souder
Space
Spratt
Stark
Stearns
Stupak
Sullivan
Sutton
Tanner
Tauscher
Taylor
Terry
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Thornberry
Tiahrt
Tiberi
Tierney
Tsongas
Turner
Udall (CO)
Udall (NM)
Upton
Van Hollen
Velázquez
Visclosky
Walberg
Walden (OR)
Walsh (NY)
Walz (MN)
Wamp
Waters
Watson
Watt
Waxman
Weiner
Welch (VT)
Weldon (FL)
Westmoreland
Wexler
Whitfield
Wicker
Wilson (NM)
Wilson (OH)
Wilson (SC)
Wolf
Woolsey
Wu
Wynn
Yarmuth
Young (FL)

NAYS—2

Broun (GA)
Flake

NOT VOTING—24

Brown, Corrine
Carson
Cubin
DeGette
DeLauro
Hall (TX)
Hinojosa
Hooley
Hunter
Jindal
Kirk
Kucinich
Linder
Miller, Gary
Moran (VA)
Nunes
Paul
Poe
Smith (NE)
Tancredo
Towns
Wasserman Schultz
Weller
Young (AK)

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

□ 1911

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

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

The title was amended so as to read: ''A bill to authorize appropriations for fiscal years 2008 through 2011 for the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000, to enhance measures to combat trafficking in persons, and for other purposes.''.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

APPOINTMENT OF CONFEREES ON H.R. 2082, INTELLIGENCE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2008

MOTION TO INSTRUCT OFFERED BY MR. HOEKSTRA

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the question on the motion to instruct offered by the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. HOEKSTRA) which the Chair will put de novo.

The Clerk will redesignate the motion.

The Clerk redesignated the motion.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion to instruct.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

RECORDED VOTE

Mr. HOEKSTRA. Madam Speaker, I demand a recorded vote.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. This will be a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 249, noes 160, not voting 22, as follows:

[Roll No. 1125]

AYES—249

Aderholt
Akin
Alexander
Andrews
Bachmann
Bachus
Baird
Baker
Barrett (SC)
Barrow
Bartlett (MD)
Barton (TX)
Bean
Biggert
Bilbray
Bilirakis
Bishop (UT)
Blackburn
Blunt
Boehner
Bonner
Bono
Boozman
Boustany
Boyda (KS)
Brady (TX)
Braley (IA)
Broun (GA)
Brown (SC)
Brown-Waite, Ginny
Buchanan
Burgess
Burton (IN)
Butterfield
Buyer

Calvert
Camp (MI)
Campbell (CA)
Cannon
Cantor
Capito
Capuano
Cardoza
Carnahan
Carter
Castle
Chabot
Chandler
Coble
Cole (OK)
Conaway
Cooper
Costa
Crenshaw
Cuellar
Culberson
Cummings
Davis (AL)
Davis (IL)
Davis (KY)
Davis, David
Davis, Lincoln
Davis, Tom
Deal (GA)
DeFazio
Dent
Diaz-Balart, L.
Diaz-Balart, M.
Dingell
Donnelly
Doolittle
Drake
Dreier
Duncan
Edwards
Ehlers
Ellsworth
Emerson
English (PA)
Everett
Fallin
Feeney
Ferguson
Flake
Forbes
Fortenberry
Fossella
Foxx
Franks (AZ)
Frelinghuysen
Gallegly
Garrett (NJ)
Gerlach
Giffords
Gilchrest
Gingrey
Gohmert
Goode
Goodlatte
Gordon
Granger
Graves
Hall (NY)
Hare
Hastings (WA)
Hayes
Heller
Hensarling
Herger
Hill
Hobson
Hoekstra
Hulshof
Inglis (SC)
Issa
Johnson (IL)
Johnson, Sam
Jones (NC)
Jones (OH)
Jordan
Keller
Kind
King (IA)
King (NY)
Kingston
Kirk
Klein (FL)
Kline (MN)
Knollenberg
Kuhl (NY)
LaHood
Lamborn
Lampson
Latham
LaTourette
Lewis (CA)
Lewis (KY)
LoBiondo
Loebsack
Lucas
Lungren, Daniel E.
Lynch
Mack
Mahoney (FL)
Manzullo
Marchant
Marshall
McCarthy (CA)
McCaul (TX)
McCotter
McCrery
McHenry
McHugh
McIntyre
McKeon
McMorris Rodgers
McNerney
Melancon
Mica
Michaud
Miller (FL)
Miller (MI)
Moore (KS)
Moran (KS)
Murphy (CT)
Murphy, Tim
Musgrave
Myrick
Neugebauer
Oberstar
Obey
Paul
Pearce
Pence
Peterson (MN)
Peterson (PA)
Petri
Pickering
Pitts
Platts
Porter
Price (GA)
Pryce (OH)
Putnam
Radanovich
Ramstad
Rangel
Regula
Rehberg
Reichert
Renzi
Reynolds
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rogers (MI)
Rohrabacher
Ros-Lehtinen
Roskam
Ross
Royce
Rush
Ryan (WI)
Sali
Saxton
Schiff
Schmidt
Sensenbrenner
Sessions
Sestak
Shadegg
Shays
Shimkus
Shuster
Simpson
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Smith (WA)
Snyder
Souder
Space
Spratt
Stearns
Sullivan
Tanner
Taylor
Terry
Thornberry
Tiahrt
Tiberi
Turner
Udall (CO)
Udall (NM)
Upton
Visclosky
Walberg
Walden (OR)
Walsh (NY)
Walz (MN)
Wamp
Weldon (FL)
Westmoreland
Wexler
Whitfield
Wicker
Wilson (NM)
Wilson (OH)
Wilson (SC)
Wolf
Young (FL)

NOES—160

Abercrombie
Ackerman
Allen
Altmire
Arcuri
Baca
Baldwin
Becerra
Berkley
Berman
Berry
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (NY)
Blumenauer
Boren
Boswell
Boucher
Boyd (FL)
Brady (PA)
Capps
Carney
Castor
Clarke
Clay
Cleaver
Clyburn
Cohen
Conyers
Costello
Courtney
Cramer
Crowley
Davis (CA)
Delahunt
Dicks
Doggett
Doyle
Ellison
Emanuel
Engel
Eshoo
Etheridge
Farr
Fattah
Filner
Frank (MA)
Gillibrand
Gonzalez
Green, Al
Green, Gene
Grijalva
Gutierrez
Harman
Hastings (FL)
Herseth Sandlin
Higgins
Hinchey
Hirono
Hodes
Holden
Holt
Honda
Hoyer
Inslee
Israel
Jackson (IL)
Jackson-Lee (TX)
Jefferson
Johnson (GA)
Johnson, E. B.
Kagen
Kanjorski
Kaptur
Kennedy
Kildee
Kilpatrick
Langevin
Lantos
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Lee
Levin
Lewis (GA)
Lipinski
Lofgren, Zoe
Lowey
Maloney (NY)
Markey
Matheson
Matsui
McCarthy (NY)
McCollum (MN)
McDermott
McGovern
McNulty
Meek (FL)
Meeks (NY)
Miller (NC)
Miller, George
Mitchell
Mollohan
Moore (WI)
Murphy, Patrick
Murtha
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal (MA)
Olver
Ortiz
Pallone
Pascrell
Pastor
Payne
Perlmutter
Pomeroy
Price (NC)
Rahall
Reyes
Richardson
Rodriguez
Rothman
Roybal-Allard
Ruppersberger
Ryan (OH)
Salazar
Sánchez, Linda T.
Sanchez, Loretta
Sarbanes
Schakowsky
Schwartz
Scott (GA)
Scott (VA)
Serrano
Shea-Porter
Sherman
Shuler
Sires
Skelton
Slaughter
Solis
Stark
Stupak
Sutton
Tauscher
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Tierney
Tsongas
Van Hollen
Velázquez
Waters
Watson
Watt
Waxman
Weiner
Welch (VT)
Woolsey
Wu
Wynn
Yarmuth

NOT VOTING—22

Brown, Corrine
Carson
Cubin
DeGette
DeLauro
Hall (TX)
Hinojosa
Hooley
Hunter
Jindal
Kucinich
Linder
Miller, Gary
Moran (VA)
Nunes
Poe
Smith (NE)
Tancredo
Towns
Wasserman Schultz
Weller
Young (AK)

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

□ 1920

Messrs. NEAL of Massachusetts, WELCH of Vermont, BISHOP of Georgia, MEEK of Florida, POMEROY, SCOTT of Georgia, LIPINSKI, JACKSON of Illinois, and Ms. SCHAKOWSKY changed their vote from ''aye'' to ''no.''

So the motion to instruct was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

PROVIDING FOR CONCURRENCE BY HOUSE WITH AMENDMENTS IN SENATE AMENDMENT TO H.R. 710, CHARLIE W. NORWOOD LIVING ORGAN DONATION ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 837, 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 Washington (Mr. INSLEE) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 837.

This will be a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 407, nays 1, not voting 23, as follows:

[Roll No. 1126]

YEAS—407

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
Berman
Berry
Biggert
Bilbray
Bilirakis
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (NY)
Bishop (UT)
Blackburn
Blumenauer
Blunt
Boehner
Bonner
Bono
Boozman
Boren
Boswell
Boucher
Boustany
Boyd (FL)
Boyda (KS)
Brady (PA)
Brady (TX)
Braley (IA)
Broun (GA)
Brown (SC)
Brown-Waite, Ginny
Buchanan
Burgess
Burton (IN)
Butterfield
Buyer
Calvert
Camp (MI)
Campbell (CA)
Cannon
Cantor
Capito
Capps
Capuano
Cardoza
Carnahan
Carney
Carter
Castle
Castor
Chabot
Chandler
Clarke
Clay
Cleaver
Clyburn
Coble
Cohen
Cole (OK)
Conaway
Cooper
Costa
Costello
Courtney
Cramer
Crenshaw
Crowley
Cuellar
Culberson
Cummings
Davis (AL)
Davis (CA)
Davis (IL)
Davis (KY)
Davis, David
Davis, Lincoln
Davis, Tom
Deal (GA)
DeFazio
Delahunt
Dent
Diaz-Balart, L.
Diaz-Balart, M.
Dicks
Dingell
Doggett
Donnelly
Doolittle
Doyle
Drake
Dreier
Duncan
Edwards
Ehlers
Ellison
Ellsworth
Emanuel
Emerson
Engel
English (PA)
Eshoo
Etheridge
Everett
Fallin
Farr
Fattah
Feeney
Ferguson
Filner
Flake
Forbes
Fortenberry
Fossella
Foxx
Frank (MA)
Franks (AZ)
Frelinghuysen
Gallegly
Garrett (NJ)
Gerlach
Giffords
Gilchrest
Gillibrand
Gingrey
Gohmert
Gonzalez
Goode
Goodlatte
Gordon
Granger
Graves
Green, Al
Green, Gene
Grijalva
Gutierrez
Hall (NY)
Hare
Harman
Hastings (FL)
Hastings (WA)
Hayes
Heller
Hensarling
Herger
Herseth Sandlin
Higgins
Hill
Hinchey
Hirono
Hobson
Hodes
Hoekstra
Holden
Holt
Honda
Hoyer
Hulshof
Inglis (SC)
Inslee
Israel
Issa
Jackson (IL)
Jackson-Lee (TX)
Jefferson
Johnson (GA)
Johnson (IL)
Johnson, E. B.
Johnson, Sam
Jones (NC)
Jones (OH)
Jordan
Kagen
Kanjorski
Kaptur
Keller
Kennedy
Kildee
Kilpatrick
Kind
King (IA)
King (NY)
Kingston
Kirk
Klein (FL)
Kline (MN)
Knollenberg
Kuhl (NY)
LaHood
Lamborn
Lampson
Langevin
Lantos
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Latham
LaTourette
Lee
Levin
Lewis (CA)
Lewis (GA)
Lewis (KY)
Lipinski
LoBiondo
Loebsack
Lofgren, Zoe
Lowey
Lucas
Lungren, Daniel E.
Lynch
Mack
Mahoney (FL)
Maloney (NY)
Manzullo
Marchant
Markey
Marshall
Matheson
Matsui
McCarthy (CA)
McCarthy (NY)
McCaul (TX)
McCollum (MN)
McCotter
McCrery
McDermott
McGovern
McHenry
McHugh
McIntyre
McKeon
McMorris Rodgers
McNerney
McNulty
Meek (FL)
Meeks (NY)
Melancon
Mica
Michaud
Miller (FL)
Miller (MI)
Miller (NC)
Miller, George
Mitchell
Mollohan
Moore (KS)
Moore (WI)
Moran (KS)
Murphy (CT)
Murphy, Patrick
Murphy, Tim
Murtha
Musgrave
Myrick
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal (MA)
Neugebauer
Oberstar
Obey
Olver
Ortiz
Pallone
Pascrell
Pastor
Paul
Payne

Pearce
Pence
Perlmutter
Peterson (MN)
Peterson (PA)
Petri
Pickering
Pitts
Platts
Pomeroy
Porter
Price (GA)
Price (NC)
Pryce (OH)
Putnam
Radanovich
Rahall
Ramstad
Rangel
Regula
Rehberg
Reichert
Renzi
Reyes
Reynolds
Richardson
Rodriguez
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rogers (MI)
Rohrabacher
Ros-Lehtinen
Roskam
Ross
Rothman
Roybal-Allard
Royce
Ruppersberger
Rush
Ryan (OH)
Ryan (WI)
Salazar
Sali
Sánchez, Linda T.
Sanchez, Loretta
Sarbanes
Saxton
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schmidt
Schwartz
Scott (GA)
Scott (VA)
Sensenbrenner
Serrano
Sessions
Sestak
Shadegg
Shays
Shea-Porter
Sherman
Shimkus
Shuster
Simpson
Sires
Skelton
Slaughter
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Smith (WA)
Snyder
Solis
Souder
Space
Spratt
Stark
Stearns
Stupak
Sullivan
Sutton
Tanner
Tauscher
Taylor
Terry
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Thornberry
Tiahrt
Tiberi
Tierney
Tsongas
Turner
Udall (CO)
Udall (NM)
Upton
Van Hollen
Velázquez
Visclosky
Walberg
Walden (OR)
Walsh (NY)
Walz (MN)
Wamp
Waters
Watson
Watt
Waxman
Weiner
Welch (VT)
Weldon (FL)
Westmoreland
Wexler
Whitfield
Wicker
Wilson (NM)
Wilson (OH)
Wilson (SC)
Wolf
Woolsey
Wu
Wynn
Yarmuth
Young (FL)

NAYS—1

Conyers

NOT VOTING—23

Brown, Corrine
Carson
Cubin
DeGette
DeLauro
Hall (TX)
Hinojosa
Hooley
Hunter
Jindal
Kucinich
Linder
Miller, Gary
Moran (VA)
Nunes
Poe
Shuler
Smith (NE)
Tancredo
Towns
Wasserman Schultz
Weller
Young (AK)

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

□ 1928

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.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Postponed votes on remaining motions to suspend the rules will be taken later in the week.

APPOINTMENT OF CONFEREES ON H.R. 2082, INTELLIGENCE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2008

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the Chair appoints the following conferees:

From the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, for consideration of the House bill and the Senate amendment, and modifications committed to conference: Messrs. REYES, HASTINGS of Florida, BOSWELL, CRAMER, Ms. ESHOO, Messrs. HOLT, RUPPERSBERGER, TIERNEY, THOMPSON of California, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Messrs. LANGEVIN, PATRICK J. MURPHY of Pennsylvania, HOEKSTRA, EVERETT, GALLEGLY, Mrs. WILSON of New Mexico, Messrs. THORNBERRY, MCHUGH, TIAHRT, ROGERS of Michigan, and ISSA.

From the Committee on Armed Services, for consideration of defense tactical intelligence and related activities: Messrs. SKELTON, SPRATT, and HUNTER.

There was no objection.

□ 1930

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. JONES of Ohio). 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.

WORLD AIDS DAY

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

Mr. CUMMINGS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to express my strong support for the goals and ideals of World AIDS Day, which took place on Saturday, December 1. I also want to thank my distinguished colleague, Congresswoman BARBARA LEE of California, for her leadership in organizing this message hour and for introducing a resolution commemorating the occasion, which I have cosponsored.

Nineteen years after the first World Aids Day and more than 25 years since the AIDS epidemic began, the need to spread the message about this devastating disease is as critical as ever.

Worldwide, the United National Programme on HIV/AIDS estimates that 33.2 million people are living with the disease, 2.5 million of whom are newly infected.

In the United States, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimates that more than 1 million individuals are living with HIV/AIDS. Tragically, communities of color and African Americans in particular are disproportionately impacted. African Americans are currently more likely to suffer from this disease, and the race gap is growing as we speak.

Despite the fact that African Americans constitute approximately 13 percent of the total United States population, they account for over 44 percent of all persons living with AIDS and 49 percent of all new HIV/AIDS diagnoses.

This trend is illustrated when the numbers are examined by subgroup as well. The CDC found in 2005 that women represented 26 percent of all new HIV/AIDS infections, with African American women 25 times more likely to be infected than white women and accounting for 64 percent of all women living with HIV/AIDS.

A 2005 CDC study of 1,700 gay men in five cities found that African American men were infected at nearly twice the rate of whites, 46 percent compared to 25 percent. In my hometown of Baltimore, only an hour's drive away, 8 percent of the men interviewed had become infected in the previous year, the highest rate in any city surveyed.

These trends persist despite there being little difference between the sexual practices of white and African American gay men. Racial disparities in HIV and AIDS can be attributed at least in part to the same factors that contribute to racial disparities in overall public health: poor access to life-saving care.

Researchers find that African Americans are more likely to be infected with other sexually transmitted diseases, which makes them more likely to catch or transmit HIV. Further, African Americans are less likely to be taking antiretroviral medications which can lower the concentration of the virus in the bloodstream, thereby decreasing the risk of transmission.

Madam Speaker, we cannot afford to ignore these troubling trends any longer. Nearly a quarter of a century after HIV emerged, it continues to wreak havoc upon communities across the world. We must remain vigilant in our efforts to stamp out this global pandemic for the benefit of generations yet unborn.

BAN HUMAN CLONING

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

Mr. WELDON of Florida. Madam Speaker, earlier today in this body we observed a minute of silence to honor the great life of Henry Hyde, our distinguished former colleague from Illinois. Henry Hyde clearly established himself in America as one of the great defenders of the sanctity of human life. He was eloquent on a host of issues in his outstanding rhetorical skills, but perhaps none was he more able and capable than in defending the dignity and sanctity of human life. And this body has been engaged in a tremendous debate involving the sanctity of human life as to whether or not for years now the Federal Government should fund the experimental research called human embryonic stem cell research, which involves creating human embryos for the purpose of killing them.

President Bush, in what I believe to be one of the finest moments of his Presidency, decided to let the research go forward at the NIH, but denied funding to any more research which involved killing human embryos which had been occurring prior to the beginning of his term. This body has been engaged in a tremendous debate for years now as to whether or not the Bush policy should be overturned.

And the defenders of overturning the Bush policy have contended for years and years and years now, number one, that there was great potential from human embryonic stem cell research, which is something I and others have questioned for years. Adult stem cell research and cord blood stem cell research have been showing great potential and clinical utility cures. Embryonic stem cells form tumors. They have never been shown to be safe or useable.

But nonetheless, many people felt, myself included, that the science would outstrip this debate; and recently, I was very pleased to see the publication in two publications, Cell and Science, from two different research labs, one here in the United States involving Dr. Jamie Thompson, the researcher who originally was credited with discovering human embryonic stem cells. I would disagree, he didn't really discover them; we always knew they were there. He was just the first one to isolate them. The other is a research lab in Japan, I believe, and they have shown that you can create human embryonic stem cells from skin cells.

Why is this so important? Why is this so significant? Well, for years in this body, in this Congress, we have been trying to pass a bill to ban human cloning. Everybody agrees human cloning is bad, but there have been people in this body and in the other body contending that we only want to ban attempts to create a baby; we shouldn't ban the creation of human clones in the lab because embryonic stem cells can never be used in therapy. I could never be treated for a disease from some other embryo because my tissues would reject it; but through embryonic cloning, we could do something called therapeutic cloning.

Now, I have contended that was a science fix in that it had never been done in a research setting involving animals; and, furthermore, that it was not necessary. Now, this research shows you could scrape my skin and create embryonic stem cells from that skin scraping that would be genetically identical to me and could be used in therapies.

So why is this important? Number one, I think President Bush has been vindicated. We shouldn't be funding this research. It is ethically questionable research, and it is unnecessary.

Number two, it is now time for the Congress of the United States to put on the desk of President Bush a bill to ban all forms of human cloning because it is just not necessary.

I started out talking about Henry Hyde and the sanctity of human life. Even if you don't believe in the sanctity of human life, one thing is absolutely certain: to create embryonic stem cells in the old way you needed human eggs. Where were we ever going to get all of these human eggs from? You have to get them from women, a very ethically and morally questionable thing for us to be doing, to ask women to donate through a painful, difficult surgical procedure, to donate their eggs for a form of research that has never been validated in the lab, in animal models as being viable in clinical therapeutics.

So you don't have to invoke the sanctity of human life, but I must say I personally believe in the sanctity of human life. I believe Henry Hyde was right when he spoke over and over again on the importance of this. And it is now time for the Congress of the United States to act, put a bill on the President's desk to ban human cloning. The science is finally with us now.

MISGUIDED PRIORITIES BY ADMINISTRATION

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

Ms. WOOLSEY. Madam Speaker, the American people are well aware of the White House's long record of misguided priorities, fear-mongering and incompetence. But over the last few days and weeks, the administration has sunk to absolutely new lows.

First we learned that the administration is planning to slash the Department of Homeland Security's request for counterterrorism funding. The Department has asked for $3.2 billion to help States and to help cities protect their ports and transit systems and to give police, firefighters, and other first responders the tools they need to save lives.

But the administration is planning to cut the request by more than half. My State of California could lose more than $200 million under the administration's plan. These drastic and life-threatening cuts are outrageous. Just consider the administration's logic. It has spent or requested over $600 billion for the occupation of Iraq which hasn't made us any safer, yet now it wants to cut $1.8 billion out of programs that actually do make us safer.

The administration's priorities are not only twisted; they threaten the life of every single American person. But the administration's misdeeds don't end there.

A few days after we learned about the homeland security cuts, the administration launched a fear campaign to scare American people into believing that there will be massive cuts in Department of Defense personnel and operations and that Congress will be to blame. But the truth is Congress has already approved nearly half a trillion dollars for the Pentagon, enough to continue its operations.

And the majority of Congress tried to appropriate another $50 billion for our troops in Iraq, but the administration and its allies in Congress rejected the money because it was linked to the responsible redeployment of our troops which the American people are demanding.

But the final evidence of the administration's blundering came yesterday when the National Intelligence Estimate reported that Iran stopped work on its alleged nuclear weapons program way back in 2003. It now appears that the administration knew about this months and months ago, but continued to tell the world that the danger of Iranian nuclear weapons was real and getting worse.

The President went so far as to warn about World War III, and even yesterday the administration continued to raise the threat of World War III. A key section of the NIE said that Iran stopped its nuclear weapons program not because of any saber rattling, but ''in response to increasing international scrutiny and pressure.'' And it said that ''Iran may be more vulnerable to influence on the issue than we judged previously.''

This tells us a lot about what works and what doesn't work when it comes to solving threats to peace. Diplomacy works. International cooperation works. Saber rattling does not work. Threatening World War III doesn't work, and carrots work better than sticks.

Our leaders in the White House have never learned these lessons, and the result has been devastating to our ability to be safe in the world. We cannot lead other nations in the fight against terrorism if they see us as warmongers, if they don't see us as peacemakers. We cannot solve the problems that cause terrorism, such as poverty and social injustice, when we have squandered our own claim to moral leadership.

Madam Speaker, it is time for a brand-new course in American foreign policy, and the first step must be the responsible redeployment of our troops out of Iraq. This will set the table for the regional and international diplomacy needed, needed for reconciliation and reconstruction in Iraq. And it will send a clear signal to the world that America is ready to be America again, and that means an America that has compassion for the people of the world and an America that stands on the side of peace once again.

□ 1945

HONORING FORMER CONGRESSMAN HENRY HYDE

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. Madam Speaker, one of the great things that has happened in my political life and serving in Congress is to have known Henry Hyde. Henry Hyde I think was one of the greatest Congressmen to ever serve in this Chamber. He was a man of integrity. He was honest. When he gave you his word, it was his bond. He was loved by everybody. Even during the controversial impeachment trial of Bill Clinton, he did it with honor, and he did it in a way that everybody respected him even though it was very, very controversial.

He was a great chairman. He was the chairman of both the Judiciary Committee and the Foreign Affairs Committee, and he did a great job in both areas. I served with him on the Foreign Affairs Committee and I was one of his subcommittee chairman, and I want to tell you, he was a chairman you could be proud of. He was a man who was always ready to listen and work with his subcommittee chairmen and anybody in the Congress to solve problems facing this Nation.

He was known best, I think, for the Hyde Amendment, which stopped Federal funding for abortions, and it has been known throughout the time since that bill passed as one of the great human life amendments ever presented in this body or in the other body as well. He was a fighter. He was the kind of man who was very strong-willed, who would fight like the dickens. But he had a heart that was very, very soft where his fellow man was concerned. When he was on an issue, however, he had a heart that was very, very tough, and everybody that dealt with him knew that.

He was probably one of the greatest orators who ever served in the Congress of the United States in either body. When he came down to speak, everybody listened. You could hear a pin drop. I know when a lot of my colleagues speak today they have to bring the gavel down several times to bring the House to order and ask for regular order, but when Henry Hyde came down on a great cause and spoke, you could hear a pin drop in this place because people knew he had something to say and they wanted to hear what he had to say.

I am very proud to have known Henry. I knew him for over 20 years in this body. I can't tell you or any of my colleagues how great he was and how much I held him in high esteem. He will be missed not only because he was a great Congressman, he will be missed not only because he was a great chairman, he will be missed because he was a great American.

And before I leave, I have to tell you one little story about Henry that he was so proud of. When he went to college at Georgetown University, he played on the basketball team. And one of the greatest players, if not the greatest player of that era, was a man named George Mikan, and Henry used to smile and with great pride tell everybody that when he played against George Mikan, in the second half he held him to one point. And there aren't many people who could do that.

In addition to all of this, he authored the staunchest pro-life legislation in Congress in 30 years, and headed the impeachment hearings against President Clinton. Either of those efforts would naturally incite a whole camp of enemies.

"Henry Hyde spoke of controversial matters with intellectual honesty and without rancor," said President Bush.

"He was gifted as a legislator. There was a time when the Illinois House was divided evenly and needed 89 votes to pass a bill, and nothing was getting done because of partisan wrangling. People were angry and debilitated.

"Henry stood up and said he had voted against something just because he was on the other side of the aisle, and asked the House to reconsider the last bill on its merits. They wound up going back to the last 32 bills that had failed, and he brought people back into an atmosphere of wanting to work together."

"Congressman Hyde played a big role in crystallizing the issue of abortion as central to politics and the culture," said Father Frank Pavone, director of Priests for Life. "He has always been a driving force in making it clear that abortion is not one among many issues." Hyde, a Catholic, was a vocal opponent of abortion. In 1976 Hyde attached an amendment to a spending bill that banned Federal funding for abortions.

The amendment later become known as the "Hyde Amendment" and has been at the center of the political fight over abortion since its passage.

"This erudite, scholarly man has walked with kings and kept the common touch," Bush stated. "They're quick to say it's not the same Congress without him—but that we're a better country because he was there. And colleagues will always admire and look up to the gentleman from Illinois, Henry J. Hyde."

Born in 1924, Hyde served in the House from 1975 to 2006 and retired at end of the last session. Hyde served as the chairman of the House Judiciary Committee from 1995 to 2001.

In a written statement, BOEHNER called Hyde "a constitutional scholar, a thoughtful legislator, and a passionate orator."

"But above all, he will be remembered as a gentleman who stood as a beacon for the bedrock principles of liberty, justice, and, above all, respect for life," BOEHNER said.

On November 5, President Bush awarded Hyde the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the highest honor the president can bestow on an American citizen.

Henry, we miss you, buddy. Godspeed.

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.)

WORLD AIDS DAY

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

Ms. LEE. Madam Speaker, I rise this evening in recognition of World AIDS Day, which took place last Saturday, December 1.

Now, all through last week and into the weekend, events were held all around our country and throughout the world recognizing World AIDS Day. This solemn day provided us with the occasion to commemorate the lives of those who have died of this disease, more than 25 million people worldwide, and express our solidarity with those who are currently living with the disease, over 33 million people.

I had the good fortune last week to travel with the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation to South Africa, where we celebrated and commemorated World AIDS Day with Congresswoman Dr. DONNA CHRISTENSEN. Our delegation met with the Global Business Coalition on HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, and malaria in Johannesburg. We spoke to the group about our support for increased funding for the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief, or better known as PEPFAR, and the importance of the private sector in fighting the pandemic. Later, we visited an HIV/AIDS testing site located in the Zola area of Soweto, sponsored by Levi Strauss Red for Life Initiative, Centers for Disease Control, USAID, and State Department and other organizations, and I had the chance to talk to young people about the importance of getting tested and knowing their status.

Together, Congresswoman CHRISTENSEN and I helped lead by example by getting tested publicly, and we noted the very thorough pre- and post-testing counseling as well as the emphasis on maintaining confidentiality. We were very inspired to see young people sign up for testing, and some actually came up and told us that our speeches had convinced them to get tested. This really was remarkable and gave us a glimpse as to what we need to do more and more and more with our young people here in America also.

We ended our trip at the United States Embassy where we helped to hang a giant AIDS ribbon and spoke to the assembled diplomatic corps about HIV and AIDS and the importance of our collective struggle against the disease. We had an opportunity to meet with the great moral and religious leader Bishop Desmond Tutu, and Bishop Tutu had spoken earlier at the Swedish and Norweigian Embassy, and he talked about helping to fight this global HIV/AIDS pandemic just as we helped fight to end apartheid in South Africa.

It was especially important to be in Africa last week, because the discussions with regard to the reauthorization of PEPFAR will be coming up very shortly.

And tonight I must take a moment and ask that my remarks include my sympathy for Henry Hyde, Chairman Hyde's family. I thought about Chairman Hyde during our visit, because we worked together on the initial PEPFAR legislation. He was committed to address this HIV pandemic. He ensured that this bill became a bipartisan bill. And even though we didn't agree on every issue, tonight I commemorate him and I give my sympathy to his family because, as we reauthorize this, his spirit and his hard work and his legacy certainly will prevail as we move forward.

Many of the key issues which remain were addressed in South Africa as it relates to the PEPFAR reauthorization.

Some of them included addressing the abstinence until marriage earmark and the onerous prostitution pledge; reducing the vulnerability of women and girls to HIV and AIDS by empowering them through my legislation, such as the PATHWAY Act; sharpening our focus on orphans and vulnerable children, which of course Chairman Hyde was committed to; better integrating nutrition and wrap-around programs. We also have to expand support for health systems and strengthen delivery of basic health care services. And, of course, I believe that we must provide $50 billion, not $30 billion as the President has asked for, but $50 billion over the next 5 years for this initiative.

And AIDS is also disproportionately affecting those who live in the Caribbean and also in black America. All across demographic ranges, African Americans are the most likely to get infected with HIV and to die from AIDS. The unfortunate reality is that to be black in America is to be at greater risk of HIV and AIDS. And the numbers are staggering, but I want to mention a few specifically.

According to the CDC, in 2005, African American women accounted for 66 percent of all new HIV and AIDS cases among women. Compared to white women, African-American women were 25 more times likely to be infected. Today, AIDS is the number one cause of death among African-American women between the ages of 25 and 34. We can no longer wait for this administration to take action. We have to take action immediately to address this pandemic.

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 addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE END OF PROHIBITION

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

Mr. ROHRABACHER. Madam Speaker, December 5, 1933, December 5, 2007. So, tomorrow we mark the 75th anniversary of something, and most people will just pass it by and not be aware that tomorrow marks the end of America's great and noble experiment. It is the 75th anniversary of the end of the national prohibition of alcoholic beverages.

With the repeal of prohibition in 1933, that was 75 years ago tomorrow, the United States ended a social planning policy that created organized crime in America, crowded our jails with nonviolent prisoners, corrupted our police, increased urban violence, and destroyed the lives of thousands of victims of unadulterated and poisoned substances, substances which if they were permitted would have been subject to normal market protections of fraud and quality standards. However, during prohibition, these substances which were consumed by the American people often poisoned them and caused them to lose their lives.

Philosopher Santayana told us that those who cannot learn from history are doomed to repeat it. Have we in Washington learned the lesson of prohibition that ended 75 years ago?

Why did America reject the prohibition of alcoholic beverages? Well, when government attempts to control the peaceful behavior of its citizens, it often sets in motion forces that are more dangerous than the social evil that they are trying to control. Today's war on drugs is perhaps an example.

The war on drugs has resulted in a multimillion dollar network of violent organized crime. The war on drugs has created the deaths by drive-by shootings and turf wars among gangs in our cities. The war on drugs has overcrowded our prisons. More than half of Federal prison space is occupied by nonviolent drug users. The war on drugs has corrupted our police and crowded our courts. We apparently did not learn the lesson of the prohibition of alcoholic beverages.

Today, on the campaign trail we hear new calls for prohibitions on cigarettes, on fatty foods, and even more money should be spent, yes, on the war on drugs.

But, as we mark the 75th anniversary of the repeal of prohibition, let us have the courage to learn from the mistakes of the past. Perhaps it would be better for us to focus our energies not on the supply side of drugs just as they were doing with the supply side of alcohol, but instead to focus our efforts on trying to help those people who are addicted to drugs; perhaps to try to help our young people, deter our young people from getting involved in drugs; perhaps to take a whole new approach on this, rather than this monstrous war on drugs that has done nothing but create havoc in our inner cities, making so many young people who have been arrested and their lives destroyed because they will never be able to get a decent job after one arrest being a teenager.

So many people have been hurt by the war on drugs; yet we keep it because we want to supposedly help people. Well, I would suggest that this 75th anniversary of the repeal of prohibition, which was the greatest failure of American social planning in the history of our country, let us try to commit ourselves to help ensure that our young people are dissuaded and deterred from the use of narcotics.

Let us work with those who are, indeed, addicted to narcotics and help them free themselves from this habit. But let's end this notion that we can try to control the use of narcotics in our country by simply controlling the supply. Simply controlling the supply will not work. We've got to look at the demand side, try to treat people humanely, and use the limited resources that we have in a much more constructive way, rather than just creating more police who are committed to drugs and interdiction and all the rest of the major expenses, court expenses and others that go into a war on drugs rather than an attempt to help people who are susceptible to the use of drugs.

I call the attention of my fellow colleagues to this the 75th anniversary of the repeal of the prohibition of alcoholic beverages.

□ 2000

2007 WORLD AIDS DAY

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

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Madam Speaker, as you heard, last Saturday was World AIDS Day, and I join my colleagues to remind us of its goals and ideals and to support the resolution that is going to be introduced by my colleague and good friend Congresswoman BARBARA LEE to have this Congress support those goals and ideals.

We also call on our colleagues on both sides of the aisle and in both sides of the Capitol to honor this year's World AIDS Day theme, both in this Nation and abroad, to stop AIDS and keep the promise.

As you heard, Congresswoman LEE and I recently returned from South Africa, where we were inspired and motivated by the commitment of the people, young and old, to confront HIV and AIDS.

It was a distinct privilege for me to have been invited to give the keynote address at a World AIDS Day ceremony in Sekhukhune in the Greater Tabatse Region of South Africa. South Africa has the most AIDS cases of any country in the world. And while we were proud to know that it is also the country with the largest PEPFAR program, we and the rest of the world still need to do more.

From all we saw, all of the programs we witnessed that were funded, either by PEPFAR or by private corporations such as Johnson and Johnson and Humana, in Limpopo, in Zola in Soweto, in Pretoria or as it will now be called, Tshwane or in Johannesburg, and from the revised reports we have seen coming from UNAIDS, we greeted World AIDS Day with a sense of hope for all the individuals, the families and the nations in our global community who have for far too long struggled with this pandemic.

And in my keynote I drew comparisons between the HIV and AIDS in sub-Saharan Africa, in the Caribbean whose prevalence rate is second to theirs, in the African American community in

the United States and in my own Virgin Islands, speaking to how people of African descent the world over are so disproportionately impacted by this virus.

But everywhere there are signs, early signs, of change and potentially promising trends, everywhere, including in the Virgin Islands and the rest of the Caribbean, everywhere except in the United States.

The HIV epidemic is more than 25 years old; and despite all that we know and all of the resources we have, the CDC is finalizing a report which will be released early next year that I understand will show that the case rate here in the U.S. is possibly more than 50 percent higher than we previously thought. Given the lack of response from this administration to the requests of the CBC and our community partners, I'm sure that it will show that the highest increases are in people of racial and ethic minority backgrounds.

Again, let me say that the theme for this in the past 2 years has been ''Stop AIDS, Keep the Promise.'' The promise has not been fully kept anywhere, but nowhere has it fallen more short, has that promise been more empty than right here at home in this country of great resources and the most advanced medicines and technologies.

There's another part to the theme, and that is leadership, which is needed more than ever. On our part we need to lead by directing more Federal resources to HIV prevention. Beyond that, our leadership must be open to proven methods of prevention instead of limiting the good we can do and the lives we can save because of ideology and narrow politics. And the prevention we provide needs to be not of the abstinence-only kind, which our government agencies have clearly demonstrated is not effective. Lifting the ban on needle exchange alone would dramatically reduce the transmission of the disease, and developing low-cost barrier methods such as microbicides need to be given as much attention as funding the latest ARVS, but those too need to be made more affordable.

And, Madam Speaker, we need a national plan. It is clear from the fact that we are losing ground while some of the poorest areas of the world are making strides that the leadership we provide must define global as in global epidemic, or global HIV/AIDS as including this country on par with all of the others. We need to restore the 19 percent of funding that has been cut from domestic AIDS in this administration and greatly increase HIV/AIDS funding across the board. We need to fund the Ryan White CARE Act at the level it needs to be funded, more than $1 billion above the current level, to restore and re-fund the Minority Aids Initiative to build capacity in the communities that are hardest hit, and to eliminate ADAP waiting lists, where people who cannot get treatment wait to die.

We need to ensure that we expand access to information, testing services and treatment to ex-offenders who are at great risk for HIV and who after paying their debt return to their communities and families.

And we need to dramatically increase PEPFAR funding while expanding it to include all Caribbean countries and making it more flexible so it can meet the unique needs of the countries that need it.

The global report shows that when we apply the recommendations of social and scientific research and when we support and replicate programs that work, results are seen. It shows that empowering communities that are hard hit by HIV and AIDS by putting the resources, technical assistance and support in their indigenous community and faith-based organizations here and abroad produce great impact.

The most dramatic thing is that people are looking to us for leadership and we can provide it and we can start by supporting Congresswoman LEE's resolution.

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

(Mr. MEEKS of New York addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

WORLD AIDS DAY

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

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I'm pleased to join with my colleagues as we take this time to highlight the gravity of the HIV/AIDS pandemic and especially as it affects people of color throughout the world.

The Centers for Disease Control, the CDC, reported that approximately 1 million Americans were living with HIV/AIDS at the end of 2003, roughly 25 percent of whom were undiagnosed and unaware of their HIV infection.

An article in the New York Times this week noted that new HIV/AIDS case estimates are actually 50 percent higher than health experts had previously believed.

Furthermore, this infection has started to increase among children at a drastic rate. Through 2005, there have been an estimated 9,000 AIDS cases reported for children under the age of 13. HIV/AIDS is becoming a problem earlier and earlier for more and more Americans.

It is very clear that HIV/AIDS is indeed an emergency situation, especially in the African American community. According to the CDC, African Americans make up 13 percent of the Nation's population, but account for 49 percent of the estimated AIDS cases diagnosed since the epidemic began.

In addition, African American children make up approximately 63 percent of the estimated HIV/AIDS cases through 2005.

Not only are African Americans more likely to get AIDS; they're more likely to die from it, with more than half of all AIDS-related deaths being among African Americans.

We must get behind the World AIDS Day slogan, ''Stop AIDS, keep the promise.'' We must increase funding for treatment and prevention, not reduce it by 91 percent, as this administration has done. We must invest in medical research and needle exchange programs, prevention and treatment. The more engaged we are and the stronger the determination we have, it will lead to the decrease in AIDS cases across the United States in all communities.

Madam Speaker, I'm pleased that in Chicago, a coalition of organizations, the City of Chicago Department of Public Health, the Illinois Department of Public Health, Malcolm X College, the 7th District HIV/AIDS Task Force, Walgreens drug stores, Ora Sure technologies, Abbott Laboratories, the Let's Talk Let's Test Foundation, Working Togetherness and other organizations, held 2 days of high-profile activity where there were many sites where people could come and be tested free.

And so I commend the City of Chicago's Department of Public Health, the State of Illinois Department of Public Health, and all of those hard-working groups and organizations who are working to try and put at least a dent in this problem.

WORLD AIDS DAY

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

Mr. PAYNE. Madam Speaker, I rise in recognition of World AIDS Day 2007. As chairman of the Subcommittee on Africa and Global Health, the issue of HIV and AIDS is a particular matter of concern and importance to many of us. But it is an urgent and timely matter of global concern. It is urgent because HIV and AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria kill more than 6 million people a year.

Of the 33 million people living with AIDS today, 6 percent are children. Ninety percent of these children live in Africa, the continent least equipped to care and treat HIV-infected persons. Those numbers will increase if the world does not immediately step up efforts to halt the spread of AIDS.

The topic is extremely timely because the mandate of the President's emergency plan for HIV and AIDS, PEPFAR, expires in 2008. My colleagues and I on the House Committee on Foreign Affairs are in the midst of writing legislation to extend the PEPFAR program for another 5 years.

Congress and the President worked together to create PEPFAR in May of

2003. Now, a few short years later, according to the State Department's Office of Global AIDS Coordinator, over 800,000 people are receiving anti-retro medication in PEPFAR's 15 focus countries; 12 of those countries are in sub-Saharan Africa. Nearly 50,000 new patients join those receiving the life-saving therapy each month. We have indeed come a long way. However, the battle continues, and Congress must make decisions about how to expand and improve the program if we are to bring an end to this very terrible disease.

The biggest decision before us is how much money to devote to the program. The original legislation authorized $15 billion over 5 years. Congress actually appropriated over $19 billion over that time fighting HIV and AIDS abroad.

One year ago, I said in a speech in Nairobi, Kenya, on World AIDS Day last year that we should double PEPFAR funding. Several months later, to my surprise, I must say, President Bush also called on Congress to provide $30 billion to fight the disease over the next 5 years. After holding two hearings on the status of the pandemic, however, I do not believe that this will be enough. Analysts say that supporting universal access over the next 5 years will cost an estimated $213 billion, 70 percent of which donors are expected to pay.

If the United States shoulders its traditional share of the burden, it will cost us an estimated $49 billion, $10 billion a year for the next half decade to respond to the needs of those affected by HIV and AIDS. And this does not include the cost of malaria and tuberculosis programs. Not only are we falling short in terms of prevention and treatment of HIV and AIDS; we are not doing enough to address opportunistic diseases that kill people with AIDS, the deadliest of which is tuberculosis. In 2004, of the 9 million people who were newly infected with TB, 2 million died. However, TB is entirely curable.

And last year, the public became aware of an even greater threat, a new, more dangerous, multi-drug-resistant TB, MDR–TB strain, which is known as extensively drug resistant TB or XDR–TB. XDR–TB and its deadly linkage with HIV gained global recognition in August 6, 2006, with reports of an outbreak in a hospital in South Africa where 52 of 53 patients with HDR–TB died, half within a matter of 16 days.

Earlier this year I offered an amendment which passed in fiscal year 2008 Foreign Operations bill with $50 million additional funding to fight XDR–TB. I hope to work with our leaders to see additional funding next year.

The statistics about HIV and AIDS may seem overwhelming and the problem insurmountable, but it is not. We can bring an end to this pandemic if we work together.

□ 2015

THE SURGE OF HIV/AIDS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. JONES of Ohio). Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON-LEE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Madam Speaker, the surge of HIV/AIDS is on. And although we have had an extensive decades-long effort to overcome the devastation of HIV/AIDS, I believe it is appropriate to again declare not only a national emergency but a concern for the international crisis.

Madam Speaker, you have heard my colleagues tonight, and I thank you for your presence and leadership here tonight to listen to many of our Members who have raised the question of the epidemic of HIV/AIDS. We have raised it because we have been in our districts on World AIDS Day, and I spent 24 hours, maybe 48 hours, 2 days visiting with a number of community groups meeting on the topic of HIV/AIDS. Domestically we still have a crisis, and certainly internationally.

I joined the first Presidential mission to Zambia, Zimbabwe, and South Africa a few years ago to look at the rising crisis in Africa. Now we know that thousands upon thousands, millions of children have been orphaned by both parents, single parents, or having one parent being afflicted and then losing their life with HIV/AIDS. We know that it is prevalent in Africa to have grandmothers who are taking care of six and seven and eight and nine and ten grandchildren because of the loss of their parents. I am very gratified to see the work of the Gates Foundation, the Clinton Foundation that have brought necessary medicines to those who now can live with HIV/AIDS.

But the key for us around the world and here in the United States is prevention. The largest percentage of those infected with HIV/AIDS today find themselves in the African American population. It is not just a disease that plagues the homosexual community, but it is a heterosexual disease as well. People who are hemophiliacs may be succumbed by HIV/AIDS. So the issue, as I said, is prevention, and we must work collectively together.

I believe it is important to continue research to find a cure, a vaccine for HIV/AIDS. But as well, I believe it's important to continue to educate about how the disease is transmitted, how it can be transmitted from mother to infant, and how it can be stopped.

Interestingly enough, we believe when we don't hear something, something has passed. But I will never forget going into a hut and seeing on the floor an afflicted man. He had both HIV/AIDS and tuberculosis. And who was caring for him? A 4-year-old. The only remaining healthy person in that whole area, that whole compound in Africa, was a 4-year-old taking care of an elderly dying man. When we in this world have come to that, there is a reason to raise our voices.

So I salute the various institutions in my own community, the Harris County Hospital District, Ben Taub Hospital and the researchers and doctors who are there, the Thomas Street Clinic, who are continuing to care for those who are in need, the City of Houston's Health Department, the great program that they had at Texas Southern University, along with the hip-hop community, to emphasize the need for testing and prevention. I myself have held testing events with the faith community. We intend to hold more, and the emphasis is faith, hip-hop, whoever is willing to collaborate to ensure that people are tested.

I advocate for testing to be part of everyone's physical examination, that insurance companies should pay for those tests to be diagnosed. A $2 test means you get a mail-back; a $10 test means right on the spot you get a diagnosis. That's what we should be doing to help those here in America.

I also believe that we should test persons who have been incarcerated, men and women. Those going into the prison should be tested; those coming out of the prison should be tested, for that is how in many instances, besides drug utilization, that many of the HIV/AIDS individuals who receive it are infected.

Madam Speaker, this issue of HIV/AIDS is a family affair; it is a Nation's affair, and in order to save lives, we have to stand up and be counted. We cannot allow the stigma of HIV/AIDS to dominate our reason and our hearts. We must embrace those who have it and help them live the best quality of life that they can. More funding for community health clinics that will treat people with HIV/AIDS. But at the same time, we must wage a major campaign for those who are intravenous drug users, that we have clean needles; for those who have been incarcerated, that they be tested; for young people who are frivolous and believe that promiscuity is the way of life, we have to say ''no.'' And, frankly, we have to say that testing is not a shame. It is an honor to be tested to find out, one, that you're healthy, and to be tested to find out that you need treatment and you need to be careful.

I hope, as we commemorate World AIDS Day, we recognize that it is an international circle, and that circle must never end until we find the cure for HIV/AIDS, we stamp it up, and provide people with a better quality of life.

Madam Speaker, I stand here today to recognize the importance and significance of World AIDS Day.

ABOUT WORLD AIDS DAY—DECEMBER 1ST

Established by the World Health Organization in 1988, World AIDS Day serves to focus global attention on the devastating impact of the HIV/AIDS epidemic. Observance of this day provides an opportunity for governments, national AIDS programs, churches, community organizations and individuals to demonstrate the importance of the fight against HIV/AIDS.

It has been 25 years since the first AIDS cases were reported. Since then countless researchers, health care providers, politicians,

and educators have contributed to the global initiative to contain and eventually eliminate its presence in all corners of the world, a presence that has grown increasingly ominous with time.

Although HIV/AIDS is no longer a mysterious and mischaracterized entity, it retains, and rightfully so, its chilling aura as the most relentless and indiscriminate killer of our time. And though a diagnosis is no longer the sealing of an immediate fate, it is the beginning of an indefinite battle for life and for social belonging.

IMPACT ON WORLD COMMUNITY

With an estimated 33.2 million people worldwide currently living with HIV, and more than 25 million people having died of AIDS since 1981, December 1st serves to remind everyone that action makes a difference in the fight against HIV/AIDS. Let there be no mistake; we are here to acknowledge that AIDS is a deadly enemy against which we must join all our forces to fight and eliminate.

Americans should be reminded that HIV/AIDS does not discriminate. With an estimated 1,039,000 to 1,185,000 HIV-positive individuals living in the U.S., and approximately 40,000 new infections occurring every year, the U.S., like other nations around the world is deeply affected by HIV/AIDS.

IMPACT ON AFRICAN-AMERICANS

AIDS is devastating the African-American community. As of February 2006, African-Americans represented only 13 percent of the U.S. population, but accounted for 40 percent of the 944,306 AIDS cases diagnosed since the start of the epidemic and approximately half (49 percent) of the 42,514 cases diagnosed in 2004 alone. African-Americans also account for half of new HIV/AIDS diagnoses in the 35 states/areas with confidential name-based reporting.

The AIDS case rate per 100,000 population among African-American adults/adolescents was nearly 10.2 times that of whites in 2004. African-Americans accounted for 55 percent of deaths due to HIV in 2002 and their survival time after an AIDS diagnosis is lower on average than it is for other racial/ethnic groups. HIV was the third leading cause of death for African-Americans, ages 25–34, in 2002 compared to the sixth leading cause of death for whites and Latinos in this age group.

IMPACT ON AFRICAN-AMERICAN WOMEN AND CHILDREN; AND HISPANIC WOMEN

African-American women and children have been disproportionately victimized by this deadly disease. African-American women account for the majority of new AIDS cases among women (67 percent in 2004); white women account for 17 percent and Latinas 15 percent. Among African-Americans, African-American women represent more than a third (36 percent) of AIDS cases diagnosed in 2004. Although African-American teens (ages 13–19) represent only 15 percent of U.S. teenagers, they accounted for 66 percent of new AIDS cases reported among teens in 2003.

IMPACT IN HOUSTON/HARRIS COUNTY, TEXAS

The detrimental effects of AIDS have also hit home. In 2004, right here in my home district of Houston/Harris County, there were over 14,000 reported persons living with HIV (non-AIDS) and more than 8,000 reported persons living with AIDS. Sadly, there were almost 400 deaths resulting from AIDS in Houston/Harris County, Texas in 2004. This problem continues to escalate as there were more than 800 newly diagnosed AIDS cases in Harris County in 2004. In Houston alone, there were more than 1,000 reported HIV Diagnosis in 2005. We must continue to forge a tough fight to reverse all of these costly and tragic trends.

Billions and billions of private and federal dollars have been poured into drug research and development to treat and manage infections, but the complex life cycle and incessant mutation rates of HIV strains has made this endeavor difficult. Though the drugs we currently have are effective in managing infections and reducing mortality by slowing the progression to AIDS in an individual, they do little to reduce disease prevalence and prevent new infections.

Currently, the only cure we have for HIV/AIDS is prevention. While we must continue efforts to develop advanced treatment options, it is crucial that those efforts are accompanied by dramatic increases in public health education, awareness, and prevention measures.

ROUNDTABLE OF AIDS EXPERTS

Earlier this year, with the hope of bringing attention to the importance of HIV/AIDS testing in the fight to eliminate HIV/AIDS, especially in the African American community, I hosted an AIDS roundtable of AIDS experts and community leaders, in Houston, that included free voluntary HIV/AIDS testing. We discussed policy changes dealing with the AIDS crisis in our communities across the United States. I consult with AIDS experts and we vowed to work hard to create constructive and effective vehicles to address the very real need of testing within certain groups of the population.

POTENTIAL MANDATORY TESTING AMONG CERTAIN POPULATIONS AND THE PRISON POPULATION

We discussed the potential mandatory testing for certain populations as well as mandatory testing for all of the prison population. Consideration of such potential solutions is not intended to stigmatize and exploit individuals who may be suffering; it is a means of saving lives.

POTENTIAL AVAILABILITY OF TESTING AS PART OF ROUTINE PHYSICALS; MANAGED-CARE OPPORTUNITIES

Our AIDS roundtable also considered the option of making AIDS testing available as part of routine physicals. We also discussed the potential for education and preventative measures to be included in HIV managed-care programs. These are all possible solutions we considered as means of combating the HIV/AIDS crisis and to silence the sorrowful cries of the victims and many more potential victims of this deadly disease. All of us must continue to use our creative ideas to find effective ways to break the cycle of death that has been resulted from the HIV/AIDS scourge.

RYAN WHITE ACT

As your Congresswoman, I have fully and eagerly supported all legislation that has given increased attention and resources to HIV/AIDS, including the Ryan White CARE Act, which is currently slated to receive about $2.2 billion in funding for FY2007. The Ryan White Act, originally signed on August 18, 1990, is the primary source of medical care for HIV positive children, youth and pregnant women. The Ryan White CARE Act funds more than 600 sites through 91 grants in 35 states, DC, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands. I know I need not convince you of the fact that this legislation, and the money it authorizes, is crucial to our national fight against HIV/AIDS.

I will continue to push hard to ensure that the purpose of the the Ryan White Act is fully funded. served and realized. I will also work hard to make sure that the Ryan White Act is tailored to the challenges that we face today.

In addition, I have supported legislation to reauthorize funding for community health centers (H.R. 5573, Health Centers Renewal Act of 2006), including the Montrose and Fourth Ward clinics right here in Houston, as well as supported legislation to provide more nurses for the poor urban communities in which many of these centers are located (H.R. 1285, Nursing Relief Act for Disadvantaged Areas). I have also supported and introduced legislation aimed to better educate our children (H.R. 2553, Responsible Education About Life Act in 2006) and eliminate health disparitis (H.R. 3561, Healthcare Equality and Accountability Act and the Good Medicine Cultural Competency Act in 2003, H.R. 90). And I will continue to endorse and push for similar legislation.

Twenty-five years from now, I hope that we will not be discussing data on prevalence and mortality, but rather how our sustained efforts have been successful. But if we are ever to have that discussion, there are a number of actions that we must take right now. We must continue research on treatments and antiretroviral therapies, as well as pursue a cure. And we absolutely have to ensure that everyone who needs treatment receives it. In order to do this, we have to increase awareness of testing, access to testing, and the accuracy of testing. Knowledge truly is power.

We must also increase funding for local health departments and community health clinics, as well as fully fund the Ryan White CARE Act.

Lastly, but perhaps most importantly, it is imperative that we work to increase funding for HIV prevention and education, so that our children will be equipped with sufficient and appropriate knowledge of this growing threat within our communities, especially within our black communities and among black women. If blacks are eleven times as likely to acquire infection, then we need to make eleven times the effort to educate. And we need to apply similar efforts in every community until HIV/AIDS becomes a memory. If not, our friends and family will be memories instead.

Community volunteers from churches and other organizations have done commendable work here in Houston. I think everyone can learn something from their selflessness and their will to serve their communities.

We need more people to follow their lead. We do not have time for excuses or hesitation. We have the passion and dedication, and we are securing more and more resources. It is up to us to get the resources where they are needed.

I implore all of us, politicians, researchers, clergy, and community leaders to continue to work on the very challenging mission of eliminating HIV/AIDS. To do this, we must continue to pass legislation that will continue to fund research, as well as prevention and treatment programs to combat HIV/AIDS. We must also increase our efforts to provide compassionate care, pursue rigorous research, educate our communities, and raise awareness. By doing this together, we will help all of our friends, relatives, and children live healthy and full lives.

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

(Mr. MEEK of Florida 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 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.)

ENERGY INDEPENDENCE

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

Ms. KAPTUR. Madam Speaker, I rise on the eve of consideration of major energy legislation here in this House. And while the President seems willing to admit that America is addicted to imported oil, which is step one, recognition, he can't seem to get much further than that. In fact, during his administration, America is now importing over a billion more barrels of imported oil every year. A billion more than when he began his administration.

So admitting we have a problem is easy. You can do it at a distance. You can mention it in your State of the Union address. That doesn't solve the crisis.

Every day that the President makes another empty veto threat against energy legislation is another day for growing our trade deficit by oil. In fact, if you look at what's happening today, nearly three quarters of what we use to drive this economy that is petroleum-based is imported. And that oil import constitutes about a third of our trillion dollar trade deficit. It's a disastrous policy. It takes away America's independence. And it keeps us addicted to a lot of places in the world that don't have democratic governments in place.

Our addiction is obvious, and the solution seems just as clear. When our Nation launched its space program and we embarked upon a national effort, we developed our domestic resources and we began to move into outer space. We can do the same in energy if we were serious. From domestically produced biofuels to wind to fuel cells, hydrogen, solar power, and geothermal, as well as clean coal technologies, the potential of our market is unlimited. But it is limited by our technological and industrial imagination.

With half as many sunny days as countries like Portugal, the world's leading solar energy producer is not the United States but Germany. Germany accounts for 15 percent of worldwide sales in solar panels and other photovoltaic equipment and has 15 of the 20 biggest solar plants. That's right. A country located in Northern Europe with no natural advantage is outperforming the rest of the world. And they are doing the same with wind power.

On wind energy, the story is much the same. Take one look at our Nation's wind map, and our wind potential is very, very clear.

This is a map of the United States, of course, with the darkest areas indicating where we are most wind rich. From rich reserves in offshore wind production along the Great Lakes to the upper plains regions whose fields howl day and night, America must act to capture that endless resource. Simply recognizing the potential is only our first step. While the United States lags behind, European companies are investing billions into our nascent wind market. As pointed out in a recent Herald Tribune article in July of 2007, a Portuguese company, Energias, paid nearly $3 billion to buy Horizon Wind Energy from Goldman Sachs. This purchase secures their parent company, Mexia, with the fourth largest wind farm capacity in the world, behind mostly European companies like Iberdrola of Spain and another Spanish company, Acciona Energia. When is our Nation going to be serious about stepping up to energy independence and capturing some of the resources that bless our land?

The key for developing our domestic industry in both wind and solar is political leadership from here in Washington. And unless we take these needed steps, America will continue to take its lead from foreign nations, and our hopes for developing true domestic new industries along with the jobs they hold will never materialize.

Mr. President, if you are serious about solving our energy crisis, I suggest you enroll in Congress's 12-step plan for recovering from our oil addiction. We will begin some of those discussions tomorrow as the energy bill is considered. Some of the steps are contained in that bill.

It's time that we invite the President to join us in shaping a new energy future for our Nation that restores our inherent economic independence by becoming energy independent and, in so doing, secure political independence for future generations.

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

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

THE ECONOMIC POTENTIAL OF A CLEAN ENERGY REVOLUTION

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

Mr. INSLEE. Madam Speaker, I have come to the House floor tonight to really share some great news, and that doesn't always happen in this Chamber, and the great news is that this week we hope to take a major step forward in our effort to revolutionize the energy economy of America to bring it to a place where we can use the genius of Americans to break our addiction to Middle Eastern oil, to stop global warming, and to grow millions of good-paying green collar jobs in this country. And tomorrow or the next day we hope to have on the floor a bill that will take major strides in that direction to start facing these challenges and really recognizing the economic potential of a clean energy revolution for this country.

We have challenges associated with energy, but we who will bring this bill to the floor believe that we also have opportunities involving energy. And those of us who will be supporting this energy bill believe that we need to look at this from an optimistic, visionary, progressive can-do spirit. And if we hearken to the can-do spirit of Americans, we are going to revolutionize the way we create and use energy in this country. And when we do that, we are going to grow millions of jobs in the process.

If I can briefly just talk about the challenges that we face, and perhaps they are obvious, but I think it is important at least to note them, about why we need a new energy policy in this country. And let me start with the one that perhaps is most obvious to us, and that is that our addiction to Middle Eastern oil threatens our security. It's not a very wise policy. And we were just being briefed by a vice admiral of the United States Navy retired just about 15 minutes ago on this subject. He pointed out that it's not a very good strategic decision to be sending just under $1 million a minute of our money to people who are attacking us in the Middle East.

□ 2030

Funding your enemies is not known as a particularly brilliant strategic move. And Americans know that our national security is at risk as long as we are on the addiction train for the oil coming out of the Mid East.

So we know there is a security reason for our trying to move to a more energy independent position where we are less dependent on oil to run our economy.

Second, we know that global warming is a challenge. I'm certainly aware of this. I represent a district just north of Seattle. My county got 9 inches of rain in 24 hours the day before yesterday. And you will turn on your TV tonight, and you will see these floods. These floods and precipitation events are consistent with the models of what we will see more frequently in the Pacific Northwest with global warming.

We don't want to see that happen. We're seeing it, the last 2 years, we've had these things happen. Mount Rainier National Park was shut down for the first time in 100 years last year because of one of these horrendous rainstorms.

We know that we've seen one million miles of the Arctic melt, just disappear this year, the size of six Californias disappear. We know we have a problem with global warming; we've got to face up to it.

And third, we know that we have a loss of jobs in this country. We've seen a shrinking of our manufacturing base. We've seen outsourcing of our jobs across the world. We're seeing enormous imports coming in from China and exports not going back. So we need to reorient our economy so that we can develop products for export to the rest of the world. And guess what? We have the perfect opportunity to do that in developing clean energy technologies so we can rebuild our economy, and there is a great way to do it.

I want to start by talking about the tremendous strides that Americans are making today in building a new clean energy transportation system for the United States. Now, I get really excited about this. For one reason, two days ago I was in Anaheim, California, at the electric car convention, the 23rd convention of the Electric Car Association in Anaheim, California; and I was blown away by the progress that's being made in the electrification of the automobile.

Now, we have, frankly, not made much progress in increasing the efficiency of our cars since the early 1980s. We did a tremendous thing in the seventies and eighties: we increased our fuel efficiency by over 60 percent in about 5 to 6 years, but then we stopped. Congress stopped, the President stopped, we stopped dead in our tracks from making any progress on fuel efficiency.

Well, for 30 years now we haven't made one mile a gallon improvement. Think about how pathetic that is. Since 1983, we've started the Internet, mapped the human genome, we've even invented the cup holder for our cars; but we haven't improved the mileage they're getting by even 1 mile a gallon. Well, this week, tomorrow or the next day, we hope to pass on this floor a provision that will make the first improvements in 30 years in our automobile efficiency standards that were so incredibly successful in the early years. We need to simply start getting back up on that improvement train because that's what America is about, which is constant improvement.

And we intend to raise it to 35 miles a gallon, which is certainly obtainable, and I'll talk about why we know it's obtainable in a few minutes. We know that's a very obtainable goal, and we hope to pass that. And this is why this is important. I did a little research on this; I've done a lot of research on this. I actually just recently wrote a book about this, so this is where I got a lot of this information. When you write a book about things, you tend to go out and ask a lot of people questions. And what I learned was that if we had simply continued making the same improvements in mileage that we made from 1976 to 1983, if we had simply continued on that rate of improvement, we would be free of Saudi Arabian oil today. Think of what that would have meant to our national security if we were free of that oil influence in our foreign policy. Well, we have to get back in that good habit of expecting more fuel efficient cars.

Now, we know this is capable of happening because we know essentially the technology has become better in our cars; it has simply gone to power and some other things rather than fuel efficiency. But this 35-mile-a-gallon standard I know is achievable because today I am driving a car that gets 45 miles a gallon. This car, it's convenient, it's safe, it carries five people comfortably. I'm 6 foot-2 inches, 200 pounds. It carries me and a big cherry tree in the back very conveniently. So we don't even have to wait until 2020 or 2022 to do this; we have cars that can do this today. But we know that we're going to make transitions, both in cars and trucks of all sizes, to move to more efficiency.

But I'll tell you what's coming. What's coming very shortly is not just these little incremental half-mile, one-mile, two-mile-a-gallon improvements. What is coming is wholesale giant leaps forward in automobile efficiency. And I want to show you why I know that's going to happen, or believe it's going to happen.

This is a picture of a car, the GM Volt. The GM Volt is a car that General Motors hopes to put into mass production in 5 years or so. It would be the first American mass production plug-in hybrid car. The GM Volt is a plug-in hybrid car. And the way a plug-in hybrid car works is ingenious. It has a hybrid system which runs, essentially, the wheels with electric motors. And a hybrid system works partly on an electrical battery system and part on an internal combustion engine that right now is burning gasoline, and some day will burn cellulosic ethanol or biodiesel. But what a plug-in hybrid does is it allows you to charge your batteries at night, and then for about 40 miles all you use is electricity.

So when the GM Volt comes out, you will be able to plug in your car in your garage, unplug it tonight, go about your business. For the first 40 miles, it's all electric; no carbon dioxide coming out of your tailpipe, no gasoline being burned whatsoever. And the daily usage of a car for 60 percent of Americans is less than 40 miles in one day. So when these cars become available in widespread availability, 60 percent of the trips of Americans could be all electric, without using a drop of gasoline.

Now, what happens after 40 miles is you essentially then burn either gasoline, or at some point ethanol or biodiesel, with a combination of the remaining juice in the battery to go the rest of your mileage, with just as much total range as you originally would experience with our normal cars. And when you do this, the combination of that juice in your battery you're plugged in with, and if you run the whole tank dry, you're going to get over 100 miles a gallon of gasoline. And there are cars today doing this. There are several hundred cars already doing this on the road across the country, running these plug-ins. There is quite a number of them that are Toyota Prius conversions that have been converted into these plug-in hybrids.

Now, this is not just some pipe dream. I asked GM to bring this car to Capitol Hill and they showed it to my colleagues a couple of months ago. It was at the car convention yesterday, and people were looking at it like it was the hottest thing on wheels at this convention, because it is. It gives us the opportunity to make a serious break of our addiction to Middle Eastern oil. And it gives Americans the ability to drive a car for 1 to 2 cents a mile for energy from electricity. Gasoline is costing anywhere from 9 to 12 cents a mile to operate a car right now.

So this is a tremendous break for Americans, when these cars get on the road. And we'll be talking about 100 miles a gallon of gasoline, not just 35 in our CAFE standard. GM has hundreds of millions of dollars in investment in this vehicle, and we know that this is a very serious effort in this regard.

Now, there are a couple of virtues I would like to talk about. This car gets better with age, and I'll tell you how. When you use electricity off the grid, you know, some of the electricity is produced with coal that is putting in carbon dioxide in the air and is adding to global warming gases. But as the grid becomes greener, which it will as we use more solar thermal power and as we use more wind power, the energy, the electrical juice we use, will become greener and your car will become greener. It will become a better car, a more efficient car. Now, there are only two things I know of in life that gets better over time, wine, and plug-in hybrid cars. So we're very excited about the progress of this.

I'll give you another little bonus. When you have a car like this, you can rent your batteries to the utility companies. And the utility companies are very excited about being able to ignite, when you're charging your batteries, essentially store their energy in your battery and then draw it back out, if you're not driving your car. They call it a load-leveling service. And they will pay you money for the right to use your battery. And some economists have suggested it could be a value of $2,000 to $3,000 a year. So that's a pretty sweet deal, potentially being paid by your utility company to really move forward.

So this thing is knocking them dead at the convention, and for good reason. And it shows why this 35-mile-a-gallon potential is very, very achievable. And I'm going to be very excited when we get this bill up on the floor.

With that, I would like to yield to my good friend, GEORGE MILLER, who has been leading this visionary effort for years here in the U.S. Congress.

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. I thank the gentleman for yielding. And, one, I want to commend him on the success of getting provisions in this legislation on renewable electrical sources that he just pointed out will make all of this better in the future as we see a convergence of transportation, as we see a convergence of energy efficiencies in our homes and our businesses, and then to have a clean, green, and renewable way to generate that electricity. This is going to be a remarkable gift to the American people, to the American economy, to American businesses.

One of the things we've seen first and foremost is in so many instances the amount of money that is being saved by those who are investing in this effort in their businesses to make them more efficient, to make them greener, and to make them cleaner.

I am very excited that this legislation, which you have led the fight on, is also going to include the CAFE standards, the improvements in the miles per gallon that people can expect to get from cars in the future, that we will provide for 35 miles per gallon by the year 2020, which will dramatically change the transportation picture in this country, and then joined with the hybrid, with the renewable energies, can change our dependence on imported oil. And combined with other provisions of this legislation, we know that we have the opportunity to dramatically impact for the good the American economy, our climate, our environment, and the health of our neighborhoods and our cities.

So this energy bill, which many people said was not going to be possible at the beginning of this year, will be a major vote for those of us who are concerned about our dependence on foreign oil, our dependence on fossil fuels at all because of the impacts on the climate, the impacts on the health of our constituents. And it's going to be a remarkable vote when it takes place.

This legislation also provides for energy efficiency and renewable energy worker training. We're now starting to see in this country, as more and more investment is made by the private sector, that we need skilled workers who know how to work in these facilities, who understand the technology, who understand the mechanics of these operations. And that's going to provide real opportunity to working people in this country to create jobs all over this country, not just on the coast, if you will, but in the Midwest and the Southeast, in the Southwest, where wind, where other renewable energy sources are going to be developed, are going to be promoted, and are going to be utilized by those communities.

The gentleman from Washington has been in this struggle, started with the Apollo Project. This isn't quite the Apollo Project, but this is a major down payment, a major, major step, after 30 years of this Congress being shackled by the auto industry and the oil industry and others to continue a policy that has not served this country well and that continues to threaten our economic stability, our national security.

I know how much energy the gentleman from Washington has put into this legislation and put into this issue to get the public to understand something like the GM Volt. We had the automobile on the Hill a few months ago. It's a rather impressive automobile, as you pointed out. I think we probably read the same articles about the recent auto shows where it's attracting a great deal of attention, a major commitment by GM. I'm delighted to see GM now make this thrust into these new technologies, and I think that that legislation will provide further incentives for them to do that.

I read a rather interesting commentary. GM also developed a hybrid for the Tahoe, for their SUV. And in the comments about it, it's not the best hybrid in terms of mileage, if you're really concerned about mileage standards, but it's a major effort, certainly a major effort on behalf of a vehicle that's very popular with the American public.

But the interesting thing was, because of the engineering that they had to do to deal with the hybrid technology, the commentary of the auto reviewers was that they made a better car, this Tahoe was far superior to those that weren't. And they were hoping that they would then transfer the technology, the design, the engineering over to the rest of the fleet because they, in fact, would be presenting a car of higher quality, be it hybrid or nonhybrid, to the American public. And I think it's interesting to see what the spin-offs are and what this kind of engineering develops.

Mr. INSLEE. Would the gentleman yield for a minute on that point?

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Yes, I would be happy to yield.

Mr. INSLEE. I think that's a really important point, that when you embark on a technological effort like this, like the original Apollo Project, we called our bill the New Apollo Energy Project because we understood when we embark on a technological journey like this, we develop all these new subordinate incidental technologies, and we've seen all the benefits from the Apollo Project.

□ 2045

The secret of this car is the battery technology, really. Now, there is some really cool stuff. This glass weighs probably 70 percent less than normal glass. These tires are superefficient because of the way they are designed. There is a lot of weight-saving devices. But the real genius is in the battery. There is a company called A123 Battery. A bunch of folks started it from MIT in Massachusetts. Now they are manufacturing a lithium ion battery that you use right now in your drill. You are using your big drill. Those are lithium, the new hot ones. ''Hot,'' meaning they work, not meaning that they are physically hot. They've taken those batteries and now designed one to work in a car. And I point this out because I talked to a young man named Luke, and I am embarrassed I can't remember his last name, yesterday in Anaheim, and he was with this A123 Battery company. And I said what is the status of this? He said that it is going gangbusters. I am working in a way that all we have to do is put them in a rectangular situation rather than a cylindrical. But the look in this kid's eyes. He is in his upper twenties, and he is managing this project in his upper twenties. The look in his eyes were just glowing with this development of this brand new stuff. And he was jumping up and down being so excited. And that is the kind of spirit that we have the capability of igniting again.

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. This bill, when we pass it and send to the President and he signs it, it is just the beginning of this adventure in energy technologies. Earlier this year we passed an innovation bill that dealt with new technologies and encouraging research and development and innovation and discovery, and when we were putting that bill together, we were talking to the CEOs from venture capital companies, from biotech industries, from the high-tech industry. And the question came from a lot of people, when you do all this innovation, you make all this effort, training all the engineers and scientists and others, where are the jobs that result? And Craig Barrett, the former CEO of Intel Corporation and other CEOs of the major tech companies of this country chimed in and said you make an investment, the government must make an investment in energy. That will drive the next generation of technology comparable to the kinds of technologies we saw with that investment in telecommunications, in computers, in the Internet and all the things that resulted from that. Their first choice for that, to drive that technology would be energy and the need that this country and other countries are going to have to develop these sources of energy.

Again, I want to thank the gentleman for all of the work he did. I know how hard he worked, especially on that provision of the bill for the renewable energy standards that are in this legislation. I thank him for his effort on that and also on the Apollo project that kicked off a great part of this debate in the Congress.

What a difference a year makes. Under Republican rule, it took three sessions of Congress just to finish an energy bill that subsidized pollution and Hummers.

But after just 1 year of the new Democratic leadership, we are replacing those subsidies with groundbreaking steps to increase the efficiency of our vehicles, to lower energy costs, to create new jobs, and to combat global warming.

Fuel Economy. The historic fuel economy compromise is supported by labor, the environmental community, and the automobile industry. This is the first increase by Congress since 1975.

The bill will increase fuel economy standards to 35 miles per gallon by 2020 for new cars and trucks.

These provisions will save American families $700 to $1000 per year at the pump, with $22 billion in net consumer savings in 2020 alone.

It will reduce oil consumption by 1.1 million gallons per day in 2020 (one-half of what we currently import from the Persian Gulf), and reduce greenhouse gases equal to taking 28 million of today's average cars and trucks off the road.

Renewable electricity standards. This provision requires utility companies to generate 15 percent of electricity from renewable sources—such as wind power, biomass, wave, tidal, geothermal and solar—by 2020.

Green Jobs. This package creates an Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Worker Training Program to train a quality workforce for ''green collar'' jobs—such as solar panel manufacturer and green building construction worker—created by federal renewable energy and energy efficiency initiatives.

Major investments in renewable energy could create 3 million green jobs over 10 years.

Thanks to the leadership in the House by HILDA SOLIS and JOHN TIERNEY, we reported this legislation from the Education and Labor Committee. In the Senate, this important provision has been championed by BERNIE SANDERS and others.

Energy efficiency. The bill includes landmark energy efficiency provisions that save consumers and businesses hundreds of billions of dollars through 2030.

The bill will assist those who want to make their homes and offices more energy efficient, and it creates new energy-efficient appliance standards.

This reflects the successful model pursued by the State of California: cutting greenhouse gas emissions and investing in renewables will lead to economic growth.

Mr. ROHRABACHER. Let me note that I agree with the excitement and the energy that I have seen here today, and I think that there is every reason for optimism that many of the challenges that we face can be overcome by the very forces that we are talking about. I believe there are more market-driven forces, because as the price has gone up, we have unleashed a whole new exciting effort that could be profit-making and also make changes. But, as we are discussing this, there is just one thing that has concerned me on this side of the aisle. And I certainly agree with trying to increase our development of sources of energy, as Mr. MILLER was just talking about, you know, this is the type of investment we can make that will permit these entrepreneurs who respond to the market. I certainly agree that, but, as you were talking about it, we know that electricity is going to be a major factor in the success of the technologies that you are talking about, because each and every one of these we now bring electricity into play where we had internal combustion engines before. But why is it that we, when we face an energy bill like the one coming up, that we have basically written off nuclear energy as a role that it could play in providing that energy and providing us the self-sufficiency that we need in the future?

Mr. INSLEE. Well, actually, the bill, as I understand, will not be writing off nuclear energy. It has been difficult to grow largely in cost. The utilities simply have not purchased it because of its cost even though it has been very heavily subsidized by the taxpayer to the tune of billions of dollars; it still has remained so expensive, the utilities have simply not ordered new plants. It was really not Jane Fonda that ended the growth of the industry; it was simply the cost and economics of it. And this bill does not eliminate that that will be on the floor in the next week.

I want to address, I know, the gentleman from California, and a lot of these good ideas have come from California. Certainly Governor Schwarzenegger has been active in supporting this effort to move to more fuel-efficient standards, and many of them are in California.

I want to address something electricity quick, and then I want to yield to Mr. BLUMENAUER if I can. The gentleman has pointed out that if you are going to have plug-in hybrids, then you have to have electricity to run the plug-in hybrids. But tonight we are going to have some discussion about the multiple systems of clean ways to generate electricity. I want to point to one of them, a company that I have learned about, a company called AUSRA Energy, and their name came up when we were debating the renewable electrical standard.

In this bill, we have a provision that calls for 15 percent of our energy to come from clean, renewable sources by the year 2020, 15 percent clean renewable sources, and a quarter of that can also come from efficiency standards. So I was talking some time ago to some of my colleagues about this from the State of Florida in August when we had the first version of this bill, and my colleagues were expressing the concern that we couldn't do solar energy, for instance, in Florida. Now, that surprised me, because I thought on the license plates it says ''The Sunshine State.'' Nonetheless, Florida does not have as perfect solar energy as does Arizona. There are a few more clouds in Florida. It is maybe 10 percent not as productive as Arizona.

But a week after that conversation, I found a company called AUSRA Energy had signed a contract with a Florida public utility for I believe it is in the nature of a couple hundred megawatts, enough for thousands of homes, both in Florida and in California. And what this company does, this AUSRA company, it uses flat panel mirrors which are in these long rows oriented toward the sun. They are inclined toward a pipe. There is a pipe that is elevated towards these mirrors. It focuses the rays of the sun on that pipe. It heats the water. The water develops steam, the steam turns the turbine, and presto, you have electricity with zero CO_2 emissions, zero CO_2 emissions, and zero gasoline imports from the Middle East.

And I have looked very carefully at their projections of cost. They have a very realistic path to get to a position to produce electricity as cheaply as coal within the next decade or so. Now, this company is real. It is not a bunch of people in teepees just thinking about this. They have signed commercial contracts for the production of this electricity using this technology.

Now the reason this is so exciting to me is that previously, we have talked for years about photovoltaic energy. And most people who think about solar energy think of photovoltaic, which are basically panels that directly produce electricity from the silicone-based panels, and those are making strides that are very significant with what is called thin-celled photovoltaics. But here is an entirely new way of producing electricity using essentially radiant power, thermal power from the sun, heat to heat energy, and these work really well in tandem with natural gas producers. So we have multiple ways. We will talk about some of these others. And these new technologies just keep popping up.

I want to yield to Mr. BLUMENAUER, a leader from Portland, Oregon, which has been a great city to demonstrate how to use energy efficiently. It is the first city in America to develop a transportation system that gives people choices about how to move around the city, and as a result, it is the first city in America where people have driven less in 1 year ever in American history, and that is because of, in part, Mr. BLUMENAUER's leadership helping develop some of the land use planning and public transportation systems, besides being a great advocate for bicycle riding.

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Thank you. I appreciate the gentleman's courtesy and his continued focus on the opportunities we face with the energy legislation that is coming before us this week, and the bigger picture, the new Apollo project.

I wanted, if I could just elaborate on one point, because I think as you were talking about the compelling opportunities for new technology that are harnessed in the car of the future, I was thinking back to the situation that we faced as some of us were growing up when the United States Department of Defense was paying $100 for a transistor when they could have spent 79

cents for a vacuum tube. But that investment in technology for the future made possible the first Apollo project, sending a person to the moon, miniaturization, the electronics that harness that power. But it also spoke, I think, to the power of having strategic Federal investment and incentives.

I heard my friend from California a moment ago talking about the power of the market. Well, we are all interested, I think, in harnessing market forces wherever possible. And your response about the issue of nuclear energy, that despite massive subsidies, there hasn't been a new plant in the last 30 years because the private sector didn't think it penciled out.

I am interested in opportunities that we can have harnessing this new technology and perhaps using it in sectors like national defense where we can jump-start new technology and we can make a difference for our national security. That, as you know, has been one of the cornerstones of the Speaker's initiative. The first hearings we had on the Global Warming Committee that we both serve on were from national security experts that talked about how our dependence on expensive foreign oil, on traditional energy sources, put us at a strategic disadvantage in terms of oil supply, and it is also having an operational disadvantage for our national defense.

The current war in Iraq is the most intense, most energy-intense military operation in the history of the world. It is four times more energy intense than the first Iraq war. We are delivering gasoline to the front that we are heavily dependent on in great big tankers that might as well have bull's eyes on them at a cost of over $100 a gallon.

What you're outlining here in terms of fuel-efficient vehicles, in terms of new techniques for generating electricity, has the potential of revitalizing American defense posture to make our troops safer and more efficient as well as making battles in areas to secure oil supply less likely.

I just wanted to commend you for dealing with us today in terms of the big picture and what a difference that can make for the lives of everyday Americans in terms of where they shop, how they move, where they work and live, as well as the international arena as well where we are going to be spending $1 trillion in Iraq. This type of technology could be harnessed to make a big difference in terms of national security and technology.

Mr. INSLEE. I really appreciate Mr. BLUMENAUER's observation because it is so true. What we have seen, where we do have military product development then spins off into the civilian sector to all of our benefit. We are going to see that now. Right now the Pentagon is helping to develop a biofuels-based airplane fuel. They are very excited about not being dependent on Middle Eastern oil for the security operations of our own military, and they want to develop a biofuels-based airlines fuel. Boeing is doing the same thing on a civilian basis. They have entered into a consortium with Sir Richard Branson to develop a homegrown biofuel so you can run a jet engine. And the reason it is right to be optimistic about these things is the phenomena that Mr. BLUMENAUER talked about, and that is that things get cheaper as we build more of them and we learn more about technology.

Solar power, every time we have increased the number of units we have sold of solar power, the prices come down 20 percent. There is a curve. You can watch the price come down. It has come down over 80 percent in the last 2 decades. Over 80 percent. And the reason is, besides the fact you discover new techniques, you simply have scales of economy; the more you make of this stuff, the less it is per unit. And that is going to be true predictably for solar thermal as well as the continuation of the photovoltaic world. When we do that, the thing I want to focus on is we want to sell this technology to China.

□ 2100

We want to start putting stuff in boats and shipping it to China and India. We want to take the GM Volt and ship it to Japan. Let's start exporting these things that we grow here with homegrown technology. We know we can do that. We have done it in the past because of good old American know-how.

I want to tell one story about good old American know-how. This is a guy I got to know. We talked about electricity as a source of fuel for transportation. But there are others. There's a guy named John Plaza I met in the course of working on this. John Plaza was an airline pilot 4 or 5 years ago.

Mr. BLUMENAUER, any closing comments before you go?

Mr. BLUMENAUER. I just wanted to express my appreciation for what you're doing. I have the Rules Committee meeting now for the Energy package. I need to go represent Ways and Means. I depart, hanging on your every word.

Mr. INSLEE. We know you're going to produce a great bill for us tomorrow or the next day. Thank you for joining us.

The story of John Plaza is, to me, just a perfect example of what America is about and why this is such a great economy and a great Nation. John was an airline pilot several years ago and he said he got a little tired of flying across the country and reading a book in the cockpit, to the extent that is allowed. He decided to look around for a new opportunity to sort of do something creative.

He started to think about the ability to use biofuels to run our transportation system. John was one of the first people to make biodiesel. He started to essentially brew up biodiesel almost in his garage just a few years ago. Then he decided to make a commercial operation. So he went out and raised some money from a fellow named Matthew Tobias, who did well at Microsoft. They went out, and this is one of the part of the stories I like, they bought two big vats that were used at the Rainier Brewing Company to brew beer. They took those vats and they started to brew biodiesel in a little warehouse on the shores of the Duwamish River in Seattle.

That went so well that they went out to the capital markets and raised tens of millions of dollars to build a real first-class biodiesel facility. Now, in Grays Harbor, Washington, and this is a picture of the Imperium Energy Biodiesel plant, you will see these large tanks used for storage. The Imperium Biodiesel Company now has the capability of producing 100 million gallons a year of biodiesel. It is the largest biodiesel refinery in the world, and it started because one fellow, John Plaza, had this idea and a can-do spirit and optimism and courage enough to go out and start a business to do this.

Now, this is what America is all about. When we pass an energy bill, the kind of things we are going to do are going to help these small business people to start businesses and grow them in the field of clean energy. Now, this company has plans to build perhaps 20 refineries around the country. It is a realistic, a realistic goal to believe that we can produce 25 percent of our transportation fuels in the next 20 years or so by having homegrown biodiesel-advanced forms of ethanol and really make a dent in our oil addiction.

Now I want to, if I can, address for a minute the prospects for these biofuels because I know people have heard about corn ethanol and people have raised concerns that it's not the last word in ethanol. And it is true. Twenty-three percent of our corn now goes to the production of ethanol. It's producing high quality, effective fuel and it's working very, very well. It has some limitations in that we only use the kernel of the corn now. We only use a small percentage of the total fiber that the plants produces.

But on the horizon is an advanced form of ethanol called cellulosic ethanol. Cellulosic ethanol is an ethanol where you take the entire plant, kernel, leaves, shoots, roots, stems, stalk, corn stover, wheat straw, everything you can get your hands on, you mash it up, you mix it with an enzyme that helps break down the fibrous structure of the plants, freeze the carbohydrates. You then use the carbohydrates to distill it into alcohol or ethanol, and ethanol is an alcohol, and basically make high-quality fuel.

Now, cellulosic ethanol, the first plant in America for commercially produced cellulosic ethanol, ground was broken for it the week before last. The Range Company in Georgia is the first one that has the capability of building this advanced form of ethanol. When we do that, we will improve the amount of fuel we produce per acre by a factor of four to five times, potentially, over what we are producing in

corn today, using advanced enzymes and using potentially some additional crops besides corn.

A company called Mendel Biotechnology in Hayward, I visited a few weeks ago, they have developed a plant called miscanthus. Miscanthus is a relative of sugar cane, which can grow through wide, wide areas of the Midwest. It's 10 to 12 feet tall. It uses less fertilizer than corn, it uses less water than corn, and it can produce three to four times as much fuel per acre using the cellulosic ethanol technique. They are now growing test plots of that to see how far north basically this can be grown and in what conditions.

That is not the only plant. There are several other plants. In Idaho, the first loan guarantee has been given to the Iogen Company, among six counties across the country to use essentially wheat straw left in the field as waste. They are going to bundle that up, bale it up, expose it to an enzyme, and do cellulosic ethanol using what was previously a waste product.

By the way, I misspoke. The Range Company in Georgia does not use an enzyme; they use a reactive process. It's a little different than that use of an enzyme to break down the cell structure. Both of them use basically the entire fibrous part of the plant.

The point is that corn ethanol can perhaps be considered as the first generation of biofuels. It is successful, doing a great job, with certain limits that we need to get past, and we can and will get past them if we simply use our know-how. That is what we are doing across the country in these companies, which reminds me of kind of a basic principle. The idea of our energy bill, in part, that we will be passing we hope this week, takes a position that we need to make a fundamental shift on how we think about energy. In the past, all we did was look below our feet for energy. Now we need to start looking above our shoulders and between our ears because ultimately it's intellectual capability and intellectual capacity that is the only infinite power of energy in the universe. That is what we are starting to use. And that is why America is going to do so well in the clean energy revolution, because when there is a transition technologically, America wins. When there is a transition to aeronautics, we win, as we have done with Boeing. When there is a transition to software, we win, as we have done with all our software businesses in this country. We are going to win in this clean energy transition because we do well in developing these technologies, some of which we have talked about tonight.

Now, besides biofuels, there's additional fuels under consideration. We know fuel cells have the potential to use hydrogen, which is under active consideration. At least one company will be bringing a commercial hydrogen fuel cell car to the roads in the next 2 years. There are fleets now using hydrogen fuel cells.

This is a bus transit system in the East Bay area of San Francisco. This is one of the first hydrogen fuel cell buses. They run it over a catalytic bed and they produce electricity and water. That is it. The only thing coming out of the tail pipe of this bus is water. I got the honor of the first Congressman to ever drive a bus, and I didn't hit anything. So it was a success. And I can warrant these are clean, wonderfully quiet, and people are enjoying them today down in the East Bay area.

These fuel cells, because there is an issue about the distribution of hydrogen; it's going to cost money to build a distribution system for hydrogen. They are probably going to happen first in large fleets like buses and transportation systems. But I think there is good reason to believe that we are going to see a lot more use of this in the next decade or so, particularly in these fleets, further application. So we have lots of alternatives.

Mr. ROHRABACHER. Would the gentleman yield for one moment?

Mr. INSLEE. Yes.

Mr. ROHRABACHER. On the issue, first, I'd like to compliment the gentleman on obviously his vast knowledge and research that he had done on these energy issues. I am very impressed with the presentation tonight.

Let me note that in California I worked very closely with Governor Schwarzenegger on a number of these energy issues. One of the new technologies that has emerged is the actual production of hydrogen on a portable basis. There is an inventor in California that has come up with an attachment that can go on any internal combustion engine that actually attaches to the alternator of the engine and creates electricity that goes into a liquid into the small container, which then, as we know, electricity through liquid produces hydrogen and oxygen gas, which is then put into the air intake of the engine.

The Governor, when I described this to him, and we had a lot of trouble with private companies unwilling to actually test this product out, the Governor put it on his Hummer. He said, Dana, I am giving you my Hummer. Put it on the car and I will pay for the test. The Governor actually reached out.

This type of creativity and what you're discussing tonight and a broad array of approaches to our energy challenge, I think, will carry us through. I want to compliment the gentleman on his great presentation tonight.

Mr. INSLEE. I appreciate Mr. ROHRABACHER's comments. I won't make any cracks about the need to improve the imitation. Your Governor is doing great work on this. I appreciate your sentiments.

I want to mention a point. There is a technology I had not heard of. You have mentioned this inventor who's working on this in California. One of the things that is so much fun is you learn about people doing this great work around the country. That particular invention, who knows, it may not go anywhere. Some of the things we have talked about tonight may not pan out to be commercially available. But if we have a strategy that spreads our bets and looks at multiple sources like any good investor does, you spread your investments around, some are going to work out really well, some are going to be just kind of okay, and some of them are going to be duds. And we are going to experience that in this. But because of the genius around the country, we are going to have a lot of successes. So I appreciate your comments Mr. ROHRABACHER.

I just want to point out a couple of other new cutting-edge technologies people may not have heard about that can help fulfill our need for a 15 percent renewable electric standard. This is a picture of wave-power buoys that are now going off the coast of Oregon, the first ones in the country to harness the power in waves. There's enormous energy in waves. If you have ever seen a big freighter go up and down, you understand how powerful the sea is just going up and down.

There's enough energy in a stretch off the coast of the Pacific in just a 10-by 10-mile square. If you just took a 10-by 10-mile square and captured the energy from those waves, it would produce all the electricity for California. Now we are not talking about doing that, but what is under investigation right now is the ability to use this type, and there are two or three types of these buoys, and as they bob up and down, they pressurize a column of water or hydraulic fluid or air and turn an electrical generator that runs in a wire to the shore, and you have got electricity. One of these buoys could power potentially a thousand homes. They are quite powerful.

Ultimately, they are being tested right now and we're finding there's actually more energy than we even thought. That means more stresses. We are learning a lot about the stresses, on how you deal with those stresses. But the Department of Energy has testified to us that they believe that wave power could produce 10 percent of our entire electrical needs in this country in the next couple decades. Now that is very significant. It's just this new idea.

Tidal power is a similar effort. I have a picture of that. We have tidal power that also uses a turbine that looks like a wind turbine and also can produce electricity.

One more comment I want to make about the best source of energy, and that is energy that we don't waste. Energy conservation and energy efficiency is what we need to call the first fuel. Energy that we don't waste is always the cheapest energy to buy.

□ 2115

Finding a way not to let energy escape from our house is almost always the cheapest way to save money on energy.

I just want to point out a couple, Mike and Meg Town. Mike is a teacher at Redmond High School near the Seattle area. Mike and Meg a couple years ago decided to build a home that was essentially a net zero user of electricity, in part because Mike, who was a science teacher, was always talking about this, and one day his kids said, Why don't you go build a house that does this? So he did.

Mike and Meg built a house in very wet, soggy Redmond, Washington. It is one of the wetter areas around. And what they did was they incorporated some sort of commonsense measures into their home to make it very energy efficient, with extra insulation, good windows, just sort of commonsense things, not to let air leak out from your doors, a decently insulated hot-water heater, some planting to allow solar energy to come in to heat up the home. They then put on some panels. You see these black panels on the roof, Mike actually put these on himself.

Now this is a home in wet, rainy near Seattle, Washington, that is a zero net electricity user, saving money, because his meter runs backwards. When these photovoltaic cells are producing electricity, his electric meter runs backwards. That means he is getting a credit against his electricity bill. Now he has essentially, taking into consideration some of the credits he is receiving, a zero electrical bill.

His heat, he has a very small little heater that one of these days he is going to burn wood chips, and wood chips are a biosustainable fuel, because when you burn a biological product, all you do is return CO_2 to the atmosphere that the tree or the grass took out.

I point this out because here is people doing real things in a rainy climate, saving energy the old-fashioned way, just doing kind of commonsense things, and our bill calls for provisions that will increase the standards in our homes and our appliances so that we will not waste energy. It is the first fuel, and we are going to use it in a very commonsense American way, and it is going to be a major, major part of our effort to revolutionize our energy system.

So I look forward this week to making a major step forward in the field of energy. We are going to unleash the forces of market and the entrepreneurs around the country, and the homeowners who want to save on energy bills, and the people who are getting tired of paying $3-plus for a gallon of gasoline, and the people who do not want to be addicted to Middle Eastern oil so we don't have to be exposed to security threats from that region, and the people who don't want to fund the terrorists who are attacking us, and the people who see the future of global warming as being a threat to our grandchildren.

This is something that you can unite the Nation, red and blue States, rural and urban. This helps inner-cities, it helps rural communities. It is something I hope we get broad support for.

It is going to be a great day for America when we start this clean energy revolution. It is truly something in the American can-do spirit.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. MANZULLO. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have five legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the subject of my Special Order.

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

There was no objection.

TRIBUTE TO THE LATE CONGRESSMAN HENRY HYDE

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

Mr. MANZULLO. Mr. Speaker, the subject of our Special Order this evening is our dear friend, Henry Hyde.

Mr. Speaker, I would yield to Congressman ROHRABACHER from California.

Mr. ROHRABACHER. Mr. Speaker, today we remember the life of Henry Hyde. Henry Hyde was no doubt one of the greatest Members ever to serve in this Chamber. He was certainly one of the most articulate.

Let me note right off the beginning, Henry Hyde was a personal hero of mine long before I arrived here in this body in 1989. And unlike heroes who I have met over my lifetime, quite often I have been disappointed in the heroes that I have met, Henry Hyde remained a person I admired, a hero that I admired, even after I got to work with him and got to know him personally.

Henry Hyde was, yes, a great orator, and he had a personal presence. Anyone who has ever worked or been around Henry Hyde could tell you that. Yet, these were not the qualities that made his greatness. Henry used his talents and his influence to further fundamental principles and values that reflected Henry's character and his commitment to higher ideals. He rose above politics.

What is it that Henry believed in? What were these higher ideals? Life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.

Life. Yes, that is the first, that is the first of Henry's values. Yes, Henry was one of the greatest voices in the defense of the unborn on this planet. It was not the popular stand to take, and it still is not necessarily the popular stand to take. It was a moral imperative, however, a moral imperative that Henry felt very deeply about.

When someone believes that the issue of abortion is not an issue that concerns tissue being extracted from a woman's body, but is instead an issue that deals with the ending of a human life, the principle is clear. But the courage to advocate such a moral and principled position may not match the importance of the issue itself.

Henry spoke with such eloquence on so many issues, but on this issue, one could not help but admire him and know that it was something that was coming from his heart, and a heart that was filled with love. He was a national force in the battle to protect the unborn. This is part of his legacy and something we should not forget and we should always remember him for, because it took courage for him to lead this battle.

Henry made this issue a crusade, and he did much himself to create the movement that now I think has brought public opinion and at least the public consciousness more to what the issue is on this issue of abortion. Yes, life was Henry's number one priority.

Liberty. Henry fought for liberty as a young naval officer in the Philippines during the Second World War. I was very honored to have gone with Henry to the Philippines where he was issued a medal for his service as a young man in the Second World War. He then after the war returned home and fought the battle for liberty in both the State legislature in Illinois, and, yes, here in the halls of Congress.

Henry's war was a war for liberty and justice for all. Henry was chairman of the Judiciary Committee. And, yes, we should not forget another controversial thing about Henry. He led that Judiciary Committee at a time of an impeachment procedure against President Bill Clinton. With the sexual implications of the charges against the former President, that endeavor could have turned into a lurid political circus. Instead, Henry Hyde insisted on maintaining standards and maintaining that the issue was perjury, and that was the only issue to be approached and discussed, and he insisted on maintaining the decorum of this House under these most trying of circumstances.

After serving as chairman the Judiciary Committee, he moved on to serve as chairman of the International Relations Committee. I was honored to serve with him on that august committee, and I watched firsthand as he stepped up and he maintained his commitment not only to American security, but to human liberty. These were the paramount issues for Henry Hyde, whether our country was safe and whether human liberty was being furthered.

Yes, Henry Hyde was the chairman of the International Relations Committee and led us after 9/11, led us at a time when we went into war with radical Islam, a war in which we are currently engaged. And Henry, his courage, his strength, his character, did very much to ensure the American people that, yes, we will prevail over this monstrous evil enemy that we face.

Well, finally let me note the pursuit of happiness. All of us who knew Henry know that he was a man who enjoyed

his life. He exemplified that happiness comes from more than just acquiring material wealth. Henry was a happy man because he was doing what he thought was right and was making a difference.

When he left us last year, he had dedicated his whole life to the service of our country and to those higher ideals I have just mentioned. He had every reason to be proud of the wonderful and exemplary life that he had lived.

So, tonight we remember Henry. He will be buried later on this week, but he will remain a force in this body and will remain a force in American politics for years to come, along with the Henry Clays and the Daniel Websters and the other great orators and great men of principle who have served here in Washington in the People's House and in this great Congress.

Mr. MANZULLO. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Illinois, Congressman RAY LAHOOD.

Mr. LAHOOD. Mr. Speaker, I rise tonight to pay tribute to one of the finest public servants that I have ever known, Congressman Henry Hyde. Henry passed away last week.

Before I begin my own remarks, I want to offer a couple of comments on behalf of Congressman JESSE JACKSON, Jr., who for family reasons is not able to be here, but asked me to offer these remarks on his behalf.

He was a good friend of Congressman Hyde, someone from the other side of the aisle, but someone from our Illinois delegation. He wanted me to express his feelings that Henry was not only a good friend to him, but he was a great American; someone who loved America and someone who really made the world a better place; someone who Congressman JESSE JACKSON, Jr., called a friend.

I offer those remarks on behalf of Congressman JESSE JACKSON, Jr.

Henry made a difference. When I was asked by a reporter recently what I will remember about him, what I said was that many of us come to this place with the idea that we can make a difference. Henry Hyde made a difference. He made a difference in the lives of the people that he represented, not just in his congressional district and not just in Illinois, but in the country and in the world.

He distinguished himself by serving as Chair of two committees, the Judiciary Committee and the International Relations Committee, during deliberations of some very, very serious legislation.

Henry Hyde had the ability to change people's minds. That is almost unheard of around here. People come to the well of the House almost always knowing how they are going to vote on a particular bill. But whether it was the flag amendment, whether it was term limits, which was a part of the Contract with America in 1995, whether it was the Hyde amendment, which protected so many lives for so many unborn, whether it was impeachment or whether it was expansion of O'Hare Airport, Henry Hyde had the ability to come to this floor and persuade his colleagues of his point of view. He had a very, very uncanny ability to do that, because of his intelligence, because of the way that he presented himself, and because of the respect that the Members of this body had for this great man.

He did make a difference, and he did it with the highest level of civility and dignity. He brought great honor, great dignity to this institution, by his presence, the way he conducted his arguments on the great debates of the day, and I have no doubt that people did change their votes and change their minds. Particularly on term limits he made some very compelling arguments, and particularly on the flag amendment he made some very compelling arguments, and over a long period of 30 years, three decades, on the Hyde amendment.

□ 2130

And even though the impeachment proceedings were very controversial, people respected the way Henry Hyde conducted those proceedings as chairman of the Judiciary Committee, in a very honorable way and a very civil way. And even those on the other side who did not agree with the impeachment proceedings, they agreed that Henry Hyde conducted it with the highest level of honesty, integrity and civility that you can bring to this Chamber.

Every third Thursday of each month that we are in session, our delegation which now numbers 21, counting our two U.S. Senators, 19 Members and 2 U.S. Senators, have lunch together. We used to gather in Speaker HASTERT's office, and now we gather in Senator DURBIN's office. And before every delegation lunch, we could always count on Henry Hyde to tell at least one or two very, very funny stories. He was a great storyteller and he loved to tell stories.

I will never forget almost a year ago when Henry would come in the Chamber as we were departing for the final votes, and he was in a wheelchair because of his back problems, and announced to all of us over in that part of the Chamber that just a few weeks before that, about a year ago, he wed his chief of staff of 35 years and he was very, very happy. They were going to move back to Geneva, Illinois, which is a suburban part of Chicago, west of Chicago, and they were going to live happily ever after in Geneva, Illinois, which is a beautiful part of the world on the Fox River.

When President Bush announced that he was going to give Henry Hyde the Presidential Medal of Freedom, I tried to call Henry and was not able to reach him. I did send him a note. I know how proud he was. Of all of the awards and accolades that he received, I know he was proudest of his Presidential Medal of Freedom because it is the highest civilian award that the President of the United States can give to any person, and I know how proud Henry was of that.

So as a Member from Illinois who has served with Henry now during my 13 years and as former chief of staff to Bob Michel, it is difficult to think that Henry Hyde is gone. But he will be long remembered for his civility, the dignity, the high honor that he brought to the job and to the debates of very controversial issues, and was still able to maintain the collegiality of every Member of this body, both Democrats and Republicans, a great lesson for all of us and a great example for all of us of how we should treat one another and how we should conduct the debates, even when there are great differences and great opportunities for divide on these issues.

Henry stands as a lasting example. He will be remembered that you can make a difference on important issues and during debate. We honor his memory tonight which will be long remembered throughout the history of the House of Representatives. Godspeed, Henry Hyde.

Mr. MANZULLO. I yield to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. SHIMKUS).

Mr. SHIMKUS. I want to thank my colleague, DON MANZULLO, for putting this together tonight. It is great to listen to my friend and colleague, RAY LAHOOD, and follow DANA ROHRABACHER. I think you will see a lot of Members speak tonight, and they will say a lot of similar things. We have colleagues from Texas, Ohio and New Jersey here, which shows the width, breadth and the reach of Chairman Hyde.

When you come to this institution as a new Member, there are people who are national figures and many people learn to become friends with them in different ways. I think one of the great privileges is when you become a colleague of one of these great figures of history, and as Dana Rohrabacher said, he meets the requirements of what you would expect and the person that you have idolized and respected over the years.

I follow RAY LAHOOD who mentioned our bipartisan luncheon. We would also get together as a Republican delegation every now and then, and at that time we had the Speaker. Before the Speaker would weigh in, he would always turn to the dean of the Illinois delegation seeking Henry Hyde's counsel, his wisdom, his experience, and his expertise. I think that is a sign of a great leader when you know who to go to; and, of course, with the great respect we had for the wisdom and the conviction of Chairman Hyde.

When Henry spoke, people really did listen. That is a lot to be said because we speak a lot and a lot of times people aren't listened to. But Henry Hyde did it, and for many of the reasons that RAY mentioned, but I think because of the great respect that people from both sides of the aisle had for Henry Hyde.

We all have our own little stories to tell. I am an individual who struggled personally with the term limits debate. Chairman Hyde would just always respectfully beat the heck out of me because of my stated position. He said, JOHN, we have term limits; they are called elections. When people talk about Henry's strong speeches on the floor about term limits, they would think he was for term limits, but Henry was adamantly opposed to term limits because he was a constitutionalist at heart. He said the Constitution allows for term limits, and that is why we go before the voters every 2 years.

After wearing me down for many, many years, I eventually moved to the Henry Hyde position on term limits.

But that is the type of person he was, not out of a view of political expediency or what is right for the public political perception at the time, but what was right for the country.

We have a lot of colleagues down here so I am not going to belabor the point. DANA ROHRABACHER said it right. I think the great way to remember Henry Hyde is to remember life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. Life in the Hyde amendment. You can say these simply, clearly and they identify Chairman Hyde.

Again, life would be the Hyde amendment. Liberty, aid to the freedom fighters in Nicaragua and Central America and the fight against the nuclear freeze movement. Chairman Hyde, that was liberty making the hard decisions against political expediency to promote democracy and freedom.

And the pursuit of happiness, the Millennium Challenge. It is not just the pursuit of happiness for the country, it is the pursuit of happiness for the whole world.

I am honored to be able to be on the floor to take a few minutes to thank Chairman Hyde for his friendship, his mentorship. He is and will be missed. God bless you, Henry Hyde.

Mr. MANZULLO. I recognized the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SMITH).

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. I would like to associate myself with the sense of loss we all feel for the passing of Congressman Henry Hyde. As I think my colleagues know, Henry Hyde was one of the rarest, most accomplished and most distinguished Members of Congress ever to serve. He was a class act.

Henry Hyde was a man of deep and abiding faith, generous to a fault with an incisive mind that worked seamlessly with his incredible sense of humor. He was a friend and colleague who inspired and challenged us to look beyond surface appeal arguments and to take seriously the admonitions of Holy Scripture to care for the downtrodden, the vulnerable and the least of our brethren.

On the greatest human rights issue of our time, the right to life for unborn children, the disabled and frail elderly, Henry Hyde will always be known as the great champion and the great defender of life. No one was more logical, compassionate or eloquent in the defense of the disenfranchised.

Because of the Hyde amendment, countless young children and adults walk on this Earth today and have an opportunity to love, to learn, to experience, to play sports, to get married, to enjoy their grandchildren some day, to experience the adventure of life itself because they were spared destruction when they were most at risk, millions, almost all of whom have no idea how much danger they were in, today pursue their dreams and their hopes with expectations and great accomplishment.

With malice towards none, no one, even his most vociferous critics, Henry Hyde often took to the House floor to politely ask us to show compassion and respect and even love for the innocent and inconvenient babies about to be annihilated by abortion.

A Congressman for 32 years, a chairman for 6 years of the Judiciary Committee, and for another 6 years chairman of the International Relations Committee, Henry Hyde was a prodigious lawmaker. With uncanny skill, determination and grace, he crafted numerous historic bipartisan laws and commonsense policies that lifted people out of poverty, helped alleviate disease, strengthen the U.S. Code to protect victims and to get the criminals off the streets. He was magnificent in his defense of democracy and freedom both here and overseas.

One of his many legislative accomplishments includes his authorship of the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief, PEPFAR, a 5-year $15 billion plan to combat HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, and malaria. During the debate, Chairman Hyde compared the HIV/AIDS crisis to the bubonic plague of the 14th century, the black death, and challenged us to enact a comprehensive program to rescue the sick, assist the dying and to prevent the contagion from spreading.

Having served with this brilliant one-of-a-kind lawmaker, I know the world will truly miss Henry Hyde. Still, we take some comfort in knowing that Henry Hyde's kindness, his compassion and generosity will live on in the many laws he wrote to protect and enhance the lives of others. I, we, will miss this great statesman.

Mr. MANZULLO. Mr. Speaker, I recognize the gentleman from Texas (Mr. HENSARLING).

Mr. HENSARLING. I thank the gentleman for yielding. I must admit I feel most inadequate to the task to find words to somehow adequately eulogize this great man, this colleague, this friend of ours whom we called Henry Hyde.

I guess the most important thing I can say about him in the time that I have served in Congress, I can think of no greater champion of human life and human freedom than Henry Hyde.

When I think about the Hyde amendment and what that means to human life, that accomplishment alone is worthy of an entire Congress, and it is really the work of one United States Congressman.

Tens of thousands live today because of Henry Hyde. There can be no doubt about that, Mr. Speaker. And often in debate we hear people come to the floor and talk about we need to pass this legislation or that legislation because we need to do it for the least of these. He, more than any other, understood in the depths of his heart that the least of these are the unborn. And because of that, he was a champion. And we do properly eulogize him tonight.

You know, in debate, Mr. Speaker, it can get quite contentious. One wonders sometimes why a civil society cannot have a civil Congress. But I have no doubt that although many occasionally may have thought him wrong headed, no one in this institution ever thought he was wrong hearted because he always acted out of the purest of motives.

□ 2145

And as I hearken back to a comment that the gentleman from Illinois made before me, it is interesting to note that Henry Hyde was one of the few Members of Congress that each of us would come to this floor and actually have a greater interest in listening to him than listening to ourselves. Very few Members of this body, Mr. Speaker, command that kind of attention. But when Henry Hyde spoke, people wanted to listen because he brought the force of his intellect, he brought his humor, he brought his grace, his kindness, he brought his civility, and he brought his humility to this floor. And because of it, Mr. Speaker, I know that I am a better person and I believe that every other Member of this institution is also better for having known Henry Hyde and being able to listen to him.

We regret his loss, but we thank his family. And I am well acquainted with his son Bob, who is a resident of Dallas, as I am, and I just want to thank them for loaning him to this great institution and this great country. And, again, I know I am a better Member of Congress and a better human being because I had an opportunity to meet Henry Hyde. And I know that as he meets his Creator, there is no doubt in my mind, Mr. Speaker, that he has heard those words, ''Well done, good and faithful servant.''

Mr. MANZULLO. Mr. Speaker, I recognize the gentlelady from Ohio (Mrs. SCHMIDT) for 5 minutes.

Before I formally recognize her, I noted with great interest that when Mrs. SCHMIDT was elected to Congress in that special election, I don't think there was a time that I came in when Henry wasn't here that Congresswoman SCHMIDT wasn't seated right next to him talking to him, listening to him, and observing his spirit. And it is most appropriate that she speak about this

great American this evening. I recognize JEAN SCHMIDT.

Mrs. SCHMIDT. Last week, I was deeply saddened to learn of the passing of former Congressman Henry Hyde. The United States lost a great statesman. I lost a role model and a valued friend. We all lost a man who exemplified civility and led a life dedicated to his country, serving others and his ideals. His story should serve as a beacon of hope for all who knew of him.

Congressman Hyde came from humble roots. He earned a basketball scholarship to college, fought in World War II, and earned a law degree. He was the American Dream.

Congressman Hyde was first elected to Congress in 1975. As a stalwart in Congress for nearly 3 decades, it was his voice of civility and passion which Members from both sides of the aisle respected and appreciated and which he is oftentimes remembered for the most. But he is most often remembered by all for the Hyde Amendment, legislation to prohibit the use of Federal taxpayer dollars for abortions in the United States.

During his years in Congress, he not only worked to protect the lives of the unborn, but he also was active in the United States and Russian relations during the Cold War, wrote legislation to address worldwide AIDS epidemic, and presided over the House impeachment proceedings of President Clinton.

Most will remember Henry Hyde for all that he was able to accomplish as a Member of Congress. I will remember him as a man who was true to his ideals and who spoke to our hopes, not our fears.

His legislative accomplishments were just a reflection of who he was. His compassion for the unborn and the weak and the forgotten was not simply a veneer pasted on for public consumption. He understood the meaning of life and championed laws to protect it from its natural conception to its natural death. He treated everyone he met as if he or she were the most important person in the world because he saw them as God's children and knew that they were.

Congressman Hyde was truly a life well lived. The country and the world have experienced a great loss. I have lost a dear friend on this floor. My condolences go out to his entire family. I truly feel privileged to have served with such a great man. And I would like to add that, when I was elected, I was excited to meet here, but I was most excited to meet Congressman Hyde. May he rest in peace in the Lord's arms.

Mr. MANZULLO. I recognize the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. GOODLATTE) for 5 minutes.

Mr. GOODLATTE. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, it is a real honor to rise and speak of the life of a great American statesman and a true friend of the American people and a personal friend, Congressman Henry Hyde.

When I arrived here in the Congress in 1993, Henry Hyde was already legendary. He had many years before that begun work on the Hyde Amendment, which established for now some 30-plus years the principle that the American taxpayers' dollars would not be used to fund abortions. That principle has stood with us all these years and I believe will stand with us well beyond Congressman Hyde's passing. It was a great legacy.

In addition, Congressman Hyde was known as an outstanding orator, a public speaker of the first order. He brought both his keen intellect and sharp wit with his heart to the speeches that he gave on this floor, and he commanded the attention of his colleagues and often changed the minds of people who might have been very much hardened against the position that he was putting forward. He did it with considerable skill, with considerable intellect, and with considerable commitment.

When I arrived in 1993, I became very much aware of his personal attention that he gave to other Members of this House. As a new Member, he helped me through one of the more difficult committees to serve on in the Congress, the Judiciary Committee. And when we gained the majority, the Republican majority in 1994, the Republican leadership recognized Henry Hyde's capabilities and actually passed him over other Members of the Congress to make him chairman of that committee, knowing that that committee had an enormous task ahead of it because, as many will recall, in 1994, Republican Members campaigned for election on the Contract for America. What many may not realize is that of the nearly 30 bills that comprised the 10 principles that made up the Contract for America, more than half of them went through the Judiciary Committee, and Congressman Hyde shepherded each one of those through the committee and then across the floor of the House, and many subsequently passed the Senate as well and became law. And he accomplished that not just by his own hard work and dedication, but by delegating responsibility to virtually every Member of the committee on both sides of the aisle in some instances, in fact, giving new Members like myself an opportunity to play a key role in managing that legislation and offering key amendments, because he recognized the importance of operating the committee in an open and fair fashion.

His greatest challenge may have come with the impeachment of President Clinton. And I served on the committee with him during that very difficult time as well. The impeachment of the President of the United States is one of the more serious things that the Congress has to deal with, and it is certainly something that can evoke great emotions and can bring about great contention in the committee. But Chairman Hyde managed the committee with great fairness, with great attention to detail, and did so at a time when he was personally vilified and attacked in a number of different ways, most unfairly, and yet did it with equanimity, with grace, and I think commanded the respect of Members on both sides of the aisle as he handled that very, very difficult challenge, and did so, I might add, successfully in bringing forward impeachment resolutions which were sound, which passed the House of Representatives, and which I think spoke for all time about the importance of the respect of the rule of law by all of those who serve in government, even in the highest places.

Henry Hyde was an individual who believed very, very deeply in our Constitution, and he showed that through his hard, hard work for 6 years as chairman of the Judiciary Committee in passing a multitude of pieces of legislation that showed that great respect for our Constitution. But he was more than simply a believer in the rule of law. He was a believer in the human heart. And he showed that time and time again in his work with other Members of this Congress, as we have heard some mentioned here this evening, and also in his work internationally; because after he completed his work as chairman of the Judiciary Committee, he was given another important and great challenge of serving as chairman of the International Relations Committee. And I have had the opportunity to see him in action with Presidents and Prime Ministers, to see the kind of respect that he commanded from world leaders because of his leadership of that committee and because of his great concern for the promotion of American interests around the world. Those interests are very pure, interests of promoting democracy and opportunity for freedom and peace for people in every corner of the globe.

I have not had the privilege of serving on the International Relations Committee, but I have had the opportunity to serve for 14 years on the Judiciary Committee with Congressman Hyde, and I will never forget the leadership that he provided on that committee and in this Congress. He has been an inspiration to me, he has been an inspiration to millions of other Americans, and he deserves to be recognized as one of the greatest statesmen of our time. And I thank the gentleman for yielding me this time.

Mr. MANZULLO. I yield to the Congressman from Arizona, TRENT FRANKS, 10 minutes.

Mr. FRANKS of Arizona. I thank Congressman MANZULLO.

Henry Hyde was perhaps more responsible than any other Member of this body for allowing me to become a Member of Congress, and I stand here thanking him for his work and for him allowing me to come to this place.

Mr. Speaker, our moment in history is marked by mortal conflict between a culture of life and a culture of death.

God put us in this world to do noble things, to love and to cherish our fellow human beings, not to destroy them. Today, we must choose sides.

Mr. Speaker, those words were spoken by one Henry Hyde, who in 1924 was born in the same State that once gave us an Abraham Lincoln who guided America through that terrible storm that brought about the end of a cancer called slavery that it had embedded itself so deeply in American policy.

That same greatness of spirit that compelled Abraham Lincoln to remind our Nation that all men are created equal also compelled Henry Hyde to spend 32 years of his life serving this body in defense of that same truth.

Mr. Speaker, Henry Hyde said, ''We are the heirs of 1776, and of an epic moment in history of human affairs when the Founders of this Republic pledged their lives, their fortunes, and their sacred honor. Think of that, their sacred honor, to the defense of the rule of law. The rule of law is to safeguard our liberties. The rule of law is what allows us to live in our freedom in ways that honor the freedom of others.''

Mr. Speaker, whether working to overturn the horrors of child sex slavery, of sex trafficking, or advocating to protect victims of human rights abuse, or improving the lives of children, families, seniors, and military veterans, or protecting the innocent from the threat of terrorism, or striving to bring clean water and basic sanitation to the poorest of the poor all over the world, Henry Hyde was truly a man who gave himself to the cause of honoring and protecting the equal, inherent, and profound dignity of every member of the human family.

He carried himself with such honor and dignity and true nobility, and yet never wavered in the strength or perseverance of his convictions. Like President Ronald Reagan, he carried a reputation for being a happy warrior.

□ 2200

And, Mr. Speaker, while the hallmark of Henry Hyde's life was the compassion for all of humanity, the driving force of his work in Congress was the dedication to protecting and restoring the constitutional rights for an entirely unprotected class of humanity he called the ''defenseless unborn.''

Henry Hyde was instrumental in crafting legislation such as the Mexico City policy and the partial birth abortion ban. Perhaps his most world-changing initiative came in the form of the legendary Hyde amendment which passed 2 years after he first came to Washington in 1976. It prohibited the practice of taxpayers being forced to pay for abortions. The year before, taxpayer funds had provided for more than 300,000 abortions in America. Mr. Speaker, at the very least, over 1 million little souls have lived to feel the warmth of sunlight and freedom on their faces because of the Hyde amendment and the work of Henry Hyde, and that number could well be in the millions. That is a legacy no words of mine can ever express.

Mr. Speaker, Henry Hyde once said, ''This is not a debate about religious doctrine or even about public policy options. It is a debate about our understanding of human dignity, what it means to be a member of the human family, even though tiny, powerless and unwanted.''

Henry Hyde was a man of unwavering principle, an unflinching patriot who never hesitated to confront even the fiercest controversies once he believed that he was fighting on the side of truth, God, and human freedom. Not only did he fight tirelessly for those truths, he spoke them so powerfully that he deeply and profoundly moved the heart of America. He stirred this body on countless occasions and helped to rekindle the conscience of this Nation, and the legacy of his words will resonate long after every one of us has walked out of that Chamber for the very last time.

Last month, Mr. Speaker, Congressman Henry Hyde was honored by the President of the United States with the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the highest award that can be bestowed on any civilian. ''He used his persuasive powers for noble causes'' according to the President. ''He was a gallant champion of the weak and the forgotten, and a fearless defender of life in all of his seasons.''

Mr. Speaker, back in 1857 in the Dred Scott decision, the Supreme Court said that the black man was not a person under the Constitution, and it took a civil war to reverse that tragedy.

In the rise of the Nazi Holocaust, we saw the German high tribunal say that Jews were unworthy of being classed as humans, and a tragedy that beggars our understanding followed as a result.

Then in 1973 we saw the Supreme Court of the United States of America take from the innocent unborn children the most basic human right of all, the right to live. And in all three cases, Mr. Speaker, a great human tragedy followed. The Civil War took more lives than any war in our history. The world war that arrested the Nazi Holocaust took 50 million lives worldwide, and even saw atomic bombs fall on cities.

And today we stand in retrospect and wonder how the compassion of humanity did not rise in defense of those who could not defend themselves when such horrible atrocities might have been prevented. And yet, there and here, in the land of the free and the home of the brave, we have killed 50 million of our own children in what should have been the safe sanctuary of their own mother's wombs. They died nameless and alone, their mothers were never the same, Mr. Speaker, and all of the gifts those children might have brought to humanity are now lost forever.

Mr. Speaker, there is no way for me to add to the power of the immortal words of that gallant statesman, Henry Hyde himself. He said something I wish that every American, every person on Earth could hear. He said, ''When the time comes, as it surely will, when we face that awesome moment, the final judgment, I've often thought, as Fulton Sheen wrote, that it is a terrible moment of loneliness. You have no advocates. You are there standing alone before God, and a terror will rip through your soul like nothing you can imagine. But I really think that those in the pro-life movement will not be alone. I think there will be a chorus of voices that have never been heard in this world, but are heard beautifully and clearly in the next world. And they will plead for everyone who has been in this movement. They will say to God, spare him because he loved us. And God will look at you and say, not did you succeed, but did you try?''

Mr. Speaker, Henry Hyde truly tried. And I am convinced that the day will still come in America when the warm sunlight of life will finally break through these clouds and shine once again on the faces of unborn children in this Nation. And when that day comes, history will record that it is a great champion named Henry Hyde who waged a quiet war for the defenseless unborn in the Halls of this Congress. And he reached up to hold the hand of an unseen God and reached down to hold the hand of an unnamed little baby and refused to let go until the storm was gone.

And, Mr. Speaker, if I'm wrong, and somehow America never finds its way out of this horrible darkness of abortion on demand, I know more than anything else in the world that the Lord of the universe still hears the cries of every last one of his children. And no matter who or where they are, if time turns every star in heaven to ashes, I know in my soul, as Henry Hyde knew in his, that that eternal moment of God's deliverance will come to every last one of them.

Mr. Speaker, Henry Hyde was a true and noble champion and he will live forever in our hearts and minds as a warrior for the cause of human freedom and human life. May his family, his many friends, and loved ones be comforted in the peace and assurance of knowing that their courageous father and husband and friend has been welcomed by an eternal chorus of voices and has now walked safely into the arms of God and heard him whisper, ''Well done, thou good and faithful servant.''

God bless Henry Hyde.

Mr. MANZULLO. Mr. Speaker, may I inquire as to the remaining time that we have.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. ALTMIRE). The gentleman has approximately 20 minutes remaining.

Mr. MANZULLO. Okay. I'll claim 5 minutes for myself.

I was elected to this Congress in 1992, was sworn in in 1993, and never got used to the name Congressman. When someone said Congressman, I would turn around and I'd look for Henry

Hyde. I thought that you had to be here an unnamed number of years and garner the utmost respect of your colleagues before you could be called by that name, Congressman.

And I had the opportunity to work with Henry. I recall in either 1993 or 1994, when it was going to be very difficult because of some procedural problem for Henry Hyde to offer the Hyde amendment, and the only way that he could do that was through unanimous consent of this body. It was on I believe an appropriations bill. I sat next to Henry Hyde at this table to my immediate right, and he turned to me and he said, Don, if I can't offer this amendment, tens of thousands of children will die. And I was numbed by what he said, and also by the immense power that one person could have to intervene in the lives of those who had not, who could not see the light of day because of their circumstances.

The chairman of the Appropriations Committee, William Natcher, from Mississippi stood up in a very noisy Chamber, and he said, I ask unanimous consent in this body that the Hyde amendment be allowed in order. And I remember him peering over those glasses, this man from Mississippi who never missed a vote on the floor of the House of Representatives. One person could have said, I object, and no one did. And Henry Hyde offered the amendment that particular afternoon and it passed this body and went on to become part of the continuing law forbidding the use of taxpayers' funding for abortions. I shall never forget the sweat that was emanating from his body, how his hands were being wrung together. And I never thought it possible that one person could make that much of a difference in the United States Congress. And he made the difference to people who could never vote for him. He just did it because he said that this is the right thing to do.

And there were other occasions in my career as a Member of Congress where I would see him stand up. And when Henry Hyde stood up to speak, this noisy body of 435 independent contractors would become very quiet and listen to Henry Hyde. When the Contract with America was penned, and he handled several bills dealing with that very difficult piece of, series of legislation, in the section on product liability he allowed me to give the concluding speech on the floor because one of the companies that I represent back in Rockford, Illinois, had gone out of business on the 100th anniversary because it was sued over a machine that it had manufactured 50 years earlier. And sitting on the desk of the president of that great company was a summons starting a suit over a machine that was manufactured at the time of the House of Romanov when it ruled Russia. And he gave me the honor of giving the concluding speech on that very difficult topic.

You ask yourselves, where are the Henry Hydes of America today? Where are the orators of this House? And no one stands up because they're gone.

I would recognize the gentleman from Illinois, PETER ROSKAM, for as much time as he would consume.

Mr. ROSKAM. Mr. Speaker, you know, as I've sat and listened this evening to the tributes of Congressman Hyde, a couple of things have become clear to me, that there's an element, a great sense of loss tonight among us about a man that people on both sides of the aisle really came to respect and admire and deeply appreciate.

As I've thought about Congressman Hyde and the role that he played, he came to Congress in 1974, that was a very difficult time for the Republican Party. He's one of the few people that was successful in a campaign after the scandal of Watergate, and came in and in a way Henry Hyde was a conservative in the House of Representatives before conservative was cool. He was passionate about a strong America and understanding fundamentally what our Nation's role was in the world.

We've talked a lot over the past several minutes about Henry Hyde and his pro-life legacy. There was another passion that he had, and I think it was inextricably linked to his view of life and defending it at all ages, and that was his high view of freedom. He was a person who understood fundamentally that the United States had a very special role to play.

I was a staffer for him and remember him talking about the captive nations. That was a phrase that was used to capture the description of the Eastern Bloc nations. And you see, in Henry Hyde's district, in the Sixth District of Illinois, there were a whole host of immigrants, folks who had come to this land of America because America was free. And Henry Hyde represented that constituency well. And it was a people that had been formed largely by their suffering under a tyrannical communist regime. And when Henry Hyde came to office in 1974, in those years before the 1980 election, he was among a small group of people in the House, I think, that really understood what was at stake.

Turned out Ronald Reagan won a historic election in 1980. It was a land slide really of epic proportion.

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And Henry Hyde was one of those people that was positioned in the House of Representatives, Mr. Speaker, to be one of Ronald Reagan's partners over the next 8 years on what has been nothing short of a transformation of American foreign policy.

Henry Hyde was a pivotal figure in the mid-1980s when the House turned to him and asked him to play a key role at the time in the Iran-Contra investigation. And I remember working for him at that time and a whole great deal of activity. And when I was looking at my boss, Congressman Hyde, during the committee hearings, every time he asked a question, every time he made a point, there was a sense of clarity about him that was just very, very inviting. He understood what was going on. He didn't shy away from a political fight, as we all know, but he had this way about him that was a way to engage people in such a way that he was able to persuade them. He was sort of the old school of American politics in that he wasn't satisfied merely to have a debate. No. This was a guy who wanted to persuade you. And his view was, look, if you knew what I knew and if you had seen what I have seen and if you understand what I understand, then surely looking at this evidence you'll be persuaded, as I am, to this way of thinking. And I think the way that he approached that, Mr. Speaker, was very inviting in a way.

Listen, he was at a pivotal point in our public life together in very difficult times for our country. But we all know, as we reflect on this great man, that he did it with a sense of duty, he did it with a sense of honor, and he did it in a way that he always upheld his oath to protect and defend the Constitution of the United States.

I remember the first time I met Henry Hyde, I was interviewing in his office, and it was when he was in the Rayburn building, room 2104 in the Rayburn building. It was, I think, an April evening, if I'm not mistaken, in the mid-1980s, and I had a chance to interview with my own congressman, Henry Hyde, to become possibly a legislative assistant. I went in. I handed him my resume. And I have an independent recollection, as I am standing here today, of Henry Hyde looking out over me in these half glasses and kind of clearing his throat looking at the resume, sort of looking it over, and I remember feeling very intimidated because at the time, after all, I was in a conversation with Henry Hyde. Well, to make a long story short, he very graciously offered me the job.

And what I will say is this. We serve with a whole cast of characters here in Congress. And we see one another many times on the floor, and we interact with one another, and we see one another in the hallways. But when you really want to get to know a Member, you ask the staff what is that person really like? The staff people who are working for that Member, out of the public view, behind closed doors in the office when nobody is around, and I will tell you this: Henry Hyde was the same person to work for as the person who would appear here on the floor of the House of Representatives. He was gracious. Now, he expected you to work hard. He expected excellence on the part of his staff, and he wanted you to do a good job. But the same pleasant man that you encountered and is fondly remembered here this evening was the same person that interacted with his staff.

You know, there are different ways to measure people. And I called Congressman Hyde on the phone in April of this year. I was walking into the Cannon building. It was an early morning.

And I called him on my cell phone, and I caught him at home. It was fairly early. And I said, ''Henry, I have been here for 4 months.'' I said, ''I marvel at what you were able to accomplish during the time that you were here.''

Many of us come from legislative bodies, State legislatures or county legislative bodies, and they are fairly intimate affairs, actually. They're fairly small groups of legislators that come together. But when you think of the figurative shadow that he cast on legislation for the past 30 years, it was a thing to behold.

I know he enjoyed the phone call, but it wasn't false flattery. It was actually admiration from somebody who has recently come to succeed him in Congress.

Finally, in closing, Mr. Speaker, I remember when I sat with Congressman Hyde several months before I came to this body, and at the end of a very pleasant conversation as we went back and forth on issues and talked about local politics and State politics and national politics and all kinds of issues, he said a word to me. When I share it with you, Mr. Speaker, it is going to sound like a very common thing. But when you're me and you are seated across from Henry J. Hyde, it didn't sound very common at that point. And he said to me this: He said, ''Peter, this is important work in Congress. This is important work.'' And there was an urgency with what he was saying to me that day. And it wasn't the whimsy of an old man who was just reflecting back on 32 years of service, but it was the admonition of a statesman who had looked out over the horizon and really understood the great challenges but, even more, the great opportunities that are here for us in the United States of America.

So I know that I am joined by many, many, many Americans who considered Henry Hyde to be their congressman, to be America's congressman. And so it is with a great sense of pride and also a great sense of sadness and loss that I rise today, like so many of my colleagues, to honor his memory.

Mr. MANZULLO. Reclaiming my time, there are some great Henry Hyde stories. The first time I met him was in his office in your congressional district, and he was wearing this incredible Hawaiian shirt, and sticking out of his pocket was this oversized cigar. I had never seen a cigar that big in my entire life. And he was a connoisseur of his cigars. And I remember one time my Chief of Staff had given me this cigar. He said, ''I got this and you've got to give this to Henry Hyde the next time you see him.'' So I was carrying this cigar in my pocket, and I needed him to sign a document, and he signed the document, and I said, ''Henry, I've got this cigar for you.'' And I think his eyes got bigger than that cigar.

What a sense of humor, what a joy, what a thrill to have served with him. We are honored and blessed to have served with somebody by the name of Henry Hyde of Illinois.

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I join with my colleagues and friends this evening to honor the life of former International Relations Committee Chairman Henry Hyde.

Throughout his 32 years in the House of Representatives, Congressman Hyde was a pioneer of conservative values and principles. As chairmen of the Judiciary Committee and the International Relations Committee, he fought to preserve the sanctity of life and to promote the tenets of freedom. His career is a testament to his character and his love for this country. It was all too fitting that President Bush honored this life and legacy earlier this year when he awarded Congressman Hyde the Medal of Freedom—America's highest civilian honor.

For those of us who had the pleasure to know Chairman Hyde personally, we were touched by his immense dedication to public service, his integrity, and the wisdom he imparted to us all. He was a founding father of modern American Conservatism promoting the expansion of freedom and the limiting of government.

I am grateful to have known and worked with this tremendous individual, and I am grateful for his service to this Nation. Our thoughts and prayers are with the entire Hyde family during this difficult time.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION WAIVING REQUIREMENT OF CLAUSE 6(a) OF RULE XIII WITH RESPECT TO CONSIDERATION OF CERTAIN RESOLUTIONS

Mr. WELCH of Vermont from the Committee on Rules (during the Special Order of Mr. MANZULLO), submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 110–471) on the resolution (H. Res. 839) waiving a requirement of clause 6(a) of rule XIII with respect to consideration of certain resolutions reported from the Committee on Rules, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. LINDER (at the request of Mr. BOEHNER) for today on account of a death in the family.

Mr. GARY G. MILLER of California (at the request of Mr. BOEHNER) for today and the balance of the week on account of personal reasons due to family matters.

Mr. POE (at the request of Mr. BOEHNER) for today on account of official business.

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 Mrs. CHRISTENSEN) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. CUMMINGS, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. WOOLSEY, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. DEFAZIO, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. LEE, for 5 minutes, today.

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. MEEKS of New York, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. PAYNE, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. MEEK of Florida, for 5 minutes, today.

Mrs. JONES of Ohio, for 5 minutes, today.

Mrs. MALONEY of New York, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. KAPTUR, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. WATERS, for 5 minutes, today.

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. WELDON of Florida) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. WELDON of Florida, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. POE, for 5 minutes, December 5, 6, and 11.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington, for 5 minutes, December 5.

Mr. BURTON of Indiana, for 5 minutes, today and December 5 and 6.

Mr. JONES of North Carolina, for 5 minutes, today and December 5, 6, and 11.

Mr. CHABOT, for 5 minutes, December 6.

Mr. ROHRABACHER, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. FLAKE, for 5 minutes, December 5.

SENATE BILLS REFERRED

Bills of the Senate of the following titles were taken from the Speaker's table and, under the rule, referred as follows:

S. 2110. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 427 North Street in Taft, California, as the ''Larry S. Pierce Post Office''; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

S. 2168. An act to amend title 18, United States Code, to enable increased federal prosecution of identity theft crimes and to allow for restitution to victims of identity theft; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

S. 2174. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 175 South Monroe Street in Tiffin, Ohio, as the ''Paul E. Gillmor Post Office Building''; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

S. 2272. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service known as the Southpark Station in Alexandria, Louisiana, as the John ''Marty'' Thiels Southpark Station, in honor and memory of Thiels, a Louisiana postal worker who was killed in the line of duty on October 4, 2007; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

S. Con. Res. 55. Concurrent resolution commemorating the centennial anniversary of the sailing of the Navy's ''Great White Fleet,'' launched by President Theodore Roosevelt on December 16, 1907, from Hampton Roads, Virginia, and returning there on February 22, 1909; to the Committee on Armed Services.

S. Con. Res. 56. Concurrent resolution encouraging the Association of Southeast Asian Nations to take action to ensure a peaceful transition to democracy in Burma; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED

Ms. Lorraine C. Miller, Clerk of the House, reported and found truly enrolled bills of the House of the following titles, which were thereupon signed by the Speaker pro tempore, Mr. VAN HOLLEN on Tuesday, November 20, 2007.

H.R. 50. Multinational Species Conservation Funds Reauthorization act of 2007.

H.R. 465. Asian Elephant Conservation Reauthorization act of 2007.

H.R. 2089. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 701 Loyola Avenue in New Orleans, Louisiana, as the ''Louisiana Armed Services Veterans Post Office''.

H.R. 2276. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 203 North Main Street in Vassar, Michigan, as the ''Corporal Christopher E. Esckelson Post Office Building''.

H.R. 3297. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 950 West Trenton Avenue in Morrisville, Pennsylvania, as the ''Nate DeTample Post Office Building''.

H.R. 3307. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 570 Broadway in Bayonne, New Jersey, as the ''Dennis P. Collins Post Office Building''.

H.R. 3308. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 216 East Main Street in Atwood, Indiana, as the ''Lance Corporal David K. Fribley Post Office''.

H.R. 3325. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 235 Mountain Road in Suffield, Connecticut, as the ''Corporal Stephen R. Bixler Post Office''.

H.R. 3382. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 200 North William Street in Goldsboro, North Carolina, as the ''Philip A. Baddour, Sr. Post Office''.

H.R. 3446. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 202 East Michigan Avenue in Marshall, Michigan, as the ''Michael W. Schragg Post Office Building''.

H.R. 3518. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1430 South Highway 29 in Cantonment, Florida, as the ''Charles H. Hendrix Post Office Building''.

H.R. 3530. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1400 Highway 41 North in Inverness, Florida, as the ''Chief Warrant Officer Aaron Weaver Post Office Building''.

H.R. 3572. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 4320 Blue Parkway in Kansas City, Missouri, as the ''Wallace S. Hartsfield Post Office Building''.

Ms. Lorraine C. Miller, Clerk of the House, also reported and found truly enrolled a bill of the House of the following title, which was thereupon signed by the Speaker on Friday, November 30, 2007.

H.R. 3963. An act to amend title XXI of the Social Security act to extend and improve the Children's Health Insurance Program, and for other purposes.

BILLS PRESENTED TO THE PRESIDENT

Lorraine C. Miller, Clerk of the House reports that on November 13, 2007 she presented to the President of the United States, for his approval, the following bill.

H.R. 2602. To name the Department of Veterans Affairs medical facility in Iron Mountain, Michigan, as the ''Oscar G. Johnson Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Facility''.

Lorraine C. Miller, Clerk of the House also reports that on November 26, 2007 she presented to the President of the United States, for his approval, the following bills.

H.R. 50. To reauthorize the African Elephant Conservation Act and the Rhinoceros and Tiger Conservation Act of 1994.

H.R. 465. To reauthorize the Asian Elephant Conservation Act of 1997.

H.R. 2089. To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 701 Loyola Avenue in New Orleans, Louisiana, as the ''Louisiana Armed Services Veterans Post Office''.

H.R. 2276. To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 203 North Main Street in Vassar, Michigan, as the ''Corporal Christopher E. Esckelson Post Office Building''.

H.R. 3297. To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 950 West Trenton Avenue in Morrisville, Pennsylvania, as the ''Nate De Tample Post Office Building''.

H.R. 3307. To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 570 Broadway in Bayonne, New Jersey, as the ''Dennis P. Collins Post Office Building''.

H.R. 3308. To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 216 East Main Street in Atwood, Indiana, as the ''Lance Corporal David K. Fribley Post Office''.

H.R. 3325. To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 235 Mountain Road in Suffield, Connecticut, as the ''Corporal Stephen R. Bixler Post Office''.

H.R. 3382. To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 200 North William Street in Goldsboro, North Carolina, as the ''Philip A. Baddour, Sr. Post Office''.

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H.R. 3572. To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 4320 Blue parkway in Kansas City, Missouri, as the ''Wallace S. Hartsfield Post Office Building''.

Lorraine C. Miller, Clerk of the House also reports that on November 30, 2007 she presented to the President of the United States, for his approval, the following bill.

H.R. 3963. To amend title XXI of the Social Security Act to extend and improve the Children's Health Insurance Program, and for other purposes.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. MANZULLO. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 10 o'clock and 24 minutes p.m.), the House adjourned until tomorrow, Wednesday, December 5, 2007, at 10 a.m.

EXPENDITURE REPORTS CONCERNING OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL

Reports concerning the foreign currencies and U.S. dollars utilized for Speaker-Authorized Official Travel during the second and third quarters of 2007, pursuant to Public Law 95–384 are as follows:

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, DELEGATION TO ICELAND, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN OCT. 5 AND OCT. 9, 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	10/5	10/9	Iceland		1,970.51		(3)				1,970.51
Hon. John Boozman	10/5	10/9	Iceland		1,970.51		(3)				1,970.51
Hon. Jo Ann Emerson	10/5	10/9	Iceland		1,970.51		(3)				1,970.51
Hon. Jeff Miller	10/5	10/9	Iceland		1,970.51		(3)				1,970.51
Hon. Dennis Moore	10/5	10/9	Iceland		1,970.51		(3)				1,970.51
Hon. Ralph Regula	10/5	10/9	Iceland		892.81		[3] 1,382.46				2,275.27
Hon. Mike Ross	10/5	10/9	Iceland		1,970.51		(3)				1,970.51
Hon. David Scott	10/5	10/9	Iceland		1,970.51		(3)				1,970.51
Hon. John Shimkus	10/5	10/9	Iceland		1,970.51		(3)				1,970.51
Hon. Ellen Tauscher	10/5	10/9	Iceland		1,970.51		(3)				1,970.51
Hon. Tom Udall	10/5	10/9	Iceland		1,970.51		(3)				1,970.51
Melissa Adamson	10/5	10/9	Iceland		1,970.51		(3)				1,970.51

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, DELEGATION TO ICELAND, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN OCT. 5 AND OCT. 9, 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]
Manpreet Anand	10/5	10/9	Iceland		1,970.51		(3)				1,970.51
Kathy Becker	10/5	10/9	Iceland		1,970.51		(3)				1,970.51
Dr. Paul Gallis	10/5	10/9	Iceland		1,970.51		(3)				1,970.51
Gene Gurevich	10/5	10/9	Iceland		1,339.21		[3] 1,031.46				2,370.67
Janice McKinney	10/5	10/9	Iceland		1,970.51		(3)				1,970.51
Marilyn Owen	10/5	10/9	Iceland		1,970.51		(3)				1,970.51
Eric Richardson	10/5	10/9	Iceland		1,970.51		(3)				1,970.51
Delegation Expenses:											
Representational Funds									7,328.28		7,328.28
Miscellaneous									548.52		548.52
Committee total					35,730.69		2,413.92		7,876.80		46,021.41

[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 S. TANNER, Chairman, Nov. 5, 2007.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 8 of rule XII, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

4170. A letter from the Asst. Gen. Counsel for Div. of Regulatory Services, Office of the General Counsel, Department of Education, transmitting the Department's final rule — Federal Perkins Loan Program, Federal Family Education Loan Program, and William D. Ford Federal Direct Loan Program (RIN: 1840-AC88) received November 27, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Education and Labor.

4171. A letter from the Asst. Gen. Counsel for Div. of Regulatory Services, Office of the General Counsel, Department of Education, transmitting the Department's final rule — Federal Student Aid Programs [Docket ID ED-2007-OPE-0134] (RIN: 1840-AC91) received November 27, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Education and Labor.

4172. A letter from the Asst. Gen. Counsel for Div. of Regulatory Services, Office of the General Counsel, Department of Education, transmitting the Department's final rule — Federal Perkins Loan Program, Federal Family Education Loan Program, and William D. Ford Federal Direct Loan Program [Docket ID ED-2007-OPE-0133] (RIN: 1840-0133] (RIN: 1840-AC89) received November 27, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Education and Labor.

4173. A letter from the Asst. Gen. Counsel for Div. of Regulatory Services, Office of the General Counsel, Department of Education, transmitting the Department's final rule — Academic Competitiveness Grant Program and National Science and Mathematics Access To Retain Talent Grant Program [Docket ID ED-2007-OPE-0135] (RIN: 1840-AC92) received November 27, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Education and Labor.

4174. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Employee Benefits Security Administration, Department of Labor, transmitting the Department's final rule — Annual Reporting and Disclosure (RIN: 1210-AB06) received November 27, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Education and Labor.

4175. A letter from the Principal Deputy Associate Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Certain Chemical Substances; Withdrawal of Significant New Use Rules [EPA-HQ-OPPT-2006-0898; FRL-8340-8] (RIN: 2070-AB27) received November 20, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

4176. 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; Massachusetts; State Implementation Plan Revision to Implement the Clean Air Interstate Rule [EPA-R01-OAR-2007-0401; [FRL-8496-6]] November 20, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

4177. A letter from the Principal Deputy Associate Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — National Volatile Organic Compound Emission Standards for Aerosol Coatings [EPA-HQ-OAR-2006-0971; FRL-8498-6] (RIN: 2060-AN69) received November 20, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

4178. A letter from the Administrator and Chief Executive Officer, Department of Energy, transmitting the 2007 Annual Report of the Bonneville Power Administration, pursuant to 16 U.S.C. 839(h)(12)(B) Public Law 96-501, section 4(h)(12)(A); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

4179. A letter from the President, African Development Foundation, transmitting a letter fulfilling the annual requirements contained in the Inspector General Act of 1978, as amended, covering the period October 1, 2006 to September 30, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. app. (Insp. Gen. Act), section 5(b); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

4180. A letter from the Chairman, Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, transmitting the semiannual report on the activities of the Office of Inspector General for the six-month period ending September 30, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. app. (Insp. Gen. Act), section 5(b); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

4181. A letter from the Chairman, Broadcasting Board of Governors, transmitting in accordance with the requirements of the Accountability of Tax Dollars Act of 2002 (Pub. L. 107-289), the Board's FY 2007 Performance and Accountability Report; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

4182. A letter from the Acting Chairman, Consumer Product Safety Commission, transmitting the Commission's FY 2007 Performance and Accountability Report; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

4183. A letter from the White House Liaison, Department of Education, transmitting a report pursuant to the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

4184. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Education, transmitting the Department's Fiscal Year 2007 Performance and Accountability Report; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

4185. A letter from the White House Liaison, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting a report pursuant to the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

4186. A letter from the Associate General Counsel for General Law, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting a report pursuant to the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

4187. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Housing and Urban Development, transmitting the Department's FY 2007 Report on Performance and Accountability; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

4188. A letter from the Attorney General, Department of Justice, transmitting the Department's FY 2007 Performance and Accountability Report; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

4189. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Labor, transmitting the Department's FY 2006 Annual Report on Performance and Accountability; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

4190. A letter from the Deputy Assistant General Counsel, Department of Transportation, transmitting a report pursuant to the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

4191. A letter from the President, Federal Financing Bank, transmitting the Annual Management Report of the Federal Financing Bank for fiscal year 2007, pursuant to 31 U.S.C. 9106; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

4192. A letter from the Secretary, Federal Maritime Commission, transmitting the Commission's semiannual report on the activities of the Office of Inspector General for the period April 1, 2007 to September 30, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. app. (Insp. Gen. Act) section 8G(h)(2); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

4193. A letter from the Chairman, Federal Trade Commission, transmitting the semiannual report on the activities of the Office of Inspector General for the period from April 1, 2007 through September 30, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. app. (Insp. Gen. Act), section 5(b); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

4194. A letter from the Chairman, Federal Trade Commission, transmitting the Commission's FY 2007 Performance and Accountability Report, as required by The Government Performance and Results Act of 1993 and The Accountability of Tax Dollars Act of FY 2002; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

4195. A letter from the Chairman, International Trade Commission, transmitting a

copy of the Commission's Performance and Accountability Report for FY 2007; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

4196. A letter from the Chairman, John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, transmitting the report due on October 31, 2007 of the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, pursuant to 20 U.S.C. 76l(c); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

4197. A letter from the Administrator, National Aeronautics and Space Administration, transmitting in accordance with the Reports Consolidation Act of 2000, Pub. L. 106-531, the Administration's FY 2007 Agency Financial Report; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

4198. A letter from the Chairman, National Credit Union Administration, transmitting the semiannual report on the activities of the Inspector General for April 1, 2007, through September 30, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. app. (Insp. Gen. Act) section 8G(h)(2); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

4199. A letter from the Chairman, National Endowment for the Arts, transmitting pursuant to the ''Accountability of Tax Dollars Act of 2002'' and related guidance from the Office of Management and Budget, the Endowment's Performance and Accountability Report for FY 2007; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

4200. A letter from the Director, U.S. Office of Personnel Management, Office of Personnel Management, transmitting the Office's final rule — Retention Incentives (RIN: 3206-AL41) received November 20, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

4201. A letter from the Board Memebers, Railroad Retirement Board, transmitting a copy of the Board's Performance and Accountability Report for Fiscal Year 2007, including the Office of Inspector General's Auditor's Report, Report on Internal Control, and Report on Compliance with Laws and Regulations; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

4202. A letter from the Chairman, Railroad Retirement Board, transmitting the semiannual report on activities of the Office of Inspector General for the period April 1, 2007, through September 30, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. app. (Insp. Gen. Act) section 5(d); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

4203. A letter from the Commissioner, Social Security Administration, transmitting the Administration's Fiscal Year 2007 Performance and Accountability Report; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

4204. A letter from the Acting Director, U.S. Trade and Development Agency, transmitting the Agency's Performance and Accountability Report including audited financial statements for fiscal year 2007; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

4205. A letter from the Chief, Regulatory Management Division, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Classification of Aliens as Children of United States Citizens Based on Intercountry Adoptions Under the Hague Convention [CIS No. 2098-00; DHS Docket No. USCIS-2007-0008] (RIN: 1615-AA43) received October 9, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on the Judiciary.

4206. A letter from the Chief Counsel, FEMA, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Hazard Mitigation Planning and Hazard Mitigation Grant Program [Docket ID FEMA-2007-0004] (RIN: 1660-AA17) received November 2, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

4207. A letter from the Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Pilatus Aircraft Limited Model PC-6 Series Airplanes [Docket No. FAA-2007-28157 Directorate Identifier 2007-CE-046-AD; Amendment 39-15138; AD 2007-15-09] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received November 6, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

4208. A letter from the Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Enstrom Helicopter Corporation Model F-28, F-28A, F-28C, F-28C-2, F-28C-2R, F-28F, F-28F-R, 280, 280C, 280F, 280FX, TH-28, 480, and 480B Helicopters [Docket No. FAA-2007-28813; Directorate Identifier 2007-SW-09-AD; Amendment 39-15140; AD 2007-16-01] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received November 6, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

4209. A letter from the Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; M7 Aerospace LP SA226 and SA227 Series Airplanes [Docket No. FAA-2006-25927; Directorate Identifier 2006-CE-52-AD; Amendment 39-15142; AD 2007-16-03] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received November 6, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

4210. A letter from the Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Fokker Model F27 Mark 050 Airplanes Equipped With Dowty Type R.352 or R.410 Series Propellers [Docket No. FAA-2007-28911; Directorate Identifier 2007-NM-002-AD; Amendment 39-15150; AD 2007-16-11] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received November 6, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

4211. A letter from the Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Teledyne Continental Motors Reciprocating (TCM) Engine Models IO-550-N, TSIO-520-BE, TSIO-550-A, TSIO-550-B, TSIO-550-C, TSIO-550-E, and TSIO-550-G [Docket No. FAA-2007-28863; Directorate Identifier 2007-NE-33-AD; Amendment 39-15149; AD 2007-16-10] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received November 6, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

4212. A letter from the Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; DG Flugzeugbau GmbH Model DG-500MB Gliders and Glaser-Dirks Flugzeugbau GmbH Model DG-800B Gliders [Docket No. FAA-2007-28610; Directorate Identifier 2007-CE-058-AD; Amendment 39-15166; AD 2007-17-08] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received November 6, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

4213. A letter from the Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Boeing Model 737-100, -200, -200C, -300, -400, and -500 Series Airplanes [Docket No. FAA-2007-28253; Directorate Identifier 2007-NM-031-AD; Amendment 39-15064; AD 2007-11-07] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received November 6, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

4214. A letter from the Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Pratt & Whitney (PW) JT9D-7R4 Series Turbofan Engines [Docket No. FAA-2006-23742; Directorate Identifier 2005-NE-53-AD; Amendment 39-15180; AD 2007-17-21] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received November 6, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

4215. A letter from the Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Boeing Model 737-300, -400, and -500 Series Airplanes [Docket No. FAA-2007-29071; Directorate Identifier 2007-NM-097-AD; Amendment 39-15183; AD 2007-18-03] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received November 6, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

4216. A letter from the Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Model A330 and A340 Airplanes [Docket No. FAA-2007-28258; Directorate Identifier 2006-NM-251-AD; Amendment 39-15181; AD 2007-18-01] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received November 6, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

4217. A letter from the Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Gulfstream Aerospace LP Model Galaxy Airplanes and Model Gulfstream 200 Airplanes [Docket No. FAA-2007-28353; Directorate Identifier 2007-NM-065-AD; Amendment 39-15174; AD 2007-17-16] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received November 6, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

4218. A letter from the Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Pacific Aerospace Corporation, Ltd. Model 750XL Airplanes [Docket No. FAA-2007-27864 Directorate Identifier 2007-CE-038-AD; Amendment 39-15161; AD 2007-17-03] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received November 6, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

4219. A letter from the Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Sikorsky Aircraft Corporation Model S92-A Helicopters [Docket No. FAA-2007-28971; Directorate Identifier 2007-SW-32-AD; Amendment 39-15163; AD 2007-17-05] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received November 6, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

4220. A letter from the Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Aquila Technische Entwicklungen GmbH (AQUILA) Model AT01 Airplanes [Docket No. FAA-2007-28842; Directorate Identifier 2007-CE-064-AD; Amendment 39-15162; AD 2007-17-04] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received November 6, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

4221. A letter from the Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Diamond Aircraft Industries GmbH Model DA 40 and DA 40F Airplanes [Docket No. FAA-2007-27974 Directorate Identifier 2007-CE-040-AD; Amendment 39-15164; AD 2007-17-06] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received November 6, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

4222. A letter from the Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Boeing Model 767 Airplanes [Docket No. FAA-2006-24952; Directorate Identifier 2006-NM-107-AD; Amendment 39-15157; AD 2007-16-18] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received November 6, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

4223. A letter from the Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Bombardier Model CL-600-2B19 (Regional Jet Series 100 & 440) Airplanes [Docket No. FAA-2007-29014; Directorate Identifier 2007-NM-179-AD; Amendment 39-15165; AD 2007-17-07] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received November 6, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

4224. A letter from the Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Mitsubishi Heavy Industries MU-2B Series Airplanes [Docket No. FAA-2007-27191; Directorate Identifier 2007-CE-007-AD; Amendment 39-15167; AD 2007-17-09] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received November 6, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

4225. A letter from the National Adjutant, Disabled American Veterans, transmitting the 2007 National Convention Proceedings Of The Disabled American Veterans, pursuant to 36 U.S.C. 90i and 44 U.S.C. 1332; (H. Doc. No. 110–77); to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs and ordered to be printed.

4226. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule — Section 401.—Qualified Pension, Profit-Sharing, and Stock Bonus Plans 26 CFR 1.401(I)-1: Permitted disparity in employer-provided contributions or benefits (Rev. Rul. 2007-71) received November 27, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

4227. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule — Section 1274.—Determination of Issue Price in the Case of Certain Debt Instruments Issued for Property (Also Sections 42, 280G, 382, 412, 467, 468, 482, 483, 642, 807, 846, 1288, 7520, 7872.) (Rev. Rul. 2007-70) received November 27, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

4228. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule — 26 CFR 601.105: Examination of returns and claims for refund, credit, or abatement; determination of correct tax liability. (Also Part 1, 62, 162, 170, 213, 217, 274, 1016; 1.62-2, 1.162-17, 1.170A-1, 1.213-1, 1.217-2, 1.274-5, 1.1016-3.) (Rev. Proc. 2007-70) received November 27, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

4229. A letter from the Program Manager, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's final rule — Revisit User Fee Program for Medicare Survey and Certification Activities [CMS-2278-IFC] (RIN: 0938-AP22) received November 1, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); jointly to the Committees on Ways and Means and Energy and Commerce.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES ON PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XIII, reports of committees were delivered to the Clerk for printing and reference to the proper calendar, as follows:

Mr. RAHALL: Committee on Natural Resources. H.R. 236. A bill to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to create a Bureau of Reclamation partnership with the North Bay Water Reuse Authority and other regional partners to achieve objectives relating to water supply, water quality, and environmental restoration; with an amendment (Rept. 110–458). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union.

Mr. RAHALL: Committee on Natural Resources. H.R. 1662. A bill to amend the Reclamation Safety of Dams Act of 1978 to authorize improvements for the security of dams and other facilities; with amendments (Rept. 110–459). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union.

Mr. RAHALL: Committee on Natural Resources. H.R. 2058. A bill to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to convey to the McGee Creek Authority certain facilities of the McGee Creek Project, Oklahoma, and for other purposes (Rept. 110–460). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union.

Mr. RAHALL: Committee on Natural Resources. H.R. 2246. A bill to validate certain conveyances made by the Union Pacific Railroad Company of lands located in Reno, Nevada, that were originally conveyed by the United States to facilitate construction of transcontinental railroads, and for other purposes; with amendments (Rept. 110–461). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union.

Mr. RAHALL: Committee on Natural Resources. H.R. 3998. A bill to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to conduct special resources studies of certain lands and structures to determine the appropriate means for preservation, use, and management of the resources associated with such lands and structures; with an amendment (Rept. 110–462). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union.

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts: Committee on Financial Services. H.R. 2930. A bill to amend section 202 of the Housing Act of 1959 to improve the program under such section for supportive housing for the elderly, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 110–463. Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union.

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts: Committee on Financial Services. H.R. 3873. A bill to expedite the transfer of ownership of rural multifamily housing projects with loans made or insured under section 515 of the Housing Act of 1949 so that such projects are rehabilitated and preserved for use for affordable housing (Rept. 110–464. Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union.

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts: Committee on Financial Services. H.R. 4043. A bill to amend the Financial Institutions Reform, Recovery, and Enforcement Act of 1989 to preserve and expand military depository institutions, and for other purposes (Rept. 110–465). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union.

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts: Committee on Financial Services. H.R. 4050. A bill to require the Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency to issue guidance providing a process for consideration of the flood protections afforded by certain structures for purposes of the national flood insurance program (Rept. 110–466). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union.

Mr. CONYERS: Committee on the Judiciary. H.R. 1759. A bill to establish guidelines and incentives for States to establish arsonist registries and to require the Attorney General to establish a national arsonist registry and notification program, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 110–467). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union.

Mr. CONYERS: Committee on the Judiciary. H.R. 2489. A bill to amend section 1091 of title 18, United States Code, to allow the prosecution of genocide in appropriate circumstances (Rept. 110–468). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union.

Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania: Committee on House Administration. H.R. 3690. A bill to provide for the transfer of the Library of Congress police to the United States Capitol Police, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 110–470 Pt. 1). Ordered to be printed.

Mr. WELCH of Vermont: Committee on Rules. H. Res. 839. A resolution waiving a requirement of clause 6(a) of rules XIII with respect to consideration of certain resolutions reported from the Committee on Rules (Rept. 110–471). Referred to the House Calendar.

DISCHARGE OF COMMITTEE

[The following action occurred on November 20, 2007]

Pursuant to clause 2 of rule XII the Committee on the Judiciary discharged from further consideration H.R. 3887 referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union.

[Submitted December 4, 2007]

Pursuant to clause 2 of rule XII the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure discharged from further consideration H.R. 3690 referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union.

REPORTED BILL SEQUENTIALLY REFERRED

Under clause 2 of rule XII, bills and reports were delivered to the Clerk for printing, and bills referred as follows:

Mr. RAHALL: Committee on Natural Resources. H.R. 3079. A bill to amend the Joint Resolution Approving the Covenant to Establish a Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, and for other purposes; with an amendment; referred to the Committee on Judiciary for a period ending not later than December 11, 2007, for consideration of such provisions of the bill and amendment as fall within the jurisdiction of that committee pursuant to clause 1(k), rule X (Rept. 110–469, Pt. 1). Ordered to be printed.

PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XII, public bills and resolutions were introduced and severally referred, as follows:

By Mr. TOWNS:

H.R. 4251. A bill to authorize the Secretary of Health and Human Services to conduct a demonstration project for administering influenza vaccine to elementary and middle school students in qualified low-income schools, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Education and Labor, 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. CHABOT:

H.R. 4252. A bill to provide for an additional temporary extension of programs under the Small Business Act and the Small Business Investment Act of 1958 through May 23, 2008, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Small Business.

By Mr. ALTMIRE (for himself, Mr. BUCHANAN, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, and Mr. CHABOT):

H.R. 4253. A bill to improve and expand small business assistance programs for veterans of the armed forces and military reservists, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Small Business.

By Mr. FILNER:

H.R. 4254. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide a one-time increase in the amount excludable from the

sale of a principal residence by taxpayers who have attained age 50; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. FILNER:

H.R. 4255. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to authorize the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to provide assistance to the Paralympic Program of the United States Olympic Committee, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. DENT:

H.R. 4256. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on Anacamine 2422 Curing Agent; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. DENT:

H.R. 4257. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on hexafluoro isopropyl methyl ether (HFMOP); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. MICA:

H.R. 4258. A bill to establish the St. Augustine 450th Commemoration Commission, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Mr. BAKER:

H.R. 4259. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on Nickel Carbonate (NiCO3); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. BAKER:

H.R. 4260. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on Cobalt Carbonate (CoCO3); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. GRAVES:

H.R. 4261. A bill to provide the Consumer Product Safety Commission with greater flexibility in addressing consumer concerns; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. HOEKSTRA:

H.R. 4262. A bill to amend the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 to authorize additional flexibility to a State with an unemployment rate that is equal to or greater than 125 percent of the national unemployment rate to transfer funds among programs made available to such State by various provisions of that Act, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and Labor.

By Mr. MELANCON (for himself and Mr. GERLACH):

H.R. 4263. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow a tax credit for charitable contributions to private, nonprofit charities providing health insurance premium assistance and drug co-payment assistance, thereby transitioning uninsured Americans into private insurance and transitioning Medicaid patients into private insurance, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. MILLER of Florida (for himself, Mr. BILIRAKIS, Mr. YOUNG of Florida, Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida, Mr. STEARNS, Mr. BUCHANAN, Mr. BOYD of Florida, Mr. WHITFIELD, Mr. MACK, Mr. MARIO DIAZ-BALART of Florida, Mr. SPACE, Mr. BROWN of South Carolina, Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida, Mr. MICHAUD, and Mr. MICA):

H.R. 4264. A bill to name the Department of Veterans Affairs spinal cord injury center in Tampa, Florida, as the ''Michael Bilirakis Department of Veterans Affairs Spinal Cord Injury Center''; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. ROTHMAN (for himself, Mr. PAYNE, and Mr. SIRES):

H.R. 4265. A bill to help keep students safe on school-run, overnight, off-premises field trips; to the Committee on Education and Labor.

By Ms. SCHWARTZ (for herself and Mr. MCGOVERN):

H.R. 4266. A bill to direct the Consumer Product Safety Commission to issue regulations concerning the safety and labeling of certain furniture; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Ms. SCHWARTZ:

H.R. 4267. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on Epilink 701; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. SESSIONS:

H.R. 4268. A bill to reduce temporarily the duty on potassium sorbate; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. SESSIONS:

H.R. 4269. A bill to reduce temporarily the duty on sorbic acid; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. SESSIONS:

H.R. 4270. A bill to reduce temporarily the duty on triethylene glycol bis[3-(3-tert-butyl-4-hydroxy-5-methylphenyl) propionate]; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. SHADEGG:

H.R. 4271. A bill to amend the Clean Air Act to provide for a waiver of certain prohibitions and limitations on fuels and fuel additives, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. STUPAK:

H.R. 4272. A bill to amend chapter 15 of title 5, United States Code, to provide for an additional, limited exception to the provision prohibiting a State or local officer or employee from being a candidate for elective office; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Mr. STUPAK:

H.R. 4273. A bill to designate the Department of Veterans Affairs clinic in Alpena, Michigan, as the ''Lieutenant Colonel Clement C. Van Wagoner Department of Veterans Affairs Clinic''; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. WALSH of New York:

H.R. 4274. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide for the payment of a monthly stipend to the surviving parents (known as ''Gold Star parents'') of members of the Armed Forces who die during a period of war; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. WELCH of Vermont (for himself, Mrs. CHRISTENSEN, Mr. WYNN, Ms. SHEA-PORTER, Mr. ALLEN, Mr. ROSS, Mr. MICHAUD, Mr. ELLISON, Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin, Mr. HARE, Mr. COURTNEY, Mr. HODES, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. COHEN, Mr. MCGOVERN, and Mr. CONYERS):

H.R. 4275. A bill to provide additional appropriations for payments under section 2604(e) of the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Act of 1981; to the Committee on Appropriations.

By Ms. MATSUI (for herself, Mr. BECERRA, and Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas):

H.J. Res. 65. A joint resolution providing for the appointment of John W. McCarter as a citizen regent of the Board of Regents of the Smithsonian Institution; to the Committee on House Administration.

By Ms. HIRONO (for herself and Mr. ABERCROMBIE):

H. Con. Res. 264. Concurrent resolution honoring the University of Hawaii for its 100 years of commitment to public higher education; to the Committee on Education and Labor.

By Ms. LEE (for herself, Mr. WAXMAN, Mrs. CHRISTENSEN, Mr. MURPHY of Connecticut, Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas, Mr. TOWNS, Mr. ELLISON, Ms. NORTON, Mr. JEFFERSON, Mrs. JONES of Ohio, Mr. MEEKS of New York, Ms. KILPATRICK, Ms. DELAURO, Mr. MCDERMOTT, Mr. ISRAEL, Mr. RUSH, Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. CUMMINGS, Mr. STARK, and Ms. MCCOLLUM of Minnesota):

H. Con. Res. 265. Concurrent resolution supporting the goals and ideals of World AIDS Day; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, 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. GEORGE MILLER of California:

H. Res. 836. A resolution granting the authority provided under clause 4(c)(3) of rule X of the Rules of the House of Representatives to the Committee on Education and Labor for purposes of its investigation into the deaths of 9 individuals that occurred at the Crandall Canyon Mine near Huntington, Utah; to the Committee on Rules.

By Mr. INSLEE:

H. Res. 837. A resolution providing for the concurrence by the House in the Senate amendment to H.R. 710, with amendments; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. MCCOTTER:

H. Res. 838. A resolution welcoming His Holiness Pope Benedict XVI on his first apostolic visit to the United States; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. FRANKS of Arizona (for himself, Mr. WOLF, Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, Mr. BURGESS, Mr. KING of Iowa, Mr. PITTS, Mrs. MUSGRAVE, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, and Mr. RAHALL):

H. Res. 840. A resolution calling for the protection of human rights and restoration of rule of law in Pakistan; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Ms. MATSUI:

H. Res. 841. A resolution honoring the career and accomplishments of Robert Carlson as a Board Member of the California Public Employees' Retirement System (''CalPERS''); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Mr. ROTHMAN (for himself, Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. ENGEL, Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, Mr. MCDERMOTT, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. RYAN of Ohio, Mr. MORAN of Virginia, Mr. ISRAEL, Mr. FATTAH, Ms. KAPTUR, Mr. BERMAN, Ms. BORDALLO, Mr. CROWLEY, Mr. WEXLER, Mr. HONDA, Ms. MCCOLLUM of Minnesota, Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. COHEN, Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, and Ms. LEE):

H. Res. 842. A resolution expressing sympathy to and pledging the support of the House of Representatives and the people of the United States for the victims of Cyclone Sidr in southern Bangladesh; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. ROSKAM (for himself, Mr. COSTELLO, Mr. LIPINSKI, Mr. BOEHNER, Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, Mr. PITTS, Mr. MANZULLO, Mr. WELLER, Mr. JOHNSON of Illinois, Mr. LAHOOD, Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. KIRK, Mr. SHIMKUS, and Mr. BLUNT):

H. Res. 843. A resolution mourning the passing of Congressman Henry J. Hyde and celebrating his leadership and service to the people of Illinois and the United States of America; to the Committee on House Administration.

PRIVATE BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 3 of rule XII, private bills and resolutions of the following titles were introduced and severally referred, as follows:

By Mr. WALSH of New York:

H.R. 4276. A bill for the relief of William Becker; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. WALSH of New York:

H.R. 4277. A bill for the relief of Maria Manzano; 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. 192: Mr. GERLACH.
H.R. 270: Mr. STEARNS.
H.R. 368: Mr. GONZALEZ and Mr. CUMMINGS.
H.R. 405: Mr. SNYDER and Mr. CLAY.
H.R. 463: Mr. LIPINSKI and Mr. WELCH of Vermont.
H.R. 481: Mr. AKIN and Mr. BOOZMAN.
H.R. 522: Mr. WYNN.
H.R. 539: Mr. HALL of New York.
H.R. 549: Mrs. BIGGERT and Mr. KENNEDY.
H.R. 621: Mr. MOORE of Kansas, Mrs. CAPITO and Mr. HINOJOSA.
H.R. 627: Ms. HARMAN, Mrs. CAPPS and Mr. ROTHMAN.
H.R. 648: Mr. COHEN.
H.R. 690: Mr. MICA and Mr. SHULER.
H.R. 699: Mr. WALDEN of Oregon.
H.R. 748: Mr. PETERSON of Pennsylvania, Mr. STUPAK and Mr. ARCURI.
H.R. 760: Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. MCCOTTER, Mr. BACA, Mr. SHULER and Ms. ESHOO.
H.R. 768: Mr. KLINE of Minnesota.
H.R. 782: Ms. CASTOR.
H.R. 821: Ms. LEE, Mrs. CAPPS, Mr. ROTHMAN, Mr. LYNCH, Mr. ROSS, Mr. COHEN, Mr. ABERCROMBIE, and Mr. SHIMKUS.
H.R. 823: Mr. SIRES.
H.R. 861: Mr. LARSEN of Washington.
H.R. 887: Mr. ACKERMAN.
H.R. 891: Mr. COLE of Oklahoma and Mr. CUMMINGS.
H.R. 897: Mr. HODES.
H.R. 962: Mr. FARR.
H.R. 984: Mr. RUSH.
H.R. 997: Mr. MCHENRY.
H.R. 1000: Mr. RYAN of Ohio, Mr. KLEIN of Florida, Mr. FILNER, and Mr. LANTOS.
H.R. 1014: Mr. LINCOLN DAVIS of Tennessee.
H.R. 1023: Ms. GIFFORDS, Mr. HILL, and Ms. HOOLEY.
H.R. 1029: Mr. WILSON of Ohio, Mr. ALTMIRE, and Mr. HAYES.
H.R. 1055: Mr. RUSH and Mr. BUTTERFIELD.
H.R. 1078: Mr. MCHUGH, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. ELLISON, and Mr. MCCOTTER.
H.R. 1108: Ms. TSONGAS and Ms. CASTOR.
H.R. 1134: Ms. NORTON, Mr. TOWNS, Mr. ROGERS of Michigan, and Mr. DEFAZIO.
H.R. 1142: Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania.
H.R. 1146: Mr. DUNCAN.
H.R. 1166: Mr. ROSS, Mr. SHULER, Mr. ROTHMAN, and Mr. COHEN.
H.R. 1169: Mr. ROTHMAN, Mr. ROSS, and Mr. COHEN.
H.R. 1188: Mr. LOBIONDO and Mr. LARSON of Connecticut.
H.R. 1192: Mr. ALTMIRE and Mr. ENGEL.
H.R. 1194: Mr. MCCOTTER.
H.R. 1216: Mr. HONDA.
H.R. 1222: Mr. SESTAK, Mr. YOUNG of Alaska, and Mr. LATOURETTE.
H.R. 1223: Mr. SESTAK, Mr. RUPPERSBERGER, and Mr. YOUNG of Alaska.
H.R. 1280: Mr. ARCURI and Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California.
H.R. 1293: Mr. SMITH of New Jersey.
H.R. 1304: Mr. COURTNEY and Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida.
H.R. 1310: Mr. GOODE.
H.R. 1322: Mr. SCOTT of Virginia.
H.R. 1343: Mr. MURTHA.
H.R. 1355: Mr. ALEXANDER.
H.R. 1359: Mr. HOEKSTRA and Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas.
H.R. 1386: Mr. CARDOZA, Ms. RICHARDSON, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, and Mr. LARSON of Connecticut.
H.R. 1409: Mr. BAKER.
H.R. 1420: Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia.
H.R. 1426: Mr. SHULER.
H.R. 1461: Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia and Mr. MORAN of Virginia.
H.R. 1474: Mr. CROWLEY.
H.R. 1497: Mr. FILNER, Mr. TOWNS, and Mr. RENZI.
H.R. 1524: Ms. MATSUI, Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, Ms. FOXX, and Mr. CHANDLER.
H.R. 1542: Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. JACKSON of Illinois, Mr. PASCRELL, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. CLEAVER, and Mrs. CHRISTENSEN.
H.R. 1553: Mr. YOUNG of Alaska, Mr. DUNCAN, and Mr. WELDON of Florida.
H.R. 1560: Mr. COURTNEY.
H.R. 1576: Mr. COURTNEY, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. BARROW, and Mr. WELDON of Florida.
H.R. 1621: Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. PASTOR, and Mr. MURTHA.
H.R. 1647: Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, Mr. CANNON, Mr. LYNCH, Ms. BORDALLO, and Mr. FILNER.
H.R. 1650: Mr. BONNER.
H.R. 1653: Mr. BAIRD, Mr. RYAN of Ohio, Mr. GONZALEZ, and Mr. SHERMAN.
H.R. 1655: Mr. SHAYS.
H.R. 1671: Mr. GRIJALVA.
H.R. 1691: Mrs. CAPPS and Mr. SHERMAN.
H.R. 1746: Mrs. BLACKBURN and Mr. VAN HOLLEN.
H.R. 1791: Mr. ROSS.
H.R. 1818: Mr. ALLEN and Ms. GRANGER.
H.R. 1820: Mr. PRICE of North Carolina and Mr. SHERMAN.
H.R. 1823: Mr. SHADEGG.
H.R. 1843: Mr. CANTOR, Mr. TIBERI, and Mr. ROGERS of Michigan.
H.R. 1846: Mr. BAIRD.
H.R. 1924: Mr. RENZI.
H.R. 1927: Mr. ALLEN.
H.R. 1952: Mr. BARROW.
H.R. 1992: Ms. MATSUI, Mr. SERRANO, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. UDALL of Colorado, and Mr. WU.
H.R. 2021: Mr. KAGEN, Mr. ISRAEL, Mr. KLEIN of Florida, Mr. WAXMAN, Ms. DELAURO, Mr. CLAY, Mr. PATRICK MURPHY of Pennsylvania, Mr. ROTHMAN, Mrs. CAPPS, Mr. FATTAH, and Mr. BERMAN.
H.R. 2032: Mr. AL GREEN of Texas.
H.R. 2040: Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia.
H.R. 2045: Ms. SOLIS.
H.R. 2046: Mr. SMITH of Washington, Mr. ANDREWS, and Mr. LARSON of Connecticut.
H.R. 2049: Mr. HALL of New York, Mr. TOWNS, and Mr. RANGEL.
H.R. 2053: Mr. STEARNS, Mr. ROTHMAN, and Mr. COURTNEY.
H.R. 2066: Mr. FILNER.
H.R. 2087: Mr. ROSS.
H.R. 2103: Mr. SMITH of Washington and Mr. GORDON.
H.R. 2116: Mr. HOLDEN, Ms. SLAUGHTER, Mrs. DRAKE, Mr. BOSWELL, Mr. HINCHEY, Mr. SIRES, and Mr. WU.
H.R. 2123: Mr. SHERMAN, Ms. WATSON, Mr. HOLDEN, and Mr. HALL of New York.
H.R. 2131: Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida.
H.R. 2133: Mr. MICHAUD.
H.R. 2140: Mr. WATT and Mr. ANDREWS.
H.R. 2160: Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York and Mr. WALSH of New York.
H.R. 2164: Mr. HALL of New York and Mr. NUNES.
H.R. 2169: Ms. CLARKE, Mr. ISRAEL, and Mr. UDALL of Colorado.
H.R. 2210: Mr. SCOTT of Georgia.
H.R. 2234: Mr. MOORE of Kansas.
H.R. 2266: Mr. LIPINSKI.
H.R. 2275: Mr. HUNTER.
H.R. 2287: Mr. ROTHMAN and Mr. ROSS.
H.R. 2290: Mr. BOUSTANY.
H.R. 2292: Mr. COHEN.
H.R. 2302: Mr. SOUDER.
H.R. 2329: Mr. CAPUANO.
H.R. 2353: Mr. BUTTERFIELD, Mr. MCGOVERN, and Mr. GILCHREST.
H.R. 2370: Mr. FERGUSON, Mr. ALLEN, Mr. CAMPBELL of California, and Mr. SMITH of New Jersey.
H.R. 2380: Mr. ALEXANDER.
H.R. 2391: Mr. GOODE.
H.R. 2405: Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida.
H.R. 2447: Ms. ESHOO.
H.R. 2464: Mr. CANNON and Ms. MCCOLLUM of Minnesota.
H.R. 2472: Mr. ROSS.
H.R. 2477: Mr. RUPPERSBERGER.
H.R. 2550: Mr. RADANOVICH, Mr. RUPPERSBERGER, Mr. WELDON of Florida, Mr. MICHAUD, Mr. HERGER, Mr. LOBIONDO, Mr. HAYES, Mr. CALVERT, Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida, and Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky.
H.R. 2567: Mr. WAMP and Mr. AKIN.
H.R. 2677: Ms. SCHWARTZ.
H.R. 2702: Ms. GIFFORDS, Mr. LAMPSON, Mr. ROTHMAN, and Mr. LANTOS.
H.R. 2762: Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr. CHANDLER, Mr. MORAN of Virginia, Ms. WOOLSEY, Mr. BACA, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. THOMPSON of California, Mr. SMITH of Texas, and Mr. GILCHREST.
H.R. 2818: Mr. PLATTS.
H.R. 2827: Mr. ETHERIDGE.
H.R. 2833: Mr. CLEAVER.
H.R. 2866: Mr. CHABOT, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, and Mr. TOWNS.
H.R. 2880: Mr. CONAWAY and Mr. ALLEN.
H.R. 2892: Mrs. LOWEY.
H.R. 2894: Ms. PELOSI, Mr. TANCREDO, Mr. BRALEY of Iowa, Mrs. CAPPS, and Mr. HINOJOSA.
H.R. 2903: Mr. HONDA.
H.R. 2914: Mrs. JONES of Ohio.
H.R. 2915: Mr. TOWNS.
H.R. 2928: Mr. ALLEN, Mr. TIM MURPHY of Pennsylvania, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. SCOTT of Georgia, Mr. COURTNEY, Mr. ALTMIRE, Mr. HONDA, Mr. DAVIS of Alabama, Mr. YARMUTH, Mr. SIRES, Mr. PASCRELL, Mr. KENNEDY, Ms. WOOLSEY, Mr. SHULER, Mr. LYNCH, Mr. ROSS, and Mr. COHEN.
H.R. 2932: Mrs. CAPPS.
H.R. 2933: Mr. FORBES, Mr. GONZALEZ, Mr. LINDER, Mrs. TAUSCHER, Mr. OBERSTAR, and Mr. HINOJOSA.
H.R. 2934: Mr. ARCURI.
H.R. 2940: Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin.
H.R. 2942: Mr. SOUDER and Ms. CASTOR.
H.R. 2943: Mr. PATRICK MURPHY of Pennsylvania, Mr. SCOTT of Virginia, Ms. RICHARDSON, Mrs. CHRISTENSEN, Mr. COHEN, and Mr. LAMPSON.
H.R. 2946: Ms. CASTOR, Mr. ROSS, Mr. ROTHMAN, Mr. COHEN, and Mr. SHIMKUS.
H.R. 2954: Mr. BURTON of Indiana and Ms. FALLIN.
H.R. 2994: Mr. MARKEY, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. GONZALEZ, Mr. PLATTS, Mr. MURTHA, Mr. RAHALL, and Mr. BERMAN.
H.R. 3001: Mr. KENNEDY.
H.R. 3005: Mr. PASTOR and Mr. SARBANES.
H.R. 3008: Mr. BOUCHER.
H.R. 3026: Mr. BAIRD.
H.R. 3036: Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California.
H.R. 3042: Mr. ALTMIRE and Ms. BORDALLO.
H.R. 3091: Ms. HIRONO.
H.R. 3099: Mrs. CAPPS, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. HONDA, and Mr. CARTER.
H.R. 3168: Mr. RUSH.
H.R. 3195: Mr. MCNERNEY, Mr. BECERRA, and Mr. PORTER.
H.R. 3232: Mr. RENZI, Mrs. TAUSCHER, Mr. AL GREEN of Texas, Mr. BARRETT of South Carolina, and Mr. BUTTERFIELD.
H.R. 3251: Mr. CUMMINGS.
H.R. 3262: Mr. MCCOTTER.
H.R. 3314: Mr. CONYERS and Mr. BLUMENAUER.
H.R. 3326: Ms. CLARKE, Mr. SHERMAN, Mr. HONDA, and Mr. ELLISON.
H.R. 3339: Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California.
H.R. 3347: Mr. CUMMINGS.
H.R. 3368: Ms. KAPTUR, Mr. NEAL of Massachusetts, Ms. NORTON, Mr. JEFFERSON, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. MCNULTY, Mr. MEEKS of New York, Mr. BURTON of Indiana, Mr. NADLER, Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, and Mr. MICA.

H.R. 3374: Mr. ABERCROMBIE.
H.R. 3389: Mrs. GILLIBRAND.
H.R. 3404: Mr. RUPPERSBERGER and Mr. COURTNEY.
H.R. 3409: Mr. PASTOR and Mr. TOWNS.
H.R. 3426: Mr. ROSS.
H.R. 3429: Mrs. JONES of Ohio, Mr. AL GREEN of Texas, and Mr. GERLACH.
H.R. 3457: Mr. UDALL of Colorado, Mr. ALLEN, and Mr. MCCARTHY of California.
H.R. 3480: Mr. TANNER.
H.R. 3481: Mr. RUSH and Mr. HINOJOSA.
H.R. 3533: Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, Mrs. WILSON of New Mexico, Mr. MOORE of Kansas, Mr. PLATTS, Ms. HOOLEY, Mr. LYNCH, Ms. FOXX, Mr. STEARNS, Mr. HINOJOSA, Mr. MEEK of Florida, Mr. MICHAUD, and Mr. TERRY.
H.R. 3543: Mr. SHULER and Mr. CUMMINGS.
H.R. 3544: Mr. KLEIN of Florida, Mrs. DAVIS of California, Ms. WATERS, Mr. SCOTT of Georgia, and Mr. WILSON of Ohio.
H.R. 3605: Ms. SCHWARTZ.
H.R. 3606: Mr. HONDA.
H.R. 3609: Mr. HONDA and Mr. CUMMINGS.
H.R. 3622: Mr. SALAZAR, Mr. BRALEY of Iowa, Mr. COURTNEY, Mr. BOYD of Florida, and Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ.
H.R. 3636: Mr. STUPAK, Mr. GRIJALVA, and Mr. HONDA.
H.R. 3637: Mr. HARE.
H.R. 3643: Mr. BLUMENAUER, Ms. BORDALLO, Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, Mr. SERRANO, Ms. DELAURO, Mr. FILNER, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Mr. KUCINICH, Ms. LEE, Mr. HINCHEY, Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. DELAHUNT, Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California, Mr. MARKEY, Mrs. DAVIS of California, and Ms. SOLIS.
H.R. 3646: Mr. WALZ of Minnesota, Mrs. CHRISTENSEN, Mr. HOLDEN, Mr. KELLER, and Mr. BROWN of South Carolina.
H.R. 3647: Mr. MCHENRY.
H.R. 3663: Mr. SHAYS, Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. ANDREWS, Mr. KIRK, Mr. STARK, and Mr. CASTLE.
H.R. 3691: Mr. WEXLER, Mr. MARKEY, Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. LOEBSACK, and Mr. SCHIFF.
H.R. 3697: Mr. WAMP and Ms. MCCOLLUM of Minnesota.
H.R. 3700: Mr. POMEROY, Mr. BOUCHER, Mr. CUMMINGS, Mr. GOODE, Mr. MELANCON, and Mr. DAVIS of Illinois.
H.R. 3726: Mrs. BOYDA of Kansas.
H.R. 3729: Mrs. BONO and Mr. GARY G. MILLER of California.
H.R. 3779: Mr. GILCHREST.
H.R. 3791: Mrs. BOYDA of Kansas.
H.R. 3793: Ms. KILPATRICK, Mr. BAIRD, Mr. FATTAH, Mr. CHANDLER, Mrs. CHRISTENSEN, Mr. MCCARTHY of California, Mr. FORTENBERRY, Mr. REYNOLDS, Mr. LINCOLN DAVIS of Tennessee, Mr. GOHMERT, Mr. BARTLETT of Maryland, Mr. SHERMAN, Mr. OBERSTAR, Mr. SCOTT of Georgia, Mr. BROWN of South Carolina, Mr. BURTON of Indiana, Mr. SOUDER, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. HALL of Texas, Mr. BAKER, Mr. CALVERT, Mrs. MUSGRAVE, Mr. RANGEL, Mr. GOODE, Mr. FOSSELLA, Mr. WOLF, and Mr. ANDREWS.
H.R. 3797: Mr. MOORE of Kansas and Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas.
H.R. 3844: Mr. MORAN of Kansas.
H.R. 3854: Mr. WYNN and Mr. ANDREWS.
H.R. 3862: Mr. TOWNS.
H.R. 3865: Mr. AL GREEN of Texas, Mr. FILNER, Mr. WILSON of Ohio, Ms. MATSUI, Mr. COSTELLO, Mr. LOBIONDO, Mr. ETHERIDGE, Mr. MCINTYRE, Mr. CLAY, and Mr. COHEN.
H.R. 3881: Ms. MATSUI.
H.R. 3890: Mrs. DAVIS of California, Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California, Mr. DOGGETT, and Mr. WAMP.
H.R. 3905: Mrs. TAUSCHER, Mr. MCNULTY, Mr. HINOJOSA, and Mr. GONZALEZ.
H.R. 3918: Mr. SARBANES.
H.R. 3926: Mr. FILNER, Mr. HINCHEY, Mr. MCNERNEY, Mr. MILLER of Florida, and Ms. CASTOR.
H.R. 3932: Mr. FILNER and Ms. LEE.
H.R. 3934: Mr. BILBRAY, Mr. RENZI, Mr. UPTON, Mr. EHLERS, Mr. GRAVES, Mr. WALBERG, and Mr. BERRY.
H.R. 3938: Ms. SCHAKOWSKY.
H.R. 3939: Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California and Mr. GONZALEZ.
H.R. 3954: Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania.
H.R. 3981: Mr. MCINTYRE, Mr. WELCH of Vermont, and Mrs. BLACKBURN.
H.R. 3995: Mr. MCGOVERN and Mr. GONZALEZ.
H.R. 4011: Mr. HINCHEY, Mr. LAMBORN, Mr. RENZI, Mrs. MCMORRIS RODGERS, and Mr. THOMPSON of California.
H.R. 4017: Mr. GARY G. MILLER of California.
H.R. 4040: Ms. SUTTON, Mr. FARR, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. REYES, Mr. HINOJOSA, Mr. VISCLOSKY, Mr. PERLMUTTER, Mr. SPACE, and Mr. MOORE of Kansas.
H.R. 4054: Mrs. JONES of Ohio, Ms. WATERS, Ms. CARSON, Mr. CUMMINGS, Ms. TSONGAS, Mr. GONZALEZ, Mr. NEAL of Massachusetts, Mr. CARNEY, Mr. HINOJOSA, Mr. SPRATT, Mr. THOMPSON of California, and Mr. DELAHUNT.
H.R. 4063: Mr. GUTIERREZ, Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania, and Mr. LANTOS.
H.R. 4065: Ms. FOXX.
H.R. 4066: Mr. MCGOVERN, Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York, Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, Mr. ALLEN, and Mr. MICHAUD.
H.R. 4071: Mr. RAHALL, Mr. GORDON, and Mrs. CHRISTENSEN.
H.R. 4078: Mr. BOOZMAN.
H.R. 4087: Mr. BISHOP of New York.
H.R. 4088: Mr. SHIMKUS, Mr. PLATTS, Mr. DENT, Mr. YOUNG of Alaska, Mr. LATOURETTE, Ms. FOXX, Mr. KLINE of Minnesota, and Mr. GERLACH.
H.R. 4090: Mr. BILBRAY.
H.R. 4097: Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania.
H.R. 4105: Mr. MCNULTY, Mrs. LOWEY, Mrs. DAVIS of California, Mrs. MALONEY of New York, Mr. TAYLOR, Ms. MCCOLLUM of Minnesota, Mr. FILNER, Mrs. TAUSCHER, Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California, and Mr. SCHIFF.
H.R. 4119: Mr. HERGER.
H.R. 4121: Mr. BRALEY of Iowa.
H.R. 4137: Mr. SARBANES, Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York, Mr. HARE, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. TIERNEY, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. COURTNEY, Mrs. DAVIS of California, Mr. YARMUTH, Mr. WU, Ms. SHEA-PORTER, and Mr. SCOTT of Virginia.
H.R. 4141: Mrs. MCMORRIS RODGERS.
H.R. 4152: Ms. SUTTON.
H.R. 4157: Mr. MARCHANT, Mr. INGLIS of South Carolina, Mr. BISHOP of Utah, Mr. MCCAUL of Texas, Mr. ALEXANDER, and Mr. KLINE of Minnesota.
H.R. 4173: Mrs. MALONEY of New York, Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas, and Mr. HOLT.
H.R. 4174: Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California.
H.R. 4176: Mr. HOEKSTRA, Mr. JONES of North Carolina, and Mr. WALBERG.
H.R. 4188: Mr. COHEN and Mr. ABERCROMBIE.
H.R. 4200: Mr. BUTTERFIELD.
H.R. 4201: Mr. RAMSTAD, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, Mr. WESTMORELAND, and Mrs. MYRICK.
H.R. 4204: Mr. DELAHUNT, Ms. WATSON, Mr. MCDERMOTT, Mrs. MALONEY of New York, Mr. HOLDEN, Ms. BERKLEY, Mr. ROSS, Ms. SUTTON, and Mr. DONNELLY.
H.R. 4205: Ms. SCHAKOWSKY and Mr. GORDON.
H.R. 4206: Mr. MOORE of Kansas and Mr. LARSON of Connecticut.
H.R. 4220: Mr. NEAL of Massachusetts.
H.R. 4229: Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania and Mr. ENGEL.
H.R. 4237: Mr. HASTINGS of Florida.
H.J. Res. 9: Mr. HERGER.
H.J. Res. 12: Mr. HERGER.
H.J. Res. 14: Mr. FARR.
H.J. Res. 53: Mr. BLUMENAUER.
H. Con. Res. 28: Mr. SMITH of New Jersey.
H. Con. Res. 81: Mr. GONZALEZ and Mr. HONDA.
H. Con. Res. 137: Mr. LINDER.
H. Con. Res. 163: Ms. LEE, Mr. MICHAUD, Mr. WAMP, and Mr. DELAHUNT.
H. Con. Res. 194: Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida.
H. Con. Res. 223: Mr. CLAY and Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky.
H. Con. Res. 224: Mr. DOYLE.
H. Con. Res. 239: Mr. AKIN, Mrs. MCMORRIS RODGERS, Mr. ALEXANDER, Mr. HAYES, Mrs. BOYDA of Kansas, and Ms. FOXX.
H. Con. Res. 246: Mr. FILNER, Mr. GARY G. MILLER of California, Mr. MARSHALL, Mr. LOEBSACK, and Mr. BUYER.
H. Con. Res. 249: Mr. ELLISON, Ms. WATERS, Ms. WOOLSEY, Mr. COURTNEY, Ms. SLAUGHTER, and Mr. CONYERS.
H. Con. Res. 250: Mr. INGLIS of South Carolina and Mr. LINDER.
H. Con. Res. 261: Mr. WOLF, Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania, and Mr. MILLER of Florida.
H. Res. 102: Mr. UDALL of Colorado.
H. Res. 106: Ms. Tsongas.
H. Res. 227: Mr. MCDERMOTT.
H. Res. 282: Ms. Richardson and Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida.
H. Res. 356: Mr. TIM MURPHY of Pennsylvania and Ms. Tsongas.
H. Res. 537: Mr. KIND and Mr. DAVID DAVIS of Tennessee.
H. Res. 543: Mr. RUPPERSBERGER and Mr. KLINE of Minnesota.
H. Res. 576: Mr. ALEXANDER.
H. Res. 617: Mr. KLINE of Minnesota.
H. Res. 686: Mr. JEFFERSON and Mr. TOWNS.
H. Res. 693: Mr. MORAN of Virginia and Ms. SCHAKOWSKY.
H. Res. 695: Mr. GOODE and Mr. BACHUS.
H. Res. 700: Mr. REYNOLDS, Mr. LEWIS of Kentucky, Mr. ALEXANDER, Mr. REYES, Mr. CANTOR, and Mr. ENGEL.
H. Res. 713: Mr. MCINTYRE.
H. Res. 735: Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. CHANDLER, Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California, Mr. LEWIS of Georgia, and Mr. DOGGETT.
H. Res. 753: Mr. GONZALEZ and Mr. MCKEON.
H. Res. 783: Mr. SPRATT and Mr. GILCHREST.
H. Res. 784: Mr. DAVIS of Kentucky, Ms. GRANGER, Mr. PENCE, Mr. POE, and Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN.
H. Res. 789: Mr. PAUL, Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. RAMSTAD, Ms. BORDALLO, and Mr. BURTON of Indiana.
H. Res. 800: Mr. KLINE of Minnesota.
H. Res. 810: Mr. STARK, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Ms. BERKLEY, Mr. FILNER, Mr. TIERNEY, and Mr. SCOTT of Georgia.
H. Res. 814: Mr. THOMPSON of California and Mr. FARR.
H. Res. 815: Mr. PAUL, Mr. DINGELL, Mr. ENGEL, Mr. YOUNG of Alaska, Ms. DEGETTE, Mr. BURTON of Indiana, Mr. KING of New York, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mrs. MCMORRIS RODGERS, Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky, and Mr. PEARCE.
H. Res. 819: Mr. HONDA, Mr. ROSS, Mrs. TAUSCHER, Mr. RANGEL, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. LIPINSKI, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. MITCHELL, and Mr. GUTIERREZ.
H. Res. 821: Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, Mr. SOUDER, Ms. WATERS, Mr. KNOLLENBERG, and Mr. SALI.
H. Res. 822: Mr. BERMAN.
H. Res. 826: Mr. WYNN, Ms. SUTTON, and Ms. LEE.
H. Res. 832: Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas, Mr. BARTON of Texas, and Mr. MARCHANT.
H. Res. 834: Ms. BORDALLO, Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania, Mrs. TAUSCHER, Mr. HALL of New York, Mr. UDALL of Colorado, and Mr. SPRATT.

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PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 110th CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

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Senate

The Senate met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable JON TESTER, a Senator from the State of Montana.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

God of our destinies, help our spirits to be attuned to the graciousness of this season. Keep us from emotions that thwart Your purposes and fill us with Your measureless love. Lord, the legislative process often involves disagreements at deep levels, but deliver our lawmakers from disagreeable spirits. In respect for and appreciation of those who differ, help our Senators, in patience, to find the way of truth in love.

As we celebrate Chanukah, ''festival of lights,'' and Christmas, the birth of Christ, let the full meaning of these celebrations reach us. As You caused 1 day's supply of consecrated oil to keep lamps burning for 8 days in the rededication of the temple desecrated by Emperor Antiochus, make the light of Your knowledge glow on Capitol Hill and let the glorious message of Christmas and peace on Earth, good will toward all guide our deliberations.

We pray in the Name of He who promises salvation to all. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable JON TESTER 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 read a communication to the Senate.

The assistant legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, December 4, 2007.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule 1, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable JON TESTER, a Senator from the State of Montana, to perform the duties of the Chair.

ROBERT C. BYRD,
President pro tempore.

Mr. TESTER thereupon assumed the chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

ORDER OF PROCEDURE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that whatever time the distinguished Republican leader and I take today not be used against the morning business hour.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SCHEDULE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, the Senate will conduct morning business for an hour with Republicans controlling the first half, the majority controlling the final portion. Following this period of morning business, the Senate will resume debate on the Peru trade bill. The limit on debate this morning will be about 90 minutes. Once this time is used, the Senate will recess until 2:15 this afternoon, and at that time there will be a vote on passage of the Peru trade bill.

SENATOR TRENT LOTT

Mr. REID. Mr. President, during my time in public office, I have had the opportunity to serve with many good men and women. During my time serving in Congress, I have had the opportunity to make a friendship with TRENT LOTT.

Senator Daschle gave me the freedom, during the 6 years I was assistant leader and he was the leader, to spend all my time on the Senate floor, and I did that. Senator Daschle did other things, but he trusted me. I hope I did the right thing—I sure tried to do that all the time I worked with him—but I lived on the floor of the Senate.

During much of that time TRENT LOTT was the Republican leader, and we worked together over those years, I think, in a way that speaks well of our country. We made ''deals.'' Legislation is the art of compromise, consensus building. Even though TRENT LOTT is certainly a true conservative, we were able, in his pragmatic fashion, to work things out.

TRENT has an interesting background. He was born in Mississippi. His family settled in a place called Pascagoula. His father was a pipefitter. His mother taught school. She was an elementary school teacher. The public school that Senator LOTT attended now bears his name. He received a degree from the University of Mississippi and also got his law degree from the same institution. That is a wonderful community, Oxford, MS. I have had an opportunity to spend a little bit of time there. There is a beautiful community square. It is like I envision the South as it used to be.

He married a beautiful woman, Tricia—Tricia Thompson Lott. They were college sweethearts. My wife, who is a shy woman—always has been—has worked with Tricia on a number of different issues and has been so enamored of her, with what a wonderful woman Tricia is. She is a hard worker. Whenever projects are involved, she does more than her share.

They have two children, Chet and Tyler. They have four grandchildren.

● This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

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TRENT has been in Congress 34 years. He is the only person in the history of this country who has served as both the House and the Senate whip. He has been a champion for Mississippi, as we all know, but he has also been an important instrument in the Senate accomplishing what it has during the time he was here. I am disappointed that Senator LOTT is going to be leaving the Senate, and I will miss him. I have been impressed with his ability to get things done. Other than John Breaux and TRENT LOTT, there are no two people able to accomplish as much as they did. John Breaux was a dealmaker, and the place he always went, as a Democrat, to start his deal, was with TRENT LOTT. They developed a friendship that lasts to this day. But as a result of their ability to work together on different sides of the aisle, we were able to accomplish a great deal. During the Clinton years, much of what Senator Breaux was able to accomplish for President Clinton was as a result of his relationship with Senator LOTT.

There is no need for me to dwell on my friendship with Senator LOTT other than to say he is my friend, I wish him well, and certainly I wish Tricia and TRENT and their family the very best. They deserve it.

RECOGNITION OF THE REPUBLICAN LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Republican leader is recognized.

ORDER OF PROCEDURE

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, we will, indeed, be saying goodbye to our friend and colleague, TRENT LOTT, over the next few weeks. Senator REID and I will work out a time certain for tributes to Senator LOTT and his extraordinary career sometime between now and the end of this session.

I ask unanimous consent that the Republican time in the morning business coming up be divided equally between Senators BOND, KYL, and CORNYN, in that order.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, the U.S.-Peru Trade Promotion Agreement Implementation Act represents new opportunities. It is an opportunity to strengthen America's economic growth and it is an opportunity to forge a stronger relationship with a key ally in an important region of the world.

We already know that trade agreements with countries help grow this economy through increased exports, which translate to more new jobs for many American workers. They also create lower prices and more choices for the consumer.

This bill will do all of that by leveling the playing field for American exporters and producers. As recently as 2006, 98 percent of Peruvian exports to America entered this country duty-free. But because of high tariffs, American exporters have not had anywhere near equivalent access to Peru's markets.

When this agreement enters into force, 80 percent of American consumer and industrial exports to Peru will be duty-free immediately. That is a tremendous benefit to thousands of American businesses, and millions of American workers.

For my home State of Kentucky, this bill will do a lot of good as well. Exports to world markets mean a lot to my State—Kentucky's export shipments of merchandise in 2006 accounted for $17.2 billion, including $16.3 million worth of goods to Peru. Almost 16 percent of Kentucky manufacturing workers depend on exports for their jobs.

New markets for Kentucky's transportation equipment manufacturers, chemical manufacturers, and machinery manufacturers will open up because of this bill, as will markets for Kentucky's many agricultural products.

By way of a comparison, 3 years after Congress approved a similar trade deal with Singapore, Kentucky exports to Singapore have grown 68 percent. Kentucky and America can reap similar rewards again in a new, more fruitful partnership with Peru by passing this bill.

Peru stands to gain as well. Greater ties to America can only help strengthen security and stability in that country, a key ally in the Western Hemisphere.

It is critical for America to remain engaged in that part of the world, and it is vitally important for us to build strong ties with countries that have made a commitment to freedom and democracy. Peru is just such an ally.

I thank my good friend, the senior Senator from Iowa, for his important work on this bill. Thanks to Senator GRASSLEY, we are soon about to vote on final passage.

I also want to echo his concerns about the current state of our trade policy. Earlier this year, Democrats and Republicans came to an agreement on trade—in return for concessions on matters such as overseas labor issues, House Democrats would move several free trade agreements.

So far, today's Peru agreement is all we have. We haven't seen any positive movement on free trade agreements with Colombia or Panama. Let me just say with regard to Colombia, it is our most important ally in South America. It is embarrassing that we have not approved the free trade agreement with Colombia. Once the issue of beef is addressed with respect to South Korea, I hope we can see that agreement move along as well.

I am disappointed the other Chamber hasn't been able to pass these agreements more quickly. We know they will strengthen our economy and we know they will strengthen our bonds with some very important allies.

Again, going back to Colombia in particular, it has been making great strides to combat the drug trade that ravages so much of that country, and has done much to cut down on the flow of illegal drugs to the United States. Why can't we move faster and show good faith with this ally?

I hope the successful vote for passage we are about to have will pave the way for more in the very near future. These trade agreements are good for the American people, and good for our allies around the world, and we ought to enact them soon. I yield the floor.

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 morning business of 60 minutes, with the time equally divided and controlled between the two leaders or their designees and with Senators permitted to speak for 10 minutes each, with the Republicans controlling the first 30 minutes and the majority controlling the final 30 minutes.

The Senator from Missouri is recognized.

DOING THE SENATE'S WORK

Mr. BOND. Mr. President, I thank the Chair, and I thank our minority leader, Senator MCCONNELL, for outlining the importance of the Peru Free Trade Agreement and the other trade agreements. We have 3 short weeks to get to work and do the work we have not done so far this year. I wanted to address three aspects of it.

First, for the intelligence community, we must act, and we must act now, to assure that the community has the ability and the tools they need to fight terrorists.

Over the last 30 years, the world has experienced a technological revolution, and our laws governing terrorist surveillance have not kept pace. The old 1978 Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act that I will refer to as FISA was drafted to deal specifically with the technology in use at the time. This spring, a court ruled that because of the change in technology, the old FISA law severely limited our ability to collect intelligence. Essentially, it made us deaf to collection of vitally needed information.

Following that ruling, the Director of National Intelligence, Admiral McConnell, told Congress the United States was unable to conduct the critical surveillance of foreign terrorists planning to conduct attacks inside our country because of the outdated law. It not only affected our ability to protect the United States, but it also threatened the safety and lives of our troops abroad.

In May I heard that directly from the commander of our Joint Special Operations in Iraq, who told me the limitations in the old law prevented him from capturing key information needed to protect our troops in theater. He could kill or capture a top al-Qaida leader, but he was not able to collect signals intelligence on them. The bottom line is that terrorists were able to use technology and our own outdated laws to stay a step ahead of us.

Congress acted. On August 3 and 4, fortunately, we were able to pass the Protect America Act. I was proud to be the lead sponsor of it because passage of this temporary law essentially put our national security forces back in the business of collecting the information they needed.

But this is only a stopgap measure and expires in February. It did not include all of the reforms we wanted.

I hope this week the Senate will move to pass a permanent fix, or at least a longer term fix, to our intelligence surveillance law. It is critical we act before we leave for the holidays to make sure that our intelligence laws will be up to date and we will not run into a deadline when we come back in January and have to rush through a bill at the end or leave our intelligence community deaf to the new collections they need.

We have two bills before us. Unfortunately, the Senate Judiciary Committee took the bill that came out of the Intelligence Committee and changed it so much that it would gut our intelligence surveillance ability. The committee ignored significant concerns expressed by the working level officials in the Department of Justice and the intelligence community, the very operators who know how the system works.

The Senate Judiciary Committee ignored the concerns of its own minority members. The bill was voted out on a straight party line. The good news is there is another option. Earlier this year, the Senate Intelligence Committee voted out a bipartisan bill to update FISA. After the members of our committee had months and months to study this program, most of our committee members went out to the agency to see how it worked, to see the layers of protection built in to make sure it stayed within the law. We put together, Chairman ROCKEFELLER and I, a bipartisan agreement which added more protections to the constitutional rights and the privacy rights of American citizens. We worked with the intelligence community representatives and the Department of Justice lawyers to make sure it would work.

This bill we reported out of the Intelligence Committee gives our intelligence operators and law enforcement officials the tools they need to collect surveillance on foreign terrorists in foreign countries planning to conduct attacks inside the United States or against our troops, our allies. It is the balance we need to protect our civil liberties without handcuffing our intelligence agencies. I hope we can do the right thing and bring that bill to the floor.

Now while we are working together to get our intelligence community the tools they need, our military needs Congress to provide the funds to get them the equipment, supplies, and fuels they need in the field. We have got men and women fighting for security in Iraq, in Afghanistan, and our own security. Regrettably, the Democratic leadership in Congress wants to hold these funds hostage to a far-left agenda which does not represent anything more than a sliver of popular opinion in this country. There is no excuse for stalling much-needed funds for American troops. These are American troops fighting in the field, and we are not giving them funds.

By kowtowing to the far left moveon.org and the Code Pink constituency, some of the leaders of the Democratic Party in Congress who have control of it are playing a dangerous game with the safety of our troops in the field and the readiness and morale of our troops here at home.

The latest partisan move comes despite the good news out of Iraq. Even the media, who has been opposed to our involvement in Iraq, is recognizing that as a result of the new Petraeus strategy, a surge on the counterinsurgency, working with the Iraqi security forces, our forces together with the Iraqis have been successful in eliminating key terrorist safe havens and hampering the enemy's ability to conduct coordinated attacks. There has been a consistent and steady trend of progress over the last 6 months.

There are positive stories describing Baghdad's marketplace coming back to life. All over the place violent attacks in Iraq are falling. Even some of the war's loudest and strongest opponents in the House have acknowledged the signs of progress. But despite this, the leadership has failed to give us the opportunity to improve the funds our troops need in the field.

With only a few legislative days left, our soldiers, sailors, our airmen, and marines cannot afford more of the partisan delay. We have got men and women risking their lives, and we are denying the funds they need for support. That is unthinkable. That is unthinkable. We have got to abandon the far left's strategies of retreat and defeat and allow our troops to do their jobs.

PERU FREE TRADE AGREEMENT

While we are talking about winning the war, there is also the war that is the soft war, the war of economic progress and opportunity. That is why, as Leader MCCONNELL said, the free trade agreements are so important. We have the opportunity to help countries that are less developed get the free markets, the economic opportunity, the democratic chances to influence their government that we treasure and that have helped make our country successful.

One of the most important things we can do is adopt the free trade agreements. We have four agreements pending. If enacted, these four pending FTAs would expand market opportunities between the United States and countries that have nearly 126 million consumers.

Today's vote on the Peru FTA is very important. I urge us to support that. This will generate U.S. exports, create jobs, enhance the well-being of farming communities such as those I represent in Missouri. Ask these farmers and the small businesses how important these agreements are. Opening these markets would boost U.S. farm exports by $1.5 billion. Under the Peru FTA, more than two-thirds of current U.S. farm exports will become duty free. Tariffs on all farm products would be eliminated in 17 years.

The FTAs are vitally important. When FTAs are defeated, it is bad news for progressive government supporting the United States. In particular, it would be a blow to President Uribe in Colombia, who has been successfully fighting the leftist FARC terrorists, curbing illicit drug production. He is the most important counterweight to the anti-American vitriol of Hugo Chavez in Venezuela.

Chavez was rebuffed by students in his own country. We have an opportunity to establish good working relationships with Peru, with Colombia, with Panama, to show the leaders of the opposition in Venezuela that there is a better way than Hugo Chavez and his blind adherence to the Castro model in Cuba.

Every President since World War II, Republican and Democrat, has fought to reduce the kind of trade barriers that triggered the Great Depression of the 1930s. This administration has followed that example. I hope that in addition to Peru, the leadership of Congress will seek approval of free trade agreements and pass them for South Korea, Panama, and Colombia. It is vitally important not only for free trade between those countries but for our standing in leading for security, peace, and freedom in Latin America.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Texas.

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, the last 2 weeks we have been back in our States visiting with our constituents and reporting to them on the work of the Congress. I did the same. I was in Texas traveling across our State. People would ask me almost everywhere I went what is happening in the Congress, and specifically the Senate. I am sorry to say I had to tell them: Not much is happening. Here we are, 2 months into a new fiscal year and we have yet to pass 11 out of the 12 appropriations bills that literally keep the lights on and instead are working on a continuing resolution, or on auto pilot based on last year's budget and appropriations bills.

I guess I was a little embarrassed to tell them that the approval ratings

which we have seen on the Rasmussen poll and others, the Gallup poll and others, appears to be well deserved. It is not a partisan matter. It is not that Republicans like what is happening and Democrats do not like what is happening, or vice versa, or independents like what we are doing. The fact is, no one seems to be satisfied. Given the 11 percent or so approval rating, I have to believe that in large part it is due to the fact that we simply have not taken care of our business.

Nowhere in the rest of America could people fail to do as much as we have failed to do in the Senate and survive. Whether it is your family budget or it is the small business, you could not get away with it. Only Congress can get away with it, I guess, to the extent it has, the failures and inaction.

There are two areas particularly I want to talk about in the next few minutes, where this has grave national security implications.

First, as Secretary Gates, the Secretary of the Department of Defense, has told us, if they do not get emergency supplemental funding for our troops in Iraq and Afghanistan, they are going to have to begin to give people notices that they are going to run out of money in February. But they have to issue the notices 60 days in advance, which means by December 15 there are going to be lots of folks who are going to be getting pink slips just in time for Christmas because the Senate has failed to act on an emergency supplemental request to fund our troops.

Frankly, I do not think we ought to be in that position. No. 1, it is completely inconsiderate of the families and the individual circumstances of those individuals who are doing their best to support our men and women in uniform.

Secondly, it is completely unnecessary. If we would simply take care of our business and quit playing political games by tying deadlines to the appropriation of emergency funds to support our troops, we could fund our troops and continue to have the debates here in the Congress about what our policy ought to be.

Those debates are important. I respect people with different opinions than mine. But we should not be doing it at the expense of our men and women in uniform or putting in jeopardy the jobs of people in civilian clothes who support our men and women in uniform, by tying the appropriation of this emergency funding to these deadlines to the emergency funding. I hope we will get this done and get it done quickly.

Also, we have, in fact, a middle-class tax increase getting ready to come into full flower with the so-called alternative minimum tax. Unless we act, the 6 million people who currently pay this tax today will grow to 23 million next year. So that is another victim, those taxpayers are another victim of our inaction and failure to act in a responsible way when it comes to getting our work done.

I want to join my colleague from Missouri, the ranking member of the Intelligence Committee, as well as my distinguished colleague from Arizona, and focus a little bit here in the next 5 minutes or so on the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act.

As most Americans who have followed our debates here know, our ability to listen in on conversations between terrorists and to stop further terrorist attacks on our mainland and our homeland, as well as over in Iraq and Afghanistan, depends on a robust intelligence-gathering capability.

The Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act was a law passed back in 1978, back in a different era, which served our purpose then and made sure that no intelligence gathering, no wiretaps could occur against Americans. But the fact is that law has needed updating, has been updated from time to time. But we need to make clear that when it comes to monitoring communications between terrorists and foreign nations, it is not necessary to prepare a mound of paperwork and have an army of lawyers process it through a Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court in order to get a permit to do so.

We have, as we all know, passed a temporary measure which will expire in February. But we need to act on this permanently and not continue to jam all of our business into the last few weeks and put people in doubt, particularly in the intelligence community, of whether they will have the capability to detect and deter future terrorist attacks by employing this capability.

Before we passed a temporary patch, I think, in August—or before we broke for the August recess—because of a ruling by a judge and because of changes in technology, it had been reported in the press that we had lost about two-thirds of our intelligence-gathering capability. Fortunately, we were able to fix that on a temporary basis.

But there are also other important parts of this legislation such as how do we treat the telecommunications carriers that did what they were asked to do in the security interests of the American people and cooperated with the Federal Government? Are we going to provide them the legal protection they are entitled to under the law or are we going to hang them out to dry and make them liable for lawsuits and damages, perhaps, and jeopardize the intelligence that we have gained with their cooperation?

That is the wrong way to treat these telecommunications carriers. We ought to not reward them but at least do our duty with regard to these citizens, corporate and individual alike, who cooperated with the U.S. Government in gathering intelligence and not punish them by hanging them out to dry and making them the subject of numerous lawsuits and litigation.

Just one quick example: When Joseph Anzack was kidnapped by al-Qaida on May 12 while serving in Iraq and killed a few weeks later, you have to wonder if the paperwork that took roughly 10 hours to complete, along with a group of lawyers before an authorization to monitor communications which directly implicated his kidnappers would have saved his life. On that date, May 12, he and Alex Jimenez and Byron Fouty were kidnapped. But a 10-hour delay in getting the FISA paperwork done may have cost Joseph Anzack his life, and may have severely hampered the continuing efforts to find Alex Jimenez and Byron Fouty.

While the Protect America Act that passed in August, as I said, provided a temporary fix to the problem, it will expire in February. I just ask our colleagues on the other side of the aisle, why are we delaying the passage of this important fix to this temporary act? Isn't it important enough to make sure we do everything possible not to hamper our intelligence-gathering capability? We are, in fact, a nation at war, and we ought to act like it. That means arming our intelligence community with the tools they need to detect terrorist communications and to deter future terrorist attacks.

I know 9/11 seems like a long way off in the minds of many, and many have acted as if it never happened, but the fact is, unless we have robust intelligence-gathering capability, and unless the Senate acts promptly to permanently grant the power to our intelligence community to detect these communications, we are at grave risk, and we should not be as a result of Congress's inaction.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Arizona.

Mr. KYL. Thank you, Mr. President. I thank my colleague from Texas for his comments about the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act and would like to expand on those a little bit more.

The Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act we sometimes refer to as FISA or the FISA law. It is important we understand why we need to update this FISA law. In a word, it has to do with the fact that technology has moved forward faster than our ability to change the law. As a result, as the Senator from Texas just noted, we lost about two-thirds of the intelligence gathering on al-Qaida that we could have intercepted and were previously intercepting when it became clear we needed to change the law to keep pace with the advances in technology.

In the Protect America Act we restored access to that information, and we are now back to collecting that information. But the Protect America Act expires on February 1. As a result, we are now back to reauthorizing that act in a permanent way. We need to do so because, again, if this authority lapses, we are back to where we were when we were losing two-thirds of the information that we should be gathering on al-Qaida.

It is not as if we do not understand this is a serious problem. Al-Qaida still exists. It has not been destroyed. We know what it has done. We know what it would like to do. We know they continue to plot. It is critical for us not to ignore the threat. Of course, the first step in dealing with it is to do the best possible job we can in monitoring communications between people who would do us harm.

We all agree that congressional oversight is important to the effort, and all of the legislation we have adopted has enhanced congressional oversight. That is a good thing. That is not in question. But you do not have congressional oversight so oppressive that the intelligence folks cannot collect the information they need to collect. We need to be careful that in redrafting FISA we do not actually impede our intelligence collection in the name of congressional oversight.

There are some problems with legislation that came out of our committee, the Judiciary Committee—some big problems—much less so with the bill that passed out of the Intelligence Committee. Even Members who objected earlier agreed, and I think have agreed, we can provide the necessary statutory authorization for the President to act, and I think most would agree we have to have such authorization in place to deal with groups such as al-Qaida. But their concern was we simply wanted to have congressional authority for it, and that is what the act has done.

We have to be careful that in granting the authority we do not attach so many conditions to it that, once again, it is impossible for the intelligence agencies to do the job we have mandated they do. As I said, the bill reported out of the Judiciary Committee, and to some extent even the bill from the Intelligence Committee, does tie down our intelligence agencies with too many limits on how they can monitor foreign intelligence organizations.

What we are really looking at is some of my colleagues' efforts to take away core responsibilities and authority that the President has to protect our Nation in gathering foreign intelligence.

Let me cite a couple of examples. The Judiciary Committee bill makes FISA the ''exclusive means''—that is the language—of gathering foreign intelligence absent express statutory authority. That is too narrow. In other words, what it is saying is, if another intelligence-gathering tool is not actually authorized by a statute, then it cannot be used to gather intelligence on a group such as al-Qaida.

One obvious example of this is grand jury subpoenas. They are authorized by rules of evidence, not by a Federal statute. The way the Judiciary Committee bill appears to be written, the United States could not even use grand jury subpoenas to gather information about al-Qaida. Obviously, that is not an intended result—at least I would hope not—but it is one of the things that would have to be fixed if we were to consider the Judiciary Committee bill.

Another provision is in both bills, and it has been referred to as the Wyden amendment, named after my good friend and colleague from the State of Oregon. But as that provision is written, a warrant would be required for any overseas surveillance that is conducted for foreign intelligence purposes and is targeted against a U.S. person.

Under current law, however, a warrant would not be required for overseas surveillance targeted at a U.S. person if that surveillance is conducted strictly for a criminal investigation. So you have the anomaly where a much lesser standard exists for mere criminal investigations and the tough standard for the intelligence community to try to meet exists for gathering foreign intelligence against terrorists, when you want to be able to gather that intelligence and may need to do so in a very quick fashion in order to prevent an attack.

So the Wyden amendment would create the anomaly whereby U.S. overseas surveillance in the course of, say, drug trafficking or money laundering does not require a warrant, but foreign surveillance against a terrorist does. That is not a wise way to write the statute. It should not be more burdensome to monitor al-Qaida than it is to monitor a drug cartel. So that, obviously, would need to be fixed.

Moreover, many foreign terrorist organizations engage in both terrorism and ordinary criminal behavior such as drug smuggling or money laundering. This provision, unfortunately, creates the perverse incentive for U.S. agents to monitor a group for its criminal activities rather than on account of its terrorist activities. The provision literally makes it easier to monitor a group on account of its smuggling of marijuana than on account of the fact that it is a foreign terrorist organization. These kinds of artificial distinctions, obviously, make no sense and overly complicate the mission that is very difficult to begin with that we have asked our intelligence community to engage in.

In another area the Judiciary Committee stripped provisions from the Intelligence Committee bill that protect from lawsuits those telecommunications companies that have assisted U.S. intelligence agencies. This is very wrong. These companies were asked by the United States to help monitor al-Qaida after the September 11 attacks. Being patriotic Americans who wanted to help the United States in responding to the threat, the phone companies agreed to provide the help, and now they are being punished with lawsuits that damage these companies' reputations and are very expensive for them to respond. These companies helped us after September 11. They are not going to help again if we do not protect them from these types of lawsuits. The Intelligence Committee bill included a provision in the bill to do exactly that. Yet that provision was stripped, as I said, in the Judiciary Committee. It took away the protection for those who helped monitor al-Qaida. We need to restore that protection for these folks who helped us.

The bottom line is, what is our goal? Do we want to allow our intelligence agencies to be able to use every legal tool at their disposal to track al-Qaida communications or do we want to again tie up our intelligence agencies in restrictions and procedures and then have some future 9/11 Commission—after, God help us, perhaps another terrorist attack—say Congress balled this up and included so many restrictions on intelligence gathering that they were not able to find out this attack was about to occur?

We have to enable our intelligence agencies, not unduly restrict them. Obviously, we need oversight to prevent abuses. That is included in the statutory language, and that is fine. But it does not make sense to impose other restrictions that primarily serve only the purpose of preventing us from collecting good intelligence. There is no excuse, in effect, for making the same mistake twice.

So, in summary, we are going to be dealing with the FISA reform on the floor of the Senate very soon. We need to. The authorization that currently exists expires on February 1. We need to have something in place before that occurs. The bill that came out of the Intelligence Committee by and large will provide the intelligence collection authority that is needed, although there are some problems with it as well. But the provisions that came out of the Judiciary Committee will not work. They will not allow our intelligence collection agencies to do their job properly and, as I said, create the anomalous situation where it is easier to go after intelligence on a criminal enterprise than it is against a terrorist organization. That cannot be.

So I hope my colleagues, when we bring this bill to the Senate floor, will consider the future, the threat of groups such as al-Qaida, and understand it is up to us to ensure our Nation can be protected and not make the same mistake we made before of unduly restricting our intelligence-gathering agencies in fulfilling the mission—the so very important mission—we have asked them to perform.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Vermont.

(The remarks of Mr. SANDERS pertaining to the introduction of S. 2405 are printed in today's RECORD under ''Statements on Introduced Bills and Joint Resolutions.'')

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Ohio is recognized.

PERU FREE TRADE AGREEMENT

Mr. BROWN. Mr. President, I rise to oppose the Peru Free Trade Agreement on which we will vote midafternoon today.

The trade policies set in Washington, and negotiated across the globe, have a direct impact on places such as Lima and Steubenville and Cleveland and Hamilton, OH. That is why voters in my State and across the country sent a message loud and clear in November demanding a different trade policy, a new direction in our trade relations.

A new report this month from the Center for Economic and Policy Research says jobs paying at least $17 an hour—roughly $35,000 a year—and provide health insurance and provide some form of pension declined by 3.5 million people between 2000 and 2006. If that doesn't underscore and emphasize the decline of the middle class, no statistic does.

Working men and women in Ohio know that job loss—a job paying $35,000 or $40,000 or $45,000 or $50,000 a year—does not just affect the worker or the workers' families, as tragic as that is; job loss—especially job losses in the thousands—can devastate communities.

Peru and proposed deals with Colombia, Panama, and South Korea are based on the North American Free Trade Agreement, the so-called NAFTA model.

NAFTA's proponents promised the agreement would create new jobs from exports and that U.S. exports to Mexico would exceed Mexican imports by some $10 billion. NAFTA supporters also promised it would end our immigration issue or problem. More on that at another time.

Today, imports from Mexico exceed exports by about $70 billion. Instead of a multibillion dollar trade surplus with Mexico, as NAFTA supporters promised, it has gone the other way manyfold, with a $70 billion deficit.

When I was elected to Congress in 1992, the U.S. trade deficit was $39 billion. Today, after NAFTA, CAFTA, the Central American Free Trade Agreement, and after inclusion in the World Trade Organization, our trade deficit has grown to over $800 billion. It went from $39 billion in 1992 to, a decade and a half later, $800 billion, which is an increase of twentyfold.

What NAFTA is, and what that model of trade is, is simple: A mechanism providing a source of cheap labor for multinational firms.

The NAFTA model includes rules on investment and procurement that favor large companies at the expense of workers, at the expense of small manufacturers in Akron, Toledo, Lima, Findlay, and all over my State, and at the expense of the democratic process.

The investor-State rules of the Peru Free Trade Agreement and these other proposed deals will allow corporations to enforce their rights under the agreement in a private trade tribunal. These are decisions where a corporation can sue a foreign government if that corporation doesn't like its foods safety rules or if it doesn't like its workers compensation system or its consumer protection laws. A company outside of the United States can sue our Government when, for instance, our Government protests the import of toxic toys from China or protests contaminated toothpaste or dog food or any of the consumer protection food safety rules that protect our families and our children.

Now, here is what the investor-State rules mean. If Peru tries to make improvements to its food safety, health, and environmental laws, large corporations have a mechanism now for challenging it in a private tribunal. This isn't a government making the decision, it is a private tribunal, with generally anonymous people and trade lawyers who almost always decide in support of weakening trade protection laws and decide in support of whatever generally corporate interests are in those countries and make that decision accordingly.

That is not bothersome enough. If Peru passes strong consumer protection laws or a strong food safety law or a strong generic drug law to bring prices down for its consumers, an American company can come in—a drug company, a toy manufacturer, a food processor—and sue the Government of Peru, saying we don't like these laws, and a private tribunal will make the decision. That already has happened under NAFTA, and I can give examples. It also works the other way. A company in Peru can challenge consumer law, a food safety law, a protection for our families law, if you will, in this private tribunal.

Meanwhile, for other parts of the FTA with Peru, such as labor and the environment, we rely on this administration to enforce it. There is a history of this administration unwilling to use the existing enforcement mechanisms available to us—not just in terms of domestic policy, where this administration has weakened environmental laws and consumer protection laws and food safety laws, and they have done it internationally. Almost one of the first acts President Bush did in 2001 was all about the Jordan Free Trade Agreement. The Jordan FTA was once held as a standard in labor provisions. It passed in 2000 during the Clinton administration. I was as critical of President Clinton as I am of President Bush. It is not a partisan thing, but today the vote may look like that. The Bush administration turned the other way while human trafficking was rampant in Jordan.

In Jordan, workers from Bangladesh come in, their passports confiscated, and they work with fabric transshipped from China. So they bring fabric produced by textile companies in China—companies with no labor standards, little environmental standards, and no real protection for workers—they bring in the textiles from China and they bring the workers in from Bangladesh. Those workers work sometimes 20 hours a day, often without breaks. These textiles are assembled into apparel in Jordan in sweatshops and exported to the United States, without duty, I might add, without tariffs.

President Bush's first U.S. Trade Representative, Robert Zoellick, sent a letter to Jordan's Trade Minister in early 2001, saying the United States would not use the FTA to enforce certain provisions, including the labor chapter. Even though Jordan had strong labor provisions, the administration said we are not going to enforce them.

The Jordanian Government has taken steps to fix its human trafficking problem but not because of the enforcement tools available in the trade agreement; it is only because of the pressure from world opinion.

There is more work to do in Jordan. Last week, it was reported that workers at a Jordanian factory, working under a subcontract, are being threatened with forced deportation after striking to protest the imprisonment of six coworkers.

The National Labor committee, which has done extraordinary investigative work in Jordan, reports that the factory owner threatened to also cut off workers' food and water. This is the kind of country we pass trade agreements with which clearly has no regard for its workers, although in this case they were imported workers from somewhere else.

Remember, factories in Jordan get duty-free access to the U.S. market under the Jordan FTA. How can we not be surprised at similar stories in Peru, Colombia, Panama or South Korea?

Workers and consumers get short shrift. Slave wages are OK, unsafe working conditions are OK, unsafe products and food are OK, contaminated food is OK. With a total lack of protection in our trade policy, we are importing not just the goods but the lax safety standards. We are not just importing toxic toys from China, with lead-based paint covering our Frankenstein mugs at Halloween time, we are importing the values of those countries. If we are going to outsource jobs to China, Peru or Mexico or Bangladesh, they are going to send products back into the United States under production standards we would never allow in this country. We once did, but we would never allow those standards today, with the workers, the environment, the safety, and all of that. We are importing Chinese values, those kinds of values.

With the total lack of protections in our trade policy, the Peru Free Trade Agreement, similar to NAFTA, which it follows, puts limits on the safety standards we can require for imports.

If we relax basic health and safety rules to accommodate Bush-style, NAFTA-modeled trade agreements, then I am afraid we should not be surprised to find lead paint in our toys and toxins in our toothpaste. We have seen recall after recall after recall: contaminated toothpaste, contaminated apple juice and dog food, toxic toys with lead levels thousands of

times higher than we would accept in this country. Yesterday, in Cleveland, I had a meeting and a rally with a couple of mothers who have small children—Sonia Rosado and Sara Correra. They are alarmed and concerned about what to buy their children. They asked: What toys can we buy that we know are safe?

Due to trade agreements, there are more than 230 countries, and more than 200,000 foreign manufacturers exporting FDA-regulated goods to American consumers.

Before NAFTA, we imported 1 million lines of food. The FDA regulated about $30 billion imported food goods. Now we import 18 million lines of foods and at least $65 billion imported food goods. The FDA doesn't inspect 50 percent of these or 20 percent or 10 percent; they don't even inspect 1 percent of imported foods. They inspect six-tenths of 1 percent. That means for every 1,000 food shipments that come to the United States, they inspect 6. For every 150, they inspect 1. It is a pretty lethal combination, when you think about buying products, whether it is processed food or toothpaste or toys from a country such as China or a country such as Peru, that don't follow the same food safety standards or protection standards we do. You have American companies hiring subcontractors in Peru or China, and those subcontractors are told over and over that you have to cut costs, cut corners, and maybe do whatever you have to do to cut costs. Well, that means putting lead in toys because lead-based paint is cheaper, easier to apply, shinier, and looks a little better sometimes. Then we have these products come into the United States and we don't inspect them in any significant number.

So with this trade policy—and Peru is another extension of our trade policy with China and another extension of our trade policy similar to the North American Free Trade Agreement, the NAFTA model—we are doing it again. It is a lethal combination. It is a trade model that chases short-term profits for the few, at the expense of long-term prosperity, long-term safety, long-term health for the many. It is a model that works for a few and doesn't work for overwhelming numbers of Americans.

Look at our trade deficit: $800 billion, almost $3 billion a day. Look at our manufacturing job losses: 200,000 in my State alone for the last 5 years. Look at wage stagnation: The middle class no longer gets a raise in many cases. Look at imported product recalls: Week after week, sometimes day after day, the Consumer Product Safety Commission says take that off the market, we can't keep selling that. Look at forced labor and child labor and slave labor: We know that is going on in China. We say: Well, their products may be a little cheaper. It helps us with profits. Companies are doing pretty well. We will accept that stuff.

Look what it does to communities. When a plant closes in Gallipolis or a plant closes in Springfield, OH, families face huge tragedies—neighbors who don't work at those plants, but neighbors see police forces cut, teachers laid off, fewer firefighters ready to take care of them in an emergency. The tax base is eroded, public services decline. They all go together. We are setting ourselves up for more.

The President says he wants Congress to approve new trade deals with Peru, which the Senate will do today, unfortunately, with Colombia, with Panama, and with Korea. Secretary Gutierrez called yesterday for a vote on the Colombia Free Trade Agreement soon after the Peru vote. I invite the President—I would love to see the President come to Portsmouth, OH, on the Ohio River, or sit down with a machinist in Lake Erie or Toledo, or sit down with a tool and die maker, a tool and die shop owner in Akron. Their productivity is up. These workers are doing better and better in terms of productivity. That is a testament to their hard work and their skills, but our Nation's workers too often don't share in the wealth. They are making more money. They are making more profits in the history of our country, particularly since World War II: As productivity goes up, so do wages go up. No more. Workers are more and more productive as they compete on a very unlevel playing field with low income, very underpaid, sometimes slave labor, forced labor, child labor workers in other countries. They are more and more competitive, but their wages stay flat.

The President wants these trade deals, and in 2002 Congress gave the President the authority to negotiate and to sign and seal these trade deals. All Congress gets to do is vote yes or no. No amendments. No particularly extensive debate. You have to vote yes or you have to vote no. You can't make any changes.

When I talk to workers in Marion or Mount Vernon or Dayton or Mansfield about fast track—this kind of unusual rule that we operate trade agreements under in the House and Senate—they ask: What is the point of Congress being involved at all? All we do is say yes to the President.

The reason the President wants fast track is it silences opposition, it cuts out debate, and pushes through these unpopular trade deals. We all know in this body—every single Republican and every single Democrat in this body—that these trade agreements—NAFTA, CAFTA, PNTR with China, trade agreement with South Korea, trade agreement with Colombia, trade agreement with Peru and Panama—if they came to a vote in the United States among 300 million Americans, they would be soundly defeated. We all know that. Many of us ran campaigns last year, in our elections a year ago, talking about these trade agreements and what they mean.

The current system is not sustainable. People in Ohio and throughout this country will not stand for more of it. Labor unions, environmental groups, church groups, development groups are not out lobbying for the Peru Free Trade Agreement. People don't come up to me at schools or in church or in factories or in small businesses or walking down the street or when my wife and I go to the grocery store, and say: Hey, you ought to pass another trade agreement because they are working well. Our trade deficit only went from $38 billion to $800 billion in 15 years. They are really working. More jobs created; more manufacturing.

Of course, they are not asking us to vote for these trade agreements because they simply aren't working. Why would we do another trade agreement when NAFTA didn't work, when CAFTA didn't work, when PNTR with China doesn't work, when these other trade agreements simply don't work?

I think Americans want trade. I want trade. We want trade. We want plenty of it, but under rules that raise standards and ensure our experts have a lasting and sustainable market for consumers. Trade can be a development tool, but the way this administration pursues trade is not promoting sustainable development. We want trade with countries that will be a lasting market for American goods—a market for American goods, not just a source such as Jordan has become, such as China is, such as Peru is becoming—not a source for cheap labor. The American people want a pro-trade, pro-development, pro-working families, forward-looking approach.

We have a choice. We can work with the countries we want to trade with, make sure they play fair, make sure they can purchase our products, make sure the standards of living go up in those countries over a long period, or we can continue to walk myopically, nearsightedly, blindly into even more of the same trade deals. We can continue free trade on the cheap, or we can respect the progress America has made over the last century: our hard-fought labor laws, our food safety laws, our consumer product laws that protect children, that protect our families, that give us one more reason to be proud of our great country; or we can do what the President wants and what the leadership from the Republican Party in this Congress wants. We can take two steps—we can take two steps back from this progress to accommodate lax labor and safety standards.

This Congress has a choice too. We can pass legislation to combat unfair currency, or we can continue to let China cheat. We can bolster trade enforcement, or we can rely on the administration's discretion to enforce our trade laws. We can assist workers laid off to unfair trade, or we can continue to look the other way.

We have heard voters in Ohio and around the country call for big changes to trade policy. We are hearing consumers demand accountability for the

unsafe imports that are on our store shelves. Looking into the eyes of Sara and her children yesterday, looking into the eyes of Sara yesterday, of her friend Sonia, and seeing the look she had about why isn't the government on our side on this—it does matter. We are hearing consumers demand accountability for the unsafe imports that are on our store shelves.

Passing a trade agreement with Peru is not the change Americans demanded last year, that Americans continue to demand now, and that America will continue to demand in the years ahead.

I yield the floor and I note the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Morning business is closed.

UNITED STATES-PERU TRADE PROMOTION AGREEMENT IMPLEMENTATION ACT

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume consideration of H.R. 3688, which the clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 3688) to implement the United States-Peru Trade Promotion Agreement.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, there will be 90 minutes of debate equally divided.

The Senator from Vermont.

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. President, I wish to say a few words as to why I am strongly opposed to the Peru Free Trade Agreement. Some of the points I made last night, but I think they need reiteration. The untold story of the economy in the United States is that the middle class is shrinking, poverty is increasing, and the gap between the rich and the poor is growing much wider. I am not going to stand here and tell you trade is the only reason the middle class is shrinking, but I am going to tell you it is a major reason, and it is an issue we have to deal with.

Mr. President, since George W. Bush has been in office, 5 million Americans have slipped out of the middle class and into poverty, 8½ million Americans have lost their health insurance, median household income for working-age families has gone down by nearly $2,500, over 3 million good-paying manufacturing jobs have been lost, 3 million Americans have lost their pensions, wages and salaries are now at their lowest share of GDP since 1929, and we are in a situation now where the wealthiest 1 percent of Americans earn far more income than the bottom 50 percent.

In the last number of years, technology has exploded and worker productivity has increased. Yet in the midst of all of that, the middle class is struggling desperately to keep their heads above water, and poverty is increasing.

I think the question this Senate should be spending a lot of time on answering is why that is happening. Why is it that everything being equal, our kids will have, for the first time in the modern history of the United States, a lower standard of living than we do? Why is it that a two-income family today has less disposable income than a one-income family did 30 years ago? In the midst of all this globalization, all of the explosion of technology, all of the increase in worker productivity, there is more and more economic desperation in the United States, and the only people who are doing very well are the wealthiest 1 or 2 percent of the population.

Now, I think there is a real problem when you have unfettered free-trade agreements which essentially allow corporate America to throw American workers out on the street, move to China, move to other low-wage countries, pay people their 50 cents an hour, $1 an hour, and then bring their products back into this country. One of the great crises we are facing is we are not building manufacturing plants in the United States and putting people to work at good wages with good benefits. Not only are we losing blue-collar jobs, we are losing white-collar information technology jobs. And millions of parents all over this country are wondering what kind of jobs are going to be available for their kids.

The fact is, these free-trade agreements have not worked. I don't know how many times and what people need to understand that. Just take a look at NAFTA. I remember, because I was a Member of the House during that debate, that the supporters of unfettered free trade told us over and over that NAFTA would increase jobs in the United States. But according to the Economic Policy Institute, NAFTA has led to the elimination of over 1 million American jobs.

Now, why would you want to follow a paradigm, a trade policy approach which has failed in the past? If it has failed time and time again, why would you keep doing the same thing? A manager of a baseball team who has losing records year after year gets fired. That is what happens. The team changes its approach.

Right now, we have a huge trade deficit. It is a growing trade deficit. We are losing good-paying jobs. Pressure on wages is to push them down into a race to the bottom. That is a failed trade policy.

Supporters of unfettered free trade told us that NAFTA would significantly reduce the flow of illegal immigration into this country because the standard of living in Mexico would increase. Well, guess what. They were wrong. It didn't happen. As a result of NAFTA, severe poverty in Mexico increased. It didn't go down, it increased, and 1.3 million small farmers in that country have been displaced, with real wages for the majority of Mexicans having gone down. All of this has led to a 60-percent annual increase in illegal immigration from Mexico during the first 6 years of NAFTA alone.

What is happening in Mexico and in the United States and in many other countries today because of unfettered free trade is we are seeing a huge increase in the gap between the people on top and everybody else. I will give just one example. In Mexico today, a poor country, a gentleman named Carlos Slim has just surpassed Bill Gates as the wealthiest person in the world, worth over $60 billion, in a poor country. Incredibly, because of unfettered free trade and near liberal type of economic policy, Mr. Slim is worth more than the poorest 45 million Mexicans combined. One man has more wealth than the bottom 45 percent, which happens to be 45 million Mexicans. That is one of the manifestations of unfettered free trade.

And the situation is the same with China. I remember the debate about China—we have a great market in China. If we open permanent normal trade relations with China, it will create all kinds of jobs. Nobody believes that is true. We have a huge trade deficit with China, a trade deficit that is growing. People today are doing Christmas shopping. When they go to the stores, the products they will find from A to Z are made in China, not made in the United States. I can tell you that in my small State of Vermont, we have lost 25 percent of our manufacturing jobs in the last 6 years—not just due to trade, but trade has played an important role.

All over this country, people are wondering why corporate America is not reinvesting in Pennsylvania or Vermont or the rest of the country. Well, you know why. They are investing billions and billions of dollars in China, hiring people there at pennies an hour, and then they bring their products back into this country. And people are wondering: How do you become a great economy? How do you lead the world? How do you have good jobs for your kids if we are not producing the goods that our people purchase?

You will remember, Mr. President, that 20, 25 years ago, the largest employer in the United States was General Motors. They produced automobiles. They paid people good wages, they had good benefits, and there was a strong union. Today, the largest employer in the United States is Wal-Mart, with low wages, minimal benefits, and vehemently antiunion.

What I also don't understand, in terms of this trade debate, is who the

Congress thinks it is representing. You go out in my State and all over this country, and people say: We do not like unfettered free trade. If you want to be a political opportunist, and you don't care about the issue, you should vote against the Peru trade agreement. That is what the people want you to do. In fact, according to a recent Wall Street Journal NBC news poll, 59 percent of Republicans—of Republicans—believe unfettered free trade has been bad for the U.S. economy. And a majority of Democrats feel the same way. So I think maybe the Congress has got to start saying to the large corporation CEOs, who in fact do very well by unfettered free trade, that our job is not just to represent them but to represent the working families of this country.

This agreement will simply continue a failed trade policy. And, Mr. President, you know, because you are a new Senator as well, that during the last campaign, many of us raised this issue about unfettered free trade. What we heard from constituents was that they wanted a change in trade policy. They wanted companies to start investing in America, not in China. They are worried about the future.

So the bottom line is, we have a failed trade policy, and before we pass any more trade agreements, I think we need to take a hard look at what past trade agreements have done. I think we need a moratorium on them, and we need to develop new trade agreements. Trade is a good thing, but we need new trade agreements that represent the working families of this country so that we can see our wages and our incomes going up, not going down; our health care benefits going up, not going down; so that we are not engaged in a race to the bottom; so that we are helping poor countries improve their standard of living, while our standard of living is going up and not bringing everybody down.

I hope Members of the Senate will give serious consideration to rethinking our trade policies and voting this Peru trade agreement down.

Mr. President, I yield the floor, and I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. CASEY). The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. BAUCUS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. BAUCUS. Mr. President, I urge my colleagues to vote in favor of the United States-Peru Trade Promotion Agreement. Peru is no ordinary country, and the Peru agreement is no ordinary free-trade agreement.

Peru is a vibrant country. It is marked by the diversity of its dramatic and varied landscapes, abundant and rich wildlife, and strong people. Peru provides a home to more than 170 million acres of forest and 84 of the 103 existing ecosystems on the planet. And it is the birthplace of the Inca civilization, the builders of the incomparable Machu Picchu complex in the Andean highlands. Their descendants live on today in Peru's thriving indigenous communities. This remarkable diversity of landscape, wildlife, and people deserves to be protected, and the strong labor and environmental provisions of the Peru agreement ensure that it will.

Since 1958, when the United States entered into a free-trade agreement with Israel, we have entered into bilateral or regional free-trade agreements with no fewer than 15 additional countries, and since then Democrats have sought to make labor and environmental issues a greater priority in trade agreements. We have had limited success until now.

The Peru agreement is in fact a groundbreaking achievement. Months of complex negotiations involving numerous parties and difficult compromises on all sides resulted in a landmark deal between Congress and the administration. Believe me, this is a very significant and unexpected breakthrough that was achieved not too long ago. We agreed to include strong labor and environmental provisions in all our pending trade agreements beginning with the Peru Free Trade Agreement. That was the understanding, all agreements beginning with Peru—truly a remarkable accomplishment, and we should be proud of what we have achieved. For the first time, the Peru agreement requires the parties to implement the five core International Labor Organization standards. For the first time, the Peru agreement requires the parties to implement seven core environmental treaties. And, for the first time, the Peru agreement makes these labor and environmental provisions fully enforceable by subjecting them to the same dispute settlement mechanism that applies to all other obligations.

Some may criticize the agreement as not going far enough, but these provisions are in fact exactly what many of us in Congress in the labor and environmental movements have been seeking to include in trade agreements for decades. They will benefit workers, they will encourage environmentally sustainable development, and they will ensure the Peru agreement helps to export our fundamental values abroad at the same time that it helps to export our products and services abroad.

The agreement also strengthens our ties with a stalwart ally in an increasingly troubled part of the world. It is an agreement with a leading reformer in our hemisphere, it is an agreement with one of the fastest growing economies in Latin America, and it is an agreement with solid commercial benefits for the United States. Mr. President, 98 percent of Peruvian exports to the United States already receive duty-free treatment under various United States preference programs. This agreement levels the playing field and allows our exports to enjoy the same benefits in Peru.

To cite one example, more than two-thirds of current United States farm exports to Peru, including delicious Montana beef, I might add, and wheat, will receive immediate duty-free access to Peru under the agreement. All remaining tariffs on Montana and other U.S. agricultural goods will be eliminated within 17 years.

For Peru, this agreement means better conditions for its workers, strengthened protection for its amazingly diverse environment, and greater integration into the world economy. Our neighbors to the south can hope it will represent a first step toward increased prosperity, transparency, and stability for the Latin American region as a whole.

This agreement demonstrates what Congress and the administration can achieve when we work together. I hope we can build on the success of this agreement to heal the wounds of previous battles and I hope we can begin to recreate a consensus for trade liberalization going forward.

But the Peru agreement is only one step in this process. Enactment of a robust and modernized trade adjustment assistance program should be our next focus, certainly before this Congress considers additional free trade agreements. We cannot express support for trade agreements unless we fulfill our responsibility to ensure that trade-displaced workers, whether in manufacturing or the services sector, are able to retrain and retool for the 21st century economy. I look forward to working with my colleagues and with the administration on trade adjustment assistance reauthorization very soon.

For all these reasons, I am pleased to support the United States Peru Trade Promotion Agreement Implementation Act and I urge my colleagues to support it as well.

Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum and ask unanimous consent the time be charged equally against both sides.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. MARTINEZ. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. MARTINEZ. Mr. President, I rise this morning to speak on the proposed free trade agreement with our friend and neighbor to the south, the country of Peru. This is, I believe, a critical piece of legislation. The approval of this agreement would do wonders to advance United States interests in the region. This is a treaty that should be approved because it is good for our bilateral relations with this very important country, it is good for our overall relations with the region, but most of all we should approve this treaty because it is good for the United States

economy and it is good for Florida's economy, it is good for bilateral relations, and it is good for our overall security posture in the region.

The legislation will make trade with Peru a two-way street, will benefit small and medium-size businesses, and will reduce barriers to services and to investments.

Over two-thirds of total U.S. exports are manufactured goods, so agreements that remove tariff and nontariff barriers in foreign countries benefit all American manufacturers, large and small.

Implementation of this agreement would raise a total of U.S. merchandise exports to Peru by over $1 billion in the first year. This agreement will add over $2 billion per year to the U.S. gross domestic product. Further, this agreement contains groundbreaking enforceable core labor and environmental provisions. I know these are important.

It is not just is it good for business, but is this something that is going to also speak about our core values when it comes to labor standards? Is it something that we believe will further the condition of the world as it relates to the environment?

This agreement includes provisions that will enhance both of those. For the first time, future administrations will have the right to take dispute action if labor or environmental issues become a problem. So this will have enforcement mechanisms built in. Never has this been the case with any of our previous trade agreements.

So we have made maybe a marker, maybe a breakthrough in a way that we can have more of these trade agreements come to pass that are good for our country, that are good for our economy and that of our neighbors, but yet give people the sense of assurance that environmental and labor rights are going to be protected.

The first year of implementation will boost Florida's total economic output by $140 million, create more than 900 jobs in the State I represent, and increase workers' earnings by $35 million.

In the next decade, it is estimated that Florida's total economic output would increase by more than $760 million per year. Exports to Peru would support more than 4,900 jobs and increase workers' total personal income by more than $180 million a year. Fifty-four percent of all U.S. high-tech goods exported to Peru are made in Florida. Twenty-three percent of all U.S. exports to Peru are made in Florida. Florida is the hub for transportation, trade, finance, insurance, and several other professional services provided to companies from all over the world doing business in Peru. More than half of all Peruvians visiting the United States come to Florida.

Peru's democracy has successfully weathered serious security and political challenges to its institutions over the last decade. But it is a democratic country, and democracy has proven strong, and it has proven that it can, in fact, withstand challenges from all sides.

The decision by newly elected President Alan Garcia to support the United States-Peru TPA marks a turning point in our bilateral relations and political stability by providing for a secure and predictable framework for investors, protections for intellectual property rights and worker rights, and an innovative process for public scrutiny regarding the enforcement of environmental regulations.

Peru's democracy has successfully weathered serious security and political challenges to its institutions by the fact that elections are now repeatedly held and that, in fact, these elections have an outcome that is honored by all of the citizens of Peru which shows us they are a country strongly on the path to democratic institution building.

But a great part of this is also economic success. We cannot just build democratic institutions; the people must believe by following the faith of democracy, by following the path of trade and partnership with the United States they can also better their lives; that, in fact, the false prophets who would preach to the people of Peru that the path to their better future lies in antagonism to the United States, lies in the path of socialism, which has been proven to be a failure throughout the world wherever tried, is to allow them an opportunity to have a successful future by following the path of trade and partnership with the world of beliefs in the globalized economy that all of us can benefit from if it is done right, and if it is done with the right provisions.

The fact is, at this point in time, we are at a significant crossroads in our relations with Latin America. It is an area of the world that as long as things are going fine oftentimes we choose to ignore. But at the current moment in time, we find that in agreeing to this proposal for and altering the trade agreement with Peru that we would be rewarding the democratic institutions that have maintained Peru over the last decade, but also we would be telling them: We want to trade with you. We want to do business with you.

As we enhance the job creation in my home State of Florida, as I have said, as well as in the United States, there is no question that we will also be enhancing job creation in Peru itself; that those people in Peru who aspire to a better life, who aspire to an opportunity perhaps to own their own small business, who aspire to have an opportunity to maybe have more yield and output from their agricultural production, those who benefit from the opportunities of trade and investment will all see the benefits and the fruits of this partnership with the United States.

Now it is good for Peru. But broadly speaking, trade agreements are good for America, and they are good for our relations with the region. So, therefore, I would say we should approve this agreement today, we should vote in favor of our trade agreement with Peru, but we should not stop there. We should soon also see progress on our trade agreement with Panama and our trade agreement with Colombia.

The template of this agreement, while we have additional protections as well as enforcement methods for labor and environmental rights, is the template that we should use in moving forward the Panamanian Free Trade Agreement and the Colombian Free Trade Agreement. We have no closer friends or neighbors than Panama and Colombia. We have no better friends in the region than the Government of President Uribe, where in partnership with now two consecutive administrations, the United States has taken a bold step forward in saying: We will help you, Colombia, to get rid of the narcoterrorists in your country. We will help you to achieve a better life and a more secure future for your own people by helping you to defeat the people who will sow terror on your streets and in your highways.

In that we have made tremendous progress. As we have done so, we have diminished the amount of illicit and illegal drugs from Colombia that are entering the United States and poisoning our American streets. But we have done more than that. We have also helped them pacify their country. Their country is in a huge turnaround. Their country has tremendous economic growth. The Colombian people can now freely travel the country. That is a result of the good efforts of the United States working in partnership with the Colombian Government.

Colombia has a bright and tremendous future. Forty million people are in the country of Colombia. It is a very diverse country. From the coast of the Caribbean to the Andes and the interior, it is a country of resourceful and tremendously ingenious people who would benefit tremendously from the opportunity of having a free-trade agreement with the United States.

It is a free-trade agreement that will create jobs in America, that will also enhance the opportunity for the same kind of economic growth and job creation that I have talked about with Peru.

The Panama agreement is a much smaller agreement. Panama increasingly has become the trading hub of the Americas through the Panama Canal. And we now know that for more than a couple of decades, Panama has been in charge and has been running its own canal in a very successful way. Now they are enhancing it by expanding it.

The banking system, from Asia to the Americas, seems to be at a crossroads through Panama. It is a country with which we should have a trade agreement. We have one that is there.

It is teed up. We should move it forward. It should be the next one we approve, with Colombia coming along not long after. But these are tremendously important. These countries look to these agreements as a way forward, as a way of enhancing their partnership with our country, and rejecting other ideologies.

You know we might as well talk about this. I think it is very important. On Sunday we had a very startling event occur in the region. Venezuela held an election in what was a proposal from an increasingly authoritarian leader, Hugo Chavez, to become essentially President for life. It was essentially to give him the authority to rule by decree, to declare a state of emergency and essentially suggest that all of the institutions of the country be suspended and he would be the sole ruler.

It also went further, and it said the country would take a socialist path. Now, this is only the latest excess by a leader who is excessive in many ways, his rhetoric and his action. But this latest excess was rejected by the people of Venezuela.

I congratulate the people of Venezuela for taking this bold step in the direction of not a single authoritarian person in charge of the government but one who would allow a more democratic future for the people of Venezuela. The people of Venezuela courageously went to the streets, courageously demonstrated against tremendous oppression and repression by the Venezuelan authorities, and continued to insist that they have a free vote on Sunday, and they did.

They rejected the overreaching of President Chavez. But this ideology that President Chavez preaches, the failed ideology that was preached by Fidel Castro that has taken Cuba on the path of destruction, disaster, and desolation is now trying to be inflicted on the people of Venezuela, where they are now seeing the same kind of food shortage we have seen in Cuba for almost a half a century beginning to manifest itself in a country that is so oil rich it is ridiculous.

The fact is, we see in the path to bilateral trade agreements with the United States a rejection of these failed ideologies, a rejection of the Chavez way, and a welcoming of a partnership with the United States, one that allows independence and democratic institutions to flourish, while at the same time improving the lives of the people of the region.

I urge my colleagues to look forward also to the Colombian and Panamanian trade agreements. They should be coming. We need to proceed to move those forward. They are tremendously important for these countries. Let's engage in this friendship, but let's take care of first things first and today resoundingly approve the free-trade agreement with Peru that is good for America, good for our Nation, but also good for Peru, and for our relations with the region.

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. SALAZAR. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. SALAZAR. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that I be allowed to speak for up to 5 minutes as in morning business.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. SALAZAR. Mr. President, I come to the floor today to make a very simple statement; that is, about our food security in America.

For all of my life—as a farmer and a rancher and attorney general—I have recognized importance of food security for America. On my desk in my Senate office here in Washington, DC, there is a sign that says: ''No Farms, No Food.''

It is important for all of us in this Chamber to recognize the importance of the food security of the United States of America by moving forward with the passage of the 2007 farm bill.

As the Presiding Officer well knows, the Agriculture Committee, under the leadership of Senator HARKIN and Senator CHAMBLISS, worked very hard—worked for weeks and weeks and months and months—to come up with what is a very good farm bill. It is a very good farm bill that invests in the nutritional needs of our country. It is a very good farm bill that helps us unveil the clean energy future of America and helps us grow our way to energy independence. It is a very good farm bill that invests such as no other farm bill ever has in the conservation opportunities we need to protect our land and our water in America. It is a very good farm bill in all respects, and it is paid for. It is a farm bill that is paid for.

We have been on this farm bill now in the Senate for the last several weeks, since before Thanksgiving, and have not been able to move ahead. The majority leader, Senator REID, has propounded a proposal where we would move forward with a set of discrete amendments, giving the Republicans 10 amendments, having the Democrats have 5 amendments and 2 additional amendments would be considered. It seems to me that is a very eminently fair proposal, and I would ask my colleagues, both on the Democratic side and the Republican side, to stand behind that procedural framework so we can get onto the farm bill and get this farm bill across the finish line.

It is my view the people of America deserve no less from this Senate, and I am very hopeful we will be able to come to that agreement very soon.

RECESS

Mr. SALAZAR. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that all time be yielded back and that the Senate now stand in recess until 2:15 p.m.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 12:26 p.m., recessed until 2:15 p.m. and reassembled when called to order by the Presiding Officer (Mr. CARPER).

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Vermont is recognized.

UNITED STATES-PERU TRADE PROMOTION AGREEMENT IMPLEMENTATION ACT—Continued

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the vote that was scheduled for 2:15 occur at 2:30, and the 15 minutes between now and 2:30 be equally divided in the usual fashion.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I rise in opposition of the Peru Trade Promotion Agreement. While the Peru Trade Promotion Agreement includes important labor and environmental provisions, I do not believe that it represents a large enough departure from the failed NAFTA-style free trade model to merit my support.

Instead of fast-tracking new trade agreements through Congress, we need to take a deep breath and assess the impact of our failed trade policies and take the country and our economy in a better direction.

We should focus on fixing the problems created by NAFTA and other trade agreements, extending trade adjustment assistance for displaced workers, reinvigorating our domestic economy, and creating jobs for hard-working Americans.

The inclusion of labor and environmental protections in the Peru deal is an important and positive development, but without an administration willing to enforce these provisions, the promises ring hollow.

The Bush administration has an abysmal record when it comes to enforcing trade regulations, and it is not a stretch of the imagination to assume that their unwillingness to enforce regulations will extend to Peru.

Without strong enforcement of these important labor and environmental provisions, they are nothing more than words on a piece of paper.

Already we are seeing the Peruvian government backtrack on the spirit of the environmental provisions included in the agreement. International environmental groups have documented a number of recent actions taken by Peru's government that provide a serious cause for alarm.

As an example, in September, a law was proposed to remove half a million acres from the Bahuaja-Sonene National Park and devote the area to oil and gas exploration and exploitation. The Superintendent of Peru's natural protected areas determined that excluding the zone from the national park would violate both the Peruvian

Constitution and Peru's trade promotion agreement obligations. The whistleblower in this situation was immediately fired from his post.

And in July, Peru offered concessions for oil and gas exploration and exploitation for over a fifth of the Peruvian Amazon rainforest despite a report by the national ombudsman determining that elements of this process were illegal

What we are seeing with these recent developments in Peru related to environmental protections is that despite increased enforcement mechanisms in the free trade agreement for labor and for the environment, the NAFTA model perpetuates a ''race to the bottom'' that has become the unfortunate hallmark of free trade agreements.

When trade agreements are used only as a tool to provide cheap labor for American companies, everyone loses. The United States can be a leader in the global economy if we promote fair trade that creates sustainable markets for American goods and services, protects the environment and improves wages and standards of living for American and foreign workers.

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, as chairman of the Committee on the Judiciary, which has jurisdiction over our Nation's intellectual property laws, I feel compelled to comment on the intellectual property chapter of the United States-Peru Trade Promotion Agreement.

In the Trade Promotion Authority Act of 2002, Congress instructed the administration to negotiate agreements with other nations that, among other things, reflect a standard of protection for intellectual property ''similar to that found in United States law.'' In many respects, the intellectual property chapter of the Peru Trade Promotion Agreement meets that goal, for it will require Peru to raise its standards of protection for our intellectual property.

I am concerned, however, that some aspects of the intellectual property chapter prescribe the rules for protection so specifically that Congress will be hampered from making constructive policy changes in the future. The art of drafting the chapter is in raising intellectual property protections to a standard similar to ours, without limiting Congress's ability to make appropriate refinements to the intellectual property law in the future. The flexibility necessary for the proper balance is found in many provisions of the intellectual property chapter, for which I commend the U.S. Trade Representative. Other provisions, however, are too fixed and rigid, and may have the perverse effect of restricting the Congress's ability to make legitimate changes in United States law, while keeping our international commitments. I expect that in the future, with improved consultation between the Committee on the Judiciary and the Office of the United States Trade Representative, we can avoid these concerns.

Our trade promotion law also instructed the administration to negotiate agreements that provide strong protection for new and emerging technologies and new methods of transmitting and distributing products embodying intellectual property. This, too, is an objective I support. Under our laws, many such new technologies and consumer devices rely, at least in part, on fair use and other limitations and exceptions to the copyright laws. Our trade agreements should promote similar fair use concepts, in order not to stifle the ability of industries relying on emerging technologies to flourish.

Finally, a longstanding priority of mine has been the promotion of affordable, lifesaving medicines to address the public health problems afflicting many, primarily developing Nations—particularly those resulting from HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, malaria and other epidemics. The United States made such a commitment in the 2001 Doha Declaration; I was pleased that the U.S. Trade Representative reaffirmed this commitment in May and that Peru's rights to promote access to medicines is preserved in this agreement.

There is much in the intellectual property chapter of this free trade agreement that I support. I look forward to the Judiciary Committee's being consulted by the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative earlier, and more frequently, in the future, so that we can continue to improve on these issues.

Mr. KOHL. Mr. President, when voters gave Democrats control of Congress, they wanted a new direction on trade policy. They wanted trade agreements that would hold our trading partners to the same labor and environmental standards expected of U.S. companies. And they wanted trade agreements that would level the playing field for U.S. businesses. Democrats listened.

I am supporting the Peru FTA because it is a new model for trade agreements that includes enforceable labor and environmental protections. For the first time, the U.S. will have the right to hold a trading partner accountable if labor or environmental issues become a problem.

The Peru FTA benefits Wisconsin companies and workers. Wisconsin exports to Peru have increased from $9.3 million in 2002 to $43.5 million in 2006. This agreement will help trade between the U.S. and Peru flourish and keep businesses and jobs in Wisconsin, something I couldn't say about several previous trade agreements. Further, the Peru FTA eliminates the current 10 percent tariff on U.S. goods entering Peru. This will remove barriers to Wisconsin exports and make Wisconsin businesses even more competitive.

The Peru FTA is the first step in a new direction for trade policy that will enforce labor and environmental standards and help U.S. businesses gain access to new markets.

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, I rise today to discuss H.R. 3688, the United States-Peru Trade Promotion Agreement. Washington State is extremely trade dependent, and this agreement will have direct impacts to my constituents at home, particularly farmers growing asparagus. In addition, I am concerned about existing labor practices for miners in Peru.

The domestic asparagus industry has been economically injured by the Andean Trade Preference Act's, ATPA, extended duty-free status to imports of fresh Peruvian asparagus. There has been a 2000-percent increase in Peruvian asparagus imports into the U.S. since ATPA was enacted. The asparagus industry suffered the greatest negative impact from the ATPA, according to the U.S. International Trade Commission's analysis of the agreement. The effects of the agreement to Washington State's asparagus industry were dramatic.

Prior to the ATPA, there were over 55 million pounds of asparagus canned in Washington State, roughly two-thirds of the industry. By 2007, all three asparagus canners in Washington relocated to Peru. As asparagus production fell, I fought to provide assistance for these hard-working men and women whose industry had been devastated.

To mitigate the impacts to growers, I tried to get them trade adjustment assistance. I have secured funding over the past several years to conduct research on a mechanical harvester to make this labor-intensive crop less costly to produce. Most recently, I helped secure $15 million in the farm bill for a market loss assistance program for asparagus growers. This funding will help farmers who have continued to grow asparagus despite the challenges ATPA has presented. I am hopeful that this program will help growers continue to invest in asparagus.

Many of our asparagus growers have turned to other crops, and this Peru trade bill will help them, along with many other farmers in Washington State. While I have serious concerns about the continued effects on the asparagus industry in the U.S. and in Washington State, overall this bill will have a positive impact for agriculture in Washington State.

I would also like to note my concern about labor practices for miners in Peru and the unintended negative impact that this agreement may have on them.

A report by the Congressional Research Service indicates that while Peru endorses the International Labor Organization's core labor standards in the PTPA, concerns remain about their compliance with and the enforcement of these standards. I was discouraged to learn that while Congress was considering the PTPA, the Peruvian Government stalled in its efforts to secure statutory protections for miners and declared it illegal for metal miners to continue striking in support of stronger labor laws.

As chair of the Senate HELP Subcommittee on Employment and Workplace Safety and an advocate for labor rights and workplace protections, I am concerned that the Peruvian Government's most recent actions do not convey a good-faith effort to reform its labor laws. I have worked tirelessly to ensure that miners in our own country have the safety protections on the job that they deserve. In light of the tragic mine disasters in West Virginia, I was proud to help write and pass the landmark MINER's Act last year. Miners put their lives on the line every day to provide for their families, and we must work to ensure they have a respected voice at the table and that their rights are protected.

While I believe this agreement will ultimately do more good than harm, I hope my colleagues will join me in encouraging the Peruvian President, Congress, and Labor Minister to fulfill their promise and pass much needed labor reform legislation without hesitation.

As you may know, Washington State is the most trade dependent State in the Nation. From apples to potatoes to Microsoft and Boeing, we rely heavily on international trade. This trade agreement, when taken as a whole, will do more to bolster the economy of my State and the Nation, and thus merits support.

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, in my view, the United States has pursued failed trade policies for the past 20 years or more. This failed trade policy is reflected in our record trade deficits with the world. This failed trade policy has led us to accept a one-way street in trade where we allow too many countries access to our markets without insisting that they give us reciprocal access to theirs.

I have opposed trade agreements when they were in the same failed mold as our past trade policy, when they clearly were not requiring a more level playing field for U.S. manufacturers, farmers, and service sector employees, and when they failed to insist on basic internationally recognized labor and environmental standards. However, I have supported trade agreements that leveled the playing field and that did include strong and enforceable internationally recognized labor and environmental standards.

I particularly commend the work of my brother, Representative SANDER LEVIN, chairman of the House Ways and Means Trade Subcommittee, and others, for substantially improving the Peru Free Trade Agreement by reopening this agreement to incorporate enforceable worker rights and environmental standards in the body of the agreement. This is something Democrats have been working to include in trade agreements for over a decade. I agree with my brother who has characterized this groundbreaking achievement as, ''an historic breakthrough on trade by amending pending U.S. free trade agreements to incorporate a fully enforceable commitment that countries adopt and enforce the five basic international labor standards, subject to the same dispute settlement mechanism and remedies as other FTA obligations.''

This breakthrough is surely of critical importance. For the first time in any FTA, the labor chapter requires both the United States and Peru to adopt and maintain domestic laws to implement the five core standards incorporated in the 1998 ILO Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work. These include, one the right to organize; two, the right to bargain collectively; three, prohibitions on forced labor; four, protections for child labor; and five, freedom from employment discrimination.

The agreement also requires for the first time that the United States and Peru adopt and maintain domestic laws to implement the obligations in the seven multilateral environmental agreements that both the United States and Peru are party to. All of these added obligations are subject to the same dispute settlement mechanism that applies to all other FTA obligations.

Peru is a small economy and makes up less than 1 percent of overall U.S. trade, and in 2006 was only our 43rd largest export market. Furthermore, 98 percent of U.S. imports from Peru already enter the United States duty free under the Andean Trade Preferences Act and the General System of Preferences. The Peru FTA will at least give American exports a more level playing field in Peru by allowing them to enter Peru duty free, which is currently not the case, although Peruvian products already enter the U.S. duty free.

As a rule, I do not like the idea of trade agreements coming up under fast-track procedures because it limits Members of Congress to an up-or-down vote with no chance to amend or improve it. Thankfully, we did not extend fast- track authority. In this case, my brother, SANDY LEVIN, and others successfully amended this agreement through an historic bipartisan agreement which vastly improved the agreement. The changes that were made represent an important break with the failed and flawed trade policies of the past and signify a better approach to trade that supports American workers and protects the environment. For all of these reasons I will vote for the Peru Free Trade Agreement implementing legislation.

Mr. FEINGOLD. Mr. President, the Senate will soon be voting on the first measure to implement a trade deal since the announcement last spring by the administration and some Members of Congress of an agreement to facilitate the consideration of trade legislation.

The centerpiece of that agreement was to be the inclusion in future trade agreements of meaningful labor standards. In fact, because last spring's announced agreement was only a set of principles, and not actual language, the Peru Trade Promotion Agreement bill before the Senate is the first opportunity to review the details of that agreement.

I will touch on the new labor provisions included in the Peru agreement shortly, but the agreement is far more than just provisions overseeing labor standards. And in those areas, the trade agreement with Peru comes up short. In fact, the agreement looks just like the provisions in other trade agreements that have been stamped out over the past decade and more by the NAFTA template—a failed model of trade that has helped ship millions of family-supporting American jobs overseas, while too often failing to produce the promised enhanced standard of living for the families of our trading partners.

Like those previous trade agreements based on the NAFTA model, the Peru agreement contains language identical to the devastating foreign investor rights provisions of NAFTA that undermine federal, state, and local protections for the environment, health, and public safety.

Like those previous trade agreements based on the NAFTA model, the Peru agreement renders meaningless our longstanding common sense government procurement policies, including the Buy America law which requires that taxpayer dollars be used by the federal government to purchase American made goods and services when they are a reasonable option.

Like those previous trade agreements based on the NAFTA model, the Peru agreement undercuts pro-environmental policies such as recycled content requirements, and undermines our ability to require imported food to meet our safety standards. As the consumer advocacy group Public Citizen has noted, the Peru trade agreement includes NAFTA provisions that require the United States ''to treat imported food the same as U.S.-produced food, even though more intensive inspection is needed to compensate for Peru's weak domestic regulatory system.''

And like those previous trade agreements based on the NAFTA model, the Peru agreement includes NAFTA provisions that undermine the right to affordable medicines for poorer countries established in the World Trade Organization's Doha Declaration.

With all of this NAFTA baggage included in the Peru agreement, one might ask if there is any reason to believe this agreement won't just reproduce the same disastrous results we have seen from failed trade policies over the past two decades.

And that brings us to the new language included in the Peru agreement stemming from the deal announced last spring between a number of Members of Congress and the administration.

Regrettably, and perhaps predictably, that new language does not live

up to the billing it received at the time of the announcement. In fact, according to an analysis done by Professor Mark Barenberg of Columbia University, the new labor provisions are actually weaker than current law. Professor Barenberg compared the proposed new labor provisions with those of trade deals already in effect, and found that the Peru agreement undermines existing trade laws, which Barenberg states are already ''weak, unreliable, and inadequate to the task.''

For example, the Barenberg report notes that under current law, ''if Peru fails to comply with internationally recognized labor rights, then the United States can impose unlimited sanctions against Peru, can provide benefits to Peru in any area of foreign relations, or can withdraw special trade benefits in whole or in part, to ensure that Peru comes into compliance. The U.S. can target specific sectors, products, or actors. The U.S. can impose sanctions or withhold benefits until those specified actors comply.''

But under the U.S.-Peru agreement, ''if Peru fails to comply with the vague labor ''principles'' or with Peru's domestic labor law, Peru can choose to pay the United States only half the monetary value of the trade benefits that accrue to Peru as a result of the violations—creating a cost-benefit incentive for Peru to commit violations. If Peru chooses this monetary penalty, then the sanction is not targeted on any sector or any actor. The Agreement establishes no system of positive benefits (carrots) to Peru for compliance.''

The Barenberg report gives another example. Under existing law, ''if Peru fails to comply with internationally recognized labor rights, then private parties in the United States, such as workers and labor unions, have the right to petition the President to impose sanctions or take other measures against Peru to ensure compliance.''

But, while private parties, including trade unions are allowed under section 301 of the Trade Act to file petitions with the President, alleging that a trading partner has violated a trade agreement, under the U.S.-Peru Agreement, private parties are given ''no right to directly initiate complaints against Peru for violating its obligation to enforce the vague labor ''principles'' or domestic labor law. Only the President may bring such complaints—and, in fact, the President has never filed a complaint under the labor-rights provisions of any bilateral trade agreement.''

Here is still another example. Under existing law, ''if the President decides that Peru is failing to comply with internationally recognized labor rights, he can impose sanctions. He need not gain the approval of another decision-maker.''

By contrast, under the U.S.-Peru agreement, ''if the President decides that Peru is failing to comply with vague labor ''principles'' or domestic labor law, he cannot impose sanctions. He can only file a complaint that may lead to international arbitration to determine whether Peru stands in violation. Hence, the decision to impose sanctions must be taken by two decision-makers, rather than one—the President and a panel of international arbitrators. And international arbitrators will apply international law, which holds that an obligation to adhere to the vague labor principles does not entail an obligation to adhere to actual labor rights, let alone adhere to any concrete performance measures or indicators.''

As others have noted, Professor Barenberg's report may explain why no major labor, environmental, human rights, or consumer protection groups have endorsed the Peru agreement.

Our trade policies of the past two decades have been disastrous. They have contributed to the loss of several million family-supporting jobs in this country. They have left communities across my State devastated, and I know the same is true in communities around this country.

Our trade deficit is still out of control, as we send more and more of our wealth overseas, much of it in the form of factories that provided entire communities with decent, good-paying jobs. I hold listening sessions in each of Wisconsin's 72 counties every year. This is my 15th year holding those listening sessions, listening to tens of thousands of people from all over Wisconsin. I completed my 1000th of those sessions just about a year ago, and I can tell you that there is nearly universal frustration and anger with the trade policies we have pursued since the late 1980s. Even among those who would have called themselves traditional free-traders, it is increasingly obvious that the so-called NAFTA model of trade has been a tragic failure.

I voted against NAFTA, GATT, and permanent most favored nation status for China, in great part because I felt they were bad deals for Wisconsin businesses and Wisconsin workers. At the time I voted against those agreements, I thought they would result in lost jobs for my State. But, as I have noted before, even as an opponent of those trade agreements, I had no idea just how bad things would get.

Nor does the problem end with the loss of businesses and jobs. The model on which our recent trade agreements have been based fundamentally undermines our democratic institutions. It replaces the judgment of the people, as reflected in the laws and standards set forth by their elected representatives, with rules written by organizations dominated by multinational corporations. Food, environmental, and safety standards set by our democratic institutions are subject to challenge if they conflict with those approved by unelected international trade bureaucracies. Even laws that require the government to use our tax dollars to buy goods made here, rather than overseas, can be challenged.

We cannot live in isolation. We are in a global economy, and it makes good sense to have reasonable trade agreements with those who want to trade with us—trade agreements that have broad-based support and that will provide broad-based economic benefits to all sectors of our economy and the economies of our trading partners. That is not what we have now, and we shouldn't pass another bill to implement one of these flawed agreements until we can straighten out the twisted trade model that has done so much damage to the personal economies of thousands of families across the country.

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, I rise today to discuss the U.S.-Peru Free Trade Agreement, FTA. As my colleagues are aware, I am a strong proponent of free trade, having voted for every trade agreement that has been negotiated during my 31 years in this body.

Despite that fact, I have concerns over some recent changes to the Peruvian agreement and, more specifically, the deal that was struck between the administration and the congressional Democrats on May 10. Specifically, the changes to the intellectual property rights, IPR, and labor chapters of this agreement will, I believe, become more relevant when we as a nation begin to negotiate future free-trade agreements with deserving nations.

It is my sincere hope that I am wrong and that we will not in the near future face serious challenges to our national labor laws as a result of this agreement. Unfortunately, we will not have to wait, however, to realize the devastating effects that the new trade deal will have on our IPR concerns.

The labor chapter of the U.S.-Peru Free Trade Agreement could put U.S. Federal and State labor laws at significant risk. Several provisions of the labor chapter of the U.S.-Peru trade agreement create an unacceptable risk that the United States will be required to change important provisions of U.S. Federal and state labor law or be subject to trade sanctions. Given that the purpose of the May 10 agreement was to ensure that Peru adopted strong labor provisions, not the United States, Congress's implementation of this agreement should provide an explicit safe harbor for U.S. labor law.

Peru FTA requirement to adopt ''fundamental labor rights'' puts right-to-work, freedom of association and other major U.S. labor provisions at significant risk. Article 17.2 of the Peru FTA requires both Peru and the United States to ''adopt and maintain in its statutes and regulations, and practices there under, the following rights as stated in the International Labor Organization ILO Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work and its Follow-up (1998) (ILO Declaration) where it affects trade between the

countries. These rights are freedom of association, recognition of collective bargaining, elimination of forced/compulsory labor, effective abolition of child labor, prohibition of worst forms of child labor, and elimination of employment discrimination.

The Peru FTA does not provide any definition of these fundamental rights, leaving the interpretation of what constitutes ''freedom of association'' or ''collective bargaining'' to a dispute settlement panel appointed by the U.S. and Peruvian Governments.

Given the agreement's reference to the ILO declaration, it is widely expected that such a dispute settlement panel would in fact look at and rely at least partially on the standards of the relevant ILO core conventions associated with these rights, much as the ILO does each year in its followup reports required by the ILO declaration. The recent push by House Democrats to have Peru enact very detailed changes to its treatment of—contract laborers as part of its implementation of the agreement an issue not specifically addressed in the Peru FTA—confirms the wide range of issues subject to this chapter.

The United States, which has only ratified two of the eight ILO core conventions, faces substantial risk that a panel will find that U.S. labor law violates the Peru FTA, requiring the U.S. to change its law or face trade sanctions. Key U.S. laws subject to that risk include:

State right-to-work rules, which standard labor market analysis and several other countries, such as Canada, find imposes an improper restraint on the ability of workers to bargain collectively or to strike, as nonunion workers have the authority to vote on whether to strike;

U.S. prohibitions on the admission to unions of persons connected with the Communist Party or the Klu Klux Klan given that ILO standards require the admission of all applicants;

U.S. prohibitions in the National Labor Relations Act, NLRA, on the inclusion of supervisors in union, which is required by ILO conventions;

Exclusive bargaining rights provided under the NLRA, which are in conflict with ILO standards requiring minority unions be allowed to function;

Various Federal and State laws that place reasonable and balanced limits on the right to strike, which are in conflict with the ILO conventions' prohibition on virtually all restrictions on the right to strike;

U.S. laws permitting the permanent replacement of striking workers, which the ILO has indicated may pose a risk to the effective enforcement of the right of collective bargaining when it occurs on an extensive basis;

Fair Labor Standards Act minimum age of 14 and state laws where there are no minimum ages for children working in agriculture contravenes the ILO minimum age convention; and

Lack of equal remuneration or comparable worth rules.

The Peru FTA is likely to require State labor law changes as well. By requiring the adoption of these rights at the Federal level, the Peru FTA in combination with the U.S. Constitution's Supremacy Clause, Article VI, section 2, is also expected to require any changes made at the Federal level to preempt conflicting State law. As a result, State right-to-work rules or lower minimum age standards would face significant risk of being overturned by dispute settlement panels.

The Peru FTA requires parties to promote migrant worker rights. Annex 17.6 requires the United States and Peru to engage in a wide range of capacity building work. While much of it could be useful, its obligation to promote migrant rights, without regard to the legal status of a migrant, creates a troubling requirement that the United States would be promoting rights for illegal immigrants at odds with Congress's direction. For years, I have been a steadfast supporter of fair intellectual property laws that are appropriately enforced. The Constitution itself provides for the creation of intellectual property, and it has been the process used by brilliant U.S. innovators to develop, market, and sale groundbreaking new products for years. In the sea of red trade deficits we have faced for so many years now, IP and the innovative U.S. products that use its protection have been one of the few areas where the U.S. has a trade surplus.

Traditionally, trade agreements have strengthened American innovation abroad. However, with the newly renegotiated text found within the U.S.-Peru FTA's IPR chapter, we see that we have walked back from the rigorous IPR protections found in previous agreements in favor of weakened provisions. These changes mainly affect one of America's most productive industries, that of pharmaceuticals.

The U.S.-Peru FTA weakens IP protection in three ways:

First, the agreement does away with patent linkage. Linkage requires a country, before it approves a generic medicine for sale, to ensure that the brand-name medicine is no longer under patent. Without linkage, governments can help facilitate patent infringement. Linkage doesn't hinder access to medicines, and it is not about compulsory licensing. It is about protection of basic patent rights. The proposed changes replace this simple enforcement procedure with a complex one. I don't see what that accomplishes.

Second, the changes shorten the period of data exclusivity for innovative medicines, authorizing a shorter period than we require here in the United States. This change is not only unfair to U.S. innovators but devalues the incentive for launching new drugs in developing countries. Here is why. In developing countries, it is often difficult to enforce patent rights. But data protection is effective and relatively easy to administer. It often provides the only real protection biopharmaceutical companies have when they invest significant resources to launch new products. You take away the protection and you take away the incentive to launch. It is hard enough to get companies to launch medicines quickly in these countries because the markets are so small. If you shrink data protection, you effectively shrink the market even further.

Finally, the new template no longer requires countries to add time to patent terms for pharmaceuticals to make up for undue delays in marketing approval or patent grant. We require patent restoration here in the United States, so why not abroad? Because, critics argue, patent terms are long enough as they are. But without patent term restoration, we actually go the other direction. Without patent term restoration, the effective patent term could actually shrink significantly.

From what I understand, the Democrats insisted on the changes to the IPR chapter in order to grant greater access to medicines for developing nations. What is ironic to me is that these changes will do just the opposite.

All of these changes were ostensibly part of an effort to promote access to medicines to poor people. A noble goal. But what is so absurd about this is that the changes may actually have the opposite effect and harm U.S. competitiveness in the process.

Why would we backtrack on IPR? Some may say that we are rich enough so that we can afford to give away the fruits of our ingenuity. But that is like saying we are rich enough to voluntarily close down our factories so that our competitors can have a chance. We don't have that luxury.

Some say backtracking on IPR is necessary to help the poor and sick. That, too, is wrong. IPR is all about incentives. If you protect IPR, then people will have a stronger incentive to develop new and innovative products and bring them to market faster. If you don't protect IPR, then those incentives are greatly diminished. Here is what we might expect with weak IPR protection:

There would be less incentive to launch products early in developing countries. Innovative companies would have less reason to show up when their technology could immediately be copied and sold by others who made no contribution to the R&D.

If there were fewer brand-name launches, there would be fewer generics. As brand-name medicines go off patent, generic medicine companies can rely on the safety approvals and market secured by the research-based companies, making more generics available to more people. Without the brand-name company securing the safety approvals and creating the market, fewer generics can enter the marketplace, and fewer people will get the medicines they need.

As a result, the poor would not have access to the newest and most effective medicines.

It is easy and convenient to use IPR as a scapegoat for poor health care systems. The reality is that access to medicines is helped, not hindered, by strong IPR protections. Problems in access to medicines are most often due to other factors, such as poor infrastructure, taxes, tariffs, an ineffective health care system, and different government funding priorities. By pointing at IPR, we divert attention from these much more critical problems. In sum, the changes we have foisted upon Peru are harmful not only to U.S. interests, but also to the very interests they purport to serve.

I applaud the USTR and her staff on their hard work in negotiating this agreement, especially in the area of intellectual property rights. However, I know there are several Senators in this body who represent States that contain numerous innovative companies that benefit from strong intellectual property laws and enforcement. While the overall agreement strengthens American IPR, it does so in a way that is not as vigorous as agreements in the past.

Millions of jobs across the country depend on these laws.

I know firsthand that many countries around the world would like nothing more than to see the U.S. intellectual property laws and enforcement diminished. Why? Because they want to exploit us.

They want to be able to steal our inventions.

They want to be able to ripoff our best and brightest ideas. They want our taxpayers to fund billions of dollars of extremely important research and then take it from us for free.

I have been assured by the administration that the issues that I have raised today will never become a problem for the United States. While I am confident that my concerns remain valid, I am unwilling to stand in the way of the President's trade agenda. The Peruvian trade agreement will provide needed trade benefits to many Utah businesses that exported $7.7 million worth of goods in 2006, not to mention the overall benefit of the agreement to the U.S. economy as a whole.

Therefore, I will reluctantly vote for the U.S.-Peru FTA before us today. However, I will not give up on improving future trade agreements in the critical areas of labor and intellectual property rights.

Mr. KYL. Mr. President, I have never opposed a free trade agreement, FTA, although I have sometimes had reservations or concerns about different elements of the agreements.

I believe free trade encourages economic growth, improves living standards by making a wider variety of goods and services available at more affordable prices, and creates good-paying jobs. In fact, exports from the U.S. account for more than 10 percent of our annual gross domestic product and one in six manufacturing jobs are related to exported products.

I also understand that the benefits of trade accrue not only to Americans, but also to workers in other countries; but this is also to our benefit. The more free trade encourages economic growth and job creation around the world, the more demand there will be for high-value American products and services. Trade fosters closer economic relations with other countries and those economic ties generally lead to improved political relations, which benefits our national security.

For these reasons, I have been a strong, consistent, and vocal supporter of free trade. And for these reasons, I take my vote against the Peru FTA today extremely seriously. I have decided to oppose the Peru FTA not because I have any quarrel with Peru or because I am in any way opposed to expanding our bilateral trade relations with Peru. In fact, I strongly support the original Peru FTA.

My opposition to the Peru FTA is rooted entirely in the agreement reached by the U.S. Trade Representative, USTR, with Members of the other body in May of this year. That agreement forced the U.S. to renegotiate the Peru, Panama, and Colombia FTAs to add new requirements for labor and environmental protections and weakened traditional trade agreement protections for certain U.S. intellectual property, IP, related to pharmaceutical products.

I am concerned about the labor and environment provisions, but I am simply puzzled by the intellectual property changes. I am not sure what my colleagues hoped to gain by weakening standard protections for U.S. intellectual property through this trade agreement. I see no reason why U.S. legislators would want to weaken the ordinary protections that are normally accorded to pharmaceutical intellectual property in our bilateral trade agreements. Peru did not, in the course of negotiations, ask us to weaken the IP requirements. Peru was perfectly willing to abide by the greater protections of the original FTA.

If the goal of these changes was to provide better access to lifesaving medicines in Peru, I worry that their effect could have the exact opposite result. Countries with weaker IP protections will have a difficult time encouraging U.S. companies to do business there. Respect for private property—including intellectual property—is essential to encouraging innovation. Without assurances that new and creative products and services will not be stolen by unscrupulous competitors or forcibly devalued by governments, there is a reduced incentive to take the economic risks that are necessary to achieve groundbreaking inventions.

And why should we expect that those who want to weaken protections for U.S.-owned intellectual property will stop at pharmaceuticals? Are computers, movies, music, and other products that involve valuable U.S. intellectual property next? U.S. intellectual property is one of our most valuable exports; it is not in the national interest of the United States to unilaterally weaken protections for it.

I would like to share some statistics that underscore my concern for protecting U.S. intellectual property. First, IP-related industries provide some of the highest quality jobs in the U.S. According to some studies, IP-related jobs pay as much as 40 to 50 percent more than jobs that are not dependent upon intellectual property. That means that devaluing U.S. intellectual property will hurt U.S. workers. Further, economists estimate that over 50 percent of U.S. exports depend upon intellectual property protection of some sort, up from below 10 percent 50 years ago. My colleagues know that theft of U.S. intellectual property is rampant overseas, costing U.S. companies many billions of dollars annually and costing the U.S. economy high-paying jobs. We should use FTAs to enhance protection for U.S. intellectual property, not weaken it.

Finally, I want to explain to my colleagues that I made my concerns known to the USTR on several occasions. When I first began hearing that the USTR might renegotiate the various Latin American FTAs to secure support in the other body, I made sure the USTR knew of my strong concerns about weakening IP protections. As the discussions progressed, six members of the Finance Committee wrote a letter to the USTR in May of this year outlining our very serious concerns with all of the areas under renegotiation: labor, environment, and intellectual property. Finally, when the USTR, Ambassador Schwab, came to meet with members of the Finance Committee this fall I again expressed my concerns about weakening the standard protections that had been traditionally accorded to IP in our other FTAs. Because the administration apparently made no attempt to address our concerns or to assure us that other actions could be taken to enhance protections for valuable U.S. intellectual property, I am compelled to oppose the Peru FTA.

I urge my colleagues to give additional thought to whether it is wise to unilaterally weaken the intellectual property protections we normally include in FTAs. These provisions better not be included in future FTAs or I will work for their defeat.

Mr. LIEBERMAN. Mr. President, I rise today to support the legislation to implement the United States-Peru Trade Promotion Agreement. The agreement promises to significantly strengthen our commercial and noncommercial ties with Peru and represents a new era for U.S. free trade agreements.

This agreement will significantly increase our goods trade balance with Peru. As a result of U.S. unilateral preference programs, about 98 percent

of imports from Peru presently benefit from duty-free treatment. The agreement will move beyond one-way preferences to reciprocal commitments. Immediately, 80 percent of the consumer and industrial products our firms export to Peru will be duty free; remaining Peruvian tariffs will phase out over 10 years. The International Trade Commission estimates that, upon the agreement's full implementation, U.S. exports to Peru will increase by $1.1 billion, while U.S. imports from Peru will increase by $439 million. Exporters across our country depend on world markets. In my home State of Connecticut, this agreement will open an important new market for our manufactures of transportation equipment, machinery, and electronics, among other products.

The gains are likely to be even more significant for America's service industries. Take, for instance, the insurance industry, which has played a vital role in Connecticut's economy. The agreement will enable U.S. insurance companies to establish a presence in Peru while ensuring strong regulatory transparency, including license approval within 120 days. Similarly, Connecticut's vibrant financial services industry stands to benefit from the agreement's robust financial services chapter. Among other benefits, the chapter's provisions will enable U.S. asset managers to provide cross-border portfolio management services, even without establishing a physical presence in Peru.

But the agreement's implications transcend commercial boundaries. It will strengthen our alliance with Peru, a key ally in Latin America, contribute significantly to Peru's economic development, and extend our commitment to transparency and rule of law in Latin America.

The most recent free trade agreement this Chamber considered was with Oman in 2006. Consistent with my longstanding record of supporting trade as good for America's economy, and economic development in Arab and Muslim countries as important for peace in the world, I voted in favor of legislation to implement the Oman FTA. But during consideration, I voiced my concerns about the Oman FTA's labor provisions, announcing in this Chamber that: ''I will not continue to support future free trade agreements unless the Administration becomes serious about negotiating labor and other improvements. . . .'' By including basic worker rights recognized by the International Labor Organization, with full enforceability equal to all other provisions, I am satisfied that the Peru FTA addresses my concerns.

The inclusion of strong labor provisions, as well as unprecedented inclusion of multilateral environmental agreements, means this agreement's significance will extend beyond Peru. Indeed, this FTA represents a strong standard for our future bilateral free trade agreements. I applaud House Ways and Means Chairman RANGEL and House Trade Subcommittee Chairman LEVIN for achieving consensus with the administration to address these key issues.

I have high hopes for expanding our trading relationship with Peru and for continuing to responsibly open markets across national borders. And I look forward to working with my Senate colleagues to enact legislation implementing FTAs that the administration has already signed with Colombia and Korea.

Mr. MCCAIN. Mr. President, I strongly support H.R. 3688, the United States-Peru Trade Promotion Agreement Implementation Act, PTPA.

The agreement before this Chamber today stands as another important milestone in the development of our relationship with Peru. The pending trade bill will help level the commercial playing field and solidify a genuine bilateral partnership based on free and fair trade that benefits not only Peruvians, but also U.S. workers and businesses. Ratification will also demonstrate to the people of Peru that we stand by them as an important democratic ally in a strategically vital region of the world.

As it currently stands, 98 percent of goods imported from Peru already enter the United States duty-free. If this agreement is passed and fully implemented, 80 percent of U.S. exports of consumer and industrial goods and over two-thirds of agricultural exports will gain duty-free access to the Peruvian market of some 29 million citizens. The agreement also contains provisions that address intellectual property rights, electronic commerce, customs and trade facilitation, and these provisions will reduce barriers on investment. The U.S. currently exports nearly $2 billion in goods to Peru, a figure certain to grow as a result of increased access to this vibrant South American market.

While the economic benefits we will enjoy as a result of passing the PTPA are important, we must not ignore the political benefits as well. Peru stands as a shining example of the potential for democracy and open markets in South America. Following free and fair elections in 2006, Peru's economy continues to grow at an impressive rate of 8 percent annually, and its poverty rate has been on the decline since 2001. It is also important to recognize the assistance the Peruvian government has provided the United States in combating drug trafficking, countering regional security threats, and providing for our energy needs. Implementation of this agreement will lead to greater prosperity and development for the Peruvian people, helping to strengthen their nation and our relationship with them.

I have long advocated for economic freedom and open markets. Free trade has long served to promote economic growth, generate jobs, raise wages and lower prices for American workers and consumers. I believe in the ingenuity and resilience of the American worker and am not afraid of their ability to compete successfully in the global marketplace. America is home to the best and the brightest, and should have the opportunity to play a significant role in an increasingly globalized marketplace. By passing this agreement, we will reaffirm our commitment to nations that share our interest in open markets, economic freedom, and democracy.

I urge my colleagues to support swift passage of this important agreement.

Ms. CANTWELL. Mr. President, I would like to briefly address H.R. 3688, the Peru Trade Promotion Act. While this agreement stands to provide significant benefits to our country's agricultural industry, it comes with unfortunate consequences for our country's asparagus growers. My home State of Washington is one of the top asparagus producing States in the country. However, since the passage of the Andean Trade Preferences Act, Washington has lost 21,000 of its 30,000 acres dedicated to asparagus and all three of Washington's asparagus canning facilities have now moved to Peru. This is the reason that I worked so hard to include a $15 million Market Loss Program dedicated to asparagus growers in the Senate's version of the 2007 farm bill. This program will support domestic asparagus producers, helping them plant and harvest more efficiently and remain competitive in the international market. In the past 17 years, the $200 million Washington asparagus industry has been reduced to a $75 million industry. To say that I am concerned about this trade agreement's effect on Washington's asparagus farmers would be an understatement. I implore the Senate, as it continues negotiations on the farm bill to support these hard working individuals remain competitive in our international economy.

With that said, the Peru Trade Promotion Act stands to significantly benefit the majority of farmers both in Washington and throughout our Nation. Under this agreement, Washington businesses will increase their exports to Peru by an estimated 45–62 percent and will immediately eliminate significant tariffs on many key goods. For example, Washington leads the Nation in potato exports and the current tariffs, now reaching up to 25 percent, will be eliminated immediately on most potato products. Washington's wheat farmers, whose exports are currently valued at over $314 million, will benefit greatly by the elimination of the 17-percent tariff on wheat. Washington's third largest industry, beef, has much to gain from the elimination of the 25-percent duty on beef. Dairy, our second largest farm industry will benefit from the elimination of a tariff system that has reached as high as 68 percent for dairy products being exported to Peru. Perhaps the most significant impact for Washington, however, will be for our

fruit growers. Washington ranks as the second largest fruit exporter in the Nation, bringing in $833 million for the State. Duties on fruit exported to Peru are currently 25 percent and would be immediately eliminated under the PTPA—a huge win for Washington and its fruit growers. Peru is a new growth market for Washington's fruit industry and the elimination of these tariffs will make our fruit much more competitive in the export market.

Given the significant benefits the vast majority of farmers in my State stand to reap from the Peru Trade Promotion Act, I will vote in favor of it, despite my grave concern for its effect on our asparagus industry. As PTPA is implemented, I will continue to fight to support asparagus growers through the Market Loss Program included in the Senate farm bill or any other means available to me and I strongly urge this body to do the same. The PTPA will benefit many, but it is up to us to assist those whose livelihoods are affected in the process of its implementation.

Mr. ALLARD. Mr. President, I rise today to voice my support and will vote for the Peru Free Trade Agreement.

On November 18, 2003, the administration formally notified Congress of its intent to initiate negotiations for a Free Trade Agreement, FTA, with Peru. The United States and Peru announced a bilateral deal on an FTA on December 7, 2005, after resolving certain agriculture and intellectual property rights issues, as was signed April 12, 2006. The Peruvian Congress approved FTA legislation on June 28, 2006 by a vote of 79–14. Legislation to implement the Peru FTA was submitted by President Bush on September 27, 2007 and this legislation was approved by the Senate Finance Committee by voice vote on October 4. On October 31, the House Ways and Means Committee approved implementing legislation (H.R. 3688) by a vote of 39–0. The full House voted to approve the Peru FTA by a vote of 285–132 on November 9, 2007.

U.S. trade with Peru has doubled over the past 3 years, reaching $8.8 billion in 2006. More than 5,000 U.S. companies export their products to Peru, and over 80 percent of these are small and medium-sized companies that stand to benefit significantly from U.S.-Peru Trade Promotion Agreement, PTPA. According to the American Farm Bureau Federation, after full implementation of the agreement, U.S. agricultural exports to Peru will increase by more than $700 million per year.

According to the Department of Commerce-International Trade Administration, when the agreement enters into force, U.S. farmers and ranchers will also become much more competitive by benefiting from immediate duty-free treatment of 90 percent of current U.S. agricultural exports. Key U.S. agriculture exports such as cotton, wheat soybeans, high-quality beef, apples, pears, peaches, cherries, and almonds will be duty free upon entry into force of the Agreement. Peru will phase out all other agricultural tariffs within 17 years.

According to the United States Department of Agriculture, USDA, exports of farm products boost Colorado's farm prices and income. Such exports support about 10,100 Colorado jobs, both on and off the farm in food processing, storage, and transportation. Agricultural exports amounted to $852 million and made an important contribution to Colorado's farm cash receipts in 2006 that totaled nearly $5.6 billion. The State of Colorado depends on world markets and exported shipments of merchandise to 197 foreign destinations in 2006 totaling $8.0 billion. This is an increase of 44 percent over the 2002 level of $5.5 billion.

The USDA further states that as a leading source of farm cash receipts at nearly $3.3 billion, Colorado's ranchers and beef industry benefit from exports in a number of ways. For instance, Peru will immediately eliminate the 25 percent duties on the beef products of most importance to the U.S. beef industry—Prime and choice cuts. Peru will provide immediate duty-free access for U.S. exports of standard quality beef through the establishment of an 800 ton tariff-rate quota.

The dairy industry in Colorado is the second largest source of state farm cash receipts. Our dairy producers will benefit immensely from the PTPA. Peru will immediately eliminate its system of variable levies facing U.S. exporters. Also, Peru will immediately eliminate tariffs on whey. And, all Peruvian duties on dairy products will be eliminated within 17 years, with duties on some dairy products eliminated earlier.

The corn producers are Colorado's fourth largest source of farm cash receipts. Colorado corn producers will benefit under the PTPA by eliminating its system of variable levies facing U.S. exporters. Under the current system, tariffs can be as high as the WTO ceiling of 68 percent on some corn products. Moreover, all currently applied duties on crude corn oil will be phased out over 5 years; and on white corn and other corn products within 10 years.

The pork producers are Colorado's seventh largest source of farm cash receipts. Peru will phase out all duties, which are currently as high as 25 percent, on fresh, chilled, and frozen pork within 5 years.

There are other markets that Colorado will benefit from as this agreement becomes a reality. The elimination of Peruvian tariffs on products such as computer and electronic products, machine manufacturers and chemical manufacturers will provide a competitive boost to Colorado companies.

This historic agreement will provide a level playing field for American workers and farmers, ensuring that the United States gets the full benefit of trade with this dynamic market. In the early 1990s, the United States unilaterally opened its market to Peru, and nearly everything imported from Peru enters the U.S. market duty free. However, when Americans sell their goods to Peru, they face average tariffs of 11 percent for manufactured goods and 16 percent for agricultural goods. PTPA is meant to correct this unfair trade imbalance by eliminating nearly all tariffs on U.S. exports to Peru within a few years. The U.S. International Trade Commission estimates this agreement will add $1.1 billion to U.S. exports and $2.1 billion to U.S. GDP. U.S. farmers and ranchers must continue to find a way to stay competitive in today's world market.

I urge my colleagues to join me today in supporting passage of the United States-Peru Trade Promotion Agreement Implementation Act.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, the Senate will finish consideration of the U.S.-Peru Free Trade Agreement today, with a vote this afternoon. Before getting into the merits of the FTA, I wanted to take a moment to discuss a broader issue. It is very unfortunate that the Bush administration's only policy towards Latin America has been to negotiate free trade agreements.

I just returned from leading a bipartisan delegation to Latin America and last year I headed a similar delegation to different Latin American countries, including Peru. What we heard repeatedly there in almost every country we visited was that the Bush administration had neglected the region.

And, in fact, they are right. We have cut development assistance, eliminated programs, and repeatedly overlooked our neighbors to the south. In the place of a robust and comprehensive policy of engagement, exchange, aid, and a variety of trade tools, we have a simplistic, singular policy of free trade agreements.

The Bush administration's narrow approach has been harmful in many ways. We have left a vacuum of diplomacy and engagement in many areas, which has allowed unconstructive forces space to expand influence. And our free trade strategy has been very divisive in many of the countries—a foreign policy that divides rather than unites.

I support engagement with Latin America; I strongly support being a better neighbor, but I do not support this narrow policy tool that the Bush administration has fixated on.

The Peru Free Trade Agreement is the first agreement that incorporates the new provisions on labor rights, the environment, and access to medicines from the May 10 agreement with Speaker PELOSI, Congressmen RANGEL and LEVIN, and Chairman BAUCUS.

These changes are significant. For the first time ever a trade agreement will include an enforceable obligation for each country to respect core, internationally recognized labor standards.

I hope that this new provision will have a dramatic impact over time.

If they are faithfully enforced, they can help to reduce inequality and establish broader middle classes in the developing countries with which we have free trade agreements. I applaud these and other changes that were part of that May 10 agreement.

While the May 10 agreement is very important, I have generally opposed free trade agreements for several reasons.

First and foremost, I think that for many years now, U.S. trade policy has been one dimensional—we have had one agreement after another, yet so many other aspects of economic policy have been absolutely neglected.

While we have approved new FTAs with 12 different countries since 2001, we still do not have an adequate trade adjustment assistance program. Studies show that those workers who lose their job due to trade on average see a substantial cut in wages in their next job. We need to do a better job of ensuring that these workers do not get left behind before we move forward with more and more agreements.

While we have approved all of those new FTAs, the Bush administration has absolutely fallen down on the job when it comes to enforcement of trade agreements. The Clinton administration brought on average 11 cases per year against foreign trade barriers at the WTO. The Bush administration has brought only a few more than 11 cases total over the last 7 years. The Clinton administration was very aggressive in using other tools of trade policy to fight against unfair trade and unjustifiable trade barriers. The Bush administration has taken numerous measures to weaken U.S. fair trade laws. The Bush administration has been impotent in responding to China's currency manipulation. The continued inaction on this critical issue has led to a situation that could destabilize global financial markets and economic prospects. While the May 10 agreement includes important new labor provisions, the Bush administration has repeatedly demonstrated that it will not enforce them.

It is hard for me to see how I can go home and tell my constituents that I want to support more and more trade agreements when the present administration has refused to aggressively support U.S. rights under our current trade agreements.

Finally, I remain concerned that U.S. free trade agreements have hurt many American workers and unwittingly caused problems in some of our free trade partners. The U.S. has lost about 3 million manufacturing jobs since 2001. Many of these jobs have gone overseas, replaced by imports from low-wage countries.

These lost jobs are offset by lower prices, no doubt. But a lost job has a more profound impact than our statistics account for. A lost job means a strain on a family. Large concentrations of lost jobs mean strains on communities and local and State governments.

Also, as we saw in Mexico after NAFTA, these FTAs can be harmful to communities in our trading partners. More than a million Mexican farmers lost their land and livelihood after NAFTA. NAFTA was supposed to end illegal immigration to the U.S.; instead by pushing poor rural farmers off their land, it helped cause an explosion of illegal immigration.

So I recognize that this FTA reflects major improvements from the previous model. But, I still see many holes in U.S. trade policy that need to be filled. So, reluctantly, I oppose the agreement.

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum and the time during the quorum call be equally divided.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. DOMENICI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. DOMENICI. Mr. President, how much time remains?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. There are 3 minutes on each side.

Mr. DOMENICI. I yield myself 1½ minutes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New Mexico is recognized.

Mr. DOMENICI. Mr. President, I rise late in the debate because I know it is an important issue, and I find myself wanting to say to the people of Peru that this Senator who comes from the State of New Mexico, where almost half our people speak Spanish—a commonality between our two countries—would expect that I show the appropriate concern for the people whom this treaty will benefit. That is why I am here. It is entirely proper that the United States show more concern and more consideration and have more relationships of mutual benefit with the countries of Central and South America, without a doubt.

I would like to have a few words from this Senator spread on the record to show that with what I have said, I concur. With this treaty, be it not the best because those who look at it from the standpoint of the best find fault here and there, it is as good as we are going to get and we ought to approve it. My vote will show up in favor, and that will be because I understand it. I understand what it means, and I am for the principles and the expected effect of this treaty.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Who seeks time?

Mr. DOMENICI. 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.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. DURBIN. I ask for the yeas and nays on the vote previously scheduled.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There is a sufficient second.

The question is on the third reading of the bill.

The bill was read the third time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The bill having been read the third time, the question is, Shall the bill pass?

The clerk will call the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Delaware (Mr. BIDEN), the Senator from New York (Mrs. CLINTON), the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. DODD), and the Senator from Illinois (Mr. OBAMA) are necessarily absent.

I further announce that, if present and voting, the Senator from Delaware (Mr. BIDEN) would vote ''nay.''

Mr. LOTT. The following Senator is necessarily absent: the Senator from Arizona (Mr. MCCAIN).

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The result was announced—yeas 77, nays 18, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 413 Leg.]

YEAS—77

Alexander	Domenici	McConnell
Allard	Durbin	Menendez
Barrasso	Ensign	Mikulski
Baucus	Enzi	Murkowski
Bayh	Feinstein	Murray
Bennett	Graham	Nelson (FL)
Bingaman	Grassley	Nelson (NE)
Bond	Gregg	Pryor
Brownback	Hagel	Roberts
Bunning	Hatch	Rockefeller
Burr	Hutchison	Salazar
Cantwell	Inhofe	Schumer
Cardin	Inouye	Sessions
Carper	Isakson	Shelby
Chambliss	Johnson	Smith
Coburn	Kennedy	Snowe
Cochran	Kerry	Specter
Coleman	Kohl	Stevens
Collins	Landrieu	Sununu
Conrad	Lautenberg	Thune
Corker	Levin	Vitter
Cornyn	Lieberman	Voinovich
Craig	Lincoln	Warner
Crapo	Lott	Webb
DeMint	Lugar	Wyden
Dole	Martinez	

NAYS—18

Akaka	Feingold	Reed
Boxer	Harkin	Reid
Brown	Klobuchar	Sanders
Byrd	Kyl	Stabenow
Casey	Leahy	Tester
Dorgan	McCaskill	Whitehouse

NOT VOTING—5

Biden	Dodd	Obama
Clinton	McCain	

The bill (H.R. 3688) was passed.

Mr. CARDIN. I move to reconsider the vote, and I move to lay that motion on the table.

The motion to lay on the table was agreed to.

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, with today's passage of the United States-

Peru Trade Promotion Agreement Implementation Act, we have taken a long-overdue step to strengthen our relationship with Peru, a close friend and important ally in Latin America. This agreement will result in new economic opportunities for U.S. farmers, manufacturers, and service providers, and I am pleased that the Senate has finally voted in favor of its implementation.

None of this would have been possible without the leadership of two of our United States Trade Representatives, Susan Schwab and her predecessor, Rob Portman. I want to thank Ambassador Portman for his hard work at the negotiating table that resulted in a solid agreement that will level the playing field for U.S. producers and exporters. And, I want to thank Ambassador Schwab for her dedication and perseverance that culminated in the May 10 bipartisan trade compromise, which set the stage for today's successful vote. Also meriting special mention for their tireless efforts are the Assistant United States Trade Representative for the Americas, Everett Eissenstat, and his predecessor, Regina Vargo.

Here in the Senate, I want to begin by thanking the chairman of the Finance Committee, Senator MAX BAUCUS. He is a true leader on trade and on the committee. And he is supported by a strong staff. That starts with the Democratic staff director on the Finance Committee, Russ Sullivan, and the deputy staff director, Bill Dauster, who were critical to the process. I also want to thank his chief international trade counsel, Demetrios Marantis, as well as the other members of the Democratic trade staff, Amber Cottle, Janis Lazda, Chelsea Thomas, Darci Vetter, and Hun Quach, and two individuals serving on detail to Senator BAUCUS, Russ Ugone and Ayesha Khanna.

Of course, I am grateful for the outstanding effort of my staff as well. First, my chief counsel and staff director, Kolan Davis, merits special mention. His legislative expertise has been instrumental in moving countless bills and this is no exception. I also want to thank my chief international trade counsel, Stephen Schaefer, as well as David Johanson, David Ross, and Claudia Bridgeford Poteet. And, I want to thank John Kalitka, who is on detail to my office from the U.S. Department of Commerce.

Finally, I want to thank Polly Craighill and Margaret Roth-Warren of the Office of the Senate Legislative Counsel for their hard work on this legislation. As always, Polly's patience and expertise have been invaluable in producing a top-notch bill. Margaret is a relatively recent addition to the office and already she is proving herself a very strong asset to our legislative team.

Today's vote is long overdue. The May 10 compromise was expected to pave the way for quick consideration of all four of our pending free trade agreements, as well as the renewal of trade promotion authority. That hasn't happened as quickly as I would have liked. Still, today's vote is a critical first step, and I hope we can use this vote to build momentum toward implementing the next agreement in line, which is our trade agreement with Colombia. We should move the Colombia trade agreement as soon as possible, and I will work hard toward that outcome in the 110th Congress.

Mr. KERRY. Mr. President, today the Senate voted to approve H.R. 3688, the United States-Peru Trade Promotion Agreement Implementation Act. In July of 2006, I opposed this agreement when it came before the Senate Finance Committee because it lacked enforceable labor standards—standards that Peru's President Alejandro Toledo indicated a willingness to support. What a difference a year makes. As a result of a landmark bipartisan agreement reached in May of this year, and for the first time ever in a free trade agreement, our agreement with Peru encompasses meaningful and enforceable labor and environmental protections.

The labor chapter of the agreement requires both the United States and Peru to adopt and maintain domestic laws to implement the five core standards incorporated in the 1998 ILO Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work: (1) the right to organize; (2) the right to bargain collectively; (3) prohibitions on forced labor; (4) protections for child labor; and (5) freedom from employment discrimination. The environmental chapter requires both the United States and Peru to adopt and maintain domestic laws to implement the obligations in seven multilateral environmental agreements to which both the United States and Peru are parties. I have long championed the inclusion of enforceable labor and environmental standards in free trade agreements, and I supported the agreement today because of these chapters. It is imperative that our trading partners be held to high labor and environmental standards, and I would not stand in support of this agreement had these provisions not been included.

The Peru Free Trade Agreement is a landmark achievement that makes these provisions fully enforceable—subjecting these provisions to the same dispute resolution system that applies to the commercial provisions of the agreement. I urge the President, along with the office of the U.S. Trade Representative, to hold Peru's government accountable to these provisions. By ensuring that these standards are fully enforced, the President can solidify this agreement with Peru as a model for dealing with future trading partners.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to a period for the transaction of morning business, with Senators allowed to speak for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. REID. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. CARDIN). The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. COLEMAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered. The Senator from Minnesota is recognized.

LIHEAP

Mr. COLEMAN. Mr. President, winter is fast approaching. The Senator from Minnesota was out there with his snow blower and shovel already this weekend. We had from 6 to 10 inches of snow in some portions of the State, 6 inches in the metro area. It was minus 2 when I woke up one day in the Twin Cities, in St. Paul. I traveled around the State. I think it was around minus 8, minus 9, and that is not getting cold yet. In that weather, we actually button the top button but no more.

The reality for many families is cold weather has a lot of people deeply concerned about their ability to keep the heat on. Most of us look forward to the coming of the holiday season as a time we get together with loved ones. For many Americans, this holiday season comes at a time when the cost of energy is skyrocketing. It is raising the level of anxiety as to whether they are going to be able to pay these ever-rising heating costs.

I will never forget a hearing I held for the Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations. I actually did a hearing on the issue of energy costs in my home State last year. I got a chance to listen firsthand to folks who, last year, were impacted by rising energy costs. They bear down on young and old alike.

I had the opportunity to meet Deidre Jackson, a single mother, working professional, and college student who saw her heating bill go through the roof. Meanwhile, Lucille Olson told a story familiar to many seniors of the struggle balancing the high cost of health care, prescription drugs, with heating bills that represented 30 percent of her monthly income. Unfortunately, for many seniors, this is not a balancing act that is easily maintained. Stories abound of grandmothers and grandfathers having to choose between food, medicine, clothing, and heat. This should not happen in America in the 21st century.

It is for stories such as these that we have the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program—LIHEAP—to provide heating and cooling assistance for folks who are struggling to get by. To many Americans, LIHEAP is a real lifeline. More than 70 percent of families receiving LIHEAP assistance have

incomes of less than 100 percent of the Federal poverty level. That is about $21,500 for a family of four. These are truly families who cannot afford to see their heating bills double. In fact, the majority of households have at least one member who is elderly, disabled, or a child under 5 years of age. These are the most vulnerable.

Unfortunately, current Federal funding levels are only sufficient to meet the needs of about 16 percent of the eligible households. Many States are trying to meet the needs of more households by providing smaller benefits to each household. Meanwhile, rising energy prices are rapidly reducing the purchasing power of program grants. This is a bad combination. In other words, folks in need are receiving less assistance while the cost of heating increases. Again, this is simply an untenable situation.

Consider that home heating prices are projected to reach almost $1,000 a year for a typical family, representing an increase of almost 80 percent from the average cost during the winter of 2001–2002. It is in just 5 years that we have seen this incredible 80-percent increase in cost. In fact, data show we are looking at heating costs rising 15.2 percent this year and record levels for heating oil, propane, and electricity. Experts predict that Minnesotans who use heating oil will probably see an increase in their bill of 47 percent higher than last year's level. Meanwhile, the cost of natural gas, which most Minnesotans rely on for their heating needs, is up 38 percent from the average cost during the winters of 2000 to 2005.

The heating oil crisis we are facing this year is certainly partially due to America's need to import more and more oil. I have always said there is a national security need to end our dependence on foreign oil. There is also a very focused need in terms of the impact it has on those who simply cannot afford to pay their heating bills. We need to end their dependence on foreign oil. At the same time, we have to make sure to take care of those families in need today.

We have the tools to produce clean and renewable energy here at home, and our heating crisis is only one of the many reasons we need to finish work on the bold energy package the Senate passed this summer and the strong farm bill we have before us now. Those are two important pieces of legislation. I hope we can overcome this partisan divide in Washington that kind of tears us apart and precludes us from getting things done.

I have sat with the Presiding Officer. We talked about renewables and energy and seeing if we can find common ground. We need it in Maryland, we need it in Minnesota, we need it in America. Unfortunately, as much as we would like to transform our energy production before this winter begins, we don't have that option. But we can make sure Americans having a tough time getting by have the assistance they need to make it through a cold season. For many, it really is a matter of survival. The large percentage of increases in heating costs don't really hit home until you look at a utility bill. A lot of folks will see hundreds of additional dollars on their heating bills this winter. That is a huge expense for a family below the poverty level or for the elderly on fixed incomes.

I drive by a bus stop on Grand Avenue in St. Paul, about four blocks from my house. There is a bus that stops there that takes you to downtown St. Paul. On a cold winter day, I look as I drive by. There may be a senior, a working mom—and it is cold. I look at the cost of energy and realize we have an obligation to try to do the right thing. That is what LIHEAP is about.

In life, sometimes the unexpected happens. No matter how much we try, sometimes we just need a helping hand to get back on our feet.

During my hearings back home, I heard a story from a courageous woman from St. Paul, Lori Cooper, who, as a working professional, wife, and mother of a 21-month child, had to figure out how to make ends meet when her husband's health prevented him from working. With heating costs rising, LIHEAP was critical in helping her family make it through the winter.

Tragically, it is getting harder for States to help families like this one get through winters like this because the appropriation levels have not risen with the inflation since the 1980s. The Labor-HHS-Education bill that the Senate has produced includes a welcome increase, but it is still below the real amount provided 20 years ago. If you look at where we were 20 years ago and factor in inflation, we are below that today. This would be much less problematic if we were not dealing with skyrocketing heating costs, which is why this winter, as in the winter of 2005–2006, families need emergency LIHEAP assistance.

In 2006, I came to the floor with Senators COLLINS and SNOWE to make the case to this body that no one should have to make the choice between basic necessities and heat. Rising to that challenge, we delivered an increase of $1 billion additional LIHEAP funding in 2006. Today, I proudly stand with my colleague from Vermont who, along with 17 Members, introduced the Keep Americans Warm Act to meet the heating crisis we will face this winter. This bill provides $1 billion in emergency LIHEAP assistance in addition to the funding currently included in the Labor-HHS-Education appropriations bill.

I urge my colleagues to join the 19 of us who are standing behind this bill, who are committed to meeting this urgent need. It took a lot of work to get emergency LIHEAP assistance passed in 2006. We worked very hard. It was difficult. I know it will take a lot of effort this time as well, but I am certain this Senate can come together to aid those who are struggling to provide the bare necessity of heat. I have faith in the potential of this body to act for the greater good, and I look forward to working together to pass this important piece of legislation.

Mr. President, I yield the floor and suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. HAGEL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

IRAN

Mr. HAGEL. Mr. President, yesterday the Director of National Intelligence, Admiral Mike McConnell, released the National Intelligence Estimate on Iran's nuclear weapons program. This NIE, which represents the best collective judgment of all 16 U.S. intelligence agencies, told us:

> Our intelligence community has concluded with high confidence that Iran halted its nuclear weapons program in 2003.

This is a major reversal of the intelligence community's previous intelligence assessment in 2005 that Iran was determined to develop nuclear weapons. The NIE states that the nuclear weapons program was halted primarily in response to international pressure, which suggests that Iran may be more vulnerable to influence.

Perhaps most significant is the DNI's conclusion that some combination of threats of intensified scrutiny and pressures, along with opportunities for Iran to achieve its security, prestige, and goals might prompt Tehran to extend the current halt to its nuclear weapons program.

I commend Admiral McConnell and his colleagues for their decision to release unclassified conclusions based on this current intelligence. I do not believe we can overstate the importance of this new information.

The effects of this NIE will be felt here, at the United Nations, throughout Europe, across the entire Middle East, the world, and in Iran.

The NIE closely parallels many of the conclusions of the Internal Atomic Energy Agency, the IAEA, the international organization, with the most direct on-the-ground access to Iran's nuclear facilities. Once again, the facts appear to be bearing out the conclusions of the IAEA. This NIE, as well as the IAEA's analysis, should help inform and shape U.S. strategy on Iran.

President Bush has a responsibility to carefully consider the policy implications concerning Iran with this new information, and I know he will. He said in his news conference this morning that this new information which he has confidence in would be factored into our policy regarding Iran.

The United States must pursue a clear and strategic policy toward Iran

based on this new intelligence and fact-based assessment to avoid the disastrous mistakes of Iraq. Yesterday's NIE does not invalidate the effectiveness of previous efforts to use an international consensus of pressure on Iran. We must be careful not to run from one end of the pendulum all the way to the other.

As President Bush noted again this morning, the United States must continue to work with our friends and our allies to sustain an international consensus on Iran. I believe the President is correct: alliances, common purpose, common interests, focus, discipline.

Iran's objectionable words and actions are real, and they must continue to be addressed. That means a very clear-eyed and realistic sense of Iran and its motives. As I said in my November 8 CSIS speech regarding U.S.-Iran policy, the United States must employ a comprehensive strategy regarding Iran: Iraq, the Israeli-Palestinian issue, the Middle East, a regional comprehensive strategy.

Yesterday's NIE reinforces the need for directed, unconditional, and comprehensive engagement with Iran. The United States and the international community must use all—all—elements of our foreign policy arsenal in offering direct, unconditional, and comprehensive talks with Iran. The United States should be clear that all issues, our issues and Iran's issues, are on the table, including offering Iran a credible way back from the fringes of the international community, security guarantees, and other incentives.

We urgently need to adopt a comprehensive strategy on Iran that is focused on direct engagement and diplomacy backed, as diplomacy must always be backed, by the leverage of international pressure, isolation, containment, and military options.

The United States must employ wise statecraft to redirect deepening tensions with Iran toward a higher ground of resolution. That is what Annapolis was about last week. America is the great power here. Iran is not the great power. We must be the more mature country in testing the proposition that the United States and Iran can overcome decades of mutual mistrust, suspicion, and hostility.

That is diplomacy. Diplomacy is not talking to your friends; diplomacy is not giving another country bonus points for us talking to them. There is a reason for diplomacy. We should not squander this opportunity as we did in the spring of 2003 when we had an opportunity for an opening to explore talks with Iran.

This initiative, by the way, in 2003, came from Iran. We are witnessing a confluence of events in the Middle East and around the world that presents the United States with new opportunities. There are hopeful and positive recent developments: Progress on North Korea's nuclear weapons program; the recent regional meeting in Istanbul on Iraq; the momentum generated by last week's Annapolis Middle East meeting where all Arab countries, including Syria, sat at the same table with Israel; and yesterday's NIE assessment.

Now is the time for America to act and to lead, and to lead boldly, with confidence, with our allies, focusing on a common purpose.

One dimensional optics, policies, and blunt black-or-white rhetoric, such as ''you are either with us or you are against us'' will not work, haven't worked, and will fall short of what is expected from American leadership in the eyes of the world.

The world faces challenges and opportunities today that carry with it implications well beyond this moment in time. American leadership is once again being called on at yet another transformational time in history to help set a new course, a new framework for a rudderless world drifting in a sea of combustible dangers.

In engaging Iran, the Middle East, and the world, we must be wide in our scope, clear in our purpose, measured in our words, and strong in our actions. Yesterday's NIE should not be overstated, but it also must not be undervalued in shaping future policy with Iran and in the Middle East.

Make no mistake, the NIE sets in motion a series of ripple effects that will have serious consequences. This should be welcome news for the United States and the world.

Mr. President, I thank you, yield the floor, and suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. WHITEHOUSE). The clerk will call the roll of the Senate.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. BYRD. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

RESPONSIBILITY TO GOVERN

Mr. BYRD. Mr. President, as Congress reconvenes this week after our observance of the Thanksgiving holiday, we find a brisk wind blowing through the streets of the Nation's Capital. As cold temperatures begin to grip the country, Americans are turning up the heat in their homes, but the elected leaders of our country should seize the opportunity to turn down the heat in Washington.

Three days ago, in his weekly radio address, the President placed the blame at the feet of Congress for the delays in enacting 11 of the 12 annual appropriations bills. But finger pointing does nothing—nothing, zilch—to solve the impasse, which began with White House threats to veto 10 of those funding bills. With 3 short weeks left in this session of Congress, it is time to close down the political posturing and recognize we have a responsibility to govern.

As the chairman of the Senate Appropriations Committee, it is clear to me that Congress is working with great diligence to find a way around our budget conundrum. Working hand in hand with Members of the minority, we are crafting an appropriations package that I expect will garner bipartisan support. This package contemplates a reduction of $10.6 billion from the spending levels approved by Congress in this year's budget resolution. And $10.6 billion is a lot of money. In addition, various controversial matters, some of which have been the subject of veto threats, are eliminated.

Both Democrats and Republicans in Congress are attempting, in good faith, to find a way around the veto threat demagoguery that has been emanating from 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue for months. Now the White House needs to put aside politics and recognize it is time to govern in the responsible manner that is expected by the American people.

I urge the President—and he is my President, too, and I say it respectfully—to stop the stale veto threats that have been the albatross around the neck of responsible budgeting for months. The fact is the needs of this Nation have changed since the budget was submitted way back in February. That should come as no great surprise.

The Senate, on a bipartisan basis, has recognized these needs, and events have made them crystal clear.

The crumbling state of our infrastructure was punctuated by a deadly—and I mean deadly—bridge collapse in Minnesota. The Senate passed a bill containing funds for the bridge replacement and for repairing bridges across the Nation by a vote of 88 to 7. That was the responsible thing to do.

Soaring oil prices mean a cruel squeeze on low-income heating assistance. The Senate approved by a vote of 75 to 19 a bill providing increased heating assistance. That was the responsible thing to do.

Investigations into the treatment of soldiers returning from Iraq and Afghanistan have underlined greater demands on the VA health care system. Legislation to increase funding for our veterans passed the Senate by a vote of 92 to 1. That was the moral thing to do.

More money is needed to improve the security of our borders. An amendment to provide such funding passed the Senate 89 to 1. That was the smart thing to do.

In July, the administration released its latest National intelligence report that concluded al-Qaida has regrouped in Pakistan with the intention of attacking the United States again. The Senate passed a Homeland Security bill to increase funding for first responders by a vote of 89 to 4.

Rising crime rates in this country highlight the wisdom of additional funding for law enforcement. The Senate passed legislation providing such funding for cops on the street by a vote of 75 to 19.

The rising cost of food means that there must be more funding for the

Women, Infants and Children Program or 500,000 people will lose important nutritional support.

Yet despite all of these developments since the President submitted an inadequate spending proposal in February, the White House continues to demand an arbitrary and irresponsible ceiling on spending. The White House continues to stubbornly oppose bipartisan initiatives to invest money to solve the real problems that face the Nation.

Soon, the first session of this 110th Congress will draw to a close, but there is still time to craft an appropriations proposal that makes a sincere attempt to meet the President in the middle of the road. I thank Senator THAD COCHRAN and his ranking members for their efforts as we move forward in completing the fiscal year 2008 appropriations process.

So the choice is clear—as clear as the noonday Sun in a cloudless sky. The President and the Congress must recognize that the people of this country expect their leaders—that is us, the people downtown at the other end of the avenue and those across the Capitol—to actually govern and address the real problems facing the country.

Democrats and Republicans in Congress are willing to work to resolve differences and complete a fiscally responsible package of appropriations bills. But to do the people's business, the Congress must be joined by a White House willing, at last, to jettison its political posturing, stop its political posturing. The tyranny of the veto threat has already dangerously delayed the Nation's priorities for far too long.

I yield the floor and suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

TEMPORARY TAX RELIEF ACT OF 2007—MOTION TO PROCEED

Mr. REID. Mr. President, the American people are about to see what the Democrats have tried to do all year and what we have been prevented from doing all year because of the obstructionism of the Republicans.

President Bush is out giving speeches that we have to do AMT. We have to take care of that. He is giving speeches all over the country. He gives press conferences talking about why we aren't doing AMT. Everybody watch. Here is why we aren't doing AMT. They do not want us to do it. They want, at the end of the year, to say: Look, the Democrats are not doing AMT. Everyone should understand we are not doing it because the Republicans, all 49 of them, backed by President Bush, don't want us to do it.

Mr. President, we have offered them a proposal. We will have a vote with a 60-vote margin on them all—on the bill the House has passed. The bill has passed. The bill passed by the House fully funds AMT. They won't let us vote on that. So I say: OK, let's vote on Senator LOTT's proposal, which just eliminates AMT. And then I say: Let's work on the proposal we have from the Finance Committee that has come from Senator BAUCUS and Senator GRASSLEY which has some extenders in it that we need to complete this year and then doesn't pay for the AMT. The Republicans don't want the AMT paid for. How much more fair could we be? We are giving them a vote on virtually everything dealing with AMT. But, no, they won't do that. It is the way it has been going all year long. We can't do the farm bill. We can't do anything around here, Mr. President. That is why we have had to file cloture 56 times. They have objected even to bills they agree with just to eat up time around here.

So I am not going to ask consent to move, as we have previously. I gave the Republican leader a proposal earlier today, as I have in the past, to do just as I have outlined, covering every possible facet of AMT—60 votes on all of them. But, no, no votes on any of them. So now I am left with no alternative but to file cloture on the only measure dealing with AMT that is now before this body.

For the life of me, I don't understand what they are trying to accomplish. What I have heard recently, in the last hour or so, is that now what they want to do is—we have certain tax provisions that are expiring in 2011—they want to vote on those. Now, that is 3 or 4 years away, and we have something that is expiring in a matter of weeks. How do those things tie together? They do not.

This is an effort to thwart the progress of our slim majority, 51 to 49. The Republicans want to go around saying the Democrats aren't doing the work of this country. Well, we have a long list of accomplishments we are very proud of, but also the American people understand that we are agents of change and the Republicans are agents of the status quo. That is what this is all about. They want things to stay the way they have been, and we want to change things, and not only in Iraq. We don't have another longstanding debate on that. We want to change the course in Iraq, and we want to change course in the way this country has been headed for the last 7 years—into the economic doldrums. And here today, what we want to do is finish a part of what we believe is an obligation to this country, and that is to make sure that when the first of the year rolls around, 19 million Americans don't have a tax increase. Everyone within the sound of my voice should understand, if that comes to be, it can go to 16th and Pennsylvania Avenue because that is what President Bush—he is the man who is pulling the strings on the 49 puppets he has here in the Senate. That is too bad for the country.

I move to proceed to H.R. 3996. There is a cloture motion at the desk. I ask the clerk to report it.

CLOTURE MOTION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The motion having been filed under rule XXII, the clerk will report the motion to invoke cloture.

The assistant 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, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the motion to proceed to Calendar No. 487, H.R. 3996, the AMT tax bill.

Harry Reid, Dick Durbin, Patty Murray, Max Baucus, Jay Rockefeller, Patrick Leahy, Daniel K. Inouye, Herb Kohl, Benjamin L. Cardin, Jeff Bingaman, Ted Kennedy, Carl Levin, B.A. Mikulski, Barbara Boxer, Debbie Stabenow, Maria Cantwell, Bill Nelson.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, reserving the right to object, and I will be.

Has the Senator not asked consent to go to the House-passed bill?

Mr. REID. No, I said I wouldn't do that. I am sorry if there was some confusion. I said I was not going to do that. I had been told by the staff that there would be an objection, so I indicated I was not going to do that. I apologize to my friend.

Mr. MCCONNELL. May I ask the Parliamentarian, what is the state of play? On what was cloture just filed?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The motion to proceed to H.R. 3996 was made, and the motion to invoke cloture was filed on that.

The Republican leader is recognized.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I think we all can agree we should fix the AMT. We should have done it much earlier this year. Shortly, I am going to present a unanimous consent agreement based on a very simple proposition: Our time is running short; therefore, we should start the debate with the areas of broadest agreement and work from there.

So what can we all agree upon? We agree it is past time for Congress to act to ensure that 23 million American families do not face a major tax increase this year. While my side of the aisle believes we should permanently repeal the AMT, we are also prepared to ensure that middle-income Americans get tax relief this year.

We agree tax extenders are important to small business, to parents paying college tuition for their children, to teachers who buy classroom supplies with their own money. These issues are not controversial, and I believe a majority of the Senate supports them.

However, there is an area of strong disagreement. We disagree with the proposition that taxes must be permanently raised in order to extend current tax policy. By patching the AMT and extending other expiring provisions, we are simply maintaining the

status quo on tax policy. Why should some taxpayers be harmed when no single taxpayer will enjoy increased benefits?

So I recommend that we begin where there is a consensus—the AMT patch and tax extenders. We should require the controversial provisions, those raising revenues, be subject to 60 votes. In addition, my side of the aisle would like an opportunity for votes on our vision for tax relief and AMT reform, all of which we understand would be subject to 60 votes. Anything left at the end of the process would also be subject to 60 votes.

This would be a fair process for the short amount of time we have been given on this bill. Let's not tie up the Senate over disagreements; rather, we should build from areas of broadest consensus.

I do not anticipate the majority leader agreeing to the unanimous consent that I am going to now propound. I want to make sure he is engaged before I do that. Or maybe the chairman of the committee?

Mr. BAUCUS. The leader mentioned to me he had an urgent meeting he had to attend. It is up to the leader if he wants to propound his consent now or later.

Mr. MCCONNELL. I thank the Senator from Montana. I gather he is saying he will take care of the consent for their side? I thank the Senator from Montana.

I ask unanimous consent at a time to be determined by the majority leader, after consultation with the Republican leader, the Senate proceed to consideration of H.R. 3996, the House-passed AMT bill, and it be considered under the following limitations: There be 1 hour of debate on the bill, equally divided between the two leaders or their designees, followed by a vote on a motion to invoke cloture on the bill; provided further, that if cloture is not invoked, then the only amendments in order to the bill be the following, and be offered in the following order: A substitute amendment to be offered by Senator MCCONNELL or his designee, which is to be an unoffset AMT extension and an unoffset extenders package; a Baucus or designee first-degree amendment to the McConnell substitute which is to be a set of offsets for the extender package; a Sessions amendment related to AMT and exemptions; an Ensign amendment which is an AMT repeal and extends other expiring provisions; a DeMint amendment which relates to AMT and flat tax; provided further, that there be an additional 2 hours for debate on the bill, equally divided between the two leaders or their designees; that there be a time limitation of 2 hours for debate on each amendment equally divided in the usual form, provided that each amendment would require 60 votes in the affirmative for adoption and that each amendment that does not require 60 votes then be withdrawn; I further ask that, notwithstanding the adoption of any substitute amendment, the other amendments be in order, and finally that following the consideration of the above amendments, 60 votes be required for passage of the bill as amended, if amended.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

The Senator from Montana.

Mr. BAUCUS. Mr. President, this is a very interesting proposal. I think it is constructive. Now the Senate is engaging on this issue. At an earlier point, a couple or 3 weeks ago, the leader propounded a consent on this subject, and it was objected to and the Senate took no action. But here the distinguished minority leader is suggesting a process. He is suggesting a way, perhaps, to resolve this question. I think the basic implication of his suggestion is that we must and should very definitely pass legislation this year that prevents about 19 million Americans from paying the alternative minimum tax for tax year 2007 when they fill out their tax returns next year.

There are provisions which are interesting, which I have not seen until this moment—I daresay which I think the leader has not seen until this moment—which have to be worked out before I think there can be an agreement. But there may be something here, the beginnings of something so that we can work out an accommodation. I very much hope that is the case.

Over the next hours and day or two perhaps we can find a way to reach an agreement on what the procedure should be, what amendment will be offered by whom, et cetera.

I again thank the distinguished minority leader, but on behalf of the leader, on behalf of Senator REID, I must object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard. The Republican leader.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I thank my friend from Montana. We will continue discussions in the hope we can get a result that is mutually satisfactory to virtually all the Members of the Senate in the very near future.

I yield the floor.

Mr. BAUCUS. Mr. President, 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.

Mr. BAUCUS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. BAUCUS. Mr. President, I underline the urgency of curing this alternative minimum tax problem and also underline how strongly the Senators on this side of the aisle are attempting to get that legislation passed as soon as possible. We tried, on this side, to get AMT legislation up before the Senate and passed so that American taxpayers will not have to pay it. That was objected to by the other side. We made many attempts. There were many suggestions by the majority leader to bring up legislation to prevent the alternative minimum tax from going into effect. They were all objected to by the other side. We are here again trying to get resolution.

The leader filed cloture on the House-passed bill so we can get a vote on the issue in an attempt to move the issue forward. I commend him for that. Again it was, in a sense, objected to by the other side because they offered just now a package which is somewhat in the right direction but also has complications in it which raise questions to the degree we can fully get AMT passed. But I want to underline the importance of this body passing legislation to prevent the alternative minimum tax from affecting about 19 million Americans. We all know this is a pernicious tax, it is a stealth tax. It was not intended to have this effect on so many middle-income Americans. Unfortunately, it has this effect because when it was enacted years ago it was not indexed, and each year more and more American taxpayers have to pay the alternative minimum tax. Soon we will get very much to the point where most Americans—I will not say most, but a vast number of Americans will have to pay the alternative minimum tax, and that is not what we want. We did not intend that. We are trying to get it solved.

There is another issue, and that is this: The IRS has sent the 2007 tax forms to the printer. They were sent to the printer on November 16. So each day that we dally here, each day the Congress does not correct this problem, it means it costs the Government more money to correct the forms, to correct the programs that it has to utilize when paying taxes online, whether it is various providers—it is the wrong way to do business.

It means a lot more frustration for taxpayers. Just think, if you are a taxpayer and you are beginning to figure out what your income tax is going to be, and suddenly out of the blue, Congress does not change this AMT, it causes huge problems. Just think of the withholding provisions. Americans have a certain amount of dollars withheld from their income as taxes every year, from every paycheck, for example. The calculation assumes the AMT, pretty soon, if it is not corrected—assume AMT will be corrected. If it is corrected, those changes have to be made on the taxpayers when they withhold.

I hope, again, we get this done. Senator GRASSLEY, the ranking member of the committee, and I have offered a proposal. We have a package we agree on, Senator GRASSLEY and I, to take up and pass legislation which says: OK, nobody has to pay AMT in 2007 who didn't pay it in the previous year. That is the tax year 2007. We are providing it doesn't have to be paid for. That is a big step. But I say that because it is

my judgment that because the President—because Republicans so adamantly said it cannot be paid for, and because we need 60 votes, that it will not be paid for. That is just a judgment I made. I suggest we bring up legislation, pass an AMT patch for 1 year, and also include the extender provisions which will be paid for.

That is where we are going to end up. Everybody knows that is where we are going to end up. If that is where we are going to end up, let's just do it, not go through this kabuki here, these games, not use this as leverage to offer amendments that are going nowhere and will never be enacted, that are just political. But we are unfortunately in a position where we are not yet free to pass legislation that we know at some point we are going to end up with; that is, AMT not being paid for and all the extenders paid for.

I again underline how much we on this side of the aisle are trying to get the AMT passed. Up to this point we are being blocked by the other side. We are going to keep trying. The earlier we get this passed the better because the forms can be sent out more quickly, the computer programs changed more quickly, and we are going to keep at it because it is the right thing to do. And, second, we are going to do it anyway. If it is the right thing to do and we are going to do it anyway, why don't we do it now?

Mr. 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.

Mr. CASEY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. CARDIN.) Without objection, it is so ordered.

(The remarks of Mr. CASEY pertaining to the introduction of S. 2407 are printed in today's RECORD under ''Statements on Introduced Bills and Joint Resolutions.'')

Mr. CASEY. Mr. President, I yield the floor and suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll of the Senate.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The Senator from North Dakota is recognized.

MEDIA CONCENTRATION

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, about 2 hours ago, the Commerce Committee of the Senate took some action on a bill I offered along with my colleague, Senator LOTT from Mississippi. I wish to talk about the Media Ownership Act of 2007 for just a moment. I hope, perhaps, the Chairman of the Federal Communications Commission may take note and watch what the Commerce Committee did.

This issue is very important. It has been around for a long time. It deals with media concentration. Some years ago—in 2003—the then-Chairman of the Federal Communications Commission, Michael Powell, rounded up two other votes and by a vote of three to two passed a new FCC rule allowing a relaxation of ownership limits for television and radio stations, and for newspapers, and here is what they concluded back then. It is almost unbelievable. They said it will be OK with them if, in the largest American cities, one company owned eight radio stations, three television stations, the newspaper, and the cable company—they would all be owned by the same company. They said that would be just dandy.

Well, the fact is, it was not fine with me, and I fought it. Senator LOTT joined me back then. We offered a resolution of disapproval of the FCC rule and it passed the Senate. In the meantime, the Federal court of appeals stayed the rule, and so the rule never went into effect. But it was unbelievable to me that the Federal Communications Commission thought that what we really needed in this country was more concentration in the media.

Well, the idea is not dead. The current Chairman of the Federal Communications Commission came up recently with an idea of relaxing ownership rules, and he announced—in an op-ed piece in the New York Times and then in a press release he was going to propose a new set of rules that relax the ownership restrictions. So he said: We are going to announce the rule in November, and I am going to ask for a final FCC vote by December 18.

He says his proposed rule is a real compromise. It is going to allow the ownership of the newspaper and a television station in each of the 20 largest markets in our country. These top 20 markets, by the way, cover one-half of the population of America. He will relax the ban that exists on cross-ownership between newspapers and television stations.

Now, I do not know that anybody is lying awake at night in this country thinking about our most serious problems and deciding that one of the biggest problems in America is that newspapers are not allowed to buy television stations. We have a cross-ownership ban for good reason, in my judgment, but apparently the Chairman of the FCC has been lying awake thinking: We have to fix this. So he has come up with a rule that says: Well, let's let newspapers buy television stations.

We just passed a bill, S. 2332, over in the Commerce Committee that would stop what the FCC is doing and would not allow them to proceed with the December 18 date. It would require that the American public be allowed to weigh in on these issues. We say in our bill that passed unanimously in the Commerce Committee that you have to have a process that is fair to the American public. You cannot decide to announce, ''Here is my rule,'' in November, and then drive it through to a conclusion in December.

The Chairman says: Well, but we had six hearings around the country. We did this. We did that. None of those hearings would have given people an opportunity to comment on this rule because the rule did not exist when he held the hearings. He waited until the hearings were all done and then announced the rule and then has tried to jam this home by December 18. That is what the Chairman is trying to do. It is unfair, and it makes no sense.

With respect to concentration in the media, let me say this: I do not think it has served this country's interest to have the concentration in radio and television, and it certainly does not serve this country's interest to decide that we ought to allow the newspapers now to buy the television stations. I think that concentration is injurious to this democracy. We need the free flow of information.

It is interesting, most of what people will see, hear, and read in America today—Tuesday, December 4—will be controlled by about five or six major corporations with respect to television, the Internet, radio, and the newspapers. About five or six major corporations in this country have a substantial amount of control of what kind of information is available to the American people. And some believe there needs to be greater concentration?

We held a hearing recently in the Senate Commerce Committee, and the Parents Television Council, which is considered to be on the right side of the political spectrum, came and weighed in with opposition to the proposal by the Federal Communications Commission. The witness was from Los Angeles. He said: I have in my office in Los Angeles, CA basic advanced tier cable where I get 48 channels. But he said: That isn't 48 different voices. Then he went down the list of who controls those channels—Time Warner, etc. He just went down the list of the 4 or 5 or 6 big companies that control those 40-some channels.

So it goes back to what I have said for long time. When the FCC is trying to relax these ownership rules, they say: Well, you now have a lot more choices. You have more channels. You have more networks. You have more Internet sites. My response was: Yes, there are more voices from the same ventriloquist. Really, this country is not, in my judgment, served well by a Federal Communications Commission that is just hell bent on deciding: We need to have greater concentration in radio, television, or newspapers.

Now, take a look at what has happened with radio concentration. In one town in North Dakota—a town of about 40,000 or 50,000 people—one company

bought up all of the radio stations—all 6 of them. All six commercial stations were bought by one company from Texas. Does that make sense? It does not to me. The FCC said it was just fine. So what happens with respect to news-gathering in that town? Well, you end up with fewer newspeople because when one company owns all the stations, they just consolidate it all.

There is a real dispute about the story I'm about to tell you and I do not know that anybody has ever gotten to the bottom of it. I have seen so many different stories. Late at night—at 2 in the morning—a train came through Minot, ND, and with anhydrous ammonia cars, derailed, went off the tracks, split some anhydrous ammonia cars, and this deadly plume enveloped the city at 2 a.m. It caused a death, and caused many injuries. Many went to the hospital. It caused great fright among the population, not knowing what was happening. We discovered later it was a great danger to the population. Well, the emergency broadcast function somehow did not work. But notwithstanding the fact the system did not work, the townspeople could not get anybody to answer the telephone at the local radio station. All the commercial stations were owned by the same company from another State. One wonders, what if those stations were owned by individual operators who lived in town? Do you think they would be able to track somebody down? I think so.

Now, the Chairman of the Federal Communications Commission is galloping off to relax media ownership rules because he thinks that is really what is necessary. I met with him today, and I said: What is really necessary—he knows this because Senator LOTT and I have both told him—is to do first things first; one, do a proceeding on localism to find out: How has all of this concentration affected localism? That is, we provide free licenses to use the airwaves for television and radio, in exchange for which they are responsible to serve local interests.

So do we know what they are doing? No. The Chairman of the Federal Communications Commission has admitted to me they do not know how many stations are using a service called voice-tracking. I will give you an example of voice tracking:

You are driving down the road on a bright Tuesday morning in Salt Lake City, UT, and you have the radio on and after the song ends, the disc jockey comes on and says, ''It is a great morning here in Salt Lake City. We have the Sun coming up over the mountains. We have a blue sky. We have a light 5-mile-an-hour wind. We are going to have a wonderful day, aren't we?''

It turns out the guy is broadcasting from a basement studio in Baltimore, MD, pretending he is in Salt Lake City, simply ripping information from the Internet to say: It is a bright, sunny day here in Salt Lake City. That is called voice tracking. Does that serve local interests? It sure does not. So how many stations do this? How prevalent is that practice? Don't know. Neither does the FCC.

How about starting a proceeding on localism to find out whether those who are using the public airwaves, free of charge—airwaves that belong to the American public, not the licensees—how about finding out how they are serving local interests? Or how about a proceeding dealing with public interest standards because there are public interest requirements for the holding of a license for television and radio broadcasting?

How about first things first? Why the rush to provide more concentration allowing cross-ownership of television stations with newspapers? The Chairman would say: Well, I am not trying to do more concentration in radio and television; I am trying to allow newspapers now to begin buying television stations. Why? Well, he said the newspapers are not doing very well. I said: When did it become the job of the Federal Communications Commission to be the bookkeeper for newspapers? My understanding about newspapers is they used to have a higher profit margin. Now it has dropped to 16 to 18 percent profit margins—pretty good profit compared to all other industries. All of a sudden, the FCC thinks the newspapers are having financial trouble and so they should relax the rules to allow cross-ownership? I just think it is wrong.

Senator LOTT and I offered the Media Ownership Act of 2007 today in the Commerce Committee. That bill was agreed to unanimously.

My hope is that the Chairman of the Federal Communications Commission is watching and listening because this Congress, on a bipartisan basis, says no to further relaxing the controls on cross-ownership. And this Congress, on a bipartisan basis, I feel, strongly believes we have too much concentration in the media. The Chairman of the Federal Communications Commission believes, apparently, we need more. He is just dead wrong.

My hope is that in the coming couple of weeks he will understand that it would not be the best course for the Federal Communications Commission. It would be wise for the Chairman to decide not to advance to a December 18 final vote on the rule he is proposing. It is not in the public interest. It is not doing what the FCC should do. My hope is he will instead open a public-interest proceeding and open a localism proceeding and finish them to their conclusion and do a good job on them. That would be a public service for this country.

Mr. President, I yield the floor and make a point of order that a quorum is not present.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE ESTIMATE

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, this morning I had an opportunity, which I rarely have, to watch the entire press conference of President Bush at the White House. The press conference dealt largely with the subject of the National Intelligence Estimate that came out yesterday about the issue of a nuclear weapons program in Iran. The NIE that came out indicated that—to the surprise of certainly myself and many others—the country of Iran abandoned its nuclear weapons program 4 years ago, in 2003. I was surprised, and many others were, because we have heard from this administration repeatedly about the threat posed by Iran's nuclear weapons program including some weeks ago when President Bush raised the specter of a ''World War III.''

Now we learn the nuclear weapons program they indicated Iran was involved in was discontinued 4 years ago. That comes from our National Intelligence Estimate, which is a cumulative assessment of all our intelligence agencies.

It raises, I think, some very important and troubling questions. The questions are not new questions, actually. It is: What did this administration know? What did they understand? What did they find out and when? The American people, and certainly this Congress, has been treated to a very generous conversation by the President and his administration about the specter of the nuclear weapons program in Iran and how it must be stopped. I don't disagree at all with the contention that the behavior of Ahmadinejad and of some of the terrorist elements in Iran and others is far outside the norm and is troublesome to this country. But that is not what I am talking about.

I am talking about the question of a nuclear weapons program and the relentless language by this administration about the nuclear weapons program that was being pursued by the country of Iran.

The intelligence community now says that is not the case and has not been the case since 2003. I wonder if the administration knew, if Mr. Hadley knew—I heard his briefing—did the President know about this new assessment when 5 or 6 weeks ago he was giving another of his speeches and raising the specter of World War III in connection with a presumed or alleged nuclear weapons program by the country of Iran. The American people certainly didn't know what the National Intelligence Estimate had disclosed to us. We are told the Intelligence Community came to this conclusion sometime

around this summer. Mr. Hadley originally said the intelligence folks alerted the White House and indicated that the President should back off a bit. He certainly did not back off.

The reason I raise these issues is because I remember back about 5 years ago going to a room in which top-secret briefings were offered to Members of Congress as a leadup to the war in Iraq. I remember directly the Vice President, the National Security Chief, now the Secretary of State, Condoleezza Rice, I remember the discussion by the head of the CIA, I remember the top-secret material that was told us, which turns out not to have been accurate as a leadup to the Iraq war.

I remember when Secretary Powell, then-Secretary of State, went to the United Nations and made the case describing things we had previously been told about in many cases in top-secret briefings.

For example Powell talked about the danger of the mobile biological weapons labs that supposedly existed in the country of Iraq.

It turns out the mobile biological weapons labs did not exist. It turns out the mobile biological weapons laboratory story was from a fabricator from the country of Iraq, a former taxicab driver in Baghdad, as a matter of fact, someone who was telling this to the German intelligence community. And someone in the German intelligence community wondered whether this person was credible and expressed doubts about the person's credibility to the American intelligence service. They nicknamed this man ''Curve Ball.''

So from a single source, a man named Curve Ball who, among other things, used to drive a taxicab in Baghdad, the world is treated by Secretary Powell to a presentation at the United Nations saying Iraq has mobile biological weapons laboratories which are a danger to all of us. It turns out not to have been true, a fabrication based on a single source without credibility.

None of us were told that at the time, of course. The world wasn't told that. We were just told that Iraq had mobile biological weapons laboratories. We were told Iraq was buying aluminum tubes for the purpose of reconstituting their nuclear capability. The world was told that by Secretary Powell. It turns out that was false as well. And it also turns out that even as we were told that information, the administration knew there were others inside the administration who did not believe it, and yet that information was imparted to us as a set of facts that represented the danger coming from the country of Iraq.

We were told that Iraq was attempting to purchase yellowcake from Niger for the purpose of reconstituting a nuclear capability. We discovered only later that the documents on that were fraudulent. We discovered they were forgeries. Again, the information given the Congress was inaccurate.

Yellowcake from Niger, aluminum tubes, mobile biological weapons laboratories—not accurate, not true. It was presented to the Congress as fact, presented to the American people as fact prior to the Iraq war.

There has been a great deal of discussion and also concern in the country, in this Chamber, about whether this administration is preparing to do something with respect to the country of Iran, and that has been heightened by the language President Bush used recently, including language that said ''World War III'' in the context of the danger of a nuclear weapons program in the country of Iran. That statement was about 5 or 6 weeks ago.

We now know that the National Intelligence Estimate, representing all of the intelligence agencies in this country, has indicated that the nuclear weapons program of Iran that has been discussed so much by the administration was discontinued in 2003.

I think there are serious credibility questions. The President held a press conference today that seemed to suggest that, well, there is no real issue here. There is a very big issue, I say to the President, a very big issue. This country needs to take action internationally to develop strategies based on what we know to be the truth, not what someone alleges to be true. This country needs to have good information, information that is not fabricated by a man named Curve Ball who used to drive a taxicab. This country deserves better than that.

In my judgment, this country has been failed in many ways, some by the intelligence community, some by the administration, perhaps some by Congress. But we certainly deserve straight answers. We deserve the best intelligence that is available.

Look, the fact is we face a challenging and difficult world. One part of that world is the country of Iran. I do not by being here tonight suggest that Iran's behavior is not troublesome, or that they are not a danger in their neighborhood. They are. But I have always believed that the constructive approach to dealing with Iran and, yes, other circumstances around the world is through diplomacy and negotiation and aggressive diplomacy at that. This administration does not believe that is the right course. But I do believe that facing the world that we face, a very challenging world, a war against terrorism, this country will be protected by good intelligence, by an intelligence community that works.

I appreciate the fact that yesterday we were told finally that the Iranians are not at the moment engaging in a nuclear weapons program. They discontinued that in 2003. They say they have high reliability with respect to that conclusion. I appreciate the fact that we are getting that conclusion at this point. And if that is a valid conclusion, if that is the result of good intelligence—and I certainly hope our intelligence service has improved because they got it wrong about 5 years ago. We need to be well served by the best intelligence service we can be capable of producing.

I know today there are men and women risking their lives as members of our intelligence community. My thoughts are with them. I want the best they can give us. And if yesterday's National Intelligence Estimate gives us opportunities to better understand what is happening in that region, then that advances our knowledge.

I will say this: I think this Congress and this administration need to have some straight talk about credibility because there are serious credibility issues with respect to this issue that at this point have not been answered at all, certainly were not answered in the President's news conference today.

The safety of this country hinges on our ability to have good intelligence. This war on terrorism is not a bunch of words, it is real, and there are too many victims out there in this country today who understand that reality. The way to protect our country in the future is to have a good understanding of what is going on in the world, have good intelligence, have good information, and take steps to protect ourselves. But it does not serve this country's interest by ratcheting up the rhetoric and talking about World War III with respect to a country that the administration has alleged up to now has had a nuclear weapons program, only to find out that nuclear weapons program was discontinued 4 years ago.

This Congress and this administration needs to have an aggressive conversation about credibility. We actually represent the same country. I am sure we want the same result. We want to protect this country. We want a foreign policy that deals with reality and a foreign policy that deals with truths that exist out there in a very challenging world.

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. DORGAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

HONORING OUR ARMED FORCES

SERGEANT KENNETH R. BOOKER

Mr. BAYH. Mr. President, I rise today with a heavy heart and deep sense of gratitude to honor the life of a brave soldier from Vevay, IN. SGT Kenneth Raymond Booker, 25 years old, died November 14th in Mukhisa, Iraq. Sergeant Booker died of injuries he sustained when an improvised explosive device detonated near his vehicle. With an optimistic future before him, Kenneth risked everything to fight for the values Americans hold close to our hearts, in a land halfway around the world.

Kenneth graduated in 2000 from Switzerland County High School in southeastern Indiana. Shortly thereafter, he joined the Army, happy at the prospect of serving his country. As a member of the 82nd Airborne division from Fort Bragg, NC, Kenneth served in Afghanistan and Iraq. His exemplary service earned him an assignment in military intelligence at Fort Lewis, WA. Kenneth, however, preferred working in the field to an office and requested to transfer back to infantry.

Joining a Stryker Brigade Combat Unit at Fort Lewis, Kenneth returned to Iraq for his third deployment. Kenneth was a member of the 2nd Battalion, 23rd Infantry Regiment, 4th Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 2nd Infantry Division. He will be remembered by his friends and family for his clever sense of humor, his love of hunting and target shooting, his outgoing nature, and above all, his outstanding dedication to his country. Kenneth is survived by his father, SSG Charles Booker; his mother, Becky Graham; and his brother, Kaleb Daniel Booker.

Today, I join Kenneth's family and friends in mourning his death. While we struggle to bear our sorrow over this loss, we can also take pride in the example he set, bravely fighting to make the world a safer place. It is his courage and strength of character that people will remember when they think of Kenneth. Today and always, Kenneth will be remembered by family members, friends, and fellow Hoosiers as a true American hero, and we honor the sacrifice he made while dutifully serving his country.

As I search for words to do justice in honoring Kenneth's sacrifice, I am reminded of President Lincoln's remarks as he addressed the families of the fallen soldiers in Gettysburg: ''We cannot dedicate, we cannot consecrate, we cannot hallow this ground. The brave men, living and dead, who struggled here, have consecrated it, far above our poor power to add or detract. The world will little note nor long remember what we say here, but it can never forget what they did here.'' This statement is just as true today as it was nearly 150 years ago, as I am certain that the impact of Kenneth's actions will live on far longer than any record of these words.

It is my sad duty to enter the name of SGT Kenneth Raymond Booker in the official RECORD of the U.S. Senate for his service to this country and for his profound commitment to freedom, democracy, and peace. When I think about this just cause in which we are engaged and the unfortunate pain that comes with the loss of our heroes, I hope that families like Kenneth's can find comfort in the words of the prophet Isaiah who said, ''He will swallow up death in victory; and the Lord God will wipe away tears from off all faces.''

May God grant strength and peace to those who mourn, and may God be with all of you, as I know He is with Kenneth.

NATIONAL BIBLE WEEK

Mr. ENSIGN. Mr. President, I rise to speak on behalf of the National Bible Association and the most influential force ever known to mankind, the Holy Bible.

Each day, about 168,000 Bibles are sold, given away, or otherwise distributed in the United States. November 18 through 25 was National Bible Week, which, along with the National Bible Association, I hope increased that exposure to help spread the Good News contained within its pages.

The timing of National Bible Week couldn't be more appropriate since it encompasses the Thanksgiving Holiday. As you know, Thanksgiving commemorates the story and the plight of the Pilgrims, who fled to the New World to escape religious persecution and joined with their new neighbors to give thanks for offering their friendly aid and for coming to their rescue in a dire time of need. Like the Pilgrims, the Bible recounts numerous cases of religious persecution of the children of Israel and the extreme hardships suffered by many over thousands of years. But the Bible also gives us hope, and the comfort of knowing God will help us to persevere and endure.

The theme of neighborly assistance and thanks, as well as the many other valuable and moral lessons or guidance for treating one's neighbor and fellow man, are imparted in the Bible and even served as a moral compass to our Founding Fathers. The Judeo-Christian Bible became the cornerstone of our Constitution and the Bill of Rights.

As we now find ourselves in the midst of the Christmas season, National Bible Week should serve as an important reminder to always turn to the Bible, recognize its wisdom and Divinely inspired words, and reflect on its meaning in our own lives, especially in how we interact with and treat our neighbors.

Beyond serving as a personal moral compass on how to become a better person and neighbor, the Bible reassures us of God's infinite love for His creation. I encourage you to pick up and read the Bible and become awed by the history, lessons, and adventures found within its pages. As we celebrate National Bible Week, let us share the positive message of the Holy Bible with our families, friends, and neighbors.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

HONORING JUDGE CLYDE MIDDLETON

• Mr. BUNNING. Mr. President, it is with great admiration and respect that I take this time to recognize a dear friend and one of Kentucky's most distinguished citizens, Judge Clyde Middleton, on his 80th birthday.

Born January 30, 1928, Judge Middleton achieved a commendable record of public service to Kenton County and the Commonwealth of Kentucky. A graduate of the U.S. Naval Academy and a retired Navy captain, he later earned an MBA from my alma mater, Xavier University, and a juris doctor from Chase College of Law in northern Kentucky. Judge Middleton served with distinction as a Kentucky State senator and judge executive of Kenton County, and still today is very active in his community. He and his wonderful wife Mary are the proud grandparents of four grandchildren.

Mr. President, I am honored to have had the opportunity to recognize the dedication of Clyde Middleton to his community, and ask you to join me in honoring him on his birthday.•

REMEMBERING SALLY L. SMITH

• Mr. HAGEL. Mr. President, on December 1, America lost a great and innovative educator and a wonderfully decent human being when Sally Smith passed away this week at the age of 78. Sally was the founder and director of one of America's most important teaching institutions, the Lab School in Washington, DC.

Sally was a New York City native, and longtime resident of the District. She graduated in 1950 from Bennington College, and received a master's degree in education from New York University in 1955. In 1967, inspired by her own son's difficulties in learning, she founded the Lab School.

Beginning with just her son and three other students, the Lab School has now grown into an internationally renowned school for students with learning disabilities. Sally's fundamental belief was that all children, no matter what the disability, have the potential, ability and ingenuity to learn. Sally created a unique and innovative learning environment where students are given the tools and encouragement needed to fulfill their goals. She also provided through the Lab School the resources needed for others to teach students with disabilities.

In 1976, Sally became a professor at the School of Education at American University, where she ran the master's degree program specializing in learning disabilities. The Lab School serves as the primary training site for most graduate students in the program. Sally is the author of 10 books on education. Her teaching techniques have been showcased in a four film series on PBS.

My wife Lilibet and I are privileged to have been actively involved with the Lab School over the last 11 years, and we came to know and admire Sally. She was an American original and represented the best of our society.

Like all of Sally's many friends, Lilibet and I offer our prayers to the Smith family. She leaves the world a better place than she found it. She will be missed by that world.

Sally is survived by her sons, Randall, Nick and Gary Smith; a sister; and one granddaughter.•

TRIBUTE TO STAN GARNETT

• Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, in a few days Stan Garnett will retire from the Food and Nutrition Service of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, after 35 years of tremendous service to people in our Nation and elsewhere in the world.

Stan's experience and dedication to fighting hunger and malnutrition extends beyond his 35 years with the Department of Agriculture. Following his graduation from college, Stan answered President Kennedy's call to service abroad and spent 2 years in the Peace Corps in the Philippines. Thereafter, he joined Catholic Relief Services and spent 6 years administering food assistance programs in Southeast Asia and in Africa under tremendously difficult circumstances. He often traveled by helicopter in battle zones in Vietnam to deliver food assistance to war refugees, and he also provided food aid in Nigeria during the tragic Biafran conflict.

Following his work overseas, Stan returned to the United States and joined the Food and Nutrition Service of the U.S. Department of Agriculture in 1971. Over the years, Stan held many different positions within the Food and Nutrition Service, the majority of them pertaining to legislative and regulatory policy in Federal child nutrition programs. Throughout his career, Stan served with accomplishment and, not surprisingly, continued a steady ascent in the ranks at the Food and Nutrition Service of the Department of Agriculture, eventually serving as the Director of Supplemental Food Programs and Director of the Child Nutrition Division.

Stan fulfilled those positions with great competence, but with integrity and humility as well. In 9 cases out of 10, Stan knows more about the issue at hand than anyone else in the room, but he never acts as if this is the case. Stan treats everyone equally—Members of Congress, members of his own staff, and the many people across the country who for so long have relied on Stan's expertise to help them operate child nutrition programs in their own communities. Stan is known by all who come in contact with him as a generous and caring administrator who is trusted by all.

After 35 years of Federal service, there is no question that Stan has certainly earned a much-deserved retirement. His absence will certainly be acutely felt, both within the Department of Agriculture and here in Congress. However, I have no doubt that one of Stan's biggest contributions is to leave child nutrition programs in the hands of capable colleagues who have benefited, as I have over the years, from his tremendous expertise, and who will ensure a smooth transition as new leadership assumes his responsibilities.

In so many respects, the Stan Garnett who will retire this year is strikingly similar to the Stan Garnett who took up President Kennedy's call to service by entering the Peace Corps as a young man. His commitment to ending hunger and to promoting the economic security and nutrition of low-income families is as strong today as it was as a bright-eyed college graduate. Just as important, he has imparted this same idealism and commitment to numerous young people who have had the privilege to work with him over the years. To those who question what a career in public service can accomplish, I ask only that they look to Stan's career. What they will see in him is not just 40 years of service, but a call to action. I have no doubt that, because of his incredible commitment, Stan is a remarkable inspiration and example of heeding this call to action and public service.•

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Mrs. Neiman, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the PRESIDING OFFICER laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The nominations received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE RECEIVED DURING ADJOURNMENT

ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

Under the authority of the order of the Senate of January 4, 2007, the Secretary of the Senate, on November 30, 2007, during the adjournment of the Senate, received a message from the House of Representatives announcing that the Speaker has signed the following enrolled bill:

H.R. 3963. An act to amend title XXI of the Social Security Act to extend and improve the Children's Health Insurance Program, and for other purposes.

Under the authority of the order of the Senate of January 4, 2007, the enrolled bill was signed on November 30, 2007, during the adjournment of the Senate, by the President pro tempore (Mr. BYRD).

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, and were referred as indicated:

EC–3983. A communication from the Congressional Review Coordinator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Importation of Live Swine, Swine Semen, Pork, and Pork Products from the Czech Republic, Latvia, Lithuania, and Poland'' (Docket No. APHIS–2006–0106) received on November 28, 2007; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC–3984. A communication from the Administrator, Food Safety and Inspection Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Eligibility of Chile to Export Poultry and Poultry Products to the United States'' (RIN0583–AD25) received on December 3, 2007; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC–3985. A communication from the Chairman, National Labor Relations Board, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of two violations of the Antideficiency Act; to the Committee on Appropriations.

EC–3986. A communication from the Acting Secretary, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a violation of the Antideficiency Act by the Commodity Credit Corporation; to the Committee on Appropriations.

EC–3987. A communication from the Acting Under Secretary of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, nine Selected Acquisition Reports for the quarter ending September 30, 2007; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC–3988. A communication from the Director, Defense Procurement and Acquisition Policy, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Patent Rights—Ownership by the Contractor'' (DFARS Case 2001–D015) received on November 30, 2007; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC–3989. A communication from the General Counsel, National Credit Union Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Filing Requirements for Suspicious Activity Reports'' (RIN3133–AD23) received on November 15, 2007; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC–3990. A communication from the General Counsel, National Credit Union Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''FCU Bylaws'' (12 CFR Part 701) received on November 15, 2007; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC–3991. A communication from the Assistant to the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Risk-Based Capital Standards: Advanced Capital Adequacy Framework—Basel II'' (Docket No. R–1261) received on November 14, 2007; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC–3992. A communication from the Assistant Secretary for Housing, Federal Housing Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled ''Annual Report to Congress on Initiatives to Address Management Deficiencies Identified in the Audit of FHA's Financial Statement for Fiscal Year 2006 and 2005''; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC–3993. A communication from the Regulatory Specialist, Legislative and Regulatory Activities Division, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Risk-Based Capital Standards: Advanced Capital Adequacy Framework—Basel II'' (RIN1557–AC91) received on November 20, 2007; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC–3994. A communication from the Under Secretary for Industry and Security, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the Department's intent to impose new foreign policy-based

export controls on QRS11 Micromachined Angular Rate Sensors; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC–3995. A communication from the Legal Information Assistant, Office of Thrift Supervision, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Risk-Based Capital Standards; Advanced Capital Adequacy Framework—Basel II'' (RIN1550–AB56) received on November 20, 2007; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC–3996. A communication from the Deputy General Counsel (Administration and Management), National Aeronautics and Space Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Foreign Patent Licensing Regulations'' (RIN2700–AD35) received on November 28, 2007; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–3997. A communication from the Chief of Staff, Media Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Amendment of Section 73.202(b), Table of Allotments, FM Broadcast Stations; Prineville, Oregon'' (MB Docket No. 07–39) received on November 28, 2007; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–3998. A communication from the Chief of Staff, Media Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Amendment of Section 73.202(b), Table of Allotments, FM Broadcast Stations; Boswell, Oklahoma and Detroit, Texas'' (MB Docket No. 06–200) received on November 28, 2007; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–3999. A communication from the Chief of Staff, Media Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Amendment of Section 73.202(b), Table of Allotments, FM Broadcast Stations; Midway, Falmouth, Owingsville, Danville, Wilmore, and Perryville, Kentucky'' (MB Docket No. 05–248) received on November 28, 2007; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–4000. A communication from the Chief of Staff, Media Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Implementation of Section 621(a)(1) of the Cable Communications Policy Act of 1984 as amended by the Cable Television Consumer Protection and Competition Act of 1992'' ((FCC 07–190) (MB Docket No. 05–311)) received on November 28, 2007; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–4001. A communication from the Chief of Staff, Media Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Amendment of Section 73.202(b), Table of Allotments, FM Broadcast Stations; Hemet, California'' (MB Docket No. 07–1) received on November 28, 2007; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–4002. A communication from the Chief of Staff, Media Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Amendment of Section 73.202(b), Table of Allotments, FM Broadcast Stations; Humboldt, Nebraska'' (MB Docket No. 07–176) received on November 28, 2007; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–4003. A communication from the Chief of Staff, Media Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Amendment of Section 73.202(b), Table of Allotments, FM Broadcast Stations; Silverton, Colorado'' (MB Docket No. 07–130) received on November 28, 2007; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–4004. A communication from the Chief of Staff, Media Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Amendment of Section 73.202(b), Table of Allotments, FM Broadcast Stations; Walden, Colorado'' (MB Docket No. 07–174) received on November 28, 2007; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–4005. A communication from the White House Liaison, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a nomination for the position of Administrator, received on November 30, 2007; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–4006. A communication from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Amendment 85 to the Fishery Management Plan for Groundfish of the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Management Area to Allocate Pacific Cod Among Harvesting Sectors; Correction'' (RIN0648–AU48) received on November 16, 2007; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–4007. A communication from the Secretary of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, an annual report relative to the Maritime Administration for fiscal year 2006; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–4008. A communication from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Atlantic Highly Migratory Species; Atlantic Bluefin Tuna Fisheries; Temporary Rule; Inseason Retention Limit Adjustment'' (RIN0648–XD44) received on November 20, 2007; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–4009. A communication from the Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; Pacific Aerospace Corporation, Ltd. Model 750XL Airplanes'' ((RIN2120–AA64) (Docket No. 2007–CE–038)) received on November 14, 2007; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–4010. A communication from the Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; Sikorsky Aircraft Corporation Model S92–A Helicopters'' ((RIN2120–AA64) (Docket No . 2007–SW–32)) received on November 14, 2007; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–4011. A communication from the Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; Aquila Technische Entwicklungen GmbH Model AT01 Airplanes'' ((RIN2120–AA64) (Docket No. 2007–CE–064)) received on November 14, 2007; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–4012. A communication from the Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; Diamond Aircraft Industries GmbH Model DA 40 and DA 40F Airplanes'' ((RIN2120–AA64) (Docket No. 2007–CE–040)) received on November 14, 2007; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–4013. A communication from the Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; Boeing Model 767 Airplanes'' ((RIN2120–AA64) (Docket No. 2006–NM–107)) received on November 14, 2007; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–4014. A communication from the Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; Bombardier Model CL–600–2B19 Airplanes'' ((RIN2120–AA64) (Docket No. 2007–NM–179)) received on November 14, 2007; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–4015. A communication from the Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; Mitsubishi Heavy Industries MU–2B Series Airplanes'' ((RIN2120–AA64) (Docket No. 2007–CE–007)) received on November 14, 2007; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–4016. A communication from the Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; DG Flugzeugbau GmbH Model DG–500MB Gliders and Glaser-Dirks Flugzeugbau GmbH Model DG–800B Gliders'' ((RIN2120–AA64) (Docket No. 2007–CE–058)) received on November 14, 2007; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–4017. A communication from the Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; Boeing Model 737–100, –200, –200C, –300, –400, and –500 Series Airplanes'' ((RIN2120–AA64) (Docket No. 2007–NM–031)) received on November 14, 2007; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–4018. A communication from the Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; Pratt and Whitney JT9D–7R4 Series Turbofan Engines'' ((RIN2120–AA64) (Docket No. 2005–NE–53)) received on November 14, 2007; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–4019. A communication from the Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; Boeing Model 737–300, –400, and –500 Series Airplanes'' ((RIN2120–AA64) (Docket No. 2007–NM–097)) received on November 14, 2007; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–4020. A communication from the Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Model A330 and A340 Airplanes'' ((RIN2120–AA64) (Docket No. 2006–NM–251)) received on November 14, 2007; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–4021. A communication from the Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; Gulfstream Aerospace LP Model Galaxy Airplanes and Model Gulfstream 200 Airplanes'' ((RIN2120–AA64) (Docket No. 2007–NM–065)) received on November 14, 2007; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–4022. A communication from the Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Standard Instrument Approach Procedures; Amdt. No. 3230'' ((RIN2120–AA65)(Docket No. 30563)) received on November 14, 2007; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–4023. A communication from the Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Standard Instrument Approach Procedures, and Takeoff Minimums and Obstacle Departure Procedures; Miscellaneous Amendments'' ((RIN2120–AA65)(Docket No. 30565)) received on November 14, 2007; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–4024. A communication from the Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Standard Instrument Approach Procedures; Miscellaneous Amendments'' ((RIN2120–AA65)(Docket No. 30566)) received on November 9, 2007; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–4025. A communication from the Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Standard Instrument Approach Procedures, and Takeoff Minimums and Obstacle Departure Procedures; Miscellaneous Amendments'' ((RIN2120–AA65)(Docket No. 30567)) received on November 14, 2007; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–4026. A communication from the Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Standard Instrument Approach Procedures; Miscellaneous Amendments'' ((RIN2120–AA65)(Docket No. 30568)) received on November 9, 2007; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–4027. A communication from the Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''IFR Altitudes; Miscellaneous Amendments'' ((RIN2120–AA63)(Docket No. 30564)) received on November 9, 2007; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–4028. A communication from the Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; Boeing Model 747–100, 747–100B, 747–100B SUD, 747–200B, 747–200C, 747–300, 747–400, 747–400D, 747SR, and 747SP Series Airplanes'' ((RIN2120–AA64)(Docket No. 2006–NM–159)) received on November 9, 2007; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–4029. A communication from the Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; Boeing Model 747–100, 747–100B, 747–200B, 747–200C, 747–200F, 747–300, 747SR, and 747SP Series Airplanes'' ((RIN2120–AA64)(Docket No. 2006–NM–042)) received on November 9, 2007; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–4030. A communication from the Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; Boeing Model 747 Airplanes'' ((RIN2120–AA64)(Docket No. 2006–NM–204)) received on November 9, 2007; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–4031. A communication from the Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; Pilatus Aircraft Limited Model PC–6 Series Airplanes'' ((RIN2120–AA64)(Docket No. 2007–CE–046)) received on November 9, 2007; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–4032. A communication from the Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; Enstrom Helicopter Corporation Model F–28, F–28A, F–28C, F–28C–2, F–28C–2R, F–28F, F–28F–R, 280, 280C, 280F, 280FX, TH–28, 480, and 480B Helicopters'' ((RIN2120–AA64)(Docket No. 2007–SW–09)) received on November 9, 2007; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–4033. A communication from the Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; M7 Aerospace LP SA226 and SA227 Series Airplanes'' ((RIN2120–AA64)(Docket No. 2006–CE–52)) received on November 9, 2007; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–4034. A communication from the Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; Fokker Model F27 Mark 050 Airplanes Equipped With Dowty Type R.352 and R.410 Series Propellers'' ((RIN2120–AA64)(Docket No. 2007–NM–002)) received on November 14, 2007; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–4035. A communication from the Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; Teledyne Continental Motors Reciprocating Engine Models IO–550–N, TSIO–520–BE, TSIO–550–A, TSIO–550–B, TSIO–550–C, TSIO–550–E, and TSIO–550–G'' ((RIN2120–AA64)(Docket No. 2007–NE–33)) received on November 9, 2007; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–4036. A communication from the Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Standard Instrument Approach Procedures, Weather Takeoff Minimums; Miscellaneous Amendments'' ((RIN2120–AA65)(Docket No. 30562)) received on November 9, 2007; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–4037. A communication from the Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Standard Instrument Approach Procedures, Weather Takeoff Minimums; Miscellaneous Amendments'' ((RIN2120–AA65)(Docket No. 30560)) received on November 9, 2007; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–4038. A communication from the Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; Boeing Model 747–400, 747–400D, and 747–400F Series Airplanes'' ((RIN2120–AA64)(Docket No. 2005–NM–238)) received on November 14, 2007; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–4039. A communication from the Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Model A319–100 and A320–200 Series Airplanes'' ((RIN2120–AA64)(Docket No. 2005–NM–172)) received on November 9, 2007; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–4040. A communication from the Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; Boeing Model 737–100, –200, –200C, –300, –400, and –500 Series Airplanes'' ((RIN2120–AA64)(Docket No. 2003–NM–286)) received on November 9, 2007; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–4041. A communication from the Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; Boeing Model 747–100, 747–100B, 747–100B SUD, 747–200B, 747–200C, 747–300, 747–400, 747–400D, and 747 SR Series Airplanes'' ((RIN2120–AA64)(Docket No. 2006–NM–210)) received on November 9, 2007; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–4042. A communication from the Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Model A310–203, A310–204, A310–222, A310–304, A310–322, and A310–324 Airplanes'' ((RIN2120–AA64)(Docket No. 2007–NM–005)) received on November 9, 2007; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–4043. A communication from the Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; Boeing Model 757–200, –200PF, and –200CB Series Airplanes'' ((RIN2120–AA64) (Docket No. 2007–NM–162)) received on November 9, 2007; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–4044. A communication from the Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Model A330–200 and A330–300 Series Airplanes; and Model A340–200, A340–300, A340–500, and A340–600 Series Airplanes'' ((RIN2120–AA64) (Docket No. 2006–NM–278)) received on November 9, 2007; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–4045. A communication from the Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; Empresa Brasileira de Aeronautica S.A. Model ERJ 170 Airplanes and Model ERJ 190 Airplanes'' ((RIN2120–AA64) (Docket No. 2006–NM–528)) received on November 9, 2007; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–4046. A communication from the Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; Boeing Model 757–200 and –300 Series Airplanes'' ((RIN2120–AA64) (Docket No. 2006–NM–081)) received on November 9, 2007; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–4047. A communication from the Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; Boeing Model 747–200B, 747–300, and 747–400 Series

Airplanes'' ((RIN2120–AA64) (Docket No. 2007–NM–131)) received on November 9, 2007; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–4048. A communication from the Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; Taylorcraft A, B, and F Series Airplanes'' ((RIN2120–AA64) (Docket No. 2007–CE–057)) received on November 9, 2007; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–4049. A communication from the Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; Empresa Brasileira de Aeronautica S.A. Model EMB–135BJ Airplanes'' ((RIN2120–AA64) (Docket No. 2007–NM–041)) received on November 9, 2007; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–4050. A communication from the Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; Aerospatiale Model SN–601 Airplanes'' ((RIN2120–AA64) (Docket No. 2007–NM–024)) received on November 9, 2007; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–4051. A communication from the Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Model A300–600 Series Airplanes and Model A310 Series Airplanes'' ((RIN2120–AA64) (Docket No. 2006–NM–257)) received on November 9, 2007; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–4052. A communication from the Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; General Electric CF6–80E1 Series Turbofan Engines'' ((RIN2120–AA64) (Docket No. 2005–NE–12)) received on November 9, 2007; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–4053. A communication from the Assistant Secretary of the Army (Civil Works), transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on the management plan relative to the St. Clair River and Lake St. Clair, Michigan; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–4054. A communication from the Assistant Secretary of the Army (Civil Works), transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the flood damage reduction and recreation project for the Roseau River, Minnesota; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–4055. A communication from the Principal Deputy Associate Administrator, Office of Policy, Economics and Innovation, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, two Uniform Resource Locators for documents the Agency recently issued related to regulatory programs; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–4056. A communication from the Chairman, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, a quarterly report on the status of its licensing and regulatory duties; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–4057. A communication from the Principal Deputy Associate Administrator, Office of Policy, Economics and Innovation, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Massachusetts; State Implementation Plan Revision to Implement the Clean Air Interstate Rule'' (FRL No. 8496–6) received on November 20, 2007; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–4058. A communication from the Principal Deputy Associate Administrator, Office of Policy, Economics and Innovation, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Certain Chemical Substances; Withdrawal of Significant New Use'' ((RIN2070–AB27) (FRL No. 8340–8)) received on November 20, 2007; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–4059. A communication from the Principal Deputy Associate Administrator, Office of Policy, Economics and Innovation, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''National Volatile Organic Compound Emission Standards for Aerosol Coatings'' ((RIN2060–AN69) (FRL No. 8498–6)) received on November 20, 2007; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–4060. A communication from the Deputy Director of Civil Works, Army Corps of Engineers, Department of the Army, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''United States Navy Restricted Area, Key West Harbor, at U.S. Naval Base, Key West, Florida'' (33 CFR Part 334) received on November 30, 2007; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–4061. A communication from the Principal Deputy Associate Administrator, Office of Policy, Economics and Innovation, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, the report of a document issued by the Agency entitled ''Technical Guidance for the Development of Tribal Air Monitoring Programs''; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–4062. A communication from the Principal Deputy Associate Administrator, Office of Policy, Economics and Innovation, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Mohegan Tribe of Indians of Connecticut'' (FRL No. 8491–7) received on November 13, 2007; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–4063. A communication from the Principal Deputy Associate Administrator, Office of Policy, Economics and Innovation, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Protection of Stratospheric Ozone: Revision of Refrigerant Recovery and Recycling Equipment Standards'' (FRL No. 8493–5) received on November 13, 2007; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–4064. A communication from the Principal Deputy Associate Administrator, Office of Policy, Economics and Innovation, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Pennsylvania; Redesignation of the Centre County 8-Hour Ozone Nonattainment Area to Attainment and Approval of the Area's Maintenance Plan and 2002 Base Year Inventory'' (FRL No. 8494–2) received on November 13, 2007; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–4065. A communication from the Commissioner, Social Security Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the Administration's processing of continuing disability reviews for fiscal year 2006; to the Committee on Finance.

EC–4066. A communication from the Senior Counsel for Regulatory Affairs, Office of Security Programs, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Implementing Procedures for Mandatory Declassification Review and Access to Classified Information by Historical Researchers, Former Department of the Treasury Presidential and Vice Presidential Appointees, and Former Presidents and Vice Presidents'' (31 CFR Part 2) received on November 13, 2007; to the Committee on Finance.

EC–4067. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Applicable Federal Rates—December 2007'' (Rev. Rul. 2007–70) received on November 27, 2007; to the Committee on Finance.

EC–4068. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''2008 Standard Mileage Rate Revenue Procedure'' (Rev. Proc. 2007–70) received on November 27, 2007; to the Committee on Finance.

EC–4069. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Trucking Industry Overview'' (LMSB–04–1107–075) received on November 27, 2007; to the Committee on Finance.

EC–4070. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Revision of Year of Change for a Pending Form 3115, Application for Change in Accounting Method'' (Rev. Proc. 2007–67) received on November 14, 2007; to the Committee on Finance.

EC–4071. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Qualified Alternative Fuel Motor Vehicles and Heavy Hybrid Vehicles'' (LMSB–04–1107–074) received on November 14, 2007; to the Committee on Finance.

EC–4072. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Update of Weighted Average Interest Rates, Yield Curves, and Segment Rates'' (Notice 2007–91) received on November 14, 2007; to the Committee on Finance.

EC–4073. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Foreign Tax Credit: Notification of Foreign Tax Redetermination'' ((RIN1545–BG23)(TD 9362)) received on November 14, 2007; to the Committee on Finance.

EC–4074. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Motor Vehicle Industry Overview'' (LMSB–04–0507–043) received on November 9, 2007; to the Committee on Finance.

EC–4075. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Areas in Which Ruling Will Not Be Issued'' (Rev. Proc. 2008–7) received on November 20, 2007; to the Committee on Finance.

EC–4076. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the

report of a rule entitled ''Credit for Production of Low Sulfur Diesel Fuel'' (Rev. Proc. 2007–69) received on November 20, 2007; to the Committee on Finance.

EC–4077. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Phase-out of Credit for New Qualified Hybrid Motor Vehicles and New Advance Lean Burn Technology Motor Vehicles'' (Notice 2007–98) received on November 20, 2007; to the Committee on Finance.

EC–4078. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Section 3121(a)(5)(D) Final Regulation'' ((RIN1545–BH00)(TD 9367)) received on November 20, 2007; to the Committee on Finance.

EC–4079. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Railroad Track Maintenance Credit'' ((RIN1545–BE90)(TD 9365)) received on November 20, 2007; to the Committee on Finance.

EC–4080. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Notification Requirement for Tax-Exempt Entities Not Currently Required to File'' ((RIN1545–BG38)(TD 9366)) received on November 20, 2007; to the Committee on Finance.

EC–4081. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Returns Required on Magnetic Media'' ((RIN1545–BD65)(TD 9363)) received on November 20, 2007; to the Committee on Finance.

PETITIONS AND MEMORIALS

The following petition or memorial was laid before the Senate and was referred or ordered to lie on the table as indicated:

POM–257. A collection of petitions forwarded by the Benefit Security Coalition relative to Social Security benefits; to the Committee on Finance.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. KENNEDY, from the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute:

S. 1382. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to provide the establishment of an Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis Registry.

EXECUTIVE REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following executive reports of nominations were submitted:

Mr. INOUYE. Mr. President, for the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation I report favorably the following nomination lists which were printed in the RECORD on the dates indicated, and ask unanimous consent, to save the expense of reprinting on the Executive Calendar, that these nominations lie at the Secretary's desk for the information of Senators.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Coast Guard nominations beginning with Steven C. Acosta and ending with Marc A. Zlomek, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on November 7, 2007.

*Coast Guard nominations beginning with Damon L. Bentley and ending with Tanya C. Saunders, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on November 15, 2007.

*National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration nominations beginning with Llian G. K. Breen and ending with Anna-Elizabeth B. Villard-Howe, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on November 1, 2007.

*Nomination was reported with recommendation that it be confirmed subject to the nominee's commitment to respond to requests to appear and testify before any duly constituted committee of the Senate.

(Nominations without an asterisk were reported with the recommendation that they be confirmed.)

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. SANDERS (for himself, Mr. COLEMAN, Mr. OBAMA, Ms. SNOWE, Mr. KERRY, Mr. BROWN, Ms. COLLINS, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. LUGAR, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. SMITH, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. SUNUNU, Mr. BINGAMAN, Mr. SCHUMER, Mrs. CLINTON, Mr. CASEY, Ms. MIKULSKI, Mr. MENENDEZ, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. LIEBERMAN, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. BIDEN, and Mrs. BOXER):

S. 2405. A bill to provide additional appropriations for payments under section 2604(e) of the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Act of 1981; to the Committee on Appropriations.

By Ms. SNOWE (for herself, Mr. CONRAD, Ms. COLLINS, and Mrs. LINCOLN):

S. 2406. A bill to amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to permit States to obtain reimbursement under the Medicaid program for care or services required under the Emergency Medical Treatment and Active Labor Act that are provided in a nonpublicly owned or operated institution for mental diseases; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CASEY:

S. 2407. A bill to provide for programs that reduce the need for abortion, help women bear healthy children, and support new parents; to the Committee on Finance.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Mr. KENNEDY (for himself, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. DODD, Mr. REED, Mr. KERRY, Mr. BIDEN, Mr. SCHUMER, Mrs. CLINTON, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. OBAMA, Mr. SMITH, Mr. MCCAIN, and Mr. LEAHY):

S. Con. Res. 58. A concurrent resolution welcoming First Minister Dr. Ian Paisley and Deputy First Minister Martin McGuinness of Northern Ireland to the United States; considered and agreed to.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 22

At the request of Mr. WEBB, the name of the Senator from Indiana (Mr. BAYH) 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. 367

At the request of Mr. DORGAN, the names of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. BIDEN) and the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. KERRY) were added as cosponsors of S. 367, a bill to amend the Tariff Act of 1930 to prohibit the import, export, and sale of goods made with sweatshop labor, and for other purposes.

S. 415

At the request of Mr. BROWNBACK, the name of the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. COCHRAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 415, a bill to amend the Revised Statutes of the United States to prevent the use of the legal system in a manner that extorts money from State and local governments, and the Federal Government, and inhibits such governments' constitutional actions under the first, tenth, and fourteenth amendments.

S. 507

At the request of Mr. CONRAD, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) was added as a cosponsor of S. 507, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for reimbursement of certified midwife services and to provide for more equitable reimbursement rates for certified nurse-midwife services.

S. 714

At the request of Mr. AKAKA, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. DODD) was added as a cosponsor of S. 714, a bill to amend the Animal Welfare Act to ensure that all dogs and cats used by research facilities are obtained legally.

S. 838

At the request of Mr. SMITH, the name of the Senator from North Carolina (Mrs. DOLE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 838, a bill to authorize funding for eligible joint ventures between United States and Israeli businesses and academic persons, to establish the International Energy Advisory Board, and for other purposes.

S. 961

At the request of Mr. NELSON of Nebraska, the names of the Senator from Montana (Mr. TESTER) and the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. INOUYE) were added as cosponsors of S. 961, a bill to amend title 46, United States Code, to provide benefits to certain individuals who served in the United States merchant marine (including the Army Transport

Service and the Naval Transport Service) during World War II, and for other purposes.

S. 1000

At the request of Mr. STEVENS, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. VOINOVICH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1000, a bill to enhance the Federal Telework Program.

S. 1060

At the request of Mr. HARKIN, his name 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. 1141

At the request of Mr. BINGAMAN, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. CASEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1141, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow employees not covered by qualified retirement plans to save for retirement through automatic payroll deposit IRAs, to facilitate similar saving by the self-employed, and for other purposes.

S. 1309

At the request of Mr. TESTER, the name of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1309, a bill to amend the Truth in Lending Act to prohibit universal defaults on credit card accounts, and for other purposes.

S. 1512

At the request of Mrs. BOXER, the names of the Senator from New York (Mrs. CLINTON) and the Senator from Arkansas (Mrs. LINCOLN) were added as cosponsors of S. 1512, a bill to amend part E of title IV of the Social Security Act to expand Federal eligibility for children in foster care who have attained age 18.

S. 1581

At the request of Mr. LAUTENBERG, the names of the Senator from Florida (Mr. NELSON) and the Senator from California (Mrs. BOXER) were added as cosponsors of S. 1581, a bill to establish an interagency committee to develop an ocean acidification research and monitoring plan and to establish an ocean acidification program within the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

S. 1829

At the request of Mr. LEAHY, the name of the Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1829, a bill to reauthorize programs under the Missing Children's Assistance Act.

S. 1848

At the request of Mr. BAUCUS, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. SPECTER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1848, a bill to amend the Trade Act of 1974 to address the impact of globalization, to reauthorize trade adjustment assistance, to extend trade adjustment assistance to service workers, communities, firms, and farmers, and for other purposes.

S. 1886

At the request of Mr. BURR, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. ISAKSON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1886, a bill to provide a refundable and advanceable credit for health insurance through the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, to provide for improved private health insurance access and affordability, and for other purposes.

S. 1944

At the request of Mr. LAUTENBERG, the name of the Senator from Kansas (Mr. BROWNBACK) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1944, a bill to provide justice for victims of state-sponsored terrorism.

S. 1958

At the request of Mr. CONRAD, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1958, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to ensure and foster continued patient quality of care by establishing facility and patient criteria for long-term care hospitals and related improvements under the Medicare program.

S. 2058

At the request of Mr. LEVIN, the name of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2058, a bill to amend the Commodity Exchange Act to close the Enron loophole, prevent price manipulation and excessive speculation in the trading of energy commodities, and for other purposes.

S. 2129

At the request of Mr. SPECTER, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 2129, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to establish the infrastructure foundation for the hydrogen economy, and for other purposes.

S. 2140

At the request of Mr. DORGAN, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2140, a bill to award a Congressional Gold Medal to Francis Collins, in recognition of his outstanding contributions and leadership in the fields of medicine and genetics.

S. 2159

At the request of Mr. NELSON of Florida, the name of the Senator from New York (Mrs. CLINTON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2159, a bill to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in commemoration of the 50th anniversary of the establishment of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration.

S. 2173

At the request of Mr. HARKIN, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2173, a bill to amend the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 to improve standards for physical education.

S. 2243

At the request of Mr. SPECTER, the name of the Senator from Kansas (Mr. BROWNBACK) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2243, a bill to strongly encourage the Government of Saudi Arabia to end its support for institutions that fund, train, incite, encourage, or in any other way aid and abet terrorism, to secure full Saudi cooperation in the investigation of terrorist incidents, to denounce Saudi sponsorship of extremist Wahhabi ideology, and for other purposes.

S. 2262

At the request of Mr. DOMENICI, the name of the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. ALEXANDER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2262, a bill to authorize the Preserve America Program and Save America's Treasures Program, and for other purposes.

S. 2270

At the request of Mr. COCHRAN, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. ISAKSON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2270, a bill to include health centers in the list of entities eligible for mortgage insurance under the National Housing Act.

S. 2304

At the request of Mr. DOMENICI, the name of the Senator from Virginia (Mr. WEBB) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2304, a bill to amend title I of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 to provide grants for the improved mental health treatment and services provided to offenders with mental illnesses, and for other purposes.

S. 2341

At the request of Mrs. BOXER, her name was added as a cosponsor of S. 2341, a bill to provide Individual Development Accounts to support foster youths who are transitioning from the foster care system.

S. 2396

At the request of Mr. HATCH, the name of the Senator from Utah (Mr. BENNETT) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2396, a bill to amend title XI of the Social Security Act to modernize the quality improvement organization (QIO) program.

AMENDMENT NO. 3616

At the request of Mr. SALAZAR, the name of the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 3616 intended to be proposed to H.R. 2419, a bill to provide for the continuation of agricultural programs through fiscal year 2012, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 3685

At the request of Mr. FEINGOLD, the name of the Senator from Iowa (Mr. HARKIN) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 3685 intended to be proposed to H.R. 2419, a bill to provide for the continuation of agricultural programs through fiscal year 2012, and for other purposes.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. SANDERS (for himself, Mr. COLEMAN, Mr. OBAMA, Ms.

SNOWE, Mr. KERRY, Mr. BROWN, Ms. COLLINS, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. LUGAR, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. SMITH, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. SUNUNU, Mr. BINGAMAN, Mr. SCHUMER, Mrs. CLINTON, Mr. CASEY, Ms. MIKULSKI, Mr. MENENDEZ, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. LIEBERMAN, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. BIDEN, and Mrs. BOXER):

S. 2405. A bill to provide additional appropriations for payments under section 2604(e) of the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Act of 1981; to the Committee on Appropriations.

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. President, I rise today to introduce the Keep Americans Warm Act, which provides an additional $1 billion in emergency home heating aid under the highly successful Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program, otherwise known as LIHEAP. Most importantly, this $1 billion in emergency home heating assistance would be in addition to the overall fiscal year 2008 appropriations for LIHEAP.

I am delighted this bill enjoys widespread bipartisan support from across the political spectrum. As a matter of fact, this legislation is being cosponsored by 23 of my colleagues—16 Democrats, 6 Republicans, and 1 Independent.

I would like to recognize all of the cosponsors this morning: both Senators from Minnesota, Mr. COLEMAN and Ms. KLOBUCHAR; Senator OBAMA; both Senators from Maine, Ms. SNOWE and Ms. COLLINS; both Senators from Massachusetts, Mr. KERRY and Mr. KENNEDY; Senator BROWN; Senator LUGAR; the senior Senator from the great State of Vermont, Senator LEAHY; Senator SMITH; Senator BINGAMAN, the chairman of the Energy and Natural Resources Committee; Senator SUNUNU; both Senators from New York, Mr. SCHUMER and Mrs. CLINTON; Senator CASEY; Senator MIKULSKI; Senator MENENDEZ; Senator STABENOW; Senator LIEBERMAN; Senator CANTWELL; Senator BIDEN; and Senator BOXER.

Mr. President, the reason this legislation is being cosponsored by so many of my colleagues is simple: Skyrocketing home heating prices in New England, the Northeast, and the Mideast, are already stretching household budgets beyond the breaking point.

In the wealthiest country on the face of the Earth, not one family should go cold this winter. That is not what America is supposed to be about. Not one senior citizen should have to choose between heating their homes or paying for their prescription drugs.

I am afraid if we do not act, and act aggressively, that is what is going to happen all across this country. While the official start of winter is still about 3 weeks away, home heating prices in Vermont and in other parts of the country are already going through the roof.

According to the Central Vermont Community Action Council, many Vermont families have been paying an incredible $3.47 a gallon for heating oil and as much as $3.71 a gallon for kerosene this year. Nationwide, heating oil prices are already up 90 cents from last year, or more than double from where they were 4 years ago. Further, the price of kerosene has also increased by 50 cents a gallon from last year.

These rapidly rising energy prices right now are bad enough; but the overall projections of what people will pay for energy over the course of this winter is frightening.

The National Energy Assistance Directors Association has projected that the typical household using heating oil will pay $2,157 to heat their homes this winter—a 47-percent increase from what they paid last year. Those using propane will pay $1,765 this winter, or 30 percent more than what they paid 2 years ago.

Before we got back into session this week, the debate over LIHEAP was between an 11.6-percent increase from last year, as included in the fiscal year 2008 Labor-HHS conference report, and the President's budget proposal of a 21-percent cut—cut—from last year.

While the level of funding for LIHEAP included in the Labor-HHS conference report is a good starting point, even if this level eventually becomes law, it would still be 31 percent below the $3.2 billion provided in fiscal year 2006.

Making matters worse, the President vetoed the Labor-HHS conference report, insisting on a $379 million cut to LIHEAP, among other things.

We hear a lot of talk in Washington about family values. Well, to my mind, a family value is that we do not let our fellow Americans go cold when the cost of home heating oil is exploding.

I thank all my colleagues. This legislation has brought forth widespread bipartisan support from Senators all across this country. Let us be aggressive and pass this legislation so that in this great country nobody goes cold this winter. Thank you.

By Ms. SNOWE (for herself, Mr. CONRAD, Ms. COLLINS, and Mrs. LINCOLN):

S. 2406. A bill to amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to permit States to obtain reimbursement under the Medicaid program for care or services required under the Emergency Medical Treatment and Active Labor Act that are provided in a nonpublicly owned or operated institution for mental diseases; to the Committee on Finance.

Ms. SNOWE. Mr. President, today I rise to introduce the Medicaid Emergency Psychiatric Care Act of 2007. Original cosponsors this bill include two of my colleagues on the Finance Committee, Senators CONRAD and LINCOLN, as well as Senator COLLINS. Our legislation will improve access to mental health treatment and remove an unfunded mandate on our nonpublic mental health treatment centers by allowing freestanding psychiatric hospitals to receive appropriate reimbursement for emergency treatment.

According to the CDC, visits to hospital emergency rooms rose 20 percent in the past 10 years. This situation is exacerbated by a shortage of short-term inpatient psychiatric care facilities leaving psychiatric patients with a serious mental illness with nowhere to go. In fact, in 2003, there were 3.7 million visits to hospital emergency department for mental disorders. If treatment remains unavailable, patients could become homeless or be housed as criminal offenders.

The Emergency Medical and Labor Treatment Act, EMTALA, requires all hospitals, including psychiatric hospitals, to stabilize patients who come in with an emergency medical condition. However, an outdated Medicaid provision called the Institution for Mental Diseases, IMD, exclusion does not allow Medicaid reimbursement to nonpublic psychiatric hospitals for stabilizing care delivered to Medicaid patients between the ages of 21–64. This policy isolates adults with mental illnesses from all other Medicaid-eligible populations and contradicts the principles of equal treatment and insurance parity for treatment of mental illnesses.

When the IMD exclusion was created, individuals who were afflicted with mental health conditions often were institutionalized for an extended time. Today, hospitalization for common mental health concerns such as mild depression does not generally occur, thus removing the potential for abuse of the system. This exclusion burdens these facilities with an unfunded mandate and has caused severe financial burdens to psychiatric facilities—often amounting to millions of dollars a year. The IMD exclusion does not take into consideration the vast advancements that have transformed mental health services available today, and actually restricts access to critical mental health services for those who, by today's standards, are in the greatest need.

Emergency department overcrowding is a growing and severe problem in the United States, and dedicated physicians and nurses who work in emergency rooms are reaching a breaking point where they may not have the resources or surge capacity to respond effectively. Patients often face a long wait in the emergency room, sometimes for days, because there is no bed or other appropriate setting available. Tens of thousands of dollars every day are being spent inefficiently on extended treatment in emergency rooms that is not the most appropriate or clinically effective care. Passage of this bill will help relieve overcrowding in emergency departments and allow hospitals to provide the appropriate care these patients deserve.

By Mr. CASEY:

S. 2407. A bill to provide for programs that reduce the need for abortion, help

women bear healthy children, and support new parents; to the Committee on Finance.

Mr. CASEY. Mr. President, I rise today to speak about members of the American family whom we all care about, and I think all of us do in this chamber and across America, but for whom we do not do nearly enough to support, and those members of the American family are pregnant women.

I remember, as so many others do in the life of the family the times my wife Terese learned that she was pregnant, and even through I, of course, cannot ever experience it directly, I knew and I know now through her and my sisters' experience that that moment is indelible, and it is unforgettable in the life of a woman, in the life of a family, the moment she finds out that she is pregnant.

For many women this is a moment, of course, of great joy. It is the moment where they learn they are pregnant and they appreciate the miracle of pregnancy. And perhaps it has been long awaited or in the case of a particular woman and her family, perhaps it is something of a surprise. But for many women, for many families, it is a welcome surprise.

Many of these women do not need help beyond what their families can provide them and what others may receive in terms of adequate support from our existing framework of support within this country, so they do not feel they have any great burden at that moment.

But there is another circumstance other pregnant women may face. And for those pregnant women, and for one, in particular, if we can imagine who that person is in the life, in our own lives, people we have known, for that woman the moment of discovery that she is pregnant unfortunately is not a moment of joy. For her it is a moment of terror or panic or even shame in some circumstances. She may be in a doctor's office or a clinic or she may be at home. But for her that moment begins a crisis, a real crisis in her life, in which she feels overwhelmingly and perhaps almost unbearably alone, all alone. She could be wealthy, middle income, or poor. Most likely, in our country, unfortunately, she would be poor. But whatever her income, that woman at that moment in that circumstance feels very simply all alone.

A pregnant woman may have an abusive spouse or boyfriend, for example, that person who is tormenting her at that moment, and that will continue.

At that moment for her, she is all alone with no help at all. Another pregnant woman may believe she cannot support or care for a new baby at this point in her life. She too is all alone. Another woman might believe her financial situation is so precarious that she cannot care for or raise a child. She may also feel alone and even helpless.

We know the staggering numbers in America today: 48 percent of all pregnancies are unintended; excluding cases of after miscarriages, 54 percent of those unintended pregnancies end in abortion.

The response: ''cannot afford a baby,'' is the second most frequently cited reason why women choose to have an abortion. And 73 percent of women having abortions citing this reason: ''cannot afford a baby,'' cite this reason as a contributing factor in their decision.

So a woman who is facing the challenges of an unplanned pregnancy, that may be a crisis for her, does not need, does not need a lecture from a politician and does not need a clinical reminder that she just has a simple choice to make. The choice is never simple, never, and this woman needs support and love and understanding. She needs to be embraced in a time of crisis in her life, not sent on her way to deal with this question on her own.

She needs our help and she needs us to walk with her, not only through the 9 months of her pregnancy, but also for the early months and years of her child's life. We in the Congress, both House and Senate, both parties, need to address this issue in a comprehensive way that meets those needs that woman has in her life.

Some Members in this body for years, and up to the current day, have initiated good efforts. We should applaud those efforts and support them. In some cases there is support for them. But I believe neither political party is doing enough for pregnant women in America today—neither party.

While there is tremendous disagreement about how best to do this, there is one significant area of common ground. Despite all we hear in Washington, there is, on these questions, one area of common ground, one thing we all agree upon, and that is, we all want to reduce the number of abortions.

We all want to help as many pregnant women, as many families as we can. Many women who have had abortions do so very reluctantly. While choice is a term that is widely used in this debate, many women who face unplanned pregnancies do not feel, do not feel they have a genuine choice. And that is why for so many reasons I am introducing new legislation, the Pregnant Women Support Act. With this bill it is my fervent hope that a new dialog, a kind of common ground, will emerge on how we can reduce abortion by offering pregnant women real choices and real help.

Let me outline a couple of provisions of the bill. This bill will, first of all, assist pregnant and parenting teens to finish high school and prepare for college or vocational training. Next, it will help pregnant college students stay in school, offering them counseling as well as assistance with continuing their education, parenting support classes, and also childcare assistance.

Third, it will provide counseling and shelter to pregnant women in abusive relationships who may be fearful of continuing a pregnancy in a crisis situation. It will establish a national toll-free hotline and a public awareness campaign to offer women support and knowledge about options and resources available to them when they face an unplanned pregnancy.

It will give women free sonogram examinations by providing grants for the purchase of ultrasound equipment. It will provide parents with information about genetic disability testing, including support for parents who receive a diagnosis of Downs syndrome. It will ensure that pregnant women receive prenatal and postnatal care by eliminating pregnancy as a preexisting condition in the individual health care market, and also eliminating waiting periods for women with prior coverage.

It will establish a nurse home visitation program for pregnant and first-time mothers as an eligible benefit under Medicaid and the State Children's Health Insurance Program, what we refer to here as SCHIP. We know it means Children's Health Insurance.

One example of this home visitation program is the nurse-family partnership, an evidence-based program and national model in which nurses mentor young first-time and primarily low-income mothers, establishing a supportive relationship with both mother and child. Studies have shown this program to be both cost effective and hugely successful in terms of life outcomes for both mothers and their children. This legislation will increase funding for the Women, Infants and Children Program, known as the WIC Program, providing nutrition assistance, counseling and education, obesity prevention, breastfeeding support, prenatal and pediatric health care referrals, immunization screening and referral, and a host of other services for mothers and their children.

Next, it will expand nutritional support for low-income parents by increasing the income eligibility levels for food stamps. It will increase funding for the childcare and development block grant program, which is the primary source of Federal funding for childcare assistance for low-income parents.

Finally, it will provide support for adoption as an alternative to abortion and make the adoption tax credit permanent. I introduced this bill with the deepest conviction that we can indeed find common ground. I believe we can transform this debate by focusing upon the issues that unite us and not the issues that divide us.

As most people know who cover the Senate and understand what happens here and where candidates stand, most people know this already, but I am a pro-life Democrat, and I believe life begins at conception and ends when we draw our last breath.

I also believe the role of Government is to protect, enrich, and value life for everyone, at every moment, from beginning to end. I believe we as a nation

have to do more to support women and their children when they are most vulnerable, during pregnancy and early childhood.

I also strongly support, and have for years, family planning programs, because they avoid sometimes those dark moments when a woman, often alone, faces a pregnancy she feels she cannot handle. I also support family planning programs precisely because they reduce the number of abortions.

But that is not the issue I address today. Today, with this bill, I am focused on the woman who is pregnant, and I am asking myself, and I think Congress and the administration, as any Congress and any administration has to ask themselves this fundamental question: For that woman who is facing that crisis in her life, we have to ask ourselves, as a Congress and as a society: What more can we do? What more can we do to help her? That is the question we must continually ask. I think if we ask that question today, the answer, unfortunately, is: Not enough.

We are not doing enough. I believe there is more common ground in America than we might realize on these questions, if only we focus on how we can truly help and support that woman who wishes to carry her pregnancy to term and how we can give her and her child what they need to begin healthy and productive lives together.

For the past 34 years, unfortunately, the issue of abortion has been used mostly as a way to divide people, even as the number of abortions remains and still remains unacceptably high. We have to find a better way.

I believe this legislation, the Pregnant Women Support Act, is a part of that better way. I believe we must look toward real solutions to the issue of abortion by targeting the underlying factors that often lead women to make the decision to have an abortion. This is precisely what this act, the Pregnant Women Support Act, will do.

I really believe when it comes to this issue of helping a pregnant woman, we need to consider what our obligations are. I think we can state it very simply: We need to walk in solidarity with her, in her pregnancy, especially when it is an unplanned pregnancy, and we need to support her and give her all the help we can at this time in her life.

That is exactly what this bill does for women who may find themselves in a position where they are facing one of the most difficult situations in their life. The woman who has no one to turn to for advice, for counsel, or for support, we have got to be there for her at that moment and for a long time thereafter.

I truly believe there are few things more terrifying than the prospect of supporting another human being when you have no support of your own. Unfortunately, far too many women face that decision, face that crisis.

So I believe reducing the number of abortions should not be a partisan issue. It should not pit Republicans against Democrats. So what do I seek? I seek common ground, and I ask my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to join me in seeking real solutions that will unite us in providing life with dignity, before—before—and after the birth of a child, for a pregnant woman, for her family, and for her child. Surely, we must all agree that no woman should ever have to face the crisis of an unplanned pregnancy all alone.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 58—WELCOMING FIRST MINISTER DR. IAN PAISLEY AND DEPUTY FIRST MINISTER MARTIN MCGUINNESS OF NORTHERN IRELAND TO THE UNITED STATES

Mr. KENNEDY (for himself, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. DODD, Mr. REED, Mr. KERRY, Mr. BIDEN, Mr. SCHUMER, Mrs. CLINTON, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. OBAMA, Mr. SMITH, Mr. MCCAIN, and Mr. LEAHY) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. CON. RES. 58

Whereas, on May 8, 2007, power was restored to the Assembly of Northern Ireland, opening a new chapter in the history of Northern Ireland;

Whereas Dr. Ian Paisley became First Minister and Martin McGuinness became Deputy First Minister of Northern Ireland;

Whereas Dr. Paisley and Mr. McGuinness have been working to solidify the peace agreement and to govern Northern Ireland effectively; and

Whereas Dr. Paisley and Mr. McGuinness are making their first trip together to the United States: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring), That Congress—

(1) welcomes First Minister Dr. Ian Paisley and Deputy First Minister Martin McGuinness of Northern Ireland to the United States;

(2) commends Dr. Paisley and Mr. McGuinness for showing the world that it is possible to rise above decades of bitter sectarian violence to achieve peace; and

(3) expresses hope that Northern Ireland will continue to be peaceful and stable in the future.

NOTICE OF HEARING

PERMANENT SUBCOMMITTEE ON INVESTIGATIONS

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, I would like to announce for the information of the Senate and the public that the Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations of the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs and the Subcommittee on Energy of the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources will hold a joint hearing entitled, ''Speculation in the Crude Oil Market.'' This joint hearing of the Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations and the Subcommittee on Energy will examine the role of speculation in recent record crude oil prices. Witnesses for the upcoming hearing will include the Department of Energy's Energy Information Administration and energy market experts. A final witness list will be available Friday, December 7, 2007.

The subcommittee hearing is scheduled for Tuesday, December 11, 2007, at 10:00 a.m. in room 216 of the Hart Senate Office Building. For further information, please contact Elise Bean of the Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

SUBCOMMITTEE ON STATE, LOCAL, AND PRIVATE SECTOR PREPAREDNESS AND INTEGRATION

Mr. SALAZAR. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Ad Hoc Subcommittee on State, Local, and Private Sector Preparedness and Integration of the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, December 4, 2007, at 2:30 p.m. in order to conduct a hearing entitled, ''The New Madrid Seismic Zone: Whose Fault Is It Anyway?''

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, SCIENCE AND TRANSPORTATION

Mr. SALAZAR. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, December 4, 2007, at 2:30 p.m., in room 253 of the Russell Senate Office Building, for the purposes of conducting a hearing.

Agenda

S. 1581, Federal Ocean Acidification Research and Monitoring Act of 2007; S. 2307, Global Change Research Improvement Act of 2007; S. 2355, Climate Change Adaptation Act of 2007; S. 2332, Media Ownership Act of 2007; Nominations for Promotion in U.S. Coast Guard (PN 1039 and PN 1055); and Nominations for Promotion in the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Commission Corps (PN 1014).

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, EDUCATION, LABOR, AND PENSIONS.

Mr. SALAZAR. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate in order to conduct a hearing entitled ''Developing a Comprehensive Response to Food Safety'' on Tuesday, December 4, 2007, at 10:30 a.m. in SD–430.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

Mr. SALAZAR. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate Committee on the Judiciary be authorized to meet during the session of the

Senate, in order to conduct a hearing entitled ''Electronic Prescribing of Controlled Substances: Addressing Health Care and Law Enforcement Priorities'' on Tuesday, December 4, 2007, at 10 a.m. in room SD–226 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building.

Witness List

Panel I: Joseph T. Rannazzisi, Deputy Assistant Administrator, Drug Enforcement Administration, Office of Diversion Control, Alexandria, VA and Tony Trenkle, Director, Office of E-Health Standards and Services, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, Baltimore, MD;

Panel II: Laura Adams, President and CEO, Rhode Island Quality Institute, Providence, RI; Kevin Hutchinson, CEO, Sure Scripts, Alexandria, VA; David Miller, Chief Security Officer, Covisint, Detroit, MI; and Mike A. Podgurski, R.Ph., Vice President, Pharmacy Services, Rite Aid Corporation, Camp Hill, PA.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

PERMANENT SUBCOMMITTEE ON INVESTIGATIONS

Mr. SALAZAR. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations of the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, December 4, 2007, at 9:30 a.m., in order to conduct a hearing entitled, ''Credit Card Practices: Unfair Interest Rate Increases.''

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

APPOINTMENT

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair, on behalf of the Republican Leader, pursuant to Public Law 100–696, announces the appointment of the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. ALEXANDER) as a member of the United States Capitol Preservation Commission, vice the Senator from Colorado (Mr. ALLARD).

WELCOMING FIRST MINISTER DR. IAN PAISLEY AND DEPUTY FIRST MINISTER MARTIN McGUINNESS OF NORTHERN IRELAND

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of S. Con. Res. 58 submitted earlier today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the concurrent resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A concurrent resolution (S. Con. Res. 58) welcoming First Prime Minister Dr. Ian Paisley and Deputy First Minister Martin McGuinness of Northern Ireland to the United States.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the concurrent resolution.

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the concurrent resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table en bloc, and any statements relating to the concurrent resolution be printed in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The concurrent resolution (S. Con. Res. 58) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The concurrent resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. CON. RES. 58

Whereas, on May 8, 2007, power was restored to the Assembly of Northern Ireland, opening a new chapter in the history of Northern Ireland;

Whereas Dr. Ian Paisley became First Minister and Martin McGuinness became Deputy First Minister of Northern Ireland;

Whereas Dr. Paisley and Mr. McGuinness have been working to solidify the peace agreement and to govern Northern Ireland effectively; and

Whereas Dr. Paisley and Mr. McGuinness are making their first trip together to the United States: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring), That Congress—

(1) welcomes First Minister Dr. Ian Paisley and Deputy First Minister Martin McGuinness of Northern Ireland to the United States;

(2) commends Dr. Paisley and Mr. McGuinness for showing the world that it is possible to rise above decades of bitter sectarian violence to achieve peace; and

(3) expresses hope that Northern Ireland will continue to be peaceful and stable in the future.

DECLARING OF A COMMERCIAL FISHERY FAILURE

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Commerce Committee be discharged from further consideration of S. Res. 376 and that the Senate then proceed to its immediate consideration.

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. 376) providing the sense of the Senate that the Secretary of Commerce should declare a commercial fishery failure for the groundfish fishery for Massachusetts, Maine, New Hampshire, and Rhode Island, and immediately propose regulations to implement section 312(a) of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table, and any statements relating to the resolution be printed in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 376) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 376

Whereas the Secretary of Commerce may provide fishery disaster assistance under section 312(a) of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (16 U.S.C. 1861a(a)) if the Secretary determines that there is a commercial fishery failure due to a fishery resource disaster as a result of natural causes, man-made causes beyond the control of fishery managers to mitigate through conservation and management measures, including regulatory restrictions imposed to protect human health or the marine environment, or undetermined causes;

Whereas the Secretary of Commerce has not proposed or promulgated regulations to implement such section 312(a);

Whereas during 2007, the Governors of each of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, the State of Maine, and the State of Rhode Island requested that the Secretary of Commerce declare a commercial fishery failure for the groundfish fishery under such section 312(a) and the Governor of the State of New Hampshire has indicated his intention of submitting a similar request;

Whereas since 1996, the Secretary of Commerce has had regulations in place that require significant restrictions and reductions on the catch and days-at-sea of New England fishermen in the groundfish fishery;

Whereas New England fishermen in the groundfish fishery have endured additional restrictions and reductions under Framework 42, which has resulted in many fishermen having just 24 days to fish during a season;

Whereas Framework 42 and other Federal fishing restrictions have had a great impact on small-boat fishermen, many of whom cannot safely fish beyond the inshore areas;

Whereas, as of the date of the enactment of this Act, each day-at-sea a fisherman spends in an inshore area reduces that fisherman's number of available days-at-sea by 2 days;

Whereas the Commonwealth of Massachusetts has provided information to the Secretary of Commerce demonstrating that between 1994 and 2006, overall conditions of groundfish stocks have not improved and that spawning stock biomass is near record lows for most major groundfish stocks;

Whereas the Commonwealth of Maine has provided additional information to the Secretary that between 2005 and 2006, total Massachusetts commercial groundfish vessel revenues (landings) decreased by 18 percent and there was a loss for related industries and communities estimated at $22,000,000;

Whereas the State of Maine has provided information to the Secretary of Commerce indicating that since 1994, the impact of groundfish regulations have eliminated 50 percent of Maine's groundfish fleet, leaving just 110 active groundfish fishermen;

Whereas the State of Maine has provided additional information to the Secretary indicating that between 1996 and 2006, there was a 58 percent drop in groundfish landings in Maine and a 45 percent drop in groundfish revenue from approximately $27,000,000 to $15,000,000 and that between 2005 and 2006, groundfish revenues decreased 25 percent;

Whereas the State of Rhode Island has provided information to the Secretary of Commerce indicating that, since 1994, there has been a 66 percent drop in Rhode Island's groundfish fishery landings and, between 1995 and 2007, groundfish revenue decreased 20 percent from approximately $7,500,000 to $6,000,000;

Whereas the Secretary of Commerce rejected requests from Massachusetts, Maine, and Rhode Island to declare a commercial fishery failure prior to establishing any appropriate standard to implement section 312(a) of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act; and

Whereas for centuries, growth in New England's commercial fishing industry has been intertwined with the history and economic growth of the New England States and has created thousands of jobs in both fishing and fishing-related industries for generations of New England residents: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That it is the sense of the Senate that the Secretary of Commerce should—

(1) reconsider the October 22, 2007 decision to deny the requests of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, the State of Maine, and the State of Rhode Island for a groundfish fishery failure declaration;

(2) look favorably upon the request of the State of New Hampshire for a groundfish fishery failure declaration; and

(3) immediately propose regulations to implement section 312(a) of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (16 U.S.C. 1861a(a)).

CREATING AND EXTENDING CERTAIN TEMPORARY DISTRICT COURT JUDGESHIPS

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 172, S. 1327.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 1327) to create and extend certain temporary district court judgeships.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, earlier this year I introduced a bipartisan measure to address the emerging staffing needs of the Federal Judiciary, our coequal branch of government. This bill responds to discrete situations in five States regarding temporary judgeships. In May, the Judiciary Committee voted unanimously to report this bill. It is now December. That is a delay of over 6 months. This sustained delay can be attributed to a ''hold'' by a single Republican Senator.

I am glad that this hold has finally been lifted so that we can proceed. I am delighted that this bipartisan bill has finally been approved after such a needless delay. Had it been cleared for consideration earlier, the House could have acted before the Thanksgiving recess and the matter could be law. Instead, our proposal still needs to be considered by the House and presented to the President in order to take effect.

In order to address fluctuations in a court's caseload, Congress can authorize a judgeship on a temporary basis. These temporary fixes do not undermine the independence that comes with lifetime appointment to the judiciary because the judges who fill them are, in fact, appointed for life, like all Federal judges. The positions are temporary in the sense that when they expire the next vacancy in the jurisdiction is not filled, and the extra judgeship expires.

Last Congress, two of these needed temporary judgeships were allowed to expire. That was regrettable. One was in Nebraska and the other in California. That was unfortunate since they continue to have high case loads. This legislation restores the status quo in these busy districts by reauthorizing these two temporary judgeships. I know that Senators FEINSTEIN, BOXER, NELSON and HAGEL have been concerned about these caseloads, and thank them for working with me and for cosponsoring and supporting this bill to restore those judgeships.

In addition, temporary judgeships in three other districts are close to expiration. Caseloads in Ohio, Hawaii and Kansas remain at a high level, and allowing their temporary judgeships to lapse would put a serious strain on courts in those jurisdictions. This legislation would extend each of the five temporary judgeships for 10 years. This will allow Congress some flexibility with regard to future judgeship needs. Senator BROWNBACK has expressed his concerns about this to me, as has Mr. REGULA in the House. I thank Senators INOUYE, AKAKA, ROBERTS, BROWNBACK, VOINOVICH and BROWN for cosponsoring and supporting this bill to extend those judgeships.

Next year, I will work with my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to address judgeship needs in a comprehensive way. Indeed, I have asked six Senators who are members of the Judiciary Committee, three Democratic Senators and three Republican Senators, to serve as a task force and report a proposal to Senator SPECTER and me before the end of the year. I have asked Senator SCHUMER and Senator SESSIONS to head this task force, and look forward to their report next month.

The five districts affected by this bill, however, cannot wait until next year for action on this extension or their temporary judgeships may well expire in the interim. This legislation will act as a ''patch,'' allowing these districts to effectively operate until we are able to determine what additional judgeships are needed throughout the Federal judiciary.

The measure is supported by the Judicial Conference of the United States, and I thank my colleagues for moving this legislation.

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the bill be read three times, passed, and the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table; that any statements relating to the bill be printed in the RECORD, without further intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The bill (S. 1327) was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed, as follows:

S. 1327

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

SECTION 1. TEMPORARY JUDGESHIPS FOR DISTRICT COURTS.

(a) ADDITIONAL TEMPORARY JUDGESHIPS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The President shall appoint, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate—

(A) 1 additional district judge for the eastern district of California; and

(B) 1 additional district judge for the district of Nebraska.

(2) VACANCIES NOT FILLED.—The first vacancy in the office of district judge in each of the offices of district judge authorized by this subsection, occurring 10 years or more after the confirmation date of the judge named to fill the temporary district judgeship created in the applicable district by this subsection, shall not be filled.

(b) EXTENSION OF CERTAIN TEMPORARY JUDGESHIPS.—Section 203(c) of the Judicial Improvements Act of 1990 (Public Law 101–650; 28 U.S.C. 133 note) is amended—

(1) in the second sentence, by inserting ''the district of Hawaii,'' after ''Pennsylvania,'';

(2) in the third sentence (relating to the district of Kansas), by striking ''16 years'' and inserting ''26 years'';

(3) in the fifth sentence (relating to the northern district of Ohio), by striking ''15 years'' and inserting ''25 years''; and

(4) by inserting ''The first vacancy in the office of district judge in the district of Hawaii occurring 20 years or more after the confirmation date of the judge named to fill the temporary judgeship created under this subsection shall not be filled.'' after the sixth sentence.

EMERGENCY AND DISASTER ASSISTANCE FRAUD PENALTY ENHANCEMENT ACT OF 2007

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 167, which is S. 863.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 863) to amend title 18, United States Code, with respect to fraud in connection with major disaster or emergency funds.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. DORGAN. I ask unanimous consent that the bill be read a third time and passed, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, and any statements be printed in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The bill (S. 863) was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time and passed, as follows:

S. 863

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 ''Emergency and Disaster Assistance Fraud Penalty Enhancement Act of 2007''.

SEC. 2. FRAUD IN CONNECTION WITH MAJOR DISASTER OR EMERGENCY BENEFITS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 47 of title 18, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

''§ 1040. Fraud in connection with major disaster or emergency benefits

''(a) Whoever, in a circumstance described in subsection (b) of this section, knowingly—

''(1) falsifies, conceals, or covers up by any trick, scheme, or device any material fact; or

''(2) makes any materially false, fictitious, or fraudulent statement or representation, or makes or uses any false writing or document knowing the same to contain any materially false, fictitious, or fraudulent statement or representation,

in any matter involving any benefit authorized, transported, transmitted, transferred, disbursed, or paid in connection with a major disaster declaration under section 401 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5170) or an emergency declaration under section 501 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5191), or in connection with any procurement of property or services related to any emergency or major disaster declaration as a prime contractor with the United States or as a subcontractor or supplier on a contract in which there is a prime contract with the United States, shall be fined under this title, imprisoned not more than 30 years, or both.

''(b) A circumstance described in this subsection is any instance where—

''(1) the authorization, transportation, transmission, transfer, disbursement, or payment of the benefit is in or affects interstate or foreign commerce;

''(2) the benefit is transported in the mail at any point in the authorization, transportation, transmission, transfer, disbursement, or payment of that benefit; or

''(3) the benefit is a record, voucher, payment, money, or thing of value of the United States, or of any department or agency thereof.

''(c) In this section, the term 'benefit' means any record, voucher, payment, money or thing of value, good, service, right, or privilege provided by the United States, a State or local government, or other entity.''.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections for chapter 47 of title 18, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new item:

''1040. Fraud in connection with major disaster or emergency benefits.''.

SEC. 3. INCREASED CRIMINAL PENALTIES FOR ENGAGING IN WIRE, RADIO, AND TELEVISION FRAUD DURING AND RELATION TO A PRESIDENTIALLY DECLARED MAJOR DISASTER OR EMERGENCY.

Section 1343 of title 18, United States Code, is amended by inserting: ''occurs in relation to, or involving any benefit authorized, transported, transmitted, transferred, disbursed, or paid in connection with, a presidentially declared major disaster or emergency (as those terms are defined in section 102 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5122)), or'' after ''If the violation''.

SEC. 4. INCREASED CRIMINAL PENALTIES FOR ENGAGING IN MAIL FRAUD DURING AND RELATION TO A PRESIDENTIALLY DECLARED MAJOR DISASTER OR EMERGENCY.

Section 1341 of title 18, United States Code, is amended by inserting: ''occurs in relation to, or involving any benefit authorized, transported, transmitted, transferred, disbursed, or paid in connection with, a presidentially declared major disaster or emergency (as those terms are defined in section 102 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5122)), or'' after ''If the violation''.

SEC. 5. DIRECTIVE TO SENTENCING COMMISSION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Pursuant to its authority under section 994(p) of title 28, United States Code, and in accordance with this section, the United States Sentencing Commission forthwith shall—

(1) promulgate sentencing guidelines or amend existing sentencing guidelines to provide for increased penalties for persons convicted of fraud or theft offenses in connection with a major disaster declaration under section 401 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5170) or an emergency declaration under section 501 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5191); and

(2) submit to the Committee on the Judiciary of the Senate and the Committee on the Judiciary of the House of Representatives an explanation of actions taken by the Commission pursuant to paragraph (1) and any additional policy recommendations the Commission may have for combating offenses described in that paragraph.

(b) REQUIREMENTS.—In carrying out this section, the Sentencing Commission shall—

(1) ensure that the sentencing guidelines and policy statements reflect the serious nature of the offenses described in subsection (a) and the need for aggressive and appropriate law enforcement action to prevent such offenses;

(2) assure reasonable consistency with other relevant directives and with other guidelines;

(3) account for any aggravating or mitigating circumstances that might justify exceptions, including circumstances for which the sentencing guidelines currently provide sentencing enhancements;

(4) make any necessary conforming changes to the sentencing guidelines; and

(5) assure that the guidelines adequately meet the purposes of sentencing as set forth in section 3553(a)(2) of title 18, United States Code.

(c) EMERGENCY AUTHORITY AND DEADLINE FOR COMMISSION ACTION.—The Commission shall promulgate the guidelines or amendments provided for under this section as soon as practicable, and in any event not later than the 30 days after the date of enactment of this Act, in accordance with the procedures set forth in section 21(a) of the Sentencing Reform Act of 1987, as though the authority under that Act had not expired.

MEASURES INDEFINITELY POSTPONED—S. 2131, S. 2107, S. 2150

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the following calendar numbers be indefinitely postponed en bloc: Calendar No. 433, Calendar No. 490, and Calendar No. 492.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

ORDERS FOR WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 5, 2007

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it stand adjourned until 12 noon on Wednesday, December 5; that on Wednesday, 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 the time equally divided and controlled between leaders or their designees, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each, and the first half controlled by the majority and the final portion controlled by the Republicans; that at the close of morning business the Senate resume consideration of the motion to proceed to H.R. 3996, that the mandatory quorum required under rule XXII be waived with respect to the cloture motion filed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL TOMORROW

Mr. DORGAN. If there is no further business today, I now ask unanimous consent that the Senate stand adjourned under the previous order.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 6:29 p.m., adjourned until Wednesday, December 5, 2007, at 12 noon.

NOMINATIONS

Executive nominations received by the Senate:

NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

GREGORY B. JACZKO, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION FOR THE TERM OF FIVE YEARS EXPIRING JUNE 30, 2013. (REAPPOINTMENT)

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

HECTOR E. MORALES, OF TEXAS, TO BE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES, WITH THE RANK OF AMBASSADOR, VICE JOHN F. MAISTO, RESIGNED.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

JOHN J. SULLIVAN, OF MARYLAND, TO BE DEPUTY SECRETARY OF COMMERCE, VICE DAVID A. SAMPSON, RESIGNED.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING GUSTAVO I. PEREA

HON. PATRICK J. MURPHY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 4, 2007

Mr. PATRICK J. MURPHY of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Bucks County resident Gustavo I. Perea, the Greater Philadelphia Chamber of Commerce 2008 Business Person of the Year.

Mr. Perea is a living example of the American Dream. He arrived in the United States 46 years ago from Cuba, he is a graduate of Spring Garden College and he served in the United States Navy. He and his family settled in Doylestown—in Bucks County, PA—and he has worked for Adams-Bickel Associates, one of the largest construction firms in the Philadelphia area. Today, he serves as Chief Operating Officer for Adams-Bickel.

Mr. Perea's accomplishments don't stop with his professional career. He is a true community leader, serving on the Doylestown Borough Planning Commission, the Doylestown Borough Building Code Committee and the Bucks County Historical Society Grounds and Building Committee. His more recent community work includes his involvement with the Bucks Mont Katrina Relief Project, a community organization helping flood victims in Hancock County, Mississippi.

Madam Speaker, Gustavo I. Perea is an extraordinary example of the American Dream come true. His passion for his profession and his tireless community involvement are shining examples. His work, both professionally and in the community is inspiring, and I am honored to recognize him for his many accomplishments and contributions.

IN HONOR OF MR. GREGORY ''DON'' HUNSUCKER

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 4, 2007

Mr. COSTA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the distinguished career of Gregory ''Don'' Hunsucker. After decades of dedication to the United Food and Commercial Workers Union, Don decided to retire this past August.

Don's career in the labor movement began over 3 decades ago with the Retail Clerks International Association as a special representative and organizer. He joined the United Food and Commercial Workers Union, local 1288 in 1973 as a Union Representative and rose quickly within the organization to become president and chief executive officer in 1977.

The labor community in California's San Joaquin Valley has benefited immensely from Don's leadership. While he was president and chief executive officer of the union, local 1288 represented over 11,000 United Food and Commercial Workers in Fresno, Kings, Madera, Mariposa, Merced, and Tulare Counties.

Presently, Don continues to be heavily involved in various local and statewide labor organizations. Some of these positions include president of the Western States Council of United Food and Commercial Workers Union, chair of the Northern California Caucus of UFCW, and chief executive officer of the Valley Economic Leadership Institute. He has also served on many civic and charitable boards.

Throughout his distinguished career, Gregory ''Don'' Hunsucker has proven to be a highly effective leader committed to excellence in his work and service to others. As he celebrates this milestone in his life and gets ready to spend more time with his wife Linda, I wish him good health and best wishes for the future.

RECOGNIZING JAKOB GREGORY-STRAMIELLO OF SPRING HILL, FLORIDA

HON. GINNY BROWN-WAITE

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 4, 2007

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Madam speaker, I rise today to recognize an outstanding young leader, Jakob Gregory-Stramiello, a 7th grade student at Gulf Coast Academy of Science and Technology. At 12 years old, Jakob has found a unique way to help veterans in his community and has done something that all patriotic Americans can admire; give back to the men and women who fight to preserve our rights and freedoms around the world.

This past semester, Jakob's social studies class was assigned a project inspired by the Pay It Forward Foundation. Pay it forward is a philosophy started by Catherine Ryan Hyde that claims if we help a few individuals, and they in turn help a few more individuals, pretty soon, a great many people have been helped.

Jakob was inspired by this program to take a stake in this world and change it for the better. This kind of selflessness is to be commended among young adults and is a testament to what is possible when we give children the skills and confidence they need to make a difference.

Madam Speaker, Jakob has a special place in his heart for the nation's veterans. Over the years, his family has contributed a great deal to our nation's armed forces. Both his mother and his grandfather are former service members. And for this reason, perhaps more than most, Jakob is acutely aware of the challenges faced by our returning service members.

Jakob knows that despite their limitless contributions to ensuring this nation's freedoms, veterans throughout Florida still appreciate the support of their neighbors. With the holidays right around the corner, Jacob set out to make sure he could help meet the needs of less fortunate veterans and their families.

With supplies donated by Comfort Systems Heating and Air Conditioning, and a considerable amount of time and teamwork, Jakob made angel necklaces to sell around his community. Pricing the necklaces at $1 each, Jakob soon had enough money to make a sizable contribution to the veteran's action project of Hernando County. This veteran organization performs outstanding outreach to the veterans of Hernando County, including their drive to provide thanksgiving food baskets to local veterans who need them.

Madam Speaker, Congress should take a moment to recognize Jakob's efforts, because I believe we can all take a cue from his leadership and a lesson from his ingenuity. This remarkable young man has used the only assets at his disposal, his determination and his creativity, to provide the most he could for his fellow Americans. In doing so, Jakob Gregory-Stramiello has made a mighty difference for the veterans of Hernando County and I am grateful for his efforts.

IN RECOGNITION OF MR. JAMES A. ''PAPPY'' DUNN

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 4, 2007

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Madam Speaker, I respectfully ask the attention of the House today to recognize Mr. James A. ''Pappy'' Dunn, and his extraordinary service to our country.

Born in Georgia in 1917, James Dunn attended high school in Montgomery, AL, and graduated from Alabama State University with a degree in chemistry in 1935. During World War II, from 1942 to 1945 he served our Nation in uniform along with Allied Forces in Europe. After returning from the war, he served as a coach and principal of the Calhoun County Training School, at which he served for 47 years. In 1987, Mr. Dunn became the first African-American elected to serve as a Calhoun County Commissioner. Since then, he has established himself as a community leader dedicated to working tirelessly for the people of Calhoun County, AL.

On December 7, Mr. Dunn and his family and friends will celebrate his 90th birthday. On behalf of so many of us across east Alabama, I thank Mr. Dunn for his lifetime of service to our community and our Nation, and wish him all the best at this important milestone in his life.

HONORING ALEXANDER MALLONEE OF SONOMA COUNTY, CALIFORNIA

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 4, 2007

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Alexander Mallonee on the occasion of his retirement as Secretary-Treasurer of the North Bay Labor Council, AFL–CIO, President of the National Association of Letter Carriers Branch 183, and letter carrier for the United States Postal Service. Alex has honorably served his community for 30 years.

Mr. Mallonee's career in public service began in 1977 when he became a letter carrier and was immediately active in the union. He ascended to the presidency of Branch 183 in 1980 and became known as a highly approachable, dedicated, and principled leader. In a position that can often lend itself to conflict and acrimony, Alex firmly stood up for the rights of his members while maintaining a strong, civil dialogue with management. According to his colleagues, Alex even educated management on many social justice issues.

Mr. Mallonee's stellar work with the Letter Carriers earned him the position of Secretary-Treasurer of the North Bay Labor Council, AFL–CIO, representing member unions in Sonoma, Lake, Marin, and Mendocino counties. Under Alex's leadership, the Council's membership has grown to over 50 unions representing 30,000 working men and women in the North Bay.

Mr. Mallonee's coalition-building skills were essential in his role as a founding member of the Coalition for a Better Sonoma County, an endeavor that sought to unify progressive environmental, labor, and community groups under the shared principles of smart growth, environmental protection, social justice, and affordable housing. Alex's gift for bringing people together has resulted in a vibrant progressive movement in Sonoma County.

Mr. Mallonee's legacy will be felt long after his retirement. He is a one of a kind leader who is well-respected by the business community as well as the progressive community. He is leaving the labor movement markedly better than he found it, which is a testament to his strength of convictions and quality of character.

Madam Speaker, it is my distinct pleasure to recognize Alexander Mallonee for his many years of public service to the Northern Bay area of California, and to thank him for his many contributions on behalf of working men and women everywhere. We wish him the best as he enters this new phase of his life.

TRIBUTE TO ASTRONAUT BARBARA MORGAN

HON. THOMAS M. REYNOLDS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 4, 2007

Mr. REYNOLDS. Madam Speaker, with great appreciation I rise today to honor an inspiring educator turned astronaut, Barbara Morgan, who has spent her distinguished career ensuring our children have the knowledge and experience to fulfill their dreams. I also rise today, Madam Speaker, to thank Barbara for visiting my district to share her inspiring story and experience with local students.

This past August, Astronaut Barbara Morgan became the first teacher to complete a mission in space. While Barbara had to wait 21 years for her trip on the *Endeavour*, she completed the legacy of teacher Christa McAuliffe, who was tragically killed in the 1986 explosion of shuttle *Challenger*, by holding education sessions in orbit for students.

As Christa McAuliffe's backup for the NASA Teacher in Space Program, Barbara witnessed firsthand the tragic *Challenger* explosion. After the explosion, Barbara returned to teaching in Idaho, but in 1998 was drawn back to NASA and trained to become an astronaut and an integral part of shuttle missions. She has logged over 305 hours in space and completed her first space flight in August 2007 as a mission specialist on the crew of *Endeavour*.

Holding the first in-orbit classroom for students aboard *Endeavour*, Barbara said her 2 careers were very similar, saying in both roles, you ''explore, discover and share.'' In these roles, Barbara has not only made a significant impact on space exploration, but she also serves as a positive role model for students. Growing up in Fresno, California, Barbara graduated with distinction from Stanford University and started teaching on the Flathead Indian reservation at Arlee Elementary School in Arlee, Montana. Most recently, Barbara taught second, third, and fourth grades at McCall-Donnelly Elementary School in Idaho.

Throughout Barbara's life, she has set an example for others to follow. Her courage and dedication to education serves as an example for us all, especially our students. It is because of teachers like Barbara that our students have the inspiration to follow their dreams.

Madam Speaker, in recognition of her tremendous service to our children and our Nation as an educator and astronaut, I ask that this honorable body join me in honoring Barbara Morgan.

TRIBUTE TO SISTER FRANCESCA ONLEY

HON. ALLYSON Y. SCHWARTZ

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 4, 2007

Ms. SCHWARTZ. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of an exceptional educator and leader in the Northeast Philadelphia community. Sister Francesca Onley has been the guiding hand at Holy Family University, a fully accredited Catholic University in Northeast Philadelphia, for 25 years. Holy Family University celebrated Sister Francesca's year tenure on Thursday, November 29, 2007, at a Silver Anniversary event, with the proceeds designated to establish an endowed scholarship in her honor.

Under Sister Francesca's leadership, Holy Family attained university status, created an endowment where there was none, added 2 additional campuses, and substantially increased the number of full-time students. More recently, under Sister Francesca's direction, the University completed an education technology building, housing some of the latest technologies for preparing future teachers, including adaptive technology to help integrate disabled students into the regular classroom.

Sister Francesca recently accepted the invitation of the University's Board of Directors to continue as President through 2011. She attributes her success to the fact that she relies upon simple rules of leadership about economy, timely goals and delivering what you say you will deliver, on time! As a Sister of the Holy Family of Nazareth, Sister Francesca does not receive a salary for her work as university president.

Sister Francesca Onley grew up in the Mayfair section of Philadelphia, not far from the Holy Family campus. She graduated from Nazareth Academy High School, later becoming its principal. She earned her bachelor's degree in education and business, as well as a doctorate in higher education administration from Holy Family.

Sister Francesca serves as chairperson of the International Association of University Professors—UN Commission on Disarmament Education, Conflict Resolution and Peace. That organization's mission is to institutionalize peace education in universities around the world.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Sister Francesca Onley for her years of service to Holy Family University, her devotion to education and innovation, and her efforts to promote peace.

IN HONOR OF CONGRESSMAN JACK BRINKLEY

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 4, 2007

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor former Congressman Jack Brinkley, who was recently honored by the Muscogee County Democratic party with the creation of the Jack T. Brinkley Service Award.

From his humble beginnings in the community of Faceville, GA, where he and his three sisters were raised by a single mother, Pauline Brinkley, who worked as a lunchroom supervisor in Decatur County schools, Jack Brinkley went on to become a distinguished attorney, State Representative, and U.S. Representative for the third district of Georgia. Jack was quoted recently saying ''Our mother always held her head up high and worked hard.'' Jack also learned to work hard and developed a work ethic that has followed him throughout his life.

After high school, Jack went from southwest to north Georgia where he attended Young Harris College with two other future luminaries of public service: Former Congressman Ed Jenkins and former Lt. Governor, Governor, and Senator Zell Miller. There must have been something in the water at Young Harris, because it truly nourished the seed of service in its students.

Graduating from Young Harris, Jack became a teacher for 2 years, joined the Air Force as a pilot during the Korean Conflict, and returned to receive his law degree at the University of Georgia under the GI Bill. During the same year, he met and married the former

Lois Kite of Phenix City, AL, and eventually moved to Columbus in 1964 to start his law practice.

Shortly thereafter, he was elected to the Georgia House, and 2 years later he was elected to Congress from the third district, eventually serving the second longest term of any third-district Congressman since the Civil War. When he retired, he was the senior member of the Georgia House Delegation and a prominent member of the Armed Services and Veteran Affairs Committees, providing much-needed support to Fort Benning, the Robins Air Force Base, and the thousands of veterans in the area. His constituent services were without equal.

When Jack campaigned, he promised to "remember who I am; where I'm from, and who sent me." He believed in the Christian principles of friendship, made it a point to remember names, heal misunderstandings, and never miss opportunities to express congratulations or sympathy. Madam Speaker, it is my privilege to know the Honorable Jack Brinkley, and I commend and thank him for his many years of public service.

A TRIBUTE TO THE CATHEDRAL SQUARE HOMELESS PROGRAM

HON. DORIS O. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 4, 2007

Ms. MATSUI. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the staff and volunteers of the Cathedral Square Homeless Program and the services they provide in Sacramento. Two years ago representatives of the Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament, Cathedral St. Vincent de Paul Society, the Downtown Partnership, the California State Association of Counties, and the Pyramid Alehouse created this innovative program to help find housing for those in need. Their spirit and dedication is evident in every life they touch. I ask all my colleagues to join me in honoring some of Sacramento's finest citizens and this wonderful program.

In 2005, local residents, churchgoers and business leaders saw that homeless men and women were sleeping on the steps of the Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament in downtown Sacramento. They then counted that over 60 homeless people were sleeping on the downtown streets each night and decided to take action.

To help the less fortunate, the Cathedral Square Homeless program was created. Administered by the Cathedral St. Vincent de Paul Society and partnered by the Sisters of Mercy, the California State Association of Counties, the Downtown Partnership and the Pyramid Alehouse, the program began providing homeless individuals with a bed in a warm house, clothing, bus passes, food, and necessary tools to achieve a self-sufficient life. This program is designed to allow individuals to become self-sufficient in 3 months.

The efforts of the volunteers who make this program work are truly admirable, and they have had some remarkable success stories. A particular gentleman entered into the program right after its inception in December of 2005. He had been homeless for 7 long and trying years. With the help of the Cathedral Square Homeless Program he was able to have a steady place to live. He was given clean clothes and help with his transportation needs. That allowed him to have the stability to apply and interview for a variety of jobs. Within 3 months, he had secured a job and has been working ever since.

The Cathedral Square Homeless Program receives a great deal of support from the Sacramento community. The Sacramento Festival of Trees is a non-profit, interfaith, community-based volunteer organization that supports this program. This year, with the help of the Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament, East Lawn Funeral Homes and Cemeteries, Sisters of Mercy, the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, the Downtown Partnership, the Interfaith Services Bureau, Westfield Downtown Plaza, and Westminster Presbyterian Church, they are hosting the first Festival of Trees and Lights. Community organizations have decorated and donated artificial holiday trees, which will be displayed during the festival. Members of the community will be invited to participate in a silent auction to purchase a tree for their home, office, or as a gift. All donations and proceeds will benefit the Cathedral Square Homeless Program.

Madam Speaker, I am honored to pay tribute to the Cathedral Square Homeless Program's unwavering commitment to the well-being of Sacramento's homeless. Over the past 2-years, their success stories have been truly inspiring. As members of the Sacramento community gather at the Festival of Trees and Lights fundraiser, I ask my colleagues to come together and honor the tireless dedication shown by the Cathedral Square Homeless Program's staff and volunteers in providing aid for those less fortunate.

TRIBUTE TO MAUREEN FESTI

HON. JOE COURTNEY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 4, 2007

Mr. COURTNEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Maureen Festi of West Hartford, CT, for her outstanding achievement in the field of education. After 29 years of educating youth, Ms. Festi was honored with the 2007 Preserve America National History Teacher of the Year Award on November 16, 2007.

For the past 15 years, Ms. Festi has dedicated her life to teaching the children of Earl M. Witt Intermediate School in Stafford Springs, CT. Her dedication to her field and her passion for her students are apparent in her creative and imaginative approach to the American history curriculum. Ms. Festi has devoted her life to ensuring that her pupils do not simply memorize history, but also identify its relevance in their lives today. By extending her lessons beyond the four walls of the classroom, Ms. Festi adds contemporary meaning to a study that is focused on the past. A leader and an innovator in her field, Ms. Festi is truly deserving of this national recognition.

I ask all my colleagues to join with me and the people of Connecticut in congratulating Ms. Festi for this honor and thanking her for her continued commitment to the education of the children of Connecticut.

TRIBUTE TO MUNIR MALIK

HON. ZOE LOFGREN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 4, 2007

Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of my former law school classmate Munir Malik, who has been detained by the Pakistani government for his support for the rule of law. I have contacted the State Department and the Embassy of Pakistan urging his immediate release and an end to martial law in Pakistan.

His brother, Saeed Malik, lives in San Jose, my home town. With unanimous consent, I'd like to submit into the record his Thursday op-ed in the San Jose Mercury News about his brother, Munir Malik, and the crisis in Pakistan.

TRIBUTE TO GLENN "TEX" BREWER

HON. LYNN A. WESTMORELAND

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 4, 2007

Mr. WESTMORELAND. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor one of my personal heroes: a constituent in Fayetteville, GA, who has lived a life of exciting adventures, public service and family values.

Glenn "Tex" Brewer will retire from the Fayetteville City Council at the end of this year after serving for 16 years, many of those years as mayor pro tem.

But Brewer's civic duty in his hometown ranks as merely one of a long list of public services and great deeds. He spent most of his life serving our Nation as a career officer in the U.S. Navy, retiring as a captain.

The man's career reflected the boy's dream. A 10-year-old Brewer saw a news reel about Navy deep sea divers while he was at the local theater to see "Flash Gordon" in 1938.

When Brewer joined the Navy, however, he already had a pilot's license, so he was placed on the aviation track, where he received training in aerial and ground photography. This skill would come in handy after he graduated from the Naval Academy and switched from flight training to submarines. He soon became a highly skilled deep sea diver and an innovator in underwater photography.

In fact, Brewer was the first man to dive beneath the North Pole and to take pictures of the underside of the ice block. This was part of the USS *Seadragon*'s historic trip, the first to traverse the Arctic Ocean from Atlantic to the Pacific. The submarine traveled the Northwest Passage beneath the ice of the North Pole. The largest iceberg the crew encountered measured 1,500 feet long, 100 feet wide and 300 feet deep. Brewer's photos of the iceberg ran in Life Magazine, the New York Times and the Washington Post. The crew surfaced on the geographic North Pole and played a game of softball. A hit ball would travel through today, yesterday, and tomorrow in one play, Brewer said, adding that every view from home plate pointed south.

It wasn't all good times on the North Pole, however. On another occasion, Brewer and two crew mates were accidentally stranded for

6 hours on the ice without tools, communications equipment, or sufficiently warm clothing. It was, Brewer said, a ''moment of truth'' in a potentially fatal scenario.

For his work at the North Pole, Brewer received the Navy Commendation Medal; for being the first to dive at the North Pole, he was elected a member of the National Explorers Club, a distinction he called ''one of the finest awards'' he had ever won.

After many distinguished years in the Navy, Brewer capped off his career with a stint in the offices of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, where he worked as chief of one of the National Military Command and Control Centers. He called the job the most rewarding of his life. For his service there, he won the Legion of Merit and then retired from the Navy in 1976.

Inside the Navy and out, Brewer has always competed.

During one tour of duty, Brewer raced hydro planes in the Southern California Speedboat Club in the American Power Boat Association, where he won two national championship hydro plane races. He set world records in straight-away speed and competition speed and earned a spot in the Gulf Oil Marine Racing Hall of Fame.

In 1985, a hang-gliding accident left Brewer paralyzed from the waist down. The injury, however, didn't stymie his competitive spirit or work ethic. He returned to his ancestral home in Fayetteville, GA, and restored his family's antebellum farm. He also played wheelchair sports and won more than 60 medals, mostly in the National Paralyzed Veterans Wheelchair Games.

For the past 16 years, Glenn ''Tex'' Brewer has served the people of his city as a member of the city council. During Brewer's tenure, he has strongly advocated restoration of Fayetteville's historic buildings, and he has championed the needs of the city's seniors and its youth.

For his lifetime of service to his Nation and community, Glenn Brewer deserves the praise of this House. On behalf of Georgia's Third Congressional District, I would like to pay personal thanks to him for all of his good works and wish him health and happiness as he prepares to retire from the city council.

TRIBUTE TO MS. DIONNE LIEBL

HON. MARY FALLIN

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 4, 2007

Ms. FALLIN. Madam Speaker, today I rise to honor and congratulate Ms. Dionne Liebl; teacher at Putnam City West High School and recent recipient of the Milken Family Foundation National Educator Award.

Ms. Liebl has demonstrated what it means to be a leader to our youth and the State of Oklahoma. The task of educating young people is one of the most important responsibilities a person can assume. Her ability to give of her time and energy with dedication and enthusiasm makes her deserving of such special recognition. This award serves as a testament to the impact she has had on both her students and colleagues.

Madam Speaker, on behalf of the entire House of Representatives, please join me in congratulating Ms. Liebl on receiving this important recognition.

DEPARTMENTS OF LABOR, HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, AND EDUCATION, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2008—VETO MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

SPEECH OF

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 15, 2007

Ms. LEE. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of overriding the President's veto of the L-HHS-Education conference report. I stand with Chairman OBEY and greatly appreciate his support of funding programs that are essential to the growth and development of the communities I represent in Oakland, California.

This bill includes funding for critical programs under the Department of Health and Human Services—programs like nurses education; the Ryan White CARE Act, and the Minority AIDS Initiative. These are all programs for which we should increase funding, as opposed to playing politics with the lives and well-being of the American people.

We are in a fundamental struggle over war vs. peace. We now conclusively know where the President's priorities lie—they are with occupying Iraq, as opposed to funding critical labor, heath and education programs at home. In one stroke of a pen, the President signed the Defense funding bill, and yet in the next stroke he vetoed the LHHS funding bill.

What is the President saying to the American people when he rejects legislation that funds education programs like 21st Century Community Learning Centers, TRIO, GEAR UP and programs that strengthen Historically Black Colleges and Universities? He is saying that he does not care about the programs that our people care about—programs that we need and want to see implemented to help our communities grow. He is more concerned with occupying Iraq.

We are now spending $12 billion a month in Iraq and yet the President is asking us to approve another $200 billion. This is absurd! For the price of one month of our occupation of Iraq, we could be paying for 1.5 million children to go to Head Start for a whole year; we could hire 200,000 new school teachers for a year; we could have even insured 7 million of the 8.7 million children living in this country that do not have medical insurance—for a whole year.

This is a fundamental question of where our priorities lie. Would you rather we continue to waste our American tax dollars on a war without an end, or would the American people rather spend their tax dollars on our children, our schools, and in our communities? Mr. Speaker, I hope to continue our fight for our funding priorities at home, as opposed to waging war abroad. I urge my colleagues to override the President's veto.

RECOGNIZING ARLETTA MINORE

HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 4, 2007

Mr. KILDEE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Arletta Minore as she retires from the Genesee Regional Chamber of Commerce. Arletta was honored at a dinner on November 28 in Flint, Michigan.

Arletta is a lifelong resident of Flint. She graduated from Flint Northern High School and attended Flint Junior Community College. She was married to Jack Minore and had four children, Jeffery, Eric, Steffan, and Jennifer.

She began her career arranging print ads for the Yankee Store and moved on to organizing the print ads for the Fair Store. From there Arletta moved to the Flint Journal, giving her the opportunity to work with many advertisers. She then moved to the Chamber of Commerce and has worked there for the last 19 years, eventually becoming the office manager.

Between working and her family, Arletta managed to restore her Victorian home into the Avon House Bed and Breakfast. She has operated her business since 1985. Her interests range from forming a dance troupe with friends and her daughter and performing for several small groups, to participating in the Michigan 60 Mile Cancer Walk.

Not content to sit back and rest, Arletta has already made plans to spend her retirement spending more time with her family and working with community groups like the Crim Run and the Geoffrey Midwest Workshop. Arletta plunging into a new business venture is also a possibility.

Madam Speaker, I ask the House of Representatives to join me in congratulating Arletta Minore for her service to the Flint area and hope that she continues her involvement in the community for many, many years to come. I wish her the best as she embarks on this new phase of her life.

TRIBUTE TO G. WARREN ELLIOT AND CHERYL S. PLUMMER

HON. BILL SHUSTER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 4, 2007

Mr. SHUSTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor G. Warren Elliott and Cheryl S. Plummer, who are retiring as members of the Franklin County Board of Commissioners after 12 years of leadership. Both were honored yesterday for their longtime service to the community at a retirement ceremony in Franklin County, PA.

Both Cheryl and Warren have dedicated much of their lives to bettering the region, both as commissioners and advocates of the community. They have served Franklin County honorably, bringing about key changes to operations and programs within the county, increasing efficiency and creating and revitalizing key community initiatives. With their leadership, Franklin County has become the best economy in Pennsylvania and number 5 overall in the entire northeastern region. Their service and leadership has been fundamental

to the success of the county and the quality of life of its residents. Commissioner Elliott and Commissioner Plummer jointly received the Outstanding County Commissioner of 2007 Award.

G. Warren Elliott has served as the chairman of the Franklin County Board of Commissioners for 12 years, leading one of the most successful and efficient boards in Franklin County history. Elliott has also served on numerous boards of directors, including the Franklin County Area Development Corporation and the Franklin County Conservation District. He has received multiple civic awards, including the Penn State Centennial Fellow Award and the Commissioner of the Year for Conservation Award. He also gives back to his alma mater, Shippensburg University, by serving as an adjunct faculty member. Commissioner Elliott's accomplishments are vast, and his work for the community irreplaceable. His presence will be sorely missed as he retires from his post as chairman of the board of commissioners.

Cheryl Plummer also served as a member of the Franklin County Board of Commissioners for 12 years. She has dedicated much of her career to improving human services in the county, serving as chair of the Human Services Committee in the County Commissioners Association of Pennsylvania. In addition to performing her duties as a county commissioner, Plummer led multiple community organizations, dedicating time and effort to the United Way, Chambersburg Area School District, and the Greater Chambersburg Chamber of Commerce, just to name a few. She has been recognized often for her efforts, and her dedication and leadership will be missed by her colleagues and community members.

Commissioner Elliott and Commissioner Plummer deserve great thanks, as they have brought about lasting changes and improvements to Franklin County and have vastly bettered the quality of life of the entire community. While their presence will be missed, I wish them both a happy retirement, and I am sure they will continue to volunteer and inspire others to follow in their footsteps to become leaders within society.

RECOGNIZING THE EASTERN MONTGOMERY COUNTY EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT GROUP

HON. PATRICK J. MURPHY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 4, 2007

Mr. PATRICK J. MURPHY of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Eastern Montgomery County Emergency Management Group for their outstanding service and dedication. They provide world-class regional training symposiums, multi-jurisdictional field training exercises and specialized training in disaster management to emergency responders throughout Pennsylvania's 8th Congressional District.

Formed in 2001, in response to the tragic events of September 11, the Eastern Montgomery County Emergency Management Group has been helping the community prepare for emergencies. The group consists of emergency management officials from across our community who are committed to work together as partners on all emergency management issues and incidents. These dedicated individuals are responsible for coordinating the community's preparation for, response to, and recovery from man-made and natural disasters.

As the son of a former Philadelphia police officer, I know how hard America's emergency responders work to keep our cities and towns safe—especially in disaster situations. The Eastern Montgomery County Regional Emergency Management Group's commitment to our community is undeniable. As their representative, I am proud to be just as committed to providing them, and our other emergency management groups with the tools and resources they need to do their jobs. After all, true homeland security means supporting those who keep our families safe.

Madam Speaker, on behalf of the families across Eastern Montgomery County, I want to thank the Eastern Montgomery County Emergency Management Group for their tireless and lifesaving efforts. They and other emergency management groups throughout our country need—and deserve—our continued support.

IN RECOGNITION OF BRIGADIER GENERAL (CA ARNG—RETIRED) EDWARD E. MUNGER

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 4, 2007

Mr. COSTA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Retired BG Edward E. Munger who served our Nation in the California Army National Guard as well as the United States Army. A native of Fresno, General Munger is an individual who exemplifies outstanding work ethic and is certainly worthy of special recognition.

During his senior year in high school, Edward enlisted in Fresno's 185th Infantry Regiment of the California Army National Guard as a private. From there, his military career blossomed, as he progressed through staff and command positions, eventually including battalion commander of his infantry regiment.

While serving in the California National Guard, Edward owned and operated Engineered Sound, an electronics contracting business with offices in Fresno, Reno, and Las Vegas. Under his leadership, Engineered Sound landed major contracts at such landmarks as the Las Vegas Hilton, The Sands Hotel, and Caesars Palace, as well as many others in Reno and Lake Tahoe.

Various local television and radio stations have called on General Munger to comment on military operations and strategic planning. He is respected throughout the area, and remains involved in many community service organizations. Some of these organizations include: the Fresno Rotary Club, Valley Children's Hospital, and the Fresno Chamber of Commerce.

In his personal life, General Munger and his wife Tamsen have two adult children. It is both an honor and a pleasure to recognize such a great man who throughout his life has demonstrated courage and love of our country. I want to extend, on behalf of the residents of Fresno, my sincerest appreciation for his dedication and service to the country.

CELEBRATING THE CENTENNIAL OF THE DUNN HOUSE IN CITRUS COUNTY, FLORIDA

HON. GINNY BROWN-WAITE

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 4, 2007

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the centennial celebration of the historic Dunn House in Citrus County, FL. The current owners, Rev. Harvey and his wife Astrid Dunn, have had the Dunn House in their family since 1916. Originally constructed in 1907 as a field house and meeting place for the Florida Mutual Mining Company, the building was purchased and turned into a home by the Dunn family in 1916.

At the center of the phosphate boom in the 1890s and into the early 1900s, Citrus County was home to several mining companies, among them the Florida Mutual Mining Company. The company built what became known as the Dunn House in 1907, not as a home, but as a field office. Historical documents describe the house as a place for the owners and stockholders to go when they needed to conduct business in the area.

The field superintendent of the company's Floral City Mines was William Harvey Dunn, Rev. Harvey Dunn's grandfather. While many Dunn family members called the house a home, one of the Dunn family members born there, Hampton Dunn, became a well-known Citrus County historian and writer. A prolific author, Hampton is best known locally for his work, "Back Home, a History of Citrus County, Florida." A World War II veteran, Hampton also had careers as a reporter, author, editor, soldier, historian, preservationist and a crusader for traffic safety.

In 1973 Harvey and Astrid Dunn took over the Dunn House after a 20-year vacant period, working to rehabilitate and restore the home to its original state and beauty. Today the Dunn House is of the pride and joy of Citrus County residents, with its two-story, porch-over-porch house and eight original fireplaces. In fact, the front of the house faces an old abandoned mine road which existed long before the current Bedford Road. Therefore, visitors approach the property from the back and side of the house, not the front as you would at most other period homes.

Madam Speaker, the historic Dunn House is a venerable institution and tourist attraction in Citrus County, FL. The residents of Floral City take great pride in the home, and look forward to celebrating its centennial anniversary this year. I know that the Dunn family has spent many years preserving and restoring the Dunn House to its full glory, and I congratulate them on their commitment and effort.

IN RECOGNITION OF MR. WAYNE WILLIAMS

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 4, 2007

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Madam Speaker, I respectfully ask the attention of the House today to pay recognition to a constituent of

mine, Mr. Wayne Williams, and his steadfast service to his community.

Mr. Williams has served as the fire chief of station 18 of the Ohatchee Volunteer Fire Department since 1981. His many years of service have helped further strengthen station 18 as an institution the people of Calhoun County have always relied upon to provide safety and peace of mind. On December 6, the members of station 18 will gather to honor Mr. Williams' service during their annual Christmas Dinner.

I am proud to join the members of the Ohatchee VFD in thanking Mr. Williams for his service and wish him and his family the best at this important occasion to honor his dedication and leadership.

HONORING RICHARD SCHNEIDER OF SONOMA, CALIFORNIA

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 4, 2007

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Richard Schneider, who has been recognized as the City of Sonoma's 2007 Treasure Artist of the Year. Mr. Schneider is being recognized for his contributions to Sonoma and his leadership of the Sonoma Hometown Band.

Mr. Schneider was born in Leavenworth, Kansas, but moved to northern California at a young age when his father was transferred to work at Alcatraz Federal Prison. At the end of the war, the family moved north to Fields Landing in Humboldt County, where Mr. Schneider was raised in this small town and attended the local school. In 1949, the family moved to Eureka, where he participated in a band for the first time.

After graduating from Eureka High School in 1954, Mr. Schneider joined the Navy hoping to become a member of the Navy Drum and Bugle Corps. He was accepted, but was subsequently assigned to the Naval Communications School. After completing his training, he spent 2 years in Korea and 2 years in Germany. In 1959, he left the Navy and began attending Humboldt State University, where he received a bachelor of arts degree in music in 1963.

After completing college, Mr. Schneider began teaching music in the Central Valley, first in Hanford and then as a full time teacher at three different schools in Corcoran. In 1965, he moved to Sonoma after being hired to teach at local schools. The following year, he was transferred to the high school, where he founded the high school band with strong support from Principal Max Murray.

In 1967, Mr. Schneider founded the Sonoma Hometown Band in order to provide a musical group for the 4th of July parade. The band was initially made up of 25 high school students, but has gradually expanded as former students returned to participate and members of the community joined. Today, the band gives a half-dozen performances each year, bringing together musicians of all ages under Mr. Schneider's direction. From concerts at the Sebastiani Theatre to the 4th of July, the Sonoma Hometown Band has become an important fixture in Sonoma under Mr. Schneider's leadership.

Madam Speaker, at this time it is appropriate that we congratulate Mr. Schneider for being recognized as the City of Sonoma's 2007 Treasure Artist of the Year. As the leader of the Hometown Band, he has brought his community an exciting musical group catering to all ages, interests and skill levels.

TRIBUTE TO NASA FLIGHT DIRECTOR MATT ABBOTT

HON. THOMAS M. REYNOLDS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 4, 2007

Mr. REYNOLDS. Madam Speaker, with great appreciation I rise today to honor a dedicated and highly respected western New York native, Matt Abbott, for his leadership in directing the recent space shuttle mission *Endeavour*.

As lead flight director on the recent space shuttle mission *Endeavour*, Matt has proven that when you put your mind to something anything is possible. Since he can remember, Matt has dreamed of working in Mission Control. When he was 6 years old, he watched on television as Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin became the first men to walk on the moon. While most of Matt's friends dreamed of becoming astronauts, Matt saw the challenge and inspiration in working behind the scenes, leading the mission.

While not physically aboard the shuttle, Matt has become one of the most important members in Mission Control, as the ultimate responsibility for decisions made during the flight lies on his shoulders.

After graduating from Texas A&M, Matt started working at NASA's Johnson Space Center in Houston as a Mission Control flight dynamics officer. In this position he was responsible for monitoring the location and performance of the shuttle during flight, as well as planning maneuvers. He then took a position with the Canadian Space Agency in Montreal, working with the Canadarm2 robotic arm on the International Space Station. He eventually returned to the Johnson Space Center, where he became a flight director. Matt has worked on 40 shuttle missions in flight dynamics, including 27 launches and 11 landings.

Throughout his life, Matt has been committed to pursuing his dreams. His achievements serve as an excellent example of how to make your dreams a reality, and he serves as a true role model for children across the country.

Madam Speaker, in recognition of his tremendous service, for his leadership, his dedication to our country, I ask this honorable body join me in honoring NASA flight director Matt Abbott.

TRIBUTE TO UPPER DUBLIN TOWNSHIP

HON. ALLYSON Y. SCHWARTZ

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 4, 2007

Ms. SCHWARTZ. Madam Speaker, I rise today to applaud the efforts of Upper Dublin Township to adopt environmentally conscious practices and to encourage use of alternative energy sources.

Upper Dublin Township currently relies on 100 percent clean, renewable energy for its municipal energy needs and encourages its residents to use clean energy for their homes and businesses. It was the Commonwealth's first municipality to switch to 100 percent clean energy.

Upper Dublin Township has demonstrated its commitment to protecting the quality of the quality of water, land and air resources. Efforts have included increasing reliance on renewable energy, creating community incentives to increase recycling, preserving open space, educating the community on sustainable practices, and reducing pesticide use through Integrated Pest Management. With much of it's land developed, Upper Dublin Township has recognized the need to focus its environmental efforts on influencing the behavior of its residents and businesses.

Madam Speaker, Upper Dublin Township sets an example of how sustainability can work for suburban communities. Thanks to policies and programs enacted by the Board of Commissioners and the Environmental Protection Advisory Board, Upper Dublin Township is helping to move the 13th Congressional District towards greater use of renewable resources.

I am proud to represent the people of Upper Dublin Township in Congress and applaud their success in working to reduce our dependence on imported sources of energy, and create a cleaner and healthier environment for future generations. I congratulate them for their critical efforts and wish them continued success with this endeavor.

IN HONOR OF SHIRLEY SHERROD

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 4, 2007

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor Shirley Sherrod, who has worked determinedly for more than 20 years as the Georgia Director of the Federation of Southern Cooperatives and Land Assistance Fund, an outstanding organization dedicated to enhancing rural communities through sustained operation of family farms.

As a part of her work, Shirley has helped to run one of the countries most successful USDA Outreach and Technical Assistance Projects, providing assistance on debt restructuring, alternating crops, marketing, financial planning, recordkeeping, and farm management to minority and disadvantaged farmers. The project has operated in four states, and seen an increase in the number of minority-owned farms in two of those states.

Shirley's leadership with the Federation of Southern Cooperatives exemplifies her lifetime of dedication to her community. Shirley's work began in 1965, where as an organizer for the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC), Southwest Georgia Project, she helped to start a 6000–acre land trust. She also worked with women to organize childcare and pre-school programs, and was intensely dedicated to the numerous voter registration and education projects which helped African Americans become elected officials.

A native of Newton, Georgia, Shirley received a degree in Sociology from Albany State University and later took graduate business studies at Valdosta State University. In 1989, she received a Master of Arts in Community Development from Antioch University.

As the Congressman who represents Southwest Georgia, I hold in highest regard individuals like Shirley—those tireless advocates with the courage and conviction to reach out, touch, and impact the farthest boundaries of our community. May the Second Congressional District, Georgia, and indeed the country continue to benefit from her service.

A TRIBUTE TO TINA THOMAS

HON. DORIS O. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 4, 2007

Ms. MATSUI. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Tina Thomas' years of service to the Sacramento area as a prominent attorney, philanthropist and community leader. Tina is transitioning from partner to ''of counsel'' at her law firm, Remy, Thomas, Moose and Manley. In doing so, Tina will now serve in an advisory capacity to the firm and have more time to assist local nonprofits. I ask all my colleagues to join me in honoring one of Sacramento's finest citizens.

Tina earned a bachelor's degree from Stephens College in Columbia, Missouri in 1975 and her juris doctor degree from the University of San Diego in 1979. Later that year, she came to Sacramento. Before choosing to practice law full time, Tina served on the faculties of California State University, Sacramento and the Consortium of California State Universities and Colleges where she was an associate professor teaching graduate and undergraduate courses on the law, environment and planning related subjects.

In the late 1970s, Tina began her legal career as an intern for the Environmental Unit of the California Attorney General's office, and then in 1979 she was hired by a local environmental attorney Michael Remy. Together Tina and Michael formed a law firm that is now known as Remy, Thomas, Moose and Manley, where Tina and Michael worked together as partners until he passed away in 2003. Since its founding, Tina has served as the firm's managing partner, with clients that include governmental agencies, local businesses and environmental organizations. Along with her partners, Tina co-authored the Guide to the California Environmental Quality Act in 2006, a book now utilized by attorneys state wide.

In her spare time, Tina has served on numerous nonprofit boards in the Sacramento area. This includes the La Raza Galeria Posada, the Conservancy International and the Sacramento Food Bank and Family Services. In addition, on a pro bono basis, Tina has represented many organizations including; WEAVE, Loaves and Fishes, Francis House and the WIND Center for Homeless Teens. Due to the support of generous individuals like her, programs such as these are able to continue to thrive, which in turn makes Sacramento a better place to live, work, and raise a family. For her dedication to the Sacramento community, Tina was named Sacramento County's ''Distinguished Attorney'' in 2005 by the Sacramento County Bar Association.

Personally, Tina has been a pleasure to work with and a true friend. Her compassion and spirit is a wonderful addition to the Sacramento community. She is a caring, smart and thoughtful individual, who always looks out for those in need and makes sure that their concerns are known by all who can help.

Madam Speaker, I am honored to pay tribute to my friend Tina Thomas. Tina is not only a dedicated community leader and attorney, but also is a loving mother to her children Libby, Mary Claire and Sam and wonderful wife to her husband, Bill Abbott. We all are thankful for her efforts. As Tina's colleagues, family and friends gather to honor her service, I ask all my colleagues to join me in wishing her continued good fortune in this new capacity.

TRIBUTE TO VERNON, CONNECTICUT

HON. JOE COURTNEY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 4, 2007

Mr. COURTNEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and celebrate 200 years of Vernon, Connecticut's rich history. Beginning in 2008, the Vernon community will commence a yearlong second centennial celebration, the ''Countdown to 200'', that will reflect on the past and welcome the future.

In the early 18th century, settlement began with families from East Windsor cultivating the land and laying groundwork for future development and eventual incorporation of Vernon in 1808. Throughout the 19th century and diminishing with the end of the World War II, textile factories would serve as the main economic lifeblood for the region, especially in Rockville, a town that would later be incorporated in Vernon. During the Civil War, these mills would produce textiles that would clothe Union soldiers.

While textiles formed the most notable industry in the region, agriculture had strong roots since settlement in the early 18th century. In 1965, agricultural and industrial communities were linked with the consolidation of the city of Rockville and Vernon.

Vernon has produced a number of notable figures, including Gene Pitney, ''The Rockville Rocket'' as well as four-time Super Bowl football champion, Bill Romanowski. Charles Ethan Porter, a renowned still life painter and former Virginia Governor, Mark Warner, also call Vernon their hometown.

The relics of earlier settlement and production, including the keystone arch tunnel on Tunnel Road, the Tower on Fox Hill, and the old textile mills, serve as a reminder of the versatility of our quaint New England town. Vernon and its residents have faced a number of problems that have notoriously afflicted small industrial towns. The Vernon community has weathered this adversity, and has and will continue to adapt and endure. I ask my colleagues to join with me and my constituents in celebrating two centuries of Vernon's history, and welcome many more to come.

ARTICLE BY SAEED MALIK

HON. ZOE LOFGREN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 4, 2007

Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California. Madam Speaker, I would like to enter into the RECORD this article by Saeed Malik entitled, ''U.S. Can't Support Both Musharraf and Ideal of Liberty.''

Today, Pakistan is gripped by an existential crisis. This crisis comes just when Pakistanis were beginning to feel optimistic. An independent judiciary was taking root and the fourth estate of the press was in ascendancy. Accountability, long overdue, had finally arrived, or so the people of Pakistan thought.

The optimism was cut short this month when the U.S. ally-in-chief, Gen. Pervez Musharraf, fearing invalidation of his recent election by the Supreme Court, dissolved the court, closed the media and jailed dissidents by the thousands.

The measured and somewhat muted reaction of the Bush administration to this barbarity is not only morally bankrupt, it is downright dangerous. The fundamentalists on one side of this war on terror cannot defeat the fundamentalists on the other. Fundamentalism in any society will only be defeated and sidelined by moderates from within. By supporting Musharraf, albeit tacitly, the United States is sidelining the very moderates who must win this war. Musharraf's occasional delivery of a wanted terrorist cannot justify suppression of the fundamental freedoms of Pakistani civil society. A society thrives when its constituents take a stake in its well-being and its decision-making process.

It has been said that terrorists hate us because of our liberty and one must be either on the side of terrorists or the side of liberty. If today we do not support the Pakistanis who seek liberty, what will they think of us? Will our government deliver on this slogan when liberty is at stake in a Muslim country? Our goals are advanced by demanding restoration of the Supreme Court. We must also demand the immediate release of all judicial activists jailed after the so-called emergency. Pakistanis must realize that America stands for the rule of law and the liberty of all people. A golden opportunity to win the hearts and minds of the Pakistani masses beckons us. Sticking to support for an increasingly unpopular dictator in Pakistan will only solidify President Bush's 9 percent favorable opinion rating in Pakistan.

Although it has been generations since the CIA deposed Iranian Prime Minister Mohammed Mossadeq and installed the Shah, and decades since our government tried to forestall the Iranian revolution, Iranians have not forgotten these travesties. International relations must be based, first, on democratic principles. Propping up Musharraf negates these principles, fueling antagonism among Pakistanis.

I have a personal stake in this sad saga. My 57–year-old brother, Muneer Malik, a Santa Clara University law school graduate, has been ''detained'' under ''preventive measures'' in Pakistan's version of Guantánamo Bay. He is reportedly critically sick and without outside contact. Muneer's crime is that as president of the Supreme Court Bar Association, he was in the forefront of the movement to assert the independence of the Pakistani judiciary. Thousands of heroic lawyers have met a similar fate. Rejecting the recent purge of the Supreme Court, 13 of the 17 judges refused to

take extraconstitutional oaths under a draconian ''Provisional Order.'' Predictably, they were summarily dismissed and locked up. The few opportunists who obliged now preside over empty courts boycotted by an overwhelming majority of lawyers. If this takes hold, the judicial purge would amount to retaining the weeds while killing the flowers.

Pakistani citizens view the emergency proclamation as Musharraf's desperate attempt to hold on. Democratic stability requires an orderly, defined and predictable means of transferring power. Musharraf, like others in the dust-bin of Third World history, is trying to break this mandate, subjugating national interest to personal power. Does the self-professed ''enlightened-moderate'' appreciate the difference between Robert Mugabe and Nelson Mandela? Why, then, does he walk in Mugabe's footsteps?

Muneer, who is supported by Santa Clara's and Yale's law schools, along with the American Bar Association, said while free, ''No army can stop the march of an idea whose time has come.'' I urge our government to be on the side of an advancing idea and on the right side of history. This is also the moral side and the right tactic in the war on terror.

HONORING THE MEMORY OF JAMES MYRON

HON. DAVID DAVIS

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 4, 2007

Mr. DAVID DAVIS of Tennessee. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of James 'Jim' Myron, a resident of the First Congressional District of Tennessee, who died November 19, 2007.

James Myron was a lifelong resident of Johnson City. He was co-owner of Black Tie Formalwear and Janes's Lunch Box, two staples in downtown Johnson City.

Mr. Myron was a member of the Johnson City Chamber of Commerce, the Downtown Neighborhood Association, and active throughout the community.

He was dedicated to his family. He is survived by his wife, Jane Moon Myron, who our thoughts and prayers are with during this time.

Mr. Myron enjoyed the surroundings of the First District. He was known for his love of the beautiful mountains, area lakes, and the local sports scene.

Madam Speaker, I ask you and my fellow members to join me in honoring the memory of James 'Jim' Myron, a successful businessman, a true servant of the community, and a dedicated family man. He will be missed.

HONORING THE 135TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BORAX COMPANY

HON. HOWARD P. "BUCK" McKEON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 4, 2007

Mr. MCKEON. Madam Speaker, it is with great privilege that I rise today to pay tribute to the 135th year of continuous business conducted by the Borax Company, which was celebrated on October 12, 2007. This occasion makes Borax one of the longest surviving mining firms in the United States. I am proud that between 1993 and 2006, the national headquarters for Borax remained in Valencia, CA, in my home district.

Borax traces its roots back to 1872, when F.M. "Borax" Smith discovered Borax in Teel's Marsh, NV. Borate deposits, which are used in insulation, textile fiberglass, detergents, ceramics, plant fertilizers, flame retardants, pest control, cosmetics, medicines, and more, were also discovered in California's Death Valley.

By 1883, teams of 20 mules were used by the company to haul Borax out of the remote Death Valley 165 miles away to Mojave. Though the mule-hauling years only lasted from 1883 to 1888, the teams continue to live on as a symbol of the company's commitment to innovation.

In 2000, Borax's global operations achieved certification for excellence in environmental management. Then in 2001, the company formed partnership with Millennium Cell to develop a safe, clean fuel alternative based on sodium borohydride. This was followed by the pit-stop of the 2002 Chrysler Natrium, the world's first sodium borohydride-powered zero-emission vehicle, at the Borax Company's national headquarters.

Today, Borax employs over 1,000 people and is acknowledged as the world leader in Borate technology, research and development. Technical support for customers, product quality, and supply reliability are the pillars of the company's commercial commitment. Borax proudly reflects a respectable commitment to ensuring that practices and products are socially, environmentally, and economically sustainable.

Madam Speaker and my colleagues, I ask that you join me in honoring the 135th year of continuous business for this admirable mining company. It is a special occasion when businesses witness such good fortune resulting from the many long hours of dedicated teamwork which are given by employees for the good of the company and its customers.

RECOGNIZING MIKE ANDERSON AS FLORIDA'S MAYOR OF THE YEAR

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 4, 2007

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Madam Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, it is an honor for me to rise today in recognition of Mike Anderson for his extraordinary contributions as mayor to the city of Fort Walton Beach, FL.

On November 9, 2007, Mayor Mike Anderson was selected as the 2007 Florida League of Cities Mayor of the Year. He was recognized for his "outstanding commitment and public outreach, as well as his initiative in developing innovative programs."

Mayor Anderson holds degrees from the University of Southern California, the University of Texas, and the University of West Florida. Upon graduating from USC, he joined the Air Force, which brought him to northwest Florida, where he retired in 1984. He worked with Civil Service at Eglin from 1985 to 2005 and it was during this stage in his career that he became active in the community.

He served as a city councilman for 4 years, where he served on the Okaloosa-Walton Transportation Planning Organization (TPO) and the Northwest Florida Regional TPO. In 2005, he was elected mayor of the city of Fort Walton Beach.

Mayor Anderson is also known throughout the community for his leadership roles throughout much of northwest Florida. He is currently a member of the Florida League of Cities Home Rule Council, President of the Okaloosa County League of Cities, Government Affairs Committee of the Greater Fort Walton Beach Chamber of Commerce, the Board of Directors of the Emerald Coast Marine Institute, the Okaloosa School Foundation, and many other civic organizations.

While Mayor Anderson works diligently to improve the quality of life for the members of his community, he also makes time to greet airmen as they return from service overseas, visit area businesses to show gratitude for their community support, and even congratulate residents for their award winning lawns.

His service does not stop there; he also focuses much of his attention on another passion: the youth of the community. His commitment to helping shape the children of Fort Walton Beach into well-rounded young people has inspired Mayor Anderson to introduce several youth programs. These include the Summer Youth at Work Program, the Student Award for Civic Excellence, and a Youth Committee Program. For his dedication to students in the Take Stock in Children initiative, he was presented with the Award of Excellence in Mentoring—Local Government Mentor of the Year in the spring of 2007 by the Florida Mentoring Program.

Madam Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, I am proud to honor Mayor Mike Anderson for his achievements and thank him for his dedicated service. His recognition by various organizations confirms his commitment to excellence and the continuous advancement of the city of Fort Walton Beach. May God continue to bless him and I wish him continued success in his career.

IN TRIBUTE TO LLOYD MICHAEL HAMMES

HON. LEONARD L. BOSWELL

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 4, 2007

Mr. BOSWELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of an exceptional man, Lloyd Michael Hammes, a constituent of mine from Iowa's 3rd District. He served in the U.S. Army during World War II, was a prisoner of war, and until recently, was one of the few World War II veterans still living in the 3rd District of Iowa.

Mr. Hammes served his time during the Second World War in North Africa, where he was captured and spent time as a prisoner of war. During this imprisonment, he was shuffled around to various detainment camps throughout Europe. At the end of his service, he was the deserving recipient of the Purple Heart and three Bronze Stars.

When Lloyd returned to the United States, he met his wife, Virginia Perdue, at the Des Moines Veterans Affairs hospital. They were married, and eventually settled down near Harper, Iowa, where they lived for nearly 40 years. Lloyd Michael Hammes passed away

on November 13th, at the age of ninety-one. He will be missed greatly by his surviving family and friends, and by the Nation he so dutifully served. I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the life and service of this courageous man.

IN RECOGNITION OF WORLD AIDS DAY

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 4, 2007

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, in recognition of the first of December as World Aids Day, I want to take a moment to highlight the gravity of the HIV/AIDS situation, particularly for the African American community. We have heard statistic after statistic; HIV/AIDS is a formidable problem across the country in all communities. Indeed, an article in the New York Times this week noted that new HIV/AIDS case estimates are actually 50 percent higher than health experts had believed. This is unacceptable. America has within it the resources to address this issue; our political leadership must take action to do so.

The Centers for Disease Control, or CDC, reported that approximately 1,000,000 Americans were living with HIV/AIDS at the end of 2003, roughly 25 percent of whom were undiagnosed and unaware of their HIV infection. Furthermore, this infection has started to increase among children at a drastic rate. Through 2005, there have been an estimated 9,000 AIDS cases reported for children under the age of 13. HIV/AIDS is becoming a problem earlier and earlier for more and more Americans.

It is very clear that HIV/AIDS is indeed an emergency situation in the African American community. According to the CDC, African Americans make up 13 percent of the Nation's population but account for 49 percent of the estimated AIDS cases diagnosed since the epidemic began. In addition, African American children make up approximately 63 percent of the estimated HIV/AIDS cases through 2005. Not only are African Americans more likely to get AIDS, they are more likely to die from it, with more than half of all AIDS-related deaths being among African Americans. Through science, research, and medical advancements, there are better treatments, prevention efforts, and a decline in AIDS diagnoses and deaths, except for African Americans.

HIV/AIDS is plaguing and destroying African American communities. Yet, I wonder how many of my colleagues or how many Americans, including African Americans, know how devastating and destructive this disease is on one population in our country. It leads to the questions: Why is more not being done? Why has this not been considered a national public health emergency? With more African American males in prison, more African American females living and dying with HIV/AIDS, what is to happen to the African American children and families?

I commend all of those individuals in my community who have pledged to do what they can. I, myself, have been publicly tested 3 times to help convince individuals to be tested, to do the things that are necessary. However, my fellow colleagues and I and all Americans need to do much more about this problem. We all must get behind the World AIDS Day slogan: "Stop AIDS: Keep the Promise." We must increase funding for treatment and prevention, not reduce it by 19 percent as this administration has done. We must invest in medical research and needle exchange programs—prevention and treatment. The more engaged we are and the stronger determination we have will lead to the decrease in AIDS cases across the United States in all communities.

A TRIBUTE TO THE LIFE OF LAWRENCE GALLAGHER

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 4, 2007

Mr. COSTA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of my good friend Lawrence Gallagher. Mr. Gallagher unfortunately passed away this past Thursday at the age of 68. Larry lived his life with a strong commitment to his family and to his community and is certainly most deserving of this honor.

Born in Boston, he enlisted in the United States Air Force shortly after finishing high school and was proud to serve his country with courage and distinction. At the end of his service, Larry settled in Riverside, California where he began his career in law enforcement eventually becoming the Deputy Sherriff. With a passion to serve the public, Mr. Gallagher went on to become Director of Criminal Justice Planning for the Southern California Association of Governments.

Throughout his life, he remained involved in his community by being a member of the Rotary Club, volunteering at the local YMCA, and serving on the board of directors at the South Bay Youth and Family Center. A devoted family man; he will be deeply missed by his wife, Linda; his children Donald, Dennis, Denny, and Holly; and his seven grandchildren.

Larry had a passion for water resources that led him to serve with a number of California water authorities such as: the Kern County Water Agency, the West Basin Municipal Water District and the Association of California Water Agencies. For years, I was proud to work with Larry on the water issues facing our Valley and I was fortunate enough to call him a friend. He kindly agreed to serve on the selection committee for the Jim Costa—Kern County Water Agency Water Resources Fellowship and I was grateful for his advice and wisdom.

Larry Gallagher was a man of great principle and integrity. He was my friend and I will miss him a great deal. He conducted his life with a reverence for humanity and with the philosophy of ensuring that our future generation's quality of life was protected and assured. It is with great pride that I honor him for all that he did on behalf of the San Joaquin Valley and for California.

IN RECOGNITION OF ANN CALDWELL'S SERVICE TO SOUTHERN UNION STATE COMMUNITY COLLEGE

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 4, 2007

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Madam Speaker, I respectfully ask the attention of the House today to pay recognition to a constituent of mine, Mrs. Ann Caldwell, and her decades of service to Southern Union State Community College in Wadley, Alabama.

For the past 33 years, Mrs. Caldwell has served the Southern Union music department, during which time she earned many noteworthy accomplishments, including a standing invitation at Carnegie Hall in New York City. She is well known across East Alabama for her musical and leadership abilities, and she is frequently praised for directing highly successful and entertaining musical performances for the community each year. In addition to her service on campus, Mrs. Caldwell is an active member of her community and church.

I thank Mrs. Caldwell for her decades of academic and community service, and I wish her and her family all the best in the future.

HONORING JOHN R. SHAFER OF ST. HELENA, CALIFORNIA

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 4, 2007

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize John R. Shafer on the occasion of his receiving the 3rd Annual Making a Difference Award from the non-profit organization Healthy Moms and Babies. This award is being presented in recognition for his outstanding work in support of making healthcare accessible to all in the Napa Valley.

Mr. Shafer has always had a strong commitment to public service. At age 18 he enlisted in the Army Air Corps and flew combat missions over occupied Europe as a B–24 bomber pilot. After a long career in corporate textbook publishing, he came to the Napa Valley, as so many before him, looking for a new place to call home. John purchased a vineyard site in an area known as Stag's Leap. Although it had been idle for several years, he had a vision that it could grow to become one of the country's premier wineries. The following year, he moved his family to California to make this vision a reality.

Since then, Shafer Vineyards has grown into a world class winery and has done so while practicing and promoting sustainable, earth-friendly agriculture. Throughout his success in the wine industry Mr. Shafer has remained committed to serving his community. In addition to being a former president of the Napa Valley Grape Growers Association and a former member of the board of the Napa Valley Vintners Association, Mr. Shafer has also been active with the board of directors of the Community Health Clinic Ole since 1990. Clinic Ole is dedicated to bringing the highest quality medical and dental services to the underserved communities in Napa County and

has become an essential part of the health and well being of all residents of the Valley.

In addition to his support for Clinic Ole, Mr. Shafer also spearheaded the building of the Napa Valley Vinters Community Health Center. This facility houses not only Clinic Ole, but also the Sister Ann Community Dental Clinic, Napa Emergency Women's Services and also Healthy Moms and Babies, which provides pregnancy care, education and support to women in underserved communities. By seeing this project through to completion Mr. Shafer has helped to ensure that healthcare will be available to the underserved in a way that is both coordinated and accessible.

Madam Speaker, it is fitting at this time that we thank John Shafer for his commitment an dedication to helping others and his community. His efforts have ensured that thousands of residents in the Napa Valley have access to the best medical care for themselves and their children. The Making a Difference Award is only one reflection of what will surely be a legacy that will last for many years.

TRIBUTE TO PROFESSOR MARC ZIMMER

HON. JOE COURTNEY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 4, 2007

Mr. COURTNEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Professor Marc Zimmer of Connecticut College for his outstanding achievements and contributions to local, national, and international academic communities. Marc was honored with a Professor of the Year award by the Council for Advancement and Support of Education (CASE) and The Carnegie Foundation in Washington, D.C. on November 15.

Upon completing his undergraduate degree in chemistry at the University of Witwatersrand in South Africa, Marc moved to the United States where he earned his doctorate at Worcester Polytechnic Institute and worked as a postdoctoral fellow at Yale University. Marc remained in the academic community, continuing original research in the fields of chemistry and joining the Connecticut College faculty in 1990. Throughout this period, he served on numerous boards and committees in chemistry and related fields and was a featured lecturer at some of the most prestigious colleges and universities in the United States, Latin America, Europe, Asia, and Africa.

His publications in pioneering chemistry subjects have promulgated technological innovation, but just as importantly, inspired student involvement and interest. His most recent publication, ''Glowing Genes'', simplifies complexities of chemistry and biotechnology to a pedestrian relevancy and understanding. ''Glowing Genes'' explores the potential of green fluorescent protein (GFP), a glowing component in the Aequorea victoria jellyfish species, with detecting biological weapons, combating cancer, and improving agricultural production.

Academic faculties provide the foundation for education systems, and in turn, potential health, safety, and prosperity of our society. Professor Zimmer has proven to be an exemplary academic leader at Connecticut College, and more broadly through his contributions to international chemistry curriculum. These contributions will undoubtedly ensure a healthier, safer, and more prosperous society for all. I ask my colleagues to join with me and my constituents in recognizing Professor Zimmer's outstanding accomplishments and contributions and welcome many more to come.

IN MEMORY OF SEAN TAYLOR

HON. KENDRICK B. MEEK

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 4, 2007

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Madam Speaker, the poem below was written by poet and Capitol guide Albert Carey Caswell in honor of Sean Taylor, a Miami native and professional football player for the Washington Redskins. I rise with a heavy heart in mourning the tragic passing of Sean Taylor, a man with a bright future who left behind a loving family and scores of adoring football supporters and admirers. We pray for the Taylor family during this difficult and wrenching time. I hope these words provide some comfort to a grieving family. I humbly submit the following poem into the RECORD:

TAYLOR MADE

God Is Good, God Is Great!
All in his image, in what he has made . . . All in what he creates!
To give to this world, in what we do . . . in how we act . . . in all we say, to leave behind to view!
Into our lives as sent . . .
Messages from our Lord, Taylor Made for all of us of what life is meant . . .
To reach us, To teach us, To beseech us by people, who in our time with us is spent . . .
Taylor Made . . .
Beauty and The Beast!
As was Sean Taylor, number ''21'' . . . was such a fine work of art to say the least!
For Sean Taylor, was Born To Run . . .
Upon, football fields of green . . . in Sunday suns . . . in The NFL, as was this his father's fine son!
As what our Lord had so begun . . .
A quiet and caring man, with but a calm and steady hand!
Who high above all others, did stand . . . as to his teammates' hearts and souls, he ran!
Who on fields of green, brought forth such roars throughout the stands . . .
A Man of passion . . .
Who to all hearts and souls, would so inspire . . . as he would fashion!
A man of heart and soul, body and mind . . . all in his short lifetime, so portrayed in all his actions . . .
Not a hole but left by him!
But, perhaps a Void . . . that which may never so be filled again?
For only such things in life, as left . . . by those hearts who bring such inspiration all in their short breaths!
A humble, quiet caring man . . .
Who in the spotlight, did not so wish to stand . . . a family man!
Who upon fields of green, would turn into a machine . . . creating one of The NFL's greatest scenes!
For all that which is Good and Great! For all that which our Lord so makes . . .
By his hand, Taylor Made . . . he creates . . . Will not run, and Will not lie . . . with hearts of gold, will so rise!
All in that moment of truth, of which now so lies . . . but for their loved ones, will so die!
Only, The Good Die Young! Now, in Heaven Sean you run!
As so too have you, Sean our fine son . . . now with all of those Angels, too among!
As you are, but with all of those who have flown, Up To heaven . . . with our Lord, where you belong!
And in the coming years, on Sunday mornings here . . .
Whenever, we think of you Sean . . . we'll hear your voice beyond . . . all in our tears!
Remembering how you lived life, remembering how your soul burned bright . . . as with you, we'll be near!
And what God has Taylor Made!
Hush . . . hush!
Hush . . . Little baby, Don't You Cry!
Because, one day up in heaven . . . once again, you will gaze into your fine father's eyes!

TRIBUTE TO CIRCUIT JUDGE JERRY WINCHESTER

HON. HAROLD ROGERS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 4, 2007

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Madam Speaker, I want to bring to the notice of the House the long distinguished career of one of Kentucky's greatest attorneys, Jerry Winchester, who is returning to private life. His career spanned the wide expanses of the profession, from private practice to prosecuting attorney and judge. He was tough but fair, diligent and prepared—attributes that command the respect of anyone who has ever witnessed him in a courtroom.

Circuit Judge Jerry Winchester is leaving the bench after 20 years of deciding major civil and felony criminal cases—the murders, assaults, robberies and drug cases. He brought closure to victims and justice to perpetrators and there was nobody better.

His judicial circuit, made up of McCreary and Whitley Counties, has the highest caseload in Kentucky. Yet, he ran the court at a steady clip to handle the load, when it could have bogged down under less able leadership. He had few staff, and in the early years, none at all. He was the sole judge for over a decade and citizens counted on him alone for conducting speedy trials. This basic right, embodied in the sixth amendment of the Constitution, was upheld for thousands in southern and eastern Kentucky because of this one dedicated individual.

As the Commonwealth's prosecuting attorney in the 70's and 80's, Jerry Winchester was not interested in ''running the numbers,'' or measuring success by how many people he put in prison. When offenders deserved harsh punishment, they got it. He weighed fairness and ethics to seek a punishment that fit the crime in those many cases where good judgment is the only thing that keeps justice from unraveling. The golden scales of justice were felt in the courtroom, it was witnessed over and over by judges, attorneys, victims, criminals and juries.

Before serving as Commonwealth's Attorney, Jerry was a high school teacher, an FBI

agent and a lawyer in private practice. He served as a Sunday school teacher for 35 years. These real-life experiences made him understand people better, as the best judges and attorneys do.

Now as Jerry heads into retirement he will have time to pursue his varied interests. These include taking up piano lessons with his seven-year-old grandson Jerry Paul and ballroom dancing lessons with his wife Nell. When he masters the piano and ballroom dancing he can tend to his bees and keep making honey and hunt and fish.

I am proud to know Jerry Winchester. There are only a few people like him. These rare individuals don't seek glory, and they don't have to. Faithfully adhering to legal principles as lives hang in the balance leads to its own recognition. It is unto itself and as pure as gold—it will never rust and will always shine. There is no substitute.

Madam Speaker, I commend to you and our colleagues of the House, the outstanding career and public service model of the Honorable Jerry Winchester of Kentucky.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. W. TODD AKIN

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 4, 2007

Mr. AKIN. Madam Speaker, I was unable to participate in the following votes. Had I been present, I would have voted as follows: November 15, 2007: rollcall vote No. 1116, on the McHenry of North Carolina Amendment I would have voted ''aye''; rollcall vote No. 1115 on the Garrett of New Jersey Amendment I would have voted ''aye''; rollcall vote No. 1114 on the Price of Georgia Amendment I would have voted ''aye.''

TRIBUTE TO THE CHORALE MUSICAL GROUP BASED IN CHAMPAIGN, ILLINOIS

HON. TIMOTHY V. JOHNSON

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 4, 2007

Mr. JOHNSON of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of the Chorale musical group based in Champaign, Illinois. This musical group founded by director Julie Beyler has been performing for audiences around the State of Illinois and abroad for the past 25 years and I would like to take this opportunity to recognize this milestone in the group's history.

The Chorale is a unique blend of individuals from various walks of life who share a love for singing and performing. The organization of mixed voices performs four concerts during a season and often provides music for a variety of community events.

Since the group's inception in 1982, The Chorale has grown from a small ensemble of singers performing holiday music in the Village of Mahomet to presently having 70–75 members from numerous local communities and performing in the areas most historic venues in front of sellout crowds.

One of the group's most notable performances was in May of 1991 at the Virginia Theatre in Downtown Champaign. After three decades of being used primarily as a movie house, the Virginia Theatre made its return to hosting live performances by having the Chorale perform its ''songs of America'' concert. The group is proud to have been a part of returning this historic building to a performing venue once again.

Whether it is at the Virginia Theatre, community events around the state, or abroad, the Chorale offers its audience an unforgettable musical experience and I want to congratulate the members of the group for 25 years of success.

HONORING JOHN F. RUCKER

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 4, 2007

Mr. RADANOVICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of John Rucker for his dedication and service to his community. Mr. Rucker passed away at the age of ninety on November 11, 2007 at his home in Sonora, California.

Mr. Rucker was born December 15, 1916 in Sacramento, California. He completed courses in medical technology at the Sacramento County Hospital, and was licensed in Medical Radiology Technology. He later introduced the first electrocardiogram in Tuolumne County and upon moving to Sonora in 1948 he established a laboratory at the Columbia Way Hospital. He also helped to create the laboratory and radiological departments at Sonora Hospital and Tuolumne General Hospital.

During the 1950's Mr. Rucker helped to establish Sierra Hospital. This is where he met his wife, Patricia. Mr. Rucker was elected to the Board of Directors for Sierra Hospital and was Vice-President until 1980, when the hospital was sold to Sonora Community. Mr. Rucker retired from the medical field in 1982. However, his service did not end there.

Mr. Rucker was very involved in many aspects of Tuolumne County, and held numerous elected positions. He was elected to the Sonora City Council in 1986 and again in 1998, serving more than twelve years. He was twice elected by his council colleagues as mayor, serving from 1990 to 1992 and from 1996 to 1998. He was also a member of the Sonora Planning Committee from 1982 to 1986 and was a member of the Sonora Rotary Club, serving as president in 1953 and 1954. Mr. Rucker was heavily involved in the Tuolumne County Republican Central Committee where he served as chairman in 1987.

John Rucker is survived by his wife, Patricia Rucker; his brother and sister-in-law, James and Gloria Rucker; sons and daughters-in-law John and Janice Rucker, Daniel and Erika Rucker, and Brian Rucker; and his daughter, Sally Rucker.

Madam Speaker, I rise today to posthumously honor John Rucker for his leadership and assistance in expanding the horizons for all of Tuolumne County. I invite my colleagues to join me in honoring his life and wishing the best for his family.

RECOGNIZING THE NAVY LEAGUE OF THE UNITED STATES' 2007 NATIONAL CONVENTION AND INCOMING PRESIDENT MICHAEL MCGRATH

HON. ANDER CRENSHAW

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 4, 2007

Mr. CRENSHAW. Madam Speaker, I would like to thank the members of the Navy League of the United States for their exemplary work in supporting our sea services. In my hometown of Jacksonville, Florida, we have two Navy bases, a Coast Guard Sector, a U.S. Marine Corps Command and a large port, so we are constantly aware of the impact your members have on our mariners.

Our area is home to several Navy League Councils, including the Mayport Council, which is one of the largest in the country and the home Council for J. Michael McGrath, your incoming National President. As Mike prepares to accept the challenges of guiding this fine organization, I want to congratulate him and wish him well. I am confident he will lead the Navy League with the same dedication and commitment your membership is accustomed to.

Following a full Navy career, Mike continued his support of the sea services through the Navy League. Both he and his wife, Gloria, are active life members. Based on his experience and insight, Mike can provide a clear and knowledgeable plan for the future of this organization.

As our military is stretched in resources, organizations like the Navy League are even more important in fighting for the priorities and goals of our sea services, not only to Congress but also to local community leaders and businesses who must understand the value that our military institutions bring to local economies,

The 21st Century is still young, and the roles of the sea services are ever evolving. It will take innovative and effective leadership to weather these transformational times. I look forward to continuing to work with Mike McGrath in his new role as National President of the Navy League of the United States.

MACLE JOYCE SPICER

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 4, 2007

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in recognizing Macle Joyce Spicer of Guilford, Missouri.

Macle will be celebrating her 80th Birthday on November 25th and it is my privilege to offer her my warmest regards on achieving this important milestone. Macle is a fine citizen of Missouri and the Guilford community. It is an honor to represent Macle in the United States Congress, and I wish her all the best on this birthday and many more in the future.

HONORING MS. PRISSY GRACE ON HER RETIREMENT

HON. GENE GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 4, 2007

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend Ms. Prissy Grace, who has represented members of the National Association of Letter Carriers, on announcing her retirement. Ms. Grace was born in Fort Worth, Texas, in 1943, and started with the Humble Post Office in 1973. The National Association of Letter Carriers has recognized her dedication by electing her as a union steward, the first woman Member of the Year, the first woman full-time officer, in 1983, and the first woman president of their union, in 1998, and again in 2002. She was truly a pioneer and blazed a trail that women will be following for generations to come.

Ms. Grace once forced a postmaster, who belonged to the Klu Klux Klan, to integrate his station. She defended workers who refused to work in unsafe and dangerous conditions. She worked to turn a credit union, in receivership, into one of the strongest financial institutions in the State. In many other ways, too numerous to list here, she has improved the life of all the postal workers and their families in the Houston area. Her decades of service have generated the respect and admiration of the union members and Post Office management.

Not only was she a tireless defender of postal workers, but as a single mother, she raised three children who each went on to graduate from college. If ever an individual embodied the ideals of family values, freedom and feminism, she is this individual. She is also a good friend of my family and of working people in our country.

And so it is with great pleasure that I recognize Ms. Prissy Grace, for her distinguished service to the National Association of Letter Carriers, and I congratulate her on announcing her retirement.

CONGRATULATING ROBERT UGUCCIONI UPON HIS RETIREMENT AS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE POCONO MOUNTAIN VACATION BUREAU

HON. PAUL E. KANJORSKI

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 4, 2007

Mr. KANJORSKI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to ask you and my esteemed colleagues in the House of Representatives to pay tribute to Mr. Robert Uguccioni, who is retiring after an illustrious career with the Pocono Mountain Vacation Bureau where he served for more than 40 years as its executive director.

Mr. Uguccioni spent several years early in his life in the Lake Wallenpaupack region. After graduating from Hawley High School, he entered the United States Air Force where he served 4 years supervising a material control department in Japan.

Upon returning to the Pocono Mountains, he was hired as public relations director for the Lake Wallenpaupack Association and then the Pike County Tourist Promotion Agency.

In 1967, he became executive director of the Pocono Mountain Vacation Bureau which spans four counties including Monroe, Pike, Wayne, and Carbon and is the largest tourist promotion agency of its kind in Pennsylvania.

Mr. Uguccioni represents nearly 800 members and associate members in promoting the Pocono region as a travel destination. He represents the area nationally and on the State level working toward favorable tourism legislation, government-sponsored advertising programs for tourism as well as in all facets of the tourism industry affecting the Poconos and the State.

Mr. Uguccioni serves or served on a host of boards of directors of tourism related organizations and is a past president of the Pennsylvania Association of Convention and Visitors Bureaus.

On the national level, Mr. Uguccioni is involved with the American Bus Association, the American Culinary Association, the American Hotel and Motel Association, the American Society of Association Executives, the National Tour Association, the Travel Industry Association of America, National Travel Marketing Task Force, the Federal Administration Tourist Advisory Council and he is a national member of the White House Conference on Travel and Tourism.

Madam Speaker, please join me in congratulating Mr. Uguccioni for many years of service to the travel and tourism industry and in extending to him best wishes for a well-deserved retirement. Mr. Uguccioni's contributions to the travel and tourism industries have made a major impact on our regional, State, and national economies and have helped to create many job opportunities that have improved the quality of life in northeastern Pennsylvania as well as the entire Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

HONORING THE LIFE OF SERGEANT KENNETH R. BOOKER

HON. BARON P. HILL

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 4, 2007

Mr. HILL. Madam Speaker, on Wednesday, November 4, 2007, the town of Vevay, Indiana, tragically lost their first son in Iraq. SGT Kenneth R. Booker died from wounds sustained from an improvised explosive device attack while on patrol in his Stryker armored vehicle in Mukhisa, Iraq.

After graduating from Switzerland County High School in 2000, Kenneth enlisted in the Army. He had already served in Afghanistan and Iraq—celebrating his 21st and 22nd birthdays respectively while serving overseas—before being deployed to Mukhisa, Iraq.

At one point, Sergeant Booker was assigned to military intelligence, but did not like being stuck behind a desk. He requested a transfer back to infantry duty, joining a Stryker Brigade Combat Unit. Sergeant Booker was well aware that his new unit was destined for Iraq.

Described by loved ones as having a tremendous sense of humor, constantly had fun, was good natured, and kind; Sergeant Booker was, simply put, a ''wonderful person.''

The day after Sergeant Booker's death, his mother, Becky Graham, sent a Christmas care package to her son, unknowing that he had been killed the previous day. In the care package she included a note to her son stating that if he could not be home for Christmas, Christmas would come to him.

Sergeant Booker's father always had faith that his son would be safe, but that even the best of soldiers are killed in the line of duty.

Sergeant Kenneth R. Booker was a true hero. I, with Sergeant Booker's family, the town of Vevay, and the State of Indiana mourn this brave Hoosier's premature death. His friends and loved ones are in my prayers.

CARNEGIE MELLON UNIVERSITY'S TARTAN RACING TEAM

HON. MICHAEL F. DOYLE

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 4, 2007

Mr. DOYLE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Carnegie Mellon University's Tartan Racing Team and its autonomous driving robot vehicle, ''Boss,'' on placing first in the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency's Urban Challenge, held November 3, 2007 in Victorville, California.

This contest pitted 11 autonomous vehicles against each other on a course of suburban and urban roadways. Its goal was to help develop robotics technology that can keep military personnel out of harm's way and prevent civilian automotive accidents.

Boss was the fastest of the competitors by a large margin, averaging 14 miles per hour over the approximately 55 mile course and finishing 20 minutes ahead of the second-place finisher.

Carnegie Mellon University's Tartan Racing Team has been working hard to produce revolutionary new robots that can dramatically improve driver safety. To accomplish these goals, Team Leader Dr. William ''Red'' Whittaker has put together a team of researchers, faculty and staff that is unparalleled in the robotics world.

I want to recognize each of these outstanding individuals by name. They are Joshua Anhalt, Hong S. Bae, Drew Bagnell, Christopher Baker, Bob Bittner, Thomas Brown, George Clancy, M. N. Clark, Dominic Dagradi, Michael Darms, Daniel Demitrish, John Dolan, Dave Duggins, Dave Ferguson, Tugrul Galatali, Michele Gittleman, Sam Harbaugh, Martial Hebert, Tom Howard, Alonzo Kelly, David Kohanbash, Maxim Likhachev, Bakhtiar Litkouhi, Nick Miller, Jim Nickolaou, Kevin Peterson, Brian Pilnick, Raj Rajkumar, Paul Rybski, Varsha Sadekar, Bryan Salesky, Sebastian Scherer, Ed Schlesinger, Young-Woo Seo, Bob Shafto, Todd Shupe, Reid Simmons, Sanjiv Singh, Jarrod Snider, Spencer Spiker, Anthony Stentz, Josh Struble, Evan Tahler, Chris Urmson, Ziv Wolkowicki, Vincent Zeng, Shuqing Zeng, Wende Zhang and Jason Ziglar.

The Tartan Racing Team's success must also be credited to its relationship with its sponsors. The longstanding Carnegie Mellon-GM Collaborative Research Lab brings hardware integration and system engineering skills to the team, for example. Tartan Racing's other partners include Caterpillar, Continental AG, Intel, Google, Applanix, TeleAtlas, Vector, Ibeo, Mobileye, CarSim, CleanPower Resources, MA/COM, NetApp, Vector CANtech

and Hewlett Packard. I think we can all agree it's hard to beat a team with a bench like that.

As the Congressman representing Carnegie Mellon, and as co-chair of the Congressional Caucus on Robotics, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the Tartan Racing Team and Carnegie Mellon University for their innovations in robotics and for their DARPA Grand Challenge Victory.

IN RECOGNITION OF DR. SACVAN BERCOVITCH

HON. MICHAEL R. McNULTY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 4, 2007

Mr. MCNULTY. Madam Speaker, I am most pleased to recognize the outstanding contributions of Dr. Sacvan Bercovitch, the Powell M. Cabot Professor of American Literature Emeritus of Harvard University, who has been awarded the Bode-Pearson Prize for his outstanding contributions to American studies.

Professor Bercovitch is the brother of a beloved constituent, Ninel Segal. He has been called ''one of the great literary historians of the 20th century'' and ''one of the first American scholars to analyze the ideological and rhetorical functions of literature and to link art to political and cultural themes.'' Many of his works have been translated in French, German, Chinese, Italian, and others. I am pleased to insert into the RECORD the citation presented to Professor Bercovitch by the American Studies Association:

''Rare, extravagant spirits,'' says Emerson in his essay on History, ''come to us at intervals, who disclose to us new facts in nature.'' Tonight it gives me great pleasure, on behalf of my fellow committee members, Elaine May and James Miller, to award the Bode-Pearson prize to one such spirit, indeed, the presiding spirit of American Studies, Sacvan Bercovitch. Through his writings, intellectual projects, and service to the Association, Professor Bercovitch has made an unparalleled set of distinguished contributions over the last 30 years. Perhaps no single literary historian has exerted the profound influence over his field that Bercovitch has, for he has been the key figure in the ideological turn of American literary study and the galvanizing source of its interdisciplinary practice. If the American Studies community is infinitely more robust than it was the last time the Association met in Philadelphia in 1983 when tonight's honoree was its president, it may well be the fruit of Sacvan Bercovitch's labors. If this sounds extravagant, know that it merely does justice to the extravagant bounty of his learning, the extravagant scope of his inquiry, the extravagantly searching range of his intellect, the extravagant intensity of his example for three generations of students, and the extravagant vitality of his commitment.

Bercovitch began his career as an Americanist with his publication, in 1966, of an essay on Cotton Mather, but he had begun his informal study of America some years before. As a Canadian from Montreal's rough-and-tumble Yiddish-speaking quarter, his fascination with U.S. culture preceded his engagement with its literary traditions. While Bercovitch never lost that connection to his past, and indeed, translated several of the great Yiddish writers of the 20th century, his own American studies took him to the New School of Social Research, Reed College, Hightstown, New Jersey, where he trained to join a kibbutz in Israel, then on to Claremont college, where he took his graduate degrees, then to Brandeis, and UC-San Diego until he arrived at Columbia, where he was to stay for 13 years before taking his last academic post, at Harvard. Like Hawthorne's Holgrave, he worked at various trades, scholarly and otherwise, all of which contributed to the swell of consciousness that resulted in two paradigm-changing scholarly works of his early career: The Puritan Origins of the American Self (1975) and The American Jeremiad (1979).

In the early 1980s, Bercovitch developed the intellectual underpinnings of the next great phase of his career, when he edited and co edited two seminal books of the era, Reconstructing American Literary History and Ideology and Classic American Literature. Let me remind you how influential those collections were when they appeared two decades ago. For the first, Bercovitch assembled an impressive line-up of scholars and literary historians whose work would resonate for years to come—like Sandra Gilbert, Walter Michaels, Werner Sollors, Wendy Steiner, Robert Stepto, and Eric Sundquist, scholars who made the case for profession only slowly—all too slowly—awakening to the realization that the literary history of the U.S. needed to be reconstructed; with Myra Jehlen, he showed that the urgency of that reconstruction was ideological and that classic American literature, the redoubt of liberal humanism, was nothing if not political, in a series of essays by Jonathan Arac, Houston Baker, Gerald Graff, Don Pease, Carolyn Porter, Jane Tompkins, and Alan Trachtenberg, among other distinguished contributors. These collections, in no small part, helped to reinvent the study of American literature and, in so doing, changed the future of this Association.

Some of you will remember vividly what the Association's meetings were like as a direct consequence of Bercovitch's term, in San Diego, New York, and Miami, and can assure people who have only recently found a home here that the intellectual ferment of these years was dizzying, especially to the extent that it matched Sacvan Bercovitch's critical example: the cultural study of literature and literary study of culture broke wide open the intellectual boundaries of the Americanists' sense of the object of scholarly inquiry. That generation of scholars who changed the way we do business, if only because they followed the ways his work so vigorously aroused the possibilities of interdisciplinary study, through what Bercovitch called the ''reciprocities between symbolic and social systems.'' Moreover his leadership also gave the Association a new critical urgency, by moving it away from the hidebound, dry academicism that had dominated it for the previous two decades and toward public engagement. At the time there were many who resisted and not a few who resented this new direction, yet the growth of the Association might suggest just how sorely needed and how keenly received was the charge that Sacvan Bercovitch had laid before us. The ASA's sense of itself has evolved in the last ten years, and perhaps the role of cultural study of literature and the literary study of culture is not as crucial as it once was, but these changes have only been possible because of the difference that Bercovitch—his colleagues, students, and followers—first wrought.

That charge was freshly shaped in his next great contribution to American literary studies, his supervision of the new Cambridge History of American Literature, brought to completion only in the year before last. This project made bold to rewrite, not as one book or two or even the four volumes that its predecessor had essayed 70 years prior, but as eight volumes written by some thirty scholars. The task proved arduous, and perhaps its completion depended as much upon the contributors' loyalty to Bercovitch as it did their commitment to their assignment. The lesson rehearsed in page after page of the History is ''dissensus,'' the vision of literary history that rejects easy coherence and instead accommodates the evidence of vivifying resistance out of which a fuller, truer history may be understood—the turning of the inside of literary texts out and the turning of contexts in. Bercovitch's founding idea prompted a complex way of imagining literary historiography, one that especially enlivened the understanding of students and younger scholars, so much so that the ''History'' that they created was largely understood to be something of a generational enterprise. Indeed, the influence of the Cambridge History can be calculated in the way its separate parts have arrived with all the authority of established wisdom; its arguments crystallize the very terms of our practice over 20 years. In this sense, its eight volumes are but the shell of a project that will outlast us all.

Bercovitch's own reading and research led him to Hawthorne and inevitably The Scarlet Letter, but I will pass over the great achievements of his scholarship, just as I also pass over the dutiful recitations of his many, many honors and awards, the editorial and advisory boards and executive committees on which he has served, the consultantships, the positions of leadership he undertook in a surprising variety of places all too numerous to mention, in order to take a final few minutes to recall his presidency of this association. In so many ways, the current ASA is a wonderful prism of his multifaceted accomplishments. Members of longer standing than I will testify that Bercovitch ''saved'' the ASA, by which they mean that during his tenure he undertook a major effort to resuscitate and transform the organization. At the time, ASA was wholly dependent on the University of Pennsylvania and in debt a considerable amount of money to them. Penn even held the copyright to AQ. Bercovitch mobilized a number of influential ASA members, including past president Daniel Aaron and Leo Marx, to change the modus operandi. He also realized that, most of all, the culture of ASA had to change, and beginning with a panel of luminaries devoted to the organization's future at Philadelphia in 1983, he undertook to reshape it into the entity we know today. As part of a major re-evaluation, the association took ownership of its journal, established new publishing arrangements, raised new funds, relocated to Washington, DC, shifted to annual meetings (although the planning for this began with Bercovitch, Michael Cowan eventually pushed it through). Plus, the ASA under Bercovitch began to internationalize, reinvigorating ties with the Canadian and European associations, even as it moved forcefully to diversify, naming Martha Banta as program chair of the San Diego conference, which, in turn, featured the work of several future presidents—Mary Helen Washington, Stephen Sumida, Vicki Ruiz—all of whom became involved in the organization for the first time.

In short, we might dedicate ourselves tonight to making ASA worthy of this immeasurably rich legacy. So please join with me and applaud, extravagantly, the career of

Saki Bercovitch.—Gordon Hutner, Professor of American Literature, University of Illinois, Editor, American Literary History.

RESTORE ACT OF 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 15, 2007

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 3773, the ''Responsible Electronic Surveillance That Is Overseen, Reviewed, and Effective Act of 2007.'' I support this legislation, the RESTORE Act, because it corrects the damage done by the misnamed Protect America Act and restores this Nation's commitment to the rule of law, the dignity of the individual, and the separation of powers. This legislation is worthy of an aye vote from all Members because it restores allegiance to the Constitution and gives our intelligence agencies all the tools they need to conduct the foreign surveillance necessary to keep our country safe.

Mr. Speaker, in August of this year, I strongly opposed S. 1927, the so-called ''Protect America Act'' (PAA) when it came to a vote on the House floor. And I was a very reluctant supporter of H.R. 3356, the House alternative that attracted a majority of votes, but not a two-thirds super-majority, on the House floor. Had the Bush Administration and the Republican-dominated 109th Congress acted more responsibly in the two preceding years, we would not have been in the position of debating legislation that had such a profoundly negative impact on the national security and on American values and civil liberties in the crush of exigent circumstances. As that regrettable episode clearly showed, it is true as the saying goes that haste makes waste.

The PAA was stampeded through the Congress in the midnight hour of the last day before the long August recess on the dubious claim that it was necessary to fill a gap in the Nation's intelligence gathering capabilities identified by Director of National Intelligence Mike McConnell. But in reality it would have eviscerated the Fourth Amendment to the Constitution and represented an unwarranted transfer of power from the courts to the Executive Branch and a Justice Department led at that time by an Attorney General whose reputation for candor and integrity was, to put it charitably, subject to considerable doubt.

The legislation before us, the RESTORE Act, H.R. 3773 is superior to the PAA by orders of magnitude. This is due in no small measure, Mr. Speaker, to the willingness of the leadership to reach out to and work with all members of the House. The result shows. The RESTORE Act does not weaken our Nation's commitment to its democratic traditions. Rather, it represents a sound policy proposal for achieving the only legitimate goals of a terrorist surveillance program, which is to ensure that American citizens and persons in America are secure in their persons, papers, and effects, but terrorists throughout the world are made insecure. Let me direct the attention of all members to several of the more important aspects of this salutary legislation.

First, H.R. 3773 explicitly affirms that that the exclusive law to follow with respect to authorizing foreign surveillance gathering on U.S. soil is the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act (FISA). As initially enacted by Congress in 1978, the exclusivity of FISA was undisputed and unambiguous. I hasten to add, however, that while FISA remains the exclusive source of law, H.R. 3773 recognizes that the law as enacted in 1978 can and should be adapted to modern circumstances and to accommodate new technologies. And it does so by making clear that foreign to foreign communications are not subject to the FISA, even though modern technology enables that communication to be routed through the United States.

Second, under H.R. 3773, the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court (FISC) is indispensable and is accorded a meaningful role in ensuring compliance with the law. The bill ensures that the FISC is empowered to act as an Article III court should act, which means the court shall operate neither as a rubber-stamp nor a bottleneck. Rather, the function of the court is to validate the lawful exercise of executive power on the one hand, and to act as the guardian of individual rights and liberties on the other.

Third, the bill does not grant amnesty to any telecommunications company or to any other entity or individual that helped Federal intelligence agencies spy illegally on innocent Americans. I strongly support this provision because granting such blanket amnesty for past misconduct will have the unintended consequence of encouraging telecommunications companies to comply with, rather than contest, illegal requests to spy on Americans. The only permissible path to legalization of conduct in this area is full compliance with the requirements of the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act.

Moreover, Mr. Speaker, it is important to point out that the loudest demands for blanket immunity comes not from the telecommunications companies but from the Administration, which raises the interesting question of whether the Administration's real motivation is to shield from public disclosure the ways and means by which government officials may have ''persuaded'' telecommunications companies to assist in its warrantless surveillance programs. I call my colleagues' attention to an article published in the Washington Post last Sunday, in which it is reported that Joseph Nacchio, the former CEO of Qwest, alleges that his company was denied NSA contracts after he declined in a February 27, 2001 meeting at Fort Meade with National Security Agency (NSA) representatives to give the NSA customer calling records.

Mr. Speaker, the authorization to conduct foreign surveillance on U.S. soil provided by H.R. 3773 is temporary and will expire in 2 years if not renewed by the Congress. This is perhaps the single most important limitation on the authority conferred on the Executive Branch by this legislation. The good and sufficient reason for imposing this limitation is because the threats to America's security and the liberties of its people will change over time and thus require constant vigilance by the people's representatives in Congress.

To give a detailed illustration of just how superior the RESTORE Act is to the ill-considered and hastily enacted Protect America Act, I wish to take a few moments to discuss an important improvement in the bill that was adopted in the full Judiciary Committee markup.

The Jackson-Lee Amendment added during the markup made a constructive contribution to the RESTORE Act by laying down a clear, objective criterion for the Administration to follow and the FISA court to enforce in preventing reverse targeting.

''Reverse targeting,'' a concept well known to members of this Committee but not so well understood by those less steeped in the arcana of electronic surveillance, is the practice where the government targets foreigners without a warrant while its actual purpose is to collect information on certain U.S. persons.

One of the major concerns that libertarians and classical conservatives, as well as progressives and civil liberties organizations, have with the PAA is that the understandable temptation of national security agencies to engage in reverse targeting may be difficult to resist in the absence of strong safeguards in the PAA to prevent it.

My amendment reduces even further any such temptation to resort to reverse targeting by requiring the administration to obtain a regular, individualized FISA warrant whenever the ''real'' target of the surveillance is a person in the United States.

The amendment achieves this objective by requiring the administration to obtain a regular FISA warrant whenever a ''significant purpose of an acquisition is to acquire the communications of a specific person reasonably believed to be located in the United States.'' The current language in the bill provides that a warrant be obtained only when the Government ''seeks to conduct electronic surveillance'' of a person reasonably believed to be located in the United States.

It was far from clear how the operative language ''seeks to'' is to be interpreted. In contrast, the language used in my amendment, ''significant purpose,'' is a term of art that has long been a staple of FISA jurisprudence and thus is well known and readily applied by the agencies, legal practitioners, and the FISA Court. Thus, the Jackson-Lee Amendment provides a clearer, more objective, criterion for the administration to follow and the FISA court to enforce to prevent the practice of reverse targeting without a warrant, which all of us can agree should not be permitted.

Let us be clear, Mr. Speaker, that nothing in the bill or in my amendment requires the Government to obtain a FISA order for every overseas target on the off chance that they might pick up a call into or from the United States. Rather, the bill requires, as our amendment makes clear, a FISA order only where there is a particular, known person in the United States at the other end of the foreign target's calls in whom the Government has a significant interest such that a significant purpose of the surveillance has become to acquire that person's communications.

This will usually happen over time, and the Government will have the time to get an order while continuing its surveillance. And it is the national security interest to require it to obtain an order at that point, so that it can lawfully acquire all of the target person's communications rather than continuing to listen to only some of them.

The Jackson-Lee amendment gives the Government precisely what Director of National Intelligence McConnell asked for when he testified before the Senate Judiciary Committee: ''It is very important to me; it is very important to members of this Committee. We

should be required—we should be required in all cases to have a warrant anytime there is surveillance of a US [sic] person located in the United States.''

In short, the Jackson-Lee amendment makes a good bill even better. For this reason alone, civil libertarians should enthusiastically embrace the RESTORE Act.

Nearly 2 centuries ago, Alexis de Tocqueville, who remains the most astute student of American democracy, observed that the reason democracies invariably prevail in any martial conflict is because democracy is the governmental form that best rewards and encourages those traits that are indispensable to martial success: initiative, innovation, resourcefulness, and courage.

Mr. Speaker, the best way to win the war on terror is to remain true to our democratic traditions. If it retains its democratic character, no nation and no loose confederation of international villains will defeat the United States in the pursuit of its vital interests.

Thus, the way forward to victory in the war on terror is for the United States country to redouble its commitment to the Bill of Rights and the democratic values, which every American will risk his or her life to defend. It is only by preserving our attachment to these cherished values that America will remain forever the home of the free, the land of the brave, and the country we love.

HONORS CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF STRATFORD, CONNECTICUT AS THEY CELEBRATE THEIR 300TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 4, 2007

Ms. DELAURO. Madam Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to join the Reverend Robert Stuhlmann, members of the congregation, and the Stratford community in extending my sincere congratulations to Christ Episcopal Church as they celebrate its 300th Anniversary. This is a milestone for this community treasure and I am proud to help them celebrate.

As we gather to celebrate this anniversary, we can also reflect on the inspiration the Christ Episcopal Church had in the creation of the United States of America. The Church holds a unique place not only in Connecticut's history, but in that of our nation as well. The first parishioners of this parish were actually forced to worship secretly in people's homes to avoid harassment by the then dominant Congregationalists who had fled to the New World to escape persecution by the Church of England. In fact, many of the twelve men who established the parish were jailed for their defiance of the General Court of Connecticut which deemed there could only be one church—and it was Congregational.

Reverend Robert Stuhlmann, the 30th pastor of Christ Episcopal Church, has described the birth of the Anglican Church in the United States as mirroring that of our nation. Just eighty years after the formation of Christ Episcopal, the Church would play a direct role in the creation of our Constitution. Among the Connecticut delegation, the framers of the Constitution, was William Samuel Johnson, son of Samuel Johnson, the church's first resident priest. It is said that the Constitution took its final form based on the experiences of the Christ Episcopal parish as they encountered the opposition of an established religion in Connecticut. Samuel Johnson, who also served as the first president of Kings College, or what is known today as Columbia University, also left his mark on the Declaration of Independence. We all know the phrase ''life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness'' but what many may not know is that the phrase pursuit of happiness was one which Samuel Johnson frequently used in his preaching—believing that God desires humanity to be happy.

Since its inception in 1707, Christ Episcopal Church has been an integral part of our community and has now grown to its current 223 parish families like 100-year old Clint Brelsford who has derived happiness as a parishioner for 97 years. Our churches play a vital role in our communities—providing people with a place to turn to for comfort when they are most in need. By strengthening our bonds of faith, Christ Episcopal gives its members a place to find their spiritual center and to solidify and support their values. The members of this special parish have also given much to the Town of Stratford. Throughout the years, as their membership grew so did their commitment to the enrichment of our community.

Christ Episcopal Church is so much more than simply a place of worship—it is the center of spiritual and community life for its members. For three hundred years, Christ Episcopal Church has been a fixture in Stratford. Through their ministry and outreach efforts, they have left an indelible mark on our community and continue to enrich the lives of others. I am proud to stand today and extend my best wishes to them as they mark this milestone in their history. Happy 300th Anniversary!

TRIBUTE TO MR. SHAUN HEENAN

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 4, 2007

Mr. HIGGINS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Shaun Heenan of the city of Dunkirk, New York, for his recent election as a member of the Chautauqua County Legislature. Following a close election victory on November 7, Mr. Heenan will represent the second district in the Legislature beginning January 1, 2008.

The campaign trail is a difficult path to take. Any person with a dream may enter but only a few are able to reach the end. Mr. Heenan traveled that path with his head held high and a smile on his face the entire way. I have no doubt that his kind demeanor left a lasting impression on the voters of Chautauqua County.

Chautauqua County is blessed to have such strong candidates with a desire to make this county the wonderful place we all know it can be. Mr. Heenan is one of those people, and that is why, Madam Speaker, I rise to honor him today.

A PROCLAMATION HONORING THE UNIVERSITY OF IDAHO LIONEL HAMPTON INTERNATIONAL JAZZ FESTIVAL

HON. BILL SALI

OF IDAHO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 4, 2007

Mr. SALI. Madam Speaker, I rise today in joining President George W. Bush in honoring the University of Idaho's Lionel Hampton International Jazz Festival. President Bush presented the National Medal of Arts award to University of Idaho President Timothy P. White in a White House ceremony yesterday.

The University of Idaho, located in Moscow, Idaho, is the first public university to receive this award since it was created by Congress in 1984. The award honors one of the Nation's premier jazz festivals, named in honor of the late, great jazz musician Lionel Hampton. I should note that the University of Idaho holds a special place in my heart, as I attended the university's law school, graduating in the class of 1984.

As described by the University of Idaho, ''The festival began in 1967 and grew in presence and prestige through the decades. In 1985, the festival was renamed the Lionel Hampton/Chevron Festival in Mr. Hampton's honor and was rededicated as the Lionel Hampton International Jazz Festival in 2006. Mr. Hampton died in 2002 at the age of 94.''

Lionel Hampton's vision of providing opportunities for professional musicians to mentor young, aspiring jazz artists has made the festival a remarkable success. A festival that began as a 1-day event has now evolved into a 4-day event that includes four concerts by professional jazz musicians, three student concerts and student performances that take place in 20 different locations on the campus and throughout the community. The festival also hosts a series of workshops.

This year's attendance included approximately 10,000 students from more than 300 schools, in addition to teachers, parents and local jazz enthusiasts. The festival has drawn leading jazz artists from around the world, including current director and six-time Grammy-nominated artist John Clayton, the late queen of jazz, Ella Fitzgerald, legendary trumpeter Dizzy Gillespie and renowned jazz innovator Bobby McFerrin, among many others. The festival will celebrate its 41st anniversary February 20–23 of next year. I urge all my colleagues to join me in congratulating University President White, Festival Director Clayton, and former festival director Lynn ''Doc'' Skinner in accepting this tremendous honor on behalf of the University of Idaho.

CONGRATULATIONS TO CARROLL SENIOR HIGH AND CARROLL HIGH SCHOOL ON THEIR 5A GIRLS STATE CROSS COUNTRY STATE CHAMPIONSHIP

HON. KENNY MARCHANT

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 4, 2007

Mr. MARCHANT. Madam Speaker, it is with great pride and pleasure that I rise to honor

the Carroll Senior High and Carroll High School's Lady Dragon Cross Country Team on their 2007 5A State Championship.

This is the Lady Dragon's first place win for the third consecutive year. The team learned days after the November 17th State 5A meet that they finished in first place. They were originally awarded second, following a tie breaker, but the University Interscholastic League later confirmed an error in the place results and awarded the Lady Dragon's with the top finish.

The Lady Dragon State Cross Country consists of 7 tremendous young women, including Seniors Taylor Stephens and Lauren Hill; Juniors Tara Upshaw, Lucia Xiong, Caitlin Gilbert and Jessica Ferber; and Sophomore Jessica Harper. They are coached by Robert Ondrasek.

I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the Lady Dragon's on a great season and their State Championship. The Carroll Senior High School and the Carroll High School deserve public recognition for this great honor and I extend my congratulations to the outstanding runners and coaching staff.

IN RECOGNITION OF MARCI NOVAK

HON. PETE SESSIONS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 4, 2007

Mr. SESSIONS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Marci Novak, the founder of For the Love of the Lake.

In 1995, Marci and a group of enthusiastic volunteers formed For the Love of the Lake, committed to the preservation and enhancement of White Rock Lake Park in Dallas, Texas. She envisioned turning a dirty, litter-filled lake into a clean and beautiful urban oasis. Under her leadership, For the Love of the Lake has expanded to thousands of volunteers and implemented creative new programs such as the White Rock 'n' Roll Run, Adopt-a-Shoreline, and the Celebration Tree Grove project.

Whether rain or shine, warm or cold, Marci has spent countless Saturdays at White Rock Lake over the years. As a result of her hard work, For the Love of the Lake has received countless contributions from the local community as well as grants from Dallas Park and Recreation Department. We share a common vision—a clean and magnificent environment where children can play and wild life can flourish. It was that shared vision that spurred my involvement, which began in 1995. I am grateful for Marci—for her getting me involved in such a wonderful and valuable organization and for her dedication, which has ensured that White Rock Lake Park can continue to be enjoyed by families, local citizens, and visitors.

Madam Speaker, I ask my esteemed colleagues join me in expressing our heartfelt gratitude for her passion and hard work.

A PROCLAMATION HONORING KEVIN MILLER FOR WINNING THE DIVISION III STATE GOLF TOURNAMENT.

HON. ZACHARY T. SPACE

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 4, 2007

Mr. SPACE. Madam Speaker:

Whereas, Kevin Miller showed hard work and dedication to the sport of golf; and

Whereas, Kevin Miller was a supportive team player; and

Whereas, Kevin Miller always displayed sportsmanship on and off of the green; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, that along with his friends, family, and the residents of the 18th Congressional District, I congratulate Kevin Miller on winning the Division III State Golf Tournament. We recognize the tremendous hard work and sportsmanship he has demonstrated during the 2007 golf season.

A TRIBUTE TO JESSE L. BLANDING

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 4, 2007

Mr. TOWNS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Jesse L. Blanding. Jesse was born in Lugoff, South Carolina to Bergegard and Mazie Blanding. He is 1 of 7 children, 2 boys and 5 girls.

Jesse was educated in the Lugoff School System, graduating from Jackson High School in 1962. Upon his graduation, he obtained a job with the City of Columbia as a laborer. He eventually worked his way up to machinist and later, bricklayer.

Jesse relocated to New York City gaining employment at Standard Plating where he was able to display his willingness to work hard. It all paid off when he received a promotion to foreman. After 5 years, he went to work for the Nice Fuel Oil Company. After 3 years he left Nice Fuel and went to work for Wally Fuel where he stayed for 17 years.

Jesse is a busy member of New Canaan Baptist Church. He has worked as the bus driver and maintenance person for New Canaan's bus company. Jesse's memberships in various ministries include: former president of the Male Chorus, Chairman of the Musician's Appreciation Committee, and membership in the South Carolina Club. He is instrumental in the renovation of New Canaan and its day to day upkeep.

Madam Speaker, I would like to recognize the hard work and achievements of Jesse Blanding.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to this kind and tenacious man.

TRIBUTE TO THE SNOWBOARD OUTREACH SOCIETY

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 4, 2007

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Madam Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge the great work of the Snowsports Outreach Society (SOS Outreach), based in Vail, Colorado, which is dedicated to providing outdoor recreation and confidence-building opportunities to underprivileged youth.

The snow sports industry is an essential part of Colorado's lifestyle, economy and image. Colorado's mountainous terrain and world class resorts have set the standard for the ultimate experience in sliding on snow. As co-chair of the Congressional Ski and Snowboard Caucus and an avid skier myself, I understand the importance of this outdoor activity—in all its forms—for its physical health benefits and the recreation economy of Colorado and the country's ski resorts.

SOS Outreach complements the benefits of snow sports by providing dynamic programs to 2,500 youths in need nationwide. During the current season, 2,000 Colorado participants will be enrolled in a 7-year curriculum. I am proud to support the work that they do to grow the sport and promote positive self-esteem in their participants.

Now celebrating its 14th anniversary, SOS Outreach was founded in Vail, Colorado in 1993. SOS Outreach is a grassroots, 501(c)(3) organization. Through the work of its founder and executive director, Arn Menconi and former director of snowboarding for Vail Resorts, Ray Sforzo, a charity was developed that appealed to the mountain resort's desire to build the community by serving underprivileged youth.

SOS Outreach first introduced youth to the benefits of outdoor recreation during the 1995–1996 season when they taught 40 youths snowboarding. They were provided with one day of free lessons, equipment and lift tickets. Since their first season, SOS Outreach has partnered with mountain resorts, youth agencies, foundations, corporations and individual donors to expand their curriculum and serve over 7,500 youths. SOS Outreach is further leveraging their partnerships to expand their programs and include skiing. Over 7,000 program days will be provided at 29 resorts across the country, 13 in the State of Colorado.

SOS Outreach reaches out to its participants by providing a high quality, resilience-based program that positively impacts self-esteem and ability to participate positively within their communities; supports underserved youth through adult mentorship; and encourages personal character education through SOS Outeach's five core values of courage, discipline, integrity, wisdom and compassion. In using snowboarding and skiing as the carrot, SOS Outreach also sets personal, academic and athletic goals with kids and provides vocational skills training. Their curriculum is recognized nationally for its impact.

The dynamic programming they provide would not be successful without the substantial support of the following individuals and organizations. I would like to recognize and thank each of them for sustaining such a program in Colorado:

Bill Jensen and Kara Heide of Vail Resorts; Ken Gart and everyone at Specialty Sports Venture; Chris Ryman of Booth Creek Ski Holdings; Colorado Mountain Resorts for their donation of lift tickets, lessons and rental equipment; Harry Frampton and Ceil Folz of the Vail Valley Foundation; Robert Veitch of the Harold W. Shaw and Mary Louise Shaw Foundation; Linda Childers of the Daniels Fund; William Hybl of the El Pomar Foundation; Bill Cotton of Optic Nerve Sunglasses; Robert Marcovitch of K2 Inc.; Mike West of 686; Wendy and Mike Carey of Seirus; Chaos Hats; Ride Snowboards; Salomon Sports; Sutherland Foundation; Bob Hernreich; Kay and Craig Tuber; to the staff of SOS Outreach: Am & Anne Menconi, Michelle Hartel, Jon Garrou, Seth Ehrlich, Jody Link, Thersa Bisio; and, the hundreds of adults that give of themselves to be positive mentors to these young people.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in thanking SOS Outreach for its great work and extending our wishes for continued success and instilling a love for the outdoors and snow sports—and personal achievement and self confidence—for many young people.

THE PASSING OF CONGRESSMAN HENRY HYDE

HON. JERRY F. COSTELLO

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 4, 2007

Mr. COSTELLO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the passing of our colleague from Illinois, Henry J. Hyde. Congressman Hyde served in the House of Representatives for over 30 years and his respect for this body and the United States of America was a hallmark of his career. Volunteering to serve in the Navy during World War II, he played basketball at Georgetown, graduated from Loyola law school and eventually chaired both the Judiciary and International Relations Committees, presiding over both with the same dignity and eloquence with which he treated all floor debate.

Henry was perhaps best known as Congress's leading voice for protecting the unborn. During his first term, he was successful in enacting the ''Hyde amendment,'' which outlawed the Federal funding of abortion in most cases, and still stands today. But what stands out equally to many of us is the way he handled this advocacy, always arguing passionately, always arguing forcefully, but always arguing his beliefs with a grace and tact that provided for an honest exchange on the most contentious of issues. This is a great lesson for all of us today, that even when we disagree, we should debate the issues on their merits, with the highest levels of decorum.

Madam Speaker, Henry Hyde was an influential presence in the House of Representatives and both national and Illinois politics. He will not soon be forgotten, and I send my condolences to his family.

A PROCLAMATION HONORING JOSEPH AGIN FOR WINNING THE DIVISION III STATE GOLF TOURNAMENT

HON. ZACHARY T. SPACE

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 4, 2007

Mr. SPACE. Madam Speaker:

Whereas, Joseph Agin showed hard work and dedication to the sport of golf; and

Whereas, Joseph Agin was a supportive team player; and

Whereas, Joseph Agin always displayed sportsmanship on and off of the green; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, that along with his friends, family, and the residents of the 18th Congressional District, I congratulate Joseph Agin on winning the Division III State Golf Tournament. We recognize the tremendous hard work and sportsmanship he has demonstrated during the 2007 golf season.

A TRIBUTE TO PAUL AJLOUNY, ESQ.

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 4, 2007

Mr. TOWNS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the work and achievements of Paul Ajlouny. Paul was born in 1959 in Detroit, Michigan. He moved to Hempstead, Long Island in 1965.

Paul graduated from Chaminade High School in Mineola, New York in 1977. He earned a Bachelor's of Science Degree from American University of Beirut with a double major of Biology and Chemistry, graduating with honors. Afterwards he attended American University of Beirut's Medical School.

Paul became Vice-President of Export for Omar International Grain and Trading Company in 1983. In 1989, he left there and became a Hospital Administrator. Following his stint at the hospital, he decided to return to college and enrolled in St. John's Law School. He graduated from St. John's in 1999.

Paul now has a private practice specializing in personal injury law. His firm serves poor and disadvantaged clients throughout the Boroughs of Brooklyn and Queens. He is a member of the Nassau County Bar Association; the Trial Lawyers of America; The New York State Bar Association; and the American Bar Association.

Madam Speaker, I would like to recognize Paul Ajlouny, Esq. for his contributions to our community and for providing his legal expertise to those who need it most.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to Paul Ajlouny.

HONORING SCOTT ADAMCHESKI

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 4, 2007

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Scott Adamcheski for his exemplary courage. Scott Adamcheski is a fireman with Station No. 5 in Boulder, Colorado. On October 26, 2007 he was one of a group of firefighters who responded to a call at the Gold Run Apartment Complex.

Upon arrival Mr. Adamcheski searched one of the apartment buildings for anyone who may have been trapped by the ensuing flames. Mr. Jordan Brooks, a senior at the University of Colorado, cried for help as he lay choking on the 3rd floor. Mr. Adamcheski found the student, immediately called for backup and brought Mr. Brooks to safety through a window he had to break.

This is just one example of the risks firefighters take every day. Mr. Adamcheski's bravery was called to my attention and while I am sure he takes his actions in stride as the kind of thing he and his fellow firefighters contend with routinely, and as a part of their professional training, I think the rest of us marvel at the personal courage it takes to face fires and rescue people. In this spirit, I want to acknowledge the other firefighters at Station No. 5 in Boulder and all the firefighters in America who risk their lives us to keep our communities safe.

As a prime example of the courage and heroism that firefighters exhibit every day, and to recognize Scott Adamcheski for his service, I ask my colleagues to join with me in thanking him, and acknowledging the efforts of firefighters across America.

IN MEMORY OF GARY GALLOWAY

HON. ELTON GALLEGLY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 4, 2007

Mr. GALLEGLY. Madam Speaker, I rise in memory of Gary Galloway, who passed away November 21 at the age of 56.

Gary Galloway was a detective at the Simi Valley, California, Police Department, which is an understatement of the important work he performed there. For 21 of the 29 years Gary served the Simi Valley community, he investigated child sexual abuse cases and other crimes against persons.

Twenty-one years is a long time for a detective to investigate child sex abuse cases. Most officers suffer from an understandable burnout confronting the worse a criminal can do to a child. But Gary was passionate about protecting children. He was equally a skilled and hardworking detective.

Countless lives have been protected because of Gary's diligence and professionalism. Equally, many individuals were cleared of false allegations because of Gary's dedication to the truth.

I met Gary when I was elected to the Simi Valley City Council and he was a new officer, and got to know him through many ride-alongs with him on patrol. I followed his career through my years as mayor and as congressman. He was a respected friend who I visited with just a few weeks ago during the Simi Valley Days Parade.

Gary served as a reserve officer before joining the Police Department full time in 1980. He quickly made his mark as a patrol officer and a field training officer. Then he joined the detective ranks and was assigned to child sex abuse cases. He never looked back.

Madam Speaker, I know my colleagues will join me in honoring the memory of Gary Galloway and his decades of service to public safety and particularly in his work to protect our children. In addition, I know my colleagues join me in extending our condolences to his wife, Victoria, and his adult sons, Gregory, Robert, and Darren, and to all whose lives Gary touched privately and professionally.

Godspeed, Gary.

A PROCLAMATION HONORING TYLER GERBER FOR WINNING THE DIVISION III STATE GOLF TOURNAMENT

HON. ZACHARY T. SPACE

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 4, 2007

Mr. SPACE. Madam Speaker:

Whereas, Tyler Gerber showed hard work and dedication to the sport of golf; and

Whereas, Tyler Gerber was a supportive team player; and

Whereas, Tyler Gerber always displayed sportsmanship on and off of the green; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, that along with his friends, family, and the residents of the 18th Congressional District, I congratulate Tyler Gerber on winning the Division III State Golf Tournament. We recognize the tremendous hard work and sportsmanship he has demonstrated during the 2007 golf season.

A TRIBUTE TO WILLIAM B. JONES, MD

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 4, 2007

Mr. TOWNS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to William B. Jones. Dr. Jones is dedicated to the study of science, as he has worked endlessly to contribute his time and attention to the medical field.

Dr. Jones was educated at Morehouse College with a Bachelor of Arts degree. He later went on to attend Georgetown Medical School in Washington, DC, where he became a Medical Doctor.

Dr. Jones is fortuned with the impressive opportunity to have a private practice in Hempstead, New York. He is also the Chairman for the Department of PM&R at Island Medical Center, and Resident Physician at the Nassau County Medical Center in East Meadow, New York.

Dr. Jones is a busy member of the American Academy of Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation; the Physiatric Association of Spine, Sports & Occupational Rehabilitation; The New York State Society of Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation; Nassau Medical Association; American Medical Association; and the American Institute of Ultrasound in Medicine.

Madam Speaker, I would like to recognize the hard work and achievements of William B. Jones, MD. Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to this kind and tenacious man.

CONGRATULATIONS TO CARMEL CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

HON. MARK STEVEN KIRK

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 4, 2007

Mr. KIRK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Carmel Catholic High School in Mundelein, IL, for being named a 2007 No Child Left Behind Blue Ribbon School.

Nearly 1,500 students, ages 13 to 18, attend Carmel Catholic High School. Carmel Catholic is one of only 5 high schools nationwide to win the Blue Ribbon School award 4 times. With a great devotion to learning and academic achievement, Carmel is a faith-based community that attributes their success to the dedication and hard-work of their teachers. As a result, these students consistently score above State and national averages on standardized tests in all subject areas. In addition, it is the only high school in Illinois and one of three private high schools in the Nation to be recognized.

Carmel Catholic is among 287 schools from across the Nation chosen by the Secretary of Education to receive this acknowledgement. These schools have distinguished themselves by embodying the goals of reaching high standards and closing the achievement gap. Schools selected for this honor either have students from all subgroups that have demonstrated significant improvement or have students that achieve in the top 10 percent of their State on statewide tests.

This is a great honor for the 10th District and I congratulate the principal, Fr. Robert C. Carroll, the students, and teachers at Carmel Catholic High School for this achievement.

A PROCLAMATION HONORING MICHAEL DAGUE FOR WINNING THE DIVISION III STATE GOLF TOURNAMENT

HON. ZACHARY T. SPACE

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 4, 2007

Mr. SPACE. Madam Speaker:

Whereas, Michael Dague showed hard work and dedication to the sport of golf; and

Whereas, Michael Dague was a supportive team player; and

Whereas, Michael Dague always displayed sportsmanship on and off of the green; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, that along with his friends, family, and the residents of the 18th Congressional District, I congratulate Michael Dague on winning the Division III State Golf Tournament. We recognize the tremendous hard work and sportsmanship he has demonstrated during the 2007 golf season.

A TRIBUTE TO MRS. SARAH V. KENNEDY

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 4, 2007

Mr. TOWNS. Madam Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Mrs. Sarah V. Kennedy. Mrs. Kennedy has served the Brooklyn community as an outstanding citizen and advocate for fair work ethics and job security.

Sarah, born in Brooklyn, NY to the Rev. Febber and Hattie Ruth Kennedy, at Coney Island Hospital is the seventh of ten siblings. She was educated in the New York City public school system. Sarah attended Clara Barton High School where she majored in Cosmetology. After graduation she continued her education by attending Brooklyn College where she majored in Early Childhood Development.

Upon completion of her studies, Sarah found employment at P.S. 80 as a Kindergarten teacher. Sarah taught for 3 years and then moved on to the New York City Housing Authority. There, Sarah worked for a grassroot federally- funded poverty program for approximately 8 to 10 years. Sarah later went on to serve as a Social Health Technician in Psychology at Coney Island Hospital and also began her involvement with DC37's Local 420 union under the leadership of the late James Butler. Sarah made it a point to become involved with the union and became the Local 420's Chapter Chairperson. As the chapter's chairperson, Sarah was instrumental in fighting for union members to receive respect, fair work ethics, and job security. Her role in the Local 420's campaign for equality assisted in preventing the closing of Coney Island Hospital by the former Mayor Giuliani.

Sarah's many accomplishments and achievements as the Local 420's Chapter Chairperson helped to catapult her into the esteemed position of being the first ever Executive Vice President for DC37, Local 420.

Madam Speaker, I would once again like to recognize the impressive achievements of Mrs. Sarah V. Kennedy. The dedication and contributions that Sarah Kennedy has given to the Brooklyn community are greatly appreciated and continue to constructively develop our district.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to this extraordinary woman and the great things that she stands for.

TRIBUTE TO MAYOR LOU BONE OF TUSTIN, CA

HON. JOHN CAMPBELL

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 4, 2007

Mr. CAMPBELL of California. Madam Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Mr. Lou Bone, Mayor of the City of Tustin, California. Mayor Bone is one of Orange County's most dedicated, distinguished, and honorable citizens. He has had the honor to serve as Mayor of the great city of Tustin twice during his public service career, first in 2005, and now in 2007.

Lou Bone is a second generation Californian, who has lived in Tustin with his wife, Carol, since 1969. He has 40 years of business management experience as a corporate president, and small business owner. He brought his knowledge from the private sector to serve the city of Tustin in 2000.

Madam Speaker, Mayor Bone is an American Citizen with a passion for service. He has a long history of community service, including service as President of Tustin Chamber of

Commerce, Chairman of the Tustin Planning Commission, and Chairman and founding member of Tustin Pride, a community based organization dedicated to making the City of Tustin more attractive.

For his service in the Tustin community as a public servant and businessman, Lou has received several notable awards which include being named Tustin Man of the Year, the California Chamber of Commerce's Small Business Advocate of the Year, and the California Secretary of State's Ingenuity in Business Award.

I know Mr. Bone's family is extremely proud of his accomplishments, as am I. He has worked tirelessly to improve his community and his efforts should be emulated by future public servants in Tustin.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to honor Mayor Lou Bone today as an outstanding American citizen and public servant.

A PROCLAMATION HONORING JOSH MILLER FOR WINNING THE DIVISION III STATE GOLF TOURNAMENT

HON. ZACHARY T. SPACE

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 4, 2007

Mr. SPACE. Madam Speaker:

Whereas, Josh Miller showed hard work and dedication to the sport of golf; and

Whereas, Josh Miller was a supportive team player; and

Whereas, Josh Miller always displayed sportsmanship on and off of the green; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, that along with his friends, family, and the residents of the 18th Congressional District, I congratulate Josh Miller on winning the Division III State Golf Tournament. We recognize the tremendous hard work and sportsmanship he has demonstrated during the 2007 golf season.

A TRIBUTE TO MR. DECOSTA HEADLEY

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 4, 2007

Mr. TOWNS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Mr. DeCosta Headley. Mr. Headley has served the Brooklyn community as an advocate for social service programs and making a progressive change in our district.

Mr. Headley graduated from Shaw University in Raleigh, North Carolina, with a B.A. in Behavioral Science. He resides in East New York with his wife and two daughters.

Mr. Headley's philanthropic activities are well known throughout the East New York/Brownsville communities. He has served on various local community planning boards; and was the founder of the community's first local development corporation, resulting in over 3,000 new jobs. Mr. Headley was also the founder of the Federation of Block Associations for East New York. He spent several years as a social worker, and in the late 1970s became the executive director of numerous group homes for at-risk youth within the East New York/Brownsville communities. Among Mr. Headley's notable achievements is the Federation of Addiction Agencies, which was established to provide a drug-free treatment program in East New York and Brownsville.

As a successful entrepreneur, Mr. Headley is President of Diversified Inch By Inch, Inc., one of the city's top African-American general contracting firms. Always in the forefront of serving his community, Mr. Headley's company has built local medical and dental facilities for Oxford Health Plans, Brookdale Hospital & Medical Center, and Interfaith Medical Center. Mr. Headley has enhanced his entrepreneurial spirit by aiding local churches within the five boroughs acquire land for the use of building senior citizen housing and youth centers.

For over 16 years, DeCosta Headley served as District Leader for the 40th Assembly District in the East New York section of Kings County. Throughout his career, Mr. Headley has dedicated himself to enhancing the quality of life for his constituents. Those efforts have resulted in college scholarships, employment opportunities, affordable housing, and increased public services. Now retired from the position, he continues to play an active role in the political landscape of Brooklyn, by successfully operating the campaigns of candidates seeking seats on the city, state, and federal levels of government within and outside the state of New York. Mr. Headley's efforts have led him to receive several community awards including: The Martin Luther King, Jr. Foundation Award and the Mayor's Award for Community Service.

Madam Speaker, I would once again like to recognize the impressive achievements and contributions that Mr. DeCosta Headley has made to the Brooklyn Community. The dedication that Mr. Headley has displayed throughout his career continues to constructively develop our district.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to this remarkable man and the great things that he stands for.

RESTORE ACT OF 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 15, 2007

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, on November 15th, 2007, I missed a vote on final passage of the Responsible Electronic Surveillance That is Overseen, Reviewed, and Effective (RESTORE) Act of 2007. I would have voted YEA.

Effectively defending Americans from the threat of terrorist attacks, while safeguarding cherished and essential civil liberties and privacy protections, requires the Federal government to periodically reassess how intelligence information is collected. Congress has a duty to ensure that intelligence is collected expeditiously and can be analyzed efficiently, but within bounds long-established through constitutional jurisprudence.

The RESTORE Act carefully prescribes what types of communications, when reasonably believed to contain information relating to a terrorist investigation, would require Fourth Amendment warrant protections. Specifically, the bill would require court-ordered search warrants when the identity and whereabouts of one subject is, or could reasonably be, an American citizen. This provision would provide discrete guidance for intelligence officers and prevent warrantless surveillance of Americans.

Intelligence investigations into terrorist activities are fast-paced and often rely on the use of modern telecommunications technology. The RESTORE Act acknowledges that such intelligence gathering is unique, and facilitates such investigations while ensuring they meet crucial constitutional standards. It also checks potential abuses of power by ensuring that a court, and not an executive branch political appointee, decides whether the communications of an American citizen are to be intercepted. By doing so it gives our citizens the best protection we can provide them: review of the executive branch's actions by a court.

I had serious concerns about the PROTECT America Act, but I voted for it earlier this year because of the urgent needs presented by the intelligence community and the temporary nature of the bill's authority. The RESTORE Act is a vast improvement from the PROTECT America Act, as it provides necessary constitutional protections to American citizens and practical guidance for intelligence officers.

This bill properly responds to the evolving terrorist threat and respects constitutional jurisprudence. It should be accepted by the Administration.

A PROCLAMATION HONORING AUSTIN YODER FOR WINNING THE DIVISION III STATE GOLF TOURNAMENT

HON. ZACHARY T. SPACE

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 4, 2007

Mr. SPACE. Madam Speaker:

Whereas, Austin Yoder showed hard work and dedication to the sport of golf; and

Whereas, Austin Yoder was a supportive team player; and

Whereas, Austin Yoder always displayed sportsmanship on and off of the green; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, that along with his friends, family, and the residents of the 18th Congressional District, I congratulate Austin Yoder on winning the Division III State Golf Tournament. We recognize the tremendous hard work and sportsmanship he has demonstrated during the 2007 golf season.

A TRIBUTE TO ELIJAH T. GREEN

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 4, 2007

Mr. TOWNS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Elijah T. Green of Bushwick, New York.

Mr. Green is currently enrolled in high school at Eastern Brooklyn Congregation for

Public Service in Bushwick, New York. He previously attended PS 297, Abraham Stockton School, and IS 33, Mark Hopkins Intermediate School, located in Bedford Stuyvesant.

Mr. Green was born February 15, 1991 and 7 short years ago joined and was baptized, in June of 2000, at New Canaan Baptist Church. Since joining New Canaan Mr. Green has been actively involved with five ministries; the RJL Youth Choir, the Junior Male Chorus, the Usher Board, the Pulpit Nurses, and the anniversary Committee.

Mr. Green credits Rev. Richard J. Lawson, who has taught him the meaning of respect, leadership, devotion, pride, and most of all how to be a young man of God. Mr. Green believes that a man's steps are ordered by God.

Madam Speaker, I would like to recognize Mr. Green for his contribution to his church and community.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to this wonderful young man.

TRIBUTE TO MICHAEL NYE

HON. HOWARD L. BERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 4, 2007

Mr. BERMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to my good friend Michael Nye on the occasion on his retirement from California Federation of Teachers (CFT). For the past 12 years Michael has served as CFT's Secretary-Treasurer—handling all the financial matters, promoting its growth, implementing agency fees, working with independent unions gathering their support and representing CFT at political, labor and community events. Michael is a well-respected and admired man of integrity, honesty and dedication. I have had the pleasure of working with Michael for many years and know firsthand of his outstanding accomplishments and tireless dedication on behalf of teachers and organized labor.

Born in Chicago, Michael first learned about the labor movement from his relatives who were involved in the teachers and the musicians unions. He moved with his family to California, where he studied political science, history and philosophy at San Diego State University. While attending the University, he worked as an instructional aide in the San Diego Unified School District. He continued his studies at Fresno State, earning a secondary Teaching Credential in American Government. There he received a grant from the Model United Nations of the Far West to be the Registrar of the International Court of Justice. Michael taught at Lincoln High School in the San Jose United School District while studying to complete his Masters degree in political science at the Cal State University at Hayward.

Michael also taught Labor Studies at numerous Bay Area Community Colleges including San Jose City College, West Valley College, San Francisco City College and Merritt College in Oakland. And he taught Labor Studies and Political Science at San Francisco State University.

Michael's personal experience in the labor movement began at the early age of 24 when he was elected Vice President of the San Jose Federation of Teachers, AFT Local 957. Shortly thereafter he became its President. Two years later, he served as Vice President of CFT and was elected Business Manager of the Central Council of Santa Clara at the young age of 31 years.

Michael left the Bay Area 11 years ago to become the Executive Director of the Western Region of the Jewish Labor Committee in Los Angeles. In 1994, Michael was asked to accept the position of Secretary Treasurer of CFT, completing the circle in the teacher union movement started 25 years earlier. Currently Michael serves as President of the Western Region of the Jewish Labor Committee, and also serves as a board member of the United Labor Bank, a unionized and union owned bank.

I ask my colleagues to join me in saluting Michael Nye for his lifetime of service to students, teachers and the labor movement.

A PROCLAMATION HONORING THE GARAWAY GOLF TEAM FOR WINNING THE DIVISION III STATE GOLF TOURNAMENT

HON. ZACHARY T. SPACE

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 4, 2007

Mr. SPACE. Madam Speaker:

Whereas, the Garaway Golf Team has displayed dedication to the sport of golf; and

Whereas, the Garaway Golf Team have been supportive of their teammates; and

Whereas, the Garaway Golf Team has broadened their abilities and skills in the sport of golf; and

Whereas, the Garaway Golf Team always displayed sportsmanship on and off of the greens; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, that along with his friends, family, and the residents of the 18th Congressional District, I congratulate the Garaway Golf Team on winning the Division III State Golf Tournament. We recognize the tremendous hard work they have demonstrated during the 2007 golf season.

A TRIBUTE TO YVONNE GRAHAM

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 4, 2007

Mr. TOWNS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute and to honor our Brooklyn Deputy Borough President Yvonne J. Graham. Yvonne was born and raised in Jamaica, West Indies. She moved to New York in 1979. Yvonne has a Bachelor's Degree in Health Administration and Community Health from St. Joseph's College and a Master's Degree in Public Health from Hunter College. She also completed the Executive Program in Business Administration at Columbia University School of Business and more recently, an Honorary Doctorate of Law Degree that was conferred on her by her alma mater St. Joseph's College. Yvonne, also a registered nurse, has worked in the emergency room of Brookdale Hospital.

Yvonne has been a pioneer and a champion in the area of public health for more than 20 years. Before accepting her post as Brooklyn's Deputy Borough President, Yvonne founded and was Executive Director of the Caribbean Women's Health Association which provides comprehensive, culturally-sensitive health care, immigration, and social support services to diverse communities. Her vision was critical to the 2005 founding of Brooklyn's first Center on Health Disparities which is working to reduce cardiovascular disease, HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, infant mortality, asthma, and diabetes among minority communities. The center is an innovative partnership with the Borough President's Office, SUNY Downstate Medical Center and the Arthur Ashe Institute for Urban Health.

Yvonne has led the effort to increase the number of women in leadership positions in government, business, and industry by spearheading the Women's Leadership Initiative. This is a partnership between academic institutions, government agencies, community-based organizations, and the private sector that brings women together for dialogue and networking.

Yvonne was instrumental in the co-naming of Flatbush's Nostrand Avenue in honor of Haitian revolutionary hero Toussaint L'Ouverture. She served on the Mayor's Committee on Immigration; the New York City HIV Planning Council; and the Mayor's Commission on the Status of Women.

Yvonne has been the recipient of numerous awards and honors for her achievements in community service, including YWCA's Women of Distinction Award; National Association of Black Social Workers' Public Citizen of the Year Award; the Marcus Garvey Medal of Honor; and the Frederick Douglass Medal of Honor just to name a few.

Madam Speaker, I would like to recognize Brooklyn Deputy Borough President Yvonne Graham for her many accomplishments and all of her efforts to ensure that our most vulnerable citizens have access to healthcare.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to Yvonne J. Graham.

A TRIBUTE TO MR. BILLY C. HINES, PROFESSOR—ELIZABETH CITY STATE UNIVERSITY

HON. G.K. BUTTERFIELD

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 4, 2007

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. Madam Speaker, I rise today and ask my Colleagues in the United States House of Representatives to join me in paying tribute to Professor Billy C. Hines, one of Elizabeth City State University's most accomplished Professors.

Madam Speaker, Mr. Hines is now in his 33rd year as Professor of Voice, Director of Choral Activities and Artist-In-Residence at Elizabeth City State University. He holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Music Education from Stillman College and a Masters of Arts and Masters of Education degree in Music and Music Education from Teacher's College at Columbia University. Further, he holds a Certificate in Managing the Arts from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

Professor Hines has propelled the Elizabeth City State University Choir to a world renowned status. The University Choir, acclaimed as an ''incredible group of voices,''

performs annually on tour throughout the United States, Europe and Africa and on campus. In May, 2005 Professor Hines arranged for the choir to travel to Nigeria, West Africa for a 15-day tour of seven cities. Its eclectic musical taste and resplendent audience appeal thrilled the standing-room only audiences everywhere they performed.

Madam Speaker, also in 2005, I am proud to announce that the University Choir was featured at the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation's Annual Legislative Conference Gospel Extravaganza under the inspiring directorship of Professor Hines. The performance was amazingly captivating.

In 1985, Professor Hines took advantage of an opportunity for his Choir to tour the Grand Bahamas Islands. Enthusiastic audiences received them everywhere they sang. In 1980, Governor James B. Hunt invited the University Choir to perform for his historic second consecutive inauguration as Governor of North Carolina.

Madam Speaker, although Professor Hines is a native of Alabama, North Carolina has adopted him as their own. He is an accomplished baritone soloist, a skilled adjudicator, clinician, and conductor. In past years he has conducted the Wayne County North Carolina School Spring Music Festival, the Junior High Honors Chorus as well as the Senior High Women's Chorus at the Summer Music Camp of the University of Wisconsin. Professor Hines has left lasting impressions with his outstanding performances with the North Carolina Junior High All-State Chorus, and with his contribution to the Edgecombe County Choral Festival.

Locally, Professor Hines has directed the Evelyn A. Johnson Community Singers for the past 25 years. The Singers are especially known for their annual rendering of Handel's Messiah, a free performance held for the public at various sites. For over 10 years Professor Hines has been invited to conduct a week-long workshop and concert of the Interstate Church Musicians and Choir Guild. Over 80 church musicians from throughout the Roanoke-Chowan area participate each year.

Madam Speaker, Professor Hines' accomplishments are limitless and I value this rare opportunity to share this abbreviated account with my Colleagues. On behalf of my Colleagues and the great state of North Carolina, I wish Professor Hines God's blessings as he continues to share his extraordinary talents with our great Nation.

A TRIBUTE TO POLICE OFFICER ANTHONY SAUNDERS

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 4, 2007

Mr. TOWNS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Officer Anthony Saunders of the 79th Precinct. Officer Saunders was born in Bedford Stuyvesant, Brooklyn and is the second of 4 children. Officer Saunders has been married for 13 years to his wife Michelle, and from that union they have 3 beautiful children.

Officer Saunders was appointed to the New York City Police Department on July 5, 1989. He was assigned to the field training unit in South East Queens where he performed foot patrol duties within the confines of the 100th, 101st, 105th, 106th, and 113th Precincts. In October of 1991, he was transferred to the 45th Precinct in the Bronx where he served as a patrolman on the midnight shift for approximately 2 years with "above standards" evaluations. In 1993, Officer Saunders was transferred back home to the 79th Precinct where he has performed numerous duties to include the Conditions Unit, the Grand Larceny Auto Unit, the Domestic Violence Unit, and the Street Narcotics and Anti-Crime Units.

After 12 years on patrol in the heart of Bedford Stuyvesant, Officer Saunders was assigned to the Community Affairs Unit and for the past 3 years his experience and expertise has resulted in improving community relations by helping to encourage and foster a strong partnership between the community and the 79th Precinct. Officer Saunders collaborates with local officials; community-based organizations, schools, and houses of worship in Bedford Stuyvesant. He plays an active role in organizing parades, demonstrations, rallies, and various community events.

Madam Speaker, I would also like to recognize that Officer Saunders has been instrumental in closing the gap between the community and the New York City Police Department.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to this outstanding officer of the New York City Police Department.

A TRIBUTE TO AARON S. BELL

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 4, 2007

Mr. TOWNS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Mr. Aaron S. Bell, a recent high-school graduate, and role model. He graduated from Springfield Gardens High School in Springfield Gardens, Queens, New York in 2006, with honors. He was on the Principal's Honor Roll for 4 consecutive years. He was also selected for the Principal's Leadership Program. Mr. Bell served as a Peer-Regents Tutor. He was a 2-year 3rd Grade Teacher for a day, under the Junior Achievement Program, and was a major contributor to the formation of the SAT Prep and Peer Math Clubs. He considers his greatest high school achievement was graduating with a "Regents-Advanced Diploma."

Mr. Bell was born on December 22, 1988 at Long Island Hospital College in Brooklyn, New York, to proud parents, Steven and Robin Bell. He is their third child, and the sibling of Steven L. Bell Jr., and Shakima M. Bell.

As of December 22nd, Mr. Bell will hit the 19-year mark, as a member of the New Canaan Baptist Church. He has served on the Junior Usher Board/Usher Board #2, and as a student of the Christian Education Ministry. He has also been a faithful member of the Sunbeam, Junior Male Chorus, RJL Youth choirs, and the Youth Praise Team.

Mr. Bell has participated in and remains active as a member of the All Starts Project, Inc. He began as a student in the Development School for Youth sector, a corporate business training program, which provides corporate hands-on-training by business executives and professionals.

After graduating in the Fall of 2005, from the Development School for Youth, Mr. Bell became an active volunteer and participant in many corporate-sponsored luncheons, galas and conferences, as a host to some of New York's Top Corporation executives, such as Ernst & Young, Credit Suisse, Merrill Lynch, Winston & Strawn LLP, Latham & Watkins LLP, and many others. Currently, he is a new staff member of the Productions Team for the All Stars Project, Inc.'s Talent Show Network.

Madam Speaker, I would like to recognize Aaron S. Bell for his achievement as a young scholar, and dedicated community youth leader.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to this very industrious individual.

A TRIBUTE TO DR. W. RUTH WHITNEY

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 4, 2007

Mr. TOWNS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the very distinguished, Dr. W. Ruth Whitney. Dr. Whitney is married to the Reverend Dr. Curtis L. Whitney, and is the First Lady of the Mt. Sinai Baptist Church in Brooklyn, New York. She is also a proud mother and grandmother.

Dr. Whitney received her Bachelor of Science Degree from the New York State University at Old Westbury. She earned her Masters Degree in Social Work from Adelphi University, located in Garden City, Long Island.

Dr. Whitney is an active community servant in the borough of Brooklyn, where she resides. Dr. Whitney's outstanding leadership propelled her to the forefront of movements that promote positive change and development to enhance the quality of life in many diverse communities throughout the Nation. New York Newsday named her "Outstanding Personality of the Week" in 1992. She received the "Woman of Distinction Award", presented to her by New York State Senator Velmanette Montgomery in 2001. She establishes programs for Christian education and Christian leadership throughout the Nation.

Dr. Whitney is the Assistant Dean of the Interdenominational Ministers' Wives & Ministers' Widows; Vice-President (Kings County), Ministers' Wives and Ministers' Widows Fellowship of Eastern Baptist Association; First-Vice President, New York State Interdenominational Ministers' Wives & Ministers' Widows; Vice President, Empire State Convention Ministers' Wives & Ministers' Widows; Member of the National Black Alcoholism Council, Inc.; Member of Lefferts Gardens Civic Association of Brooklyn, NY, Inc; and Co-Instructor for class: "Marriage & Family for Couples", at the National Baptist Congress of Christian Education. Dr. Whitney is also Dean, Empire Baptist State Convention Ministers' Wives & Ministers' Widows; President, Eastern Baptist Association of Ministers' Wives & Widows, Fellowship of New York; President, Baptist Ministers' Wives & Ministers' Widows of Greater New York & Vicinity; Assistant Secretary, Empire State Convention Ministers' Wives & Ministers' Widows; Founder, New Members Ministry, Mt. Sinai Baptist Church, Brooklyn, NY;

and Advisory Council Member, New York Organ Donor Network—Saving lives through organ and tissue donation.

Madam Speaker, I would like to recognize the impressive achievements of Dr. Whitney for her contribution to the betterment of communities throughout Brooklyn, New York.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to the very distinguished Dr. W. Ruth Whitney.

TRIBUTE TO CUB SCOUT PACK 203

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 4, 2007

Mr. LATHAM. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Cub Scout Pack 203 of Clear Lake and Ventura in North Central Iowa on their 50th Anniversary.

Chartered in December of 1955, Cub Scout Pack 203 provides teaching, service and leadership opportunities to approximately 50 boys in first through fifth grades. Aided by the participation of their families and adult leaders, each member practices Cub Scouting's Twelve Core Values that include citizenship, compassion, cooperation, courage, faith, health and fitness, honesty, perseverance, positive attitude, resourcefulness, respect and responsibility. Pack 203 participates in many service activities such as Earth Day events, collecting uniforms and supplies for stricken Gulf Coast scout units, and sending care packages to our military overseas.

The mission of the Boy Scouts of America is ''to prepare young people to make ethical and moral choices over their lifetimes by instilling in them the values of the Scout Oath and Law.'' For 50 years Pack 203 has instilled these respected values in young men, preparing them to be productive and honorable citizens in their communities.

I congratulate Cub Scout Pack 203 of Clear Lake and Ventura, Iowa, on this historic anniversary. It is an honor to represent each member of this remarkable Pack in Congress, and I wish them continued success.

TRIBUTE TO REV. DR. SAMMIE DAVIS

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 4, 2007

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a remarkable gentleman, Reverend Dr. Sammie Davis in the celebration of his 80th birthday on November 27, 2007.

A pastor for over 52 years and the only preacher at Fellowship Baptist Church for 44 years, Reverend Davis is a true pillar of the Dallas community.

A graduate of Dallas Independent School District, Reverend Davis continued to pursue his educational goals, attending Bishop College, Southern Methodist University, UCLA and earning a doctorate from the University of Asawan in Egypt.

Extending his love of family beyond his own fifteen children, Reverend Davis has worked tirelessly to improve the lives of children and youth in his community. Whether shelter, food or simple guidance was needed, Reverend Davis could always be counted on to extend a helping hand. As Founder and Executive Director of Fellowship War on Drugs Program in Dallas, he also fought to redirect the lives of those affected by drug abuse in southern Dallas.

Madam Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in honoring Reverend Sammie Davis on reaching the milestone year of 80, and I wish him many future years of happiness and enjoyment in his personal and professional endeavors.

FAIR TAXES FOR SENIORS!

HON. BOB FILNER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 4, 2007

Mr. FILNER. Madam Speaker, I would like to call to your attention H.R. 4254, the Fair Taxes for Seniors Act, a bill I have just introduced that would provide financial relief to our Nation's senior citizens.

The Fair Taxes for Seniors Act would provide a one-time increase in the capital gains tax exemption on the sale of a home for citizens who are 50 or older. While home prices have decreased from their all-time high, the tax burden is still there for senior citizens who have lived in their home for many years. Passing this bill would give many seniors the additional money they need for nursing home care, medical costs, and other retirement expenses.

The current capital gains tax exemption works well for younger people who often move from job to job, selling their homes. The current exemption works well for people who live in areas where housing prices are below average. But it is not working for individuals who have lived in one home for 20 to 50 years and have a capital gain that is much larger than the present exemption. In other words, it is not working for seniors who live in areas with higher housing prices who end up paying thousands in capital gains taxes.

My bill would provide a one-time increase to $500,000 for a single person and $1 million for a couple in the amount that can be excluded from the sale of a principal residence for taxpayers who have reached the age of 50. Let us help our citizens over age 50 who have lived in one home for many years and who need the proceeds from the sale of their home for retirement and health care costs. An added benefit is that family members and perhaps the government will be relieved of the burden of caring for these individuals as they grow older.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

WORLD AIDS DAY

HON. STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 4, 2007

Mrs. JONES of Ohio. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 19th Anniversary of World AIDS Day.

This past Friday, December 1, was World AIDS Day, a day where we pause to once again focus our attention on this deadly disease that has proved to be so devastating to so many throughout the world. Since the first diagnosis in 1981, approximately 65 million people have been infected with the HIV virus, while more than 25 million people have died of AIDS worldwide. In 2007 alone, The United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) estimated that AIDS had killed 2.1 million people while 33.2 million people were living with HIV worldwide and of whom 2.5 million people were newly infected.

An estimated one million people are currently living with HIV in the United States, with approximately 40,000 new infections occurring each year—70 percent of these new infections occur in men and 30 percent occur in women. African Americans make up only 13 percent of the population, yet now account for 54 percent of all AIDS cases in the United States. Additionally, 64 percent of the new infections in women occur in African American women.

In order to combat this problem we must begin to educate people across this country about avoiding risky behavior and the importance of protecting yourself when engaging in sexual intercourse, but first you must know your status.

We must pay particular attention to the education of our young people with regard to the HIV/AIDS epidemic. Since the introduction of abstinence-only education 10 years ago, sexually transmitted disease rates are up. I would like to applaud the Governor of my home State of Ohio, Ted Strickland's efforts to implement a comprehensive sex education program in our schools that focuses on both abstinence and contraception. It is my hope that this is something that is implemented on a national level.

Last year I issued a challenge to all Americans, and specifically African American women who are the fastest growing segment of the population to be infected by HIV/AIDS, to get tested and know their status. Today I reissue that challenge, and I will keep pressing this issue until we are able to find a cure and bring an end to this disease.

COMMEMORATING THE 200TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 4, 2007

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate two centuries of service by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), for NOAA's continued efforts to improve our understanding of the environment and for its dedicated stewardship of the Nation's coast, waterways and wildlife.

Originally founded in 1807 to survey the early American coast, the predecessor of today's NOAA marked the creation of the Nation's first science agency. From its humble beginnings, NOAA's contribution to American history evolved to reflect the needs and expectations of a growing Nation. Even a brief selection from the catalogue of NOAA's contribution to the American experience offers an illustration of the impressive contribution NOAA and its predecessor agencies have made to American history over the years.

In 1911, after decades of offshore, open water sealing by other nations decimated the herd, the North Pacific Fur Seal Treaty was signed—the first international treaty for wildlife conservation. The agreement gave NOAA's predecessor responsibility for protecting wildlife along the American coast and was the forerunner and inspiration for laws such as the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972.

After World War II, what would become NOAA joined the U.S. in another great leap forward when the technological, geographic, and social landscape of NOAA's two legacy agencies—the Survey of the Coast and the Weather Bureau—were merged and their resources combined to usher in a new era of weather observations from space with the launch of the first meteorological satellite.

And, NOAA grew yet again in response to the Exxon *Valdez* Oil Spill in 1989. The spill led to the passage of the Oil Pollution Control Act of 1990 which strengthened and enhanced NOAA's capacity to respond to and help reduce impacts from hazardous material spills.

For 200 years, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and its predecessor agencies have served this great Nation by providing research to improve our understanding of the oceans and the atmosphere and has faithfully fulfilled its mandate as a steward of the environment. I am happy to add my voice to those of my colleagues as we honor today this important American institution.

TRIBUTE TO DUANE HAHN

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 4, 2007

Mr. LATHAM. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Duane Hahn of Eldora, Iowa, on being named a runner-up in the 2007 Excellence in Education Award, given by the Iowa State Education Association.

The Excellence in Education Award is a special recognition that was created as a way to honor many of the excellent teachers across Iowa that go the extra mile to make a difference in students' lives. Duane was nominated for this honor by several of his students and colleagues.

For the past 40 years Duane has given his time and talents to the Eldora school district, reaching out to touch the lives of many students. During his time at South Hardin High School he has instructed students in chemistry, physics, and physical science, serving as a personal motivator that inspires students to excel in the classroom and beyond. He has helped many a student through a difficult time by saying, ''I promise I won't give up on you, if you don't give up on me.'' Often mentoring fellow teachers as well, Duane is truly an outstanding role model that has earned great respect and admiration from all who know him.

I am honored to represent Duane in Congress, and I wish him the very best as he continues to serve as a mentor and role model to the students and teachers of South Hardin High School.

TRIBUTE TO HONOR R.C. HICKMAN

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 4, 2007

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, it is with great sadness that I recognize the life and passing of R.C. Hickman of Oak Cliff, Texas. Mr. Hickman was a very prominent and well-respected photographer not only in the State of Texas, but also throughout the entire nation. As his family mourns their loss, I would like to pay tribute to the life and accomplishments of R.C. Hickman before this body of Congress and this nation.

Born in Mineola, Texas and raised in the Dallas, Hickman's exemplary photography career started during the World War II. After the war's end, he continued his professional career as a photographer at the Dallas Star Post and freelance photographer for Jet magazine.

His dreams led him to capture the likenesses of entertainers such as Sammy Davis Jr., activists Thurgood Marshall and Dr. King, and countless others whose work for civil rights. His professionalism and keen eye ignited his passion for recognizable images. Several of his photos are now housed at the Center for American History at the University of Texas at Austin. Mr. Hickman later compiled many of his pictures in the book Behold the People: R.C. Hickman's Photographs of Black Dallas, 1949–1961.

Madam Speaker, it is in earnest respect that I recognize the memory of Mr. R.C. Hickman before this body of Congress and this nation for the irreplaceable contributions he made to the community of Dallas and the State of Texas. My sincere condolences go out to his nieces Patricia Tuck, Royetta Tuck Potts of Los Angeles and Nelwyn Vaughn of Mineola. While his loss will be deeply felt, the memory of his kindness and the recollection of his good deeds will transcend into future generations.

SUPPORT PARALYMPICS

HON. BOB FILNER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 4, 2007

Mr. FILNER. Madam Speaker, I would like to call your attention to H.R. 4255, the ''United States Olympic Committee (USOC) Paralympic Program Act of 2007.''

This legislation authorizes the Department of Veterans Affairs to provide grants to the United States Olympic Committee (USOC) to plan, develop, manage, and implement a Paralympic Program for disabled veterans and servicemembers.

Paralympics, sports for the physically disabled, traces its origins to World War II when the paralympic movement began to offer sports as a form of rehabilitation for the injured veterans of that era. Paralympic activity has a proven track record in terms of rehabilitation and improving the quality of life for the physically disabled. Paralympics also improves the mobility, vitality, physical, psychological, and social well-being of disabled veterans while reducing their incidence of secondary medical conditions.

It is particularly important that the thousands of injured military and veterans returning to the United States after service in Iraq and Afghanistan be afforded the chance to participate in such paralympic activities as part of their rehabilitation, both while on active duty and when, as veterans, they return to their home communities.

The United States Olympic Committee is particularly well-suited to plan and institute a Paralympic Program for our military and veterans. In 1998, Congress passed the ''Olympic and Amateur Sports Act Amendments,'' which charged the USOC with the responsibility of encouraging and assisting amateur athletic programs and competitions for athletes with disabilities. Since that time, the USOC has led a resurgence in paralympic sports in the United States.

When our injured servicemembers began returning from Iraq and Afghanistan, the USOC began offering Paralympic Military Sports Camps at its training facilities, including at the USOC training facility in my district in Chula Vista, California. To date, over 1,200 injured veterans have been introduced to paralympic sports as a result of these training camps. The USOC has spent millions of dollars on this military and veteran Paralympics Program and will continue to support these efforts. However, with so many injured military and veterans, much more needs to be done.

The paralympic sports camps of the USOC last for a week at a time. The USOC is also beginning an effort to bring paralympic sports to various locations throughout the country. It is imperative that we expand these efforts so that once our injured military personnel graduate to veteran status, they will be able to participate year round in their own communities in paralympic activities as part of their continuing rehabilitation.

Under this program, the USOC will develop community-based Paralympic Programs that provide services and activities for disabled veterans and servicemembers. These activities will include instruction and competition in paralympic sports, training and technical assistance and other program-specific medical and personal care support activities necessary to create a network of community-based Paralympic Programs easily accessible to our injured veterans.

This legislation also requires the Secretary to conduct an outreach program to inform all disabled veterans about the existence of the Paralympic Program and to encourage their participation. Although non-veterans may participate in these community-based programs, the funds authorized by this legislation can only be used to support activities and services for disabled veterans and servicemembers.

The purpose of this program is to enhance the rehabilitation, readiness, and quality of life of severely injured servicemembers and veterans. There is great urgency to implement this expanded program as quickly as possible in order to motivate, teach, and inspire veterans at all stages of recovery and to return them to a lifestyle full of activity, accomplishment, and enjoyment in their own communities.

I urge my colleagues to support this important piece of legislation. We owe it to those who have given their all for their country.

WORLD AIDS DAY 2007

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 4, 2007

Mr. ENGEL. Madam Speaker, on December 1, 2007, we commemorated World AIDS Day, and reflected both on the lives lost so far and on our continued moral obligation to ensure we provide necessary treatment and research to assist those living with HIV/AIDS.

As a senior member of the Health Subcommittee of the House Energy and Commerce Committee, I have fought hard for increased federal dollars for New York to treat more than 111,000 New Yorkers living with HIV/AIDS today. New York remains the epicenter of the AIDS epidemic in our nation with nearly 18 percent of all HIV/AIDS cases in the United States.

Last year, during the reauthorization of the Ryan White CARE Act, which addresses the unmet primary care and health support needs of low income people living with HIV/AIDS, I led the charge to stave off the Administration's proposal to dramatically shift needed funding away from New York. This year, we were able to achieve record increases in funding nationwide for the Ryan White CARE Act in the Labor-Health and Human Service appropriations bill. Sadly, President Bush vetoed this critical legislation on November 13, 2007.

I have also introduced the bi-partisan Early Treatment for HIV Act with Speaker Pelosi and Representative Ros-Lehtinen, which reforms rules in the Medicaid program which mandates that people be disabled by AIDS before receiving treatment. This rule is inconsistent with national health guidelines for those with HIV, which recommends early and aggressive treatment for those with HIV to keep their illnesses from progressing to AIDS. My bill will allow states to treat low-income individuals with HIV under the Medicaid program. HIV no longer has to be a death sentence with the new medical treatments available today.

Globally, we must also continue to be mindful of the 33 million individuals currently living with HIV/AIDS. Over 5,700 people die each day from AIDS related illnesses and the United States must provide adequate resources to help stop the global scourge of AIDS. As you may know, Tuberculosis is the leading infectious killer among adults with HIV/AIDS, as it preys upon these individuals with weakened immune systems. I am pleased to report that my bill, H.R. 1567, the Stop Tuberculosis Now Act recently passed the House of Representatives overwhelmingly and is currently awaiting action by the U.S. Senate. Worldwide, tuberculosis kills 1.6 million adults and 1.4 million children each year. My bill will go a long way towards providing resources to those with both HIV/AIDS and Tuberculosis.

I am proud that the AIDS Institute has decided to honor me with their "HIV/AIDS Care & Treatment Award for 2007". I am grateful for the award but am equally aware that World AIDS Day must prompt us to examine what progress we have made and reevaluate what additional steps should be taken to combat this deadly epidemic.

Madam Speaker, working together we can address both prevention and early treatment options, and hopefully one day find a cure for AIDS.

IN MEMORY OF SECOND LIEUTENANT STUART LILES

HON. MIKE ROSS

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 4, 2007

Mr. ROSS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Second Lieutenant Stuart Liles of Hot Springs National Park, Arkansas, who died on November 13, 2007, at the age of 26, while serving our country in Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

Second Lieutenant Stuart Liles graduated from Fountain Lake High School before attending the University of Central Arkansas. While in high school and college, his deep sense of unity and teamwork flourished when he joined the ROTC program which was the inspiration for his service in the Army National Guard upon graduation.

Second Lieutenant Liles served our country in the U.S. Military in the National Guard, the Army Reserves, and as an active duty soldier in the U.S. Army. His proud and honorable service will forever be remembered by our nation. He served in the 122d Aviation Support Battalion, 82nd Combat Aviation Brigade, 82nd Airborne Division based at Fort Bragg, North Carolina. His bravery, courage and dedication to the U.S. Army are exemplified by his service and leadership roles within his platoon, where he served as Platoon Leader on active duty.

Second Lieutenant Liles was a dedicated family man who adored his family dearly, and he was also a man of devout faith. As a deeply spiritual man, Liles was often proud to have the opportunity to combine two of his passions—his faith and his love of acting. In the community of Hot Springs, he will always be remembered for his portrayal of Jesus in the outdoor musical passion play, "The Witness."

Second Lieutenant Stuart Liles will be remembered as a hero, a son, a father and a husband. My deepest condolences go out to his wife Aubre Paschal Liles of Little Rock; his daughter Aurora Elisabeth Liles of Little Rock; his mother Kristen Liles Quintanella of Hot Springs; his sister Erin Long of Saint Mary's, Georgia; his brother Sean Liles of Fayetteville; and to his numerous aunts, uncles and cousins. He will be missed by his family, his community, his country and all those who knew him and called him a friend. I honor Second Lieutenant Stuart Liles for his bravery, his patriotism and his service and I will continue to keep his family in my deepest thoughts and prayers.

TRIBUTE TO HENRY HYDE

HON. SUE WILKINS MYRICK

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 4, 2007

Mrs. MYRICK. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor the memory of a great man, and a dedicated member of this body. Henry Hyde was an esteemed colleague, a remarkable orator, and a true statesman. He was uniquely able to graciously disagree with other Members at a fundamental level without disrespect or contempt. In this sense, he was an example to all of us, Republican or Democrat, conservative or liberal. When he spoke on this Floor, he spoke deliberately and intelligently, crafting numerous policy speeches that will endure well into the future.

Henry was a devoted advocate for the unborn, and he never wavered on this point. For that, I am personally grateful. Much has been said on this point, but no one can say it better than Henry himself.

As he stated during a critical debate on this Floor, "One of the great errors of modern politics is our foolish attempt to separate our private consciences from our public acts, and it cannot be done. At the end of the 20th century, is the crowning achievement of our democracy to treat the weak, the powerless, the unwanted, as things? To be disposed of? If so, we have not elevated justice; we have disgraced it".

Henry Hyde was not a perfect man, and like the rest of us, I imagine he was sometimes inclined to become angry and unpleasant when confronted with the frustrating issues that make our days here in Congress so interesting. But I always respected Henry for maintaining an honorable demeanor, even in the midst of emotionally charged disagreements. In the spirit of our country's great orators, he knew that we don't promote a real debate with nastiness and sound bites, but with thoughtful consideration and a deep understanding of the issues at hand.

My heart goes out to his family during this difficult time. Surely they can appreciate the impact that Henry Hyde made on this chamber. I'm honored to have an opportunity to express my gratitude to a man whose public service changed this country for the better.

TRIBUTE ON THE BIRTH OF GRANT EVAN WILSON

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 4, 2007

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, I am happy to congratulate Dave and Rochelle Wilson of Lexington, South Carolina, on the birth of their new baby boy. Grant Evan Wilson was born on October 25, 2007 weighing 7 pounds and 8 ounces. Grant joins seven siblings—Bryce, Carly, Makenna, Caleb, Alyssa, Bennett and Owen. He has been born into a loving home, where he will be raised by parents who are devoted to his well-being and bright future.

Dave and Rochelle are longtime friends, and I am so excited for this new addition to their family. On behalf of my wife Roxanne, and our entire family, we want to wish the Wilson family all the best.

TRIBUTE TO NORWALK, IOWA HIGH SCHOOL VARSITY CHEERLEADERS

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 4, 2007

Mr. LATHAM. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate the Norwalk, Iowa, High School varsity cheerleaders on

placing first in their team's first national competition.

On October 27, 2007, the Norwalk cheerleaders competed against 13 teams and emerged as champions at an official National Cheerleaders Association event at St. Francis High School in St. Louis, Missouri. The Norwalk cheerleading coach, Melissa Priest, and the parents of the 16 members of this cheerleading squad are also to be congratulated for this great accomplishment. They have instilled the importance and value of hard work, dedication, persistence and teamwork in these students, which has helped them to perform with the spirit and camaraderie required of champions.

I commend each of the Norwalk High School cheerleaders and their coach on this great accomplishment in representing their school and community. I consider it an honor to represent these cheerleaders and their coach in Congress, and I wish them continued success in the future.

TRIBUTE TO TRUE PURPOSE MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 4, 2007

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to True Purpose Missionary Baptist Church, located in the 30th district of Texas, that has faithfully served the community for over 50 years.

Founded in 1854 by Reverend Alphonso Lopez, the church originally formed as small prayer groups meeting in the homes of its members. From this humble beginning, True Purpose Missionary Church remodeled and transformed a local tavern into a sanctuary that continues to house the congregation today. From here, they have worked tirelessly to transform the neighborhood and serve the people of the Dallas metroplex.

In particular, two of the first leaders of the church, Pastor A.L. Wilburn and Pastor James D. Parker, deserve a special honor for their service.

Pastor A.L. Wilburn served as the first pastor of True Purpose Missionary Baptist Church until his death in 1985. His leadership during his tenure brought great hope and inspiration to his congregation. A member of the Baptist General Convention, Baptist Ministers Union, Interdenominational Ministers Alliance and the Rising Star District Association, he is best remembered for his kind spirit and love of church, family and friends.

Following in his predecessor's footprints, Pastor James D. Parker served as a beacon of strength and guidance for the church. Internationally recognized as a motivational speaker, he traveled throughout the world sharing his expertise and assisting numerous organizations across the globe. Pastor Parker was a graduate of Southern Methodist University and Dallas Theological Seminary. He served the church faithfully until his death in 1989.

Thanks to the strong leadership of these two men, True Purpose Missionary Baptist Church today continues to provide a nurturing environment for its members and visitors. Madam Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in honoring True Purpose Missionary Baptist Church for their contributions to the Dallas community.

ROBERT CARLSON RESOLUTION

HON. DORIS O. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 4, 2007

Ms. MATSUI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce a House Resolution recognizing commending the accomplishments of an outstanding Californian, Mr. Robert Carlson, upon his pending retirement from the board of administration of the California Public Employees Retirement System more commonly known as CalPERS.

Robert Carlson's distinguished career on the CalPERS board began in 1971 and will end on December 18th of this year after 36 years of devotion to the active and retired CalPERS members and their families.

Madam Speaker, on December 18th, the California Public Employees Retirement System, CalPERS, will honor Bob Carlson at its Sacramento headquarters. The event promises to be one filled with affection as CalPERS honors one of its longest serving and most beloved board of administration members.

Madam Speaker, allow me to briefly cite some of the many accomplishments and contributions of Mr. Carlson during his 36 years on the board of administration. In 1968, just prior to his initial election to the board, Mr. Carlson served as the president of the California State Employees Association, CSEA, and the first CSEA president to be elected to a second term in that position. Mr. Carlson has and continues to be a member of the California State Bar Association since 1952 after receiving his juris doctorate from the University of California, Hastings College of Law, where he was named Hastings Law School Alumnus of the Year in 1997.

During his outstanding career with CalPERS, Mr. Carlson has served 9 terms as the president of the board of administration and 5 years as its vice president. Furthermore, he has served as a member of every CalPERS board committee, where he has been considered one of the board's strongest advocates for retirees.

Madam Speaker, Mr. Carlson also led a successful effort in the California Assembly to gain passage of legislation giving CalPERS the authority to build its headquarters in Sacramento. He has been a strong voice in support of sound corporate governance principles and a champion for transparency, accountability and fulfilling CalPERS fiduciary responsibilities.

Mr. Carlson's hard work and contributions to CalPERS, its members and our State as a whole over the course of his career place him among the most distinguished citizens of our State. It is with a sense of appreciation and respect that I offer this resolution and request this body to consider it and pass it as expeditiously as possible.

Madam Speaker, I thank you and Members of this House for your attention to this important matter.

CONGRATULATING THE F.J. REITZ HIGH SCHOOL PANTHERS 2007 4A FOOTBALL CHAMPIONS

HON. BRAD ELLSWORTH

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 4, 2007

Mr. ELLSWORTH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Coach John Hart and the F.J. Reitz High School Panthers on their 2007 4A Division Indiana State football championship. The title is the first state championship for the Panthers since 1971 and was a fitting conclusion to an outstanding season.

The Panthers defeated the Lowell High School Red Devils in the championship game by a score of 33–14 and capped off an impressive 15–0 season. Their victory is the culmination of years of hard work, dedication and sacrifice. The team and coaching staff have demonstrated outstanding talent and an unwavering commitment to achieving their goals.

The Reitz Panthers are shining examples of the idea that success in life comes to those who are willing to set goals and work hard to achieve them. They are an inspiration to me and everyone in the Evansville community who has followed their progress this season.

Congratulations again to the F.J. Reitz Panthers Football Team for an outstanding season. Go Panthers!

PASSING OF HENRY HYDE

HON. LAMAR SMITH

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 4, 2007

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Madam Speaker, Henry Hyde was a giant in Congress. His articulateness, diplomacy and knowledge was evident to all. He sat on the Judiciary Committee from when he was first elected in 1975 and served 6 years as the Committee's Chairman. It was a privilege to serve with him.

Vivid memories of my years in Congress center on comments Henry Hyde made on and off the floor. He was a person of conviction, but never a partisan for partisan's sake. He was one of those rare individuals that when he spoke on the House floor, was listened to with respect because of his way with words and his sincerity.

We will miss him but he will be in our thoughts and prayers.

MORTGAGE REFORM AND ANTI-PREDATORY LENDING ACT OF 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 15, 2007

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 3915) to amend the Truth in Lending Act to reform consumer mortgage practices and provide accountability for such practices, to establish licensing and registration requirements for residential mortgage originators, to provide

certain minimum standards for consumer mortgage loans, and for other purposes.

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Chairman, the time has come and gone for Congress to act to address the scourge of predatory lending. In the wake of the subprime mortgage crisis that is rocking the economy, an estimated two million Americans will face home foreclosures in the next two and a half years. These problems have caused the housing market to fall into its worst slump in 16 years.

The bill we are considering today, H.R. 3915, the Mortgage Reform and Anti-Predatory Lending Act, takes important steps to ensure that the mortgage industry follows sound principles of consumer protection. Many of the foreclosures we have seen are the result of predatory practices, including ''redlining,'' poorly worded or confusing contracts, the steering of consumers to more expensive loan products, and mandating unfavorable terms that trap consumers into loans they cannot afford.

The bill before us today begins to turn the tide. It includes provisions to ensure that borrowers can repay the loans they are sold and receive clear disclosures about the loans they are offered, and that mortgage bankers and bank loan officers are all licensed or registered. All of these consumer protections will improve the options available to Illinois residents who seek a mortgage from a licensed mortgage lender.

However, while this bill represents a good start, I am concerned about Title II of the bill, which contains a state-law preemption provision that could weaken the value of the protections I've listed. I strongly believe that the laws that the Congress pass should be a floor, not a ceiling; we should not punish a State that may have stronger laws than what the Congress is able to craft. Illinois' licensed mortgage brokers and loan originators meet some of the Nation's highest standards, and it is time for Congress to make sure all mortgage lenders meet standards at least as high—not to punish my home state.

The preemption provision eliminates the ability of a homeowner to raise state-law claims against the securitizer—or actual owner—of the loan. If homeowners cannot sue the owners of the loans, in many cases they will have no remedy available to them at all: in many cases the original issuers of the mortgage have sold the loan, gone bankrupt, or have gone out of business. While the owners of the loans have the assets to provide relief to many victimized consumers, by preempting state law this bill ties the hands of consumers to take action against them.

I am also concerned that this language does little to address the higher rates caused by so-called ''yield spread premiums,'' which might more accurately be referred to as kickbacks. This practice, which allows the broker to charge a more expensive rate to the consumer than the broker paid for the loan and pocket the difference, has encouraged brokers to sell the most costly loans possible. This loophole has no doubt contributed to record numbers of foreclosures we have been seeing, and it should be closed.

The mortgage crisis has been building and we must do everything we can to address its devastating impact, especially felt in states like Illinois, Ohio, and Michigan. I am glad that Chairman FRANK has indicated that he will work to improve the bill, and I look forward to working with him to correct the bill's deficiencies and enact the strongest possible protections for homeowners and tenants who are facing financial calamity.

TRIBUTE TO ANNA L. ORR

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 4, 2007

Mr. LATHAM. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Anna L. Orr on the recent celebration of her 100th birthday on December 1, 2007.

Anna was born on December 1, 1907, in Wright County, Iowa. On July 17, 1927, she married Enos Orr. Anna and Enos had 10 children and have 132 direct descendants. Anna has traveled extensively during her lifetime and currently lives in her own home in Eagle Grove, Iowa. She loves going for walks to the local nursing home to visit with residents, fishing, and working in her garden.

There have been many changes that have occurred during the past one hundred years. Since Anna's birth we have revolutionized air travel and walked on the moon. We have invented the television and the Internet. We have fought in wars overseas, seen the rise and fall of Soviet Communism and the birth of new democracies. Anna has lived through 18 U.S. Presidents and 24 Governors of Iowa and, in her lifetime, the population of the United States has more than tripled.

I know that my colleagues in the United States Congress join me in sending warm wishes to Anna on the milestone of her 100th birthday. I am extremely honored to represent her in Congress, and I wish her happiness and health for many more years to come.

Daily Digest

Senate

Chamber Action

Routine Proceedings, pages S14709–S14748

Measures Introduced: Three bills and one resolution were introduced, as follows: S. 2405–2407, and S. Con. Res. 58. **Page S14741**

Measures Reported:

S. 1382, to amend the Public Health Service Act to provide the establishment of an Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis Registry, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute. **Page S14741**

Measures Passed:

United States-Peru Trade Promotion Agreement Implementation Act: By 77 yeas to 18 nays (Vote No. 413), Senate passed H.R. 3688, to implement the United States-Peru Trade Promotion Agreement, clearing the measure for the President.

Pages S14716–19, S14719–28

Welcoming First Ministers of Northern Ireland: Senate agreed to S. Con. Res. 58, welcoming First Minister Dr. Ian Paisley and Deputy First Minister Martin McGuinness of Northern Ireland to the United States. **Page S14746**

Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation Act: Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation was discharged from further consideration of S. Res. 376, providing the sense of the Senate that the Secretary of Commerce should declare a commercial fishery failure for the groundfish fishery for Massachusetts, Maine, New Hampshire, and Rhode Island and immediately propose regulations to implement section 312(a) of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, and the resolution was then agreed to. **Pages S14746–47**

Temporary District Court Judgeships: Senate passed S. 1327, to create and extend certain temporary district court judgeships. **Page S14747**

Emergency and Disaster Assistance Fraud Penalty Enhancement Act: Senate passed S. 863, to amend title 18, United States Code, with respect to fraud in connection with major disaster or emergency funds. **Pages S14747–48**

Measures Indefinitely Postponed:

Laurence C. and Grace M. Jones Post Office Building: Senate indefinitely postponed S. 2131, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at Highway 49 South in Piney Woods, Mississippi, as the "Laurence C. and Grace M. Jones Post Office Building". **Page S14748**

Dennis P. Collins Post Office Building: Senate indefinitely postponed S. 2107, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 570 Broadway in Bayonne, New Jersey, as the "Dennis P. Collins Post Office Building". **Page S14748**

Wallace S. Hartsfield Post Office Building: Senate indefinitely postponed S. 2150, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 4320 Blue Parkway in Kansas City, Missouri, as the "Wallace S. Hartsfield Post Office Building".

Page S14748

Measures Considered:

Temporary Tax Relief Act: Senate began consideration of the motion to proceed to consideration of H.R. 3996, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend certain expiring provisions.

Pages S14731–33

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 Thursday, December 6, 2007.

Page S14731

A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing for further consideration of the motion to proceed to consideration of the bill at 1 p.m., on Wednesday, December 5, 2007. **Page S14748**

Appointments:

United States Capitol Preservation Commission: The Chair, on behalf of the Republican Leader, pursuant to Public Law 100–696, announced the appointment of Senator Alexander as a member of the United States Capitol Preservation Commission, vice Senator Allard. **Page S14746**

Nominations Received: Senate received the following nominations:

Gregory B. Jaczko, of the District of Columbia, to be a Member of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission for the term of five years expiring June 30, 2013.

Hector E. Morales, of Texas, to be Permanent Representative of the United States of America to the Organization of American States, with the rank of Ambassador.

John J. Sullivan, of Maryland, to be Deputy Secretary of Commerce. **Page S14748**

Messages from the House: **Page S14737**

Executive Communications: **Pages S14737–41**

Petitions and Memorials: **Page S14741**

Executive Reports of Committees: **Page S14741**

Additional Cosponsors: **Pages S14741–42**

Statements on Introduced Bills/Resolutions: **Pages S14742–45**

Additional Statements: **Pages S14736–37**

Notices of Hearings/Meetings: **Page S14745**

Authorities for Committees to Meet: **Pages S14745–46**

Record Votes: One record vote was taken today. (Total—413) **Page S14727**

Adjournment: Senate convened at 10 a.m. and adjourned at 6:29 p.m., until 12 noon on Wednesday, December 5, 2007. (For Senate's program, see the remarks of the Acting Majority Leader in today's Record on page S14748.)

Committee Meetings

(Committees not listed did not meet)

BUSINESS MEETING

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation: Committee ordered favorably reported the following:

S. 2332, to promote transparency in the adoption of new media ownership rules by the Federal Communications Commission, and to establish an independent panel to make recommendations on how to increase the representation of women and minorities in broadcast media ownership, with amendments;

S. 1581, to establish an interagency committee to develop an ocean acidification research and monitoring plan and to establish an ocean acidification program within the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, with amendments;

S. 2307, to amend the Global Change Research Act of 1990, with amendments;

S. 2355, to amend the National Climate Program Act to enhance the ability of the United States to develop and implement climate change adaptation programs and policies, with amendments; and

Promotion lists in the United States Coast Guard and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Commission Corps (NOAA).

CREDIT CARD PRACTICES

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs: Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations concluded a hearing to examine credit card practices, focusing on unfair interest rate increases, after receiving testimony from Roger C. Hochschild, Discover Financial Services, Riverwoods, Illinois; Bruce L. Hammonds, Bank of America, Wilmington, Delaware; Ryan Schneider, Capital One Financial Corporation, McLean, Virginia; Janet Hard, Freeland, Michigan; Bonnie Rushing, Naples, Florida; and Millard Glasshof, Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

NEW MADRID SEISMIC ZONE

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs: Ad Hoc Subcommittee on State, Local, and Private Sector Preparedness and Integration concluded a hearing to examine the earthquake zone within the central Mississippi Valley, extending from northeast Arkansas, through southeast Missouri, western Tennessee, western Kentucky to southern Illinois, known as the Madrid Seismic Zone, after receiving testimony from Glenn M. Cannon, Assistant Administrator, Disaster Operations Directorate, Federal Emergency Management Agency, Department of Homeland Security; John R. Hayes, Jr., National Earthquake Hazards Reduction Program, National Institute of Standards and Technology, Department of Commerce; David Applegate, Senior Science Advisor for Earthquakes and Geological Hazards, United States Geological Survey, Department of the Interior; David Maxwell, Arkansas Department of Emergency Management (ADEM), Conway, on behalf of the Central United States Earthquake Consortium (CUSEC); and Callen Hays, Memphis Light, Gas, and Water, Memphis, Tennessee.

FOOD SAFETY

Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions: Committee concluded a hearing to examine developing a comprehensive response to food safety problems, after receiving testimony from Michael O. Leavitt, Secretary of Health and Human Services; Joseph Corby, New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets, Albany; Paul B. Young, Waters Corporation, Newtownards, Northern Ireland; and Michael R. Taylor, George Washington University School of Public Health and Health Services, Caroline Smith DeWaal, Center for Science in the Public Interest, and Cal Dooley, Grocery Manufacturers Association, all of Washington, D.C.

CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES ELECTRONIC PRESCRIBING

Committee on the Judiciary: Committee concluded a hearing to examine electronic prescribing of controlled substances, addressing health care and law enforcement priorities, after receiving testimony from Joseph T. Rannazzisi, Deputy Assistant Administrator, Office of Diversion Control, Drug Enforcement Administration, Department of Justice; Tony Trenkle, Director, E–Health and Standards Services, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, Department of Health and Human Services; Laura L. Adams, Rhode Island Quality Institute, Swampscott, Massachusetts; Kevin D. Hutchinson, SureScripts, LLC, Alexandria, Virginia; David C. Miller, Compuware Corporation, Detroit, Michigan; and Michael A. Podgurski, Rite Aid Corporation, Camp Hill, Pennsylvania.

House of Representatives

Chamber Action

Public Bills and Resolutions Introduced: 25 public bills, H.R. 4251–4275; 2 private bills, H.R. 4276–4277; and 10 resolutions, H.J. Res. 65; H. Con. Res. 264–265; and H. Res. 836–838, 840–843, were introduced. **Pages H14155–56**

Additional Cosponsors: **Pages H14157–58**

Reports Filed: Reports were filed today as follows:

H.R. 236, to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to create a Bureau of Reclamation partnership with the North Bay Water Reuse Authority and other regional partners to achieve objectives relating to water supply, water quality, and environmental restoration, with an amendment (H. Rept. 110–458);

H.R. 1662, to amend the Reclamation Safety of Dams Act of 1978 to authorize improvements for the security of dams and other facilities, with amendments (H. Rept. 110–459);

H.R. 2085, to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to convey to the McGee Creek Authority certain facilities of the McGee Creek Project, Oklahoma (H. Rept. 110–460);

H.R. 2246, to validate certain conveyances made by the Union Pacific Railroad Company of lands located in Reno, Nevada, that were originally conveyed by the United States to facilitate construction of transcontinental railroads, with amendments (H. Rept. 110–461);

H.R. 3998, to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to conduct special resources studies of certain lands and structures to determine the appropriate means for preservation, use, and management of the resources associated with such lands and structures, with an amendment (H. Rept. 110–462);

H.R. 2930, to amend section 202 of the Housing Act of 1959 to improve the program under such section for supportive housing for the elderly, with an amendment (H. Rept. 110–463);

H.R. 3873, to expedite the transfer of ownership of rural multifamily housing projects with loans made or insured under section 515 of the Housing Act of 1949 so that such projects are rehabilitated and preserved for use for affordable housing (H. Rept. 110–464);

H.R. 4043, to amend the Financial Institutions Reform, Recovery, and Enforcement Act of 1989 to preserve and expand minority depository institutions (H. Rept. 110–465);

H.R. 4050, to require the Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency to issue guidance providing a process for consideration of the flood protections afforded by certain structures for purposes of the national flood insurance program (H. Rept. 110–466);

H.R. 1759, to establish guidelines and incentives for States to establish arsonist registries and to require the Attorney General to establish a national arsonist registry and notification program, with an amendment (H. Rept. 110–467);

H.R. 2489, to amend section 1091 of title 18, United States Code, to allow the prosecution of genocide in appropriate circumstances (H. Rept. 110–468);

H.R. 3079, to amend the Joint Resolution Approving the Covenant to Establish a Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, with an amendment (H. Rept. 110–469, Pt. 1);

H.R. 3690, to provide for the transfer of the Library of Congress police to the United States Capitol Police, with an amendment (H. Rept. 110–470, Pt. 1); and

H.R. 839, waiving a requirement of clause 6(a) of rule XIII with respect to consideration of certain resolutions reported from the Committee on Rules (H. Rept. 110–471). **Page H14155**

Speaker: Read a letter from the Speaker wherein she appointed Representative Holden to act as Speaker pro tempore for today. **Page H14087**

Member Resignation: Read a letter from Representative Hastert, wherein he resigned as Representative for the 14th Congressional District of Illinois, effective 10:59 p.m. CST, November 26, 2007. **Page H14088**

Whole Number of the House: The Speaker announced to the House that, in light of the resignation of the gentleman from Illinois, Mr. Hastert, the whole number of the House is adjusted to 432. **Page H14088**

Suspensions: The House agreed to suspend the rules and pass the following measures:

America's Historical and Natural Legacy Study Act: H.R. 3998, amended, to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to conduct special resources studies of certain lands and structures to determine the appropriate means for preservation, use, and management of the resources associated with such lands and structures, by a ⅔ yea-and-nay vote of 326 yeas to 79 nays, Roll No. 1123; **Pages H14091–95, H14128–29**

Validating certain conveyances made by the Union Pacific Railroad Company of lands located in Reno, Nevada, that were originally conveyed by the United States to facilitate construction of transcontinental railroads: H.R. 2246, amended, to validate certain conveyances made by the Union Pacific Railroad Company of lands located in Reno, Nevada, that were originally conveyed by the United States to facilitate construction of transcontinental railroads; **Page H14095**

Agreed to amend the title so as to read: "To provide for the release of any reversionary interest of the United States in and to certain lands in Reno, Nevada.". **Page H14095**

Amending the Reclamation Safety of Dams Act of 1978 to authorize improvements for the security of dams and other facilities: H.R. 1662, amended, to amend the Reclamation Safety of Dams Act of 1978 to authorize improvements for the security of dams and other facilities; **Pages H14096–97**

Agreed to amend the title so as to read: "To authorize the Secretary of the Interior to seek limited reimbursement for site security activities, and for other purposes.". **Page H14097**

William Wilberforce Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act of 2007: H.R. 3887, amended, to authorize appropriations for fiscal years 2008 through 2011 for the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 and to enhance measures to combat forced labor, by a ⅔ yea-and-nay vote of 405 yeas to 2 nays, Roll No. 1124; **Pages H14098–H14122, H14130**

Agreed to amend the title so as to read: "To authorize appropriations for fiscal years 2008 through 2011 for the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000, to enhance measures to combat trafficking in persons, and for other purposes.". **Page H14130**

Excluding from gross income payments from the Hokie Spirit Memorial Fund to the victims of the tragic event, loss of life and limb, at Virginia Polytechnic Institute & State University: H.R. 4118, amended, to exclude from gross income payments from the Hokie Spirit Memorial Fund to the victims of the tragic event, loss of life and limb, at Virginia Polytechnic Institute & State University; **Pages H14122–24**

Agreed to amend the title so as to read: "To exclude from gross income payments from the Hokie Spirit Memorial Fund to the victims of the tragic event at Virginia Polytechnic Institute & State University.". **Page H14124**

Providing for the concurrence by the House in the Senate amendment to H.R. 710, with amendments: H. Res. 837, to provide for the concurrence by the House in the Senate amendment to H.R. 710, with amendments, by a ⅔ yea-and-nay vote of 407 yeas to 1 nay, Roll No. 1126. **Pages H14124–26, H14131–32**

Recess: The House recessed at 4:14 p.m. and reconvened at 5:33 p.m. **Page H14126**

Intelligence Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2008—Motion to go to Conference: The House disagreed to the Senate amendment and agreed to a conference 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. **Pages H14126–28**

Agreed to the Hoekstra motion to instruct conferees by a recorded vote of 249 ayes to 160 noes, Roll No. 1125. **Pages H14126–28, H14130–31**

Later, the Chair appointed the following Members of the House to the conference committee on the bill: from the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, for consideration of the House bill and the Senate amendment, and modifications committed to conference: Representatives Reyes, Hastings (FL), Boswell, Cramer, Eshoo, Holt, Ruppersberger, Tierney, Thompson (CA), Schakowsky, Langevin, Patrick J. Murphy (PA), Hoekstra, Everett, Gallegly, Wilson (NM), Thornberry, McHugh, Tiahrt, Rogers (MI), and Issa. **Page H14132**

From the Committee on Armed Services, for consideration of defense tactical intelligence and related activities: Representatives Skelton, Spratt, and Hunter. **Page H14132**

Recess: The House recessed at 5:56 p.m. and reconvened at 6:30 p.m. **Page H14128**

Suspensions—Proceedings Postponed: The House debated the following measures under suspension of the rules. Further proceedings were postponed:

Recognizing 200 years of research, service to the people of the United States, and stewardship of the marine environment by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and its predecessor agencies: H. Con. Res. 147, to recognize 200 years of research, service to the people of the United States, and stewardship of the marine environment by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and its predecessor agencies; **Pages H14089–91**

North Bay Water Reuse Program Act of 2007: H.R. 236, amended, to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to create a Bureau of Reclamation partnership with the North Bay Water Reuse Authority and other regional partners to achieve objectives relating to water supply, water quality, and environmental restoration; and **Pages H14095–96**

McGee Creek Project Pipeline and Associated Facilities Conveyance Act: H.R. 2085, to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to convey to the McGee Creek Authority certain facilities of the McGee Creek Project, Oklahoma. **Pages H14097–98**

Moment of Silence: The House observed a moment of silence in honor of Joseph Minish, former Member of Congress. **Page H14129**

Moment of Silence: The House observed a moment of silence in honor of Henry Hyde, former Member of Congress. **Pages H14129–30**

Senate Messages: Message received from the Senate by the Clerk and subsequently presented to the House today and a message received from the Senate today appear on pages H14089 and H14122.

Senate Referrals: S. 1679 and S. 2290 were held at the desk; S. 2168 was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary; S. 2110, S. 2174, and S. 2272 were referred to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform; S. Con. Res. 55 was referred to the Committee on Armed Services; and S. Con. Res. 56 was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs. **Page H14151**

Quorum Calls—Votes: Three yea-and-nay votes and one recorded vote developed during the proceedings of today and appear on pages H14128–29, H14130, H14130–31, and 14131–32. There were no quorum calls.

Adjournment: The House met at 2 p.m. and adjourned at 10:24 p.m.

Committee Meetings

HEALTH MEASURES

Committee on Energy and Commerce: Subcommittee on Health held a hearing on the following bills: H.R. 1343, Health Centers Renewal Act of 2007; H.R. 2915, National Health Service Corps Scholarship and Loan Replacement Programs Reauthorization Act of 2007; and H.R. 4230, School-Based Health Clinic Act of 2007. Testimony was heard from Dennis P. Williams, Deputy Administrator, Health Resources and Services Administration, Department of Health and Human Services; and public witnesses.

SAME-DAY CONSIDERATION OF CERTAIN RESOLUTIONS REPORTED BY THE RULES COMMITTEE

Committee on Rules: Granted, by a vote of 8 to 2, a rule waiving clause 6(a) of rule XIII (requiring a two-thirds vote to consider a rule on the same day it is reported from the Rules Committee) against certain resolutions reported from the Rules Committee. The rule applies the waiver to any resolutions reported on the legislative day of Wednesday, December 5, 2007, providing for consideration of the Senate amendments to the bill (H.R. 6) to reduce our Nation's dependency on foreign oil by investing in clean, renewable, and alternative energy resources, promoting new emerging energy technologies, developing greater efficiency, and creating a Strategic Energy Efficiency and Renewables Reserve to invest in alternative energy, and for other purposes.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 5, 2007

(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

Senate

Committee on Environment and Public Works: business meeting to consider S. 2191, to direct the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency to establish a program to decrease emissions of greenhouse gases, and the nominations of John S. Bresland, of New Jersey, to be Chairperson, and Charles Russell Horner Shearer, of Delaware, both to be Members of the Chemical Safety and Hazard Investigation Board, William H. Graves, of Tennessee, Susan Richardson Williams, of Tennessee, and Thomas C. Gilliland, of Georgia, all to be Members of the Board of Directors of the Tennessee Valley Authority, 9 a.m., SD–406.

Committee on the Judiciary: to hold hearings to examine reauthorization of the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency

Prevention Act (Public Law 93–415), focusing on protecting children and communities, 10 a.m., SD–226.

Full Committee, to hold hearings to examine the foreclosure crisis, focusing on helping families save their homes, 2:30 p.m., SD–226.

Committee on Veterans' Affairs: to hold hearings to examine the nomination of James B. Peake, of the District of Columbia, to be Secretary of Veterans Affairs, 9:30 a.m., SD–G50.

Select Committee on Intelligence: closed meeting of conferees on proposed legislation authorizing funds for fiscal year 2008 for the intelligence community, 3 p.m., S–407, Capitol.

Special Committee on Aging: to hold hearings to examine the elderly who have been displaced by war, poverty, and persecution abroad, 10:30 a.m., SD–106.

House

Committee on Armed Services, Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations, hearing on Provincial Reconstruction Teams—Historical and Current Perspectives on Doctrine and Strategy, 2 p.m., 2212 Rayburn.

Committee on the Budget, hearing on the State of the U.S. Economy and Implications for the Federal Budget, 10 a.m., 210 Cannon.

Committee on Education and Labor, to mark up a resolution to add a Rule 24 to the Rules of the Committee on Education and Labor to Provide a Process for Taking Depositions, 12 p.m., 2175 Rayburn.

Committee on Energy and Commerce, Subcommittee on Telecommunications and the Internet, hearing entitled ''Oversight of the Federal Communications Commission: Media Ownership,'' 9:30 a.m., 2322 Rayburn.

Committee on Financial Services, Subcommittee on Housing and Community Opportunity, hearing entitled ''Affordable Housing Needs of America's Low Income Veterans,'' 10 a.m., 2128 Rayburn.

Committee on Foreign Affairs, hearing on After Annapolis: Next Steps in the Middle East Peace Process, 2:30 p.m., 2128 Rayburn.

Committee on Natural Resources, Subcommittee on Fisheries, Wildlife and Oceans, oversight hearing entitled ''Rebuilding Overfished Fisheries Under the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Management Act,'' 11 a.m., 1334 Longworth.

Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, hearing on Executive Pay and the Role of Compensation Consultants, 10 a.m., 2154 Rayburn.

Committee on Rules, to consider H. Res. 836, Granting the authority provided under clause 4(c)(3) of rule X of the Rules of the House of Representatives to the Committee on Education and Labor for purposes of its investigation into the deaths of 9 individuals that occurred at the Crandall Canyon Mine near Huntington, Utah, 2 p.m., H–313 Capitol.

Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, executive, briefing on Iran, 10 a.m., H–405 Capitol.

Joint Meetings

Joint Hearing: Senate Select Committee on Intelligence, closed meeting of conferees on proposed legislation authorizing funds for fiscal year 2008 for the intelligence community, 3 p.m., S–407, Capitol.

Next Meeting of the **SENATE**

12 noon, Wednesday, December 5

Senate Chamber

Program for Wednesday: After the transaction of any morning business (not to extend beyond 60 minutes), Senate will continue consideration of the motion to proceed to consideration of H.R. 3996, Temporary Tax Relief Act.

Next Meeting of the **HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

10 a.m., Wednesday, December 5

House Chamber

Program for Wednesday: Consideration of the following suspensions: (1) H.R. 3526—To include all banking agencies within the existing regulatory authority under the Federal Trade Commission Act with respect to depository institutions; (2) H.R. 4043—Preserving and Expanding Minority Depository Institutions Act; (3) H.R. 2930—Section 202 Supportive Housing for the Elderly Act; (4) H.R. 3505—Securities Law Technical Corrections Act of 2007; (5) H.R. 4050—Levee-Like Structure Consideration Act of 2007; (6) H.R. 2517—Protecting Our Children Comes First Act of 2007; (7) H.R. 3791—SAFE Act of 2007; (8) H.R. 1759—Managing Arson Through Criminal History (MATCH) Act of 2007; (9) H. Res. 826—Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that the hanging of nooses is a horrible act when used for the purpose of intimidation and which under certain circumstances can be a criminal act that should be thoroughly investigated by Federal law enforcement authorities and that any criminal violations should be vigorously prosecuted; (10) S. 888—Genocide Accountability Act of 2007 (Sponsored by Senator Durbin/Judiciary Committee); (11) H.R. 3690—U.S. Capitol Police and Library of Congress Police Merger Implementation Act of 2007; (12) S.J. Res. 8—A joint resolution providing for the reappointment of Patricia Q. Stonesifer as a citizen regent of the Board of Regents of the Smithsonian Institution; and (13) H. Res. 822—Recognizing the 100th anniversary year of the founding of the Port of Los Angeles.

Extensions of Remarks, as inserted in this issue

HOUSE

Akin, W. Todd, Mo., E2473
Berman, Howard L., Calif., E2482
Bishop, Sanford D., Jr., Ga., E2464, E2468
Boswell, Leonard L., Iowa, E2470
Brown-Waite, Ginny, Fla., E2463, E2467
Butterfield, G.K., N.C., E2482
Campbell, John, Calif., E2480
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