

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF ELK GROVE BAPTIST CHURCH

**HON. PETER J. ROSKAM**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 17, 2009*

Mr. ROSKAM. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 50th anniversary of Elk Grove Baptist Church located in Elk Grove Village in my Congressional district. Elk Grove Baptist Church was founded with the dedication and signing of the church's charter in 1959.

Through the last fifty years, Elk Grove Baptist Church has grown into a thriving congregation of 200 weekly attendees and has become an important part of the community. From weekly outreach events, to Sunday morning worship services and community service, the church has proved to be a driving force in the township's growth and prosperity.

Over the years, Elk Grove Baptist Church has grown its facilities to keep pace with its outreach and expanding ministry. Since its inception, there have been nine senior pastors in the church's history and I am pleased to recognize the hard work and faithful service of the current Pastor, Reverend Curt Hansen.

Madam Speaker and Distinguished Colleagues, please join me in recognizing the special occasion of this 50th Anniversary as we celebrate Elk Grove Baptist Church's legacy of faith, fellowship and service. I look forward to many more years of fruitfulness.

RECOGNIZING THE GOVERNMENTS OF TURKEY AND ARMENIA

**HON. PETE SESSIONS**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 17, 2009*

Mr. SESSIONS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to support the efforts underway to improve the relationship between the Republics of Turkey and Armenia.

Over the past several years, the two countries have been meeting quietly, with the assistance of Switzerland, to come to an agreement to normalize their relations and open the borders between Armenia and Turkey. I am pleased that these negotiations have been fruitful. A strong relationship between these two countries will benefit not only the citizens of Armenia and Turkey, but the region and world as well. I also encourage the two countries to continue to work together to finish this process.

I am optimistic that these efforts will lead to greater stabilization of the region, and I applaud and congratulate the governments of Armenia and Turkey on their efforts to date and offer our friendship and help as they move on to the next steps in the process.

COMMEMORATING THE 220TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE UNITED STATES MARSHALS SERVICE

**HON. MIKE COFFMAN**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 17, 2009*

Mr. COFFMAN of Colorado. Madam Speaker, I come to the floor today to commemorate the 220th Anniversary of the United States Marshals Service on September 24, 2009. The U.S. Marshals Service is our Nation's oldest and most versatile federal law enforcement agency. Since its national inception in 1789, the U.S. Marshals Service has served a unique place in America's history.

The first U.S. marshal in the Colorado Territory was appointed by President Lincoln and began his service on March 25, 1861. On August 1, 1876, Colorado became the 38th State, which created the Judicial District of Colorado. U.S. marshals and their deputies have served the District of Colorado since with great valor and courage. With their broad statutory law enforcement authority granted by the Judiciary Act of 1789, U.S. marshals and their deputies distributed presidential proclamations, tamed the American West, registered enemy aliens in time of war, helped conduct the national census, protected the President, and served on the front lines of the civil rights movement. More recently, deputy U.S. marshals have been called by Presidential orders and have served valiantly during national emergencies—large-scale natural disasters, hurricanes and to the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001.

Today the men and women of the U.S. Marshals Service, District of Colorado, maintain their core mission to serve and protect our Federal courts. They ensure the safe conduct of judicial proceedings and protect Federal judges, jurors, and other members of the Federal judiciary. They provide for the safety and security of protected witnesses through the Witness Security Division. The U.S. Marshals Service also provides for the safe and secure transportation of federal inmates for federal court proceedings and to and from correctional facilities. Additionally, the U.S. Marshals Service is responsible for managing nearly 1.7 billion dollars worth of seized property illegally acquired through criminal means by maintaining and promptly disposing of assets through its Asset Forfeiture Program.

Most notably, the U.S. Marshals Service is the federal government's primary agency for conducting fugitive investigations. The men and women of the Marshals Service apprehend more federal fugitives than all other federal agencies combined. Working with law enforcement agencies at the federal, state and local levels, Marshals-led task forces arrested an additional 73,000 state and local fugitives, clearing 90,600 state and local felony warrants. The Marshals currently leads 82 district fugitive task forces and seven regional fugitive task forces dedicated to locating and apprehending wanted criminals.

The U.S. Marshals Service has developed close working relationships with other law enforcement agencies on fugitive matters, and provides assistance, expertise and training to agencies on the federal, state, local and international levels. The U.S. Marshals Service is the premier agency to apprehend foreign fugitives believed to be in the United States, and it is the agency responsible for locating and extraditing American fugitives who flee to foreign countries.

In closing, Madam Speaker, I would therefore submit that we congratulate the U.S. Marshals Service on their 220th Anniversary for their past and present accomplishments, and that those men and women we recognize wear "America's Star" nationally in their selfless dedication to Justice, Integrity and Service.

STUDENT AID AND FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY ACT OF 2009

SPEECH OF

**HON. GREGORIO KILI CAMACHO SABLAN**

OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 16, 2009*

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 3221) to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965, and for other purposes:

Mr. SABLAN. Madam Chair, I rise today in support of H.R. 3221, the Student Aid and Fiscal Responsibility Act. I wish to thank Chairman MILLER for his leadership on this bill, and express my thanks to the staff as well.

Madam Chair, the financial resources of local governments and college and university scholarship funds are quickly dwindling. I am encouraged that this Congress is working to ensure access to student grants and loans at a time when many families, including those in my district in the Northern Mariana Islands, are struggling to make ends meet. The changes made by H.R. 3221 will mean that even more students will get the opportunity to pursue higher education.

This legislation will raise the annual maximum Pell grant to unprecedented levels and ensure that these grants will continue to increase with the cost of tuition. It will open up an additional \$4 million for Pell grants in the Northern Marianas alone. It will make investments in financial aid that will benefit students from every district, no matter where they go to college. Increased funding to minority-serving institutions, including those with large populations of Pacific Islanders, will ensure that our students from the Northern Marianas are cared for and supported, both socially and academically, when they are so far away from their home.

Three quarters of a million dollars will be available in the Northern Marianas for programs that encourage students to stay in

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

school and make sure they succeed. And money will also be dedicated to community colleges, like Northern Marianas College, to help them finance new projects and cover existing needs.

Higher education is truly the investment of a lifetime—it creates opportunities and opens doors that will benefit our students and families far into the future. I applaud this legislation.

ADVANCED VEHICLE TECHNOLOGY  
ACT OF 2009

SPEECH OF

**HON. BETTY McCOLLUM**

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 16, 2009*

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 3246) to provide for a program of research, development, demonstration and commercial application in vehicle technologies at the Department of Energy:

Ms. McCOLLUM. Mr. Chair, I rise today to express my support for the Advanced Vehicle Technology Act (H.R. 3246). I thank Chairman GORDON and the members of the Science and Technology Committee for their work on this important legislation, which will fuel innovation in the American automobile sector and capitalize on America's manufacturing infrastructure to spur the creation of millions of well-paying American jobs and reduce our greenhouse gas emissions.

Our country's approach to developing advanced technology vehicles must be comprehensive and coordinated to ensure innovation and advancement in our entire vehicle fleet. Historically, the Vehicle Technologies program at the U.S. Department of Energy has lacked a comprehensive approach to research and development, with various technologies competing for funding and imbalanced investment in between passenger and heavy duty vehicles research. The Advanced Vehicle Technology Act addresses these issues through authorization of long-term, sustained funding for a new comprehensive research and development program at the Department of Energy. H.R. 3246 invests in a diverse range of near-term and long-range vehicle technologies that will improve fuel efficiency, support domestic research and manufacturing, and reduce our country's dependence on petroleum that pollutes our planet and keeps us dependent on foreign energy sources. Such a comprehensive approach will fuel American innovation now and into the future.

Innovation is America's greatest strength. As our country recovers from a serious recession, funding for research and development is one of the best investments we can make to restore our American leadership in the global economy. America excels at high tech manufacturing, and investing in the development of a new generation of advanced technology vehicles will drive the creation of millions of new, well paying manufacturing jobs here at home. Innovation in vehicle technologies is also an important component in addressing the pressing challenge of global climate change. America's passenger and commercial transport sec-

tor produces one third of our country's total carbon dioxide emissions. Meeting the challenge of global climate change will require the development of a new generation of vehicles powered with clean energy.

Modernizing our nation's vehicle fleet through American innovation is critical for our economic prosperity, energy security, and responsible stewardship of our planet. I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 3246.

CONGRATULATIONS PEORIA  
CHRISTIAN ELEMENTARY ON  
BEING NAMED A NATIONAL  
BLUE RIBBON SCHOOL

**HON. AARON SCHOCK**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 17, 2009*

Mr. SCHOCK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Peoria Christian Elementary School in Peoria, Illinois on being named a 2009 National Blue Ribbon School by the U.S. Department of Education.

Peoria Christian joined only 49 other private schools, from a pool of more than 27,000, as a private recipient of this award; the school was nominated by the Council for American Private Education, also known as CAPE. By being recognized with the award, Peoria Christian has demonstrated its successes in ensuring students achieve exceptionally high national test scores.

I applaud the concerted effort it took to elevate the school's test scores to such an extraordinary level. As I honor this school I must remind this body that while this award is presented to Peoria Christian School, the award really reflects the combined efforts of all those involved with the school. As former Peoria School Board President, I know that every successful school has the trinity of skilled educators, committed students and involved parents as a base.

Also on a personal note, I always find it impressive to see a school allow for students' academic and personal development. As such, I must applaud the school's commitment to the mission of preparing their "students to lead Christ-like lives." I'm certain that Peoria Christian will not only continue to flourish as an institution for years to come, but that its young students will eventually become active leaders in Peoria, Illinois and throughout these United States.

Again, congratulations Peoria Christian.

NETWORKS PROMOTE PRESI-  
DENT'S HEALTH CARE AGENDA

**HON. LAMAR SMITH**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 9, 2009*

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Madam Speaker, National news programs have boosted the Administration's health care agenda and ignored the high costs of a government takeover of health care, according to a study by the Business and Media Institute (BMI).

BMI examined 224 health care stories on ABC, CBS, and NBC from over a five-month period.

The survey found that these stories favored proponents of the Administration's health care plan over critics of the plan by a margin of more than 2-to-1.

Yet the American people are split evenly for and against it, with the trend against it.

Only nine percent of stories mentioned the high cost of the Administration's plan.

And the networks frequently repeated the Administration's incorrect claim that there are 47 million uninsured people in America—a claim the President backed down from during his recent health care speech

The national media should report the facts on health care, not tell Americans what to think.

STUDENT AID FINANCIAL  
RESPONSIBILITY ACT OF 2009

SPEECH OF

**HON. PETER J. ROSKAM**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 16, 2009*

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 3221) to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965, and for other purposes:

Mr. ROSKAM. Madam Chair, I rise in strong opposition to H.R. 3221, the Student Aid and Financial Responsibility Act, which abolishes a historically successful private-public partnership in the student lending market in favor of a newer government-run program. In an unwise grab for total government control over the student lending market, this Majority is going to destroy a program that has provided need-based financial assistance to thousands of graduate students that have attended Midwestern University in my Congressional District.

Created in 1966, the Federal Family Education Loan program has distributed more than 200 million loans to college students totaling nearly \$800 billion. In 1993, the Direct Loan program—the government "option" in the student lending program—was established to promote competition. Now, this Majority wants to consolidate all federally supported student lending under the Direct Loan Program. Let me be clear about the consequences of this ploy: millions of dollars in financial aid for thousands of students across the country will be lost. Doing away with the Federal Family Education Loan program will also do away with the School as Lender program.

H.R. 3221 ignores the needs of graduate students. School as Lender is a vital need-based aid program for financially struggling graduate student education. Opponents of the School as Lender program have characterized these schools as profit-hungry proxies for commercial lenders. To the contrary, these schools obtain credit to make loans and use the proceeds from their origination to support financial aid. School as Lender institutions are prohibited by law from making money from the program—all proceeds from the sale of loans must be returned to graduate students in the form of need-based grants. School lenders have low default rates, indicating that schools are not irresponsibly encouraging students to

assume more loan burden than they can afford. Without School as Lender, many students will now be forced to take out more loans and student debt.

Within my Congressional District, one of the pioneers of the School as Lender program, Midwestern University, uses its School as Lender program to provide need-based grants to students who would otherwise not be able to pursue the University's graduate programs in osteopathic medicine, pharmacy, dental medicine and other health sciences. Decreasing access to education for low-income students would further inflame the shortage of the healthcare workforce as Congress considers a massive expansion of health insurance coverage. Over the past three academic years, Midwestern University has paid out over four million dollars in School as Lender scholarship monies to more than 1,500 students. Midwestern lacks profit motives to continue the program—they simply desire to maintain an affordable option to attract graduate students.

Midwestern University offers flexible and innovative student loan options. Through the School as Lender program, Midwestern is able to break down cost barriers that keep many low-income students from seeking graduate degrees. I urge my colleagues to stand on the side of students in need and reject this government grab for control of student lending that will rob many graduate students of the assistance needed to pursue advanced education.

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RECOGNIZING MARJORIE HINES ON  
THE OCCASION OF HER BIRTHDAY

**HON. TRAVIS W. CHILDERS**

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 17, 2009*

Mr. CHILDERS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the life of Marjorie Elizabeth Hines on the occasion of her 90th birthday. Marjorie Elizabeth Hines was born on September 27, 1919 in Hickory Valley, Tennessee to Benjamin Tamlin & Mary Raines Lake. She would become the eldest of the farm family's seven children.

Marjorie studied at Lambuth College in Jackson, Tennessee and became an elementary school teacher. In 1943 she married Curtis W. Hines, a soldier from the Hopewell Community of Benton County, Mississippi. After his return from the war they began to farm land which had been in the Hines family for generations. Mr. Hines later became Chancery Clerk of Benton County. Mrs. Hines was his invaluable helpmate.

Mr. & Mrs. Hines reared two children, Beth Hines Davis of luka and Frank Lesley Hines of Hopewell. They also have six grandchildren and three great grandchildren.

Mrs. Hines is known for her charm, grace, beautiful smile and dedication to family and fellow man. She prepared marvelous meals for family, friends and strangers. I ask my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to Mrs. Marjorie Hines on her 90th birthday.

TRIBUTE TO MR. FRANK BATTEN  
SR.

**HON. J. RANDY FORBES**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 17, 2009*

Mr. FORBES. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Mr. Frank Batten Sr., who was 82 when he passed away on September 10, 2009.

America lost an icon with the death of Frank Batten Sr. Frank will be remembered for his successful business career, steadfast community involvement, and selfless charitable endeavors. Nationally, he will be remembered as the founder of Landmark Communications Inc., which employed more than 10,000 people at its peak.

Born in 1927, Frank grew up in Norfolk and seemed destined to enter the newspaper industry lending to the influence of his uncle, Samuel L. Slover, who helped raise Frank and owned the publication that would become the Norfolk Ledger-Dispatch. Frank graduated from Culver Military Academy in Indiana in 1945. After serving in the U.S. Merchant Marine, Frank graduated from the University of Virginia and earned a master's degree from Harvard University in 1952. Two years later, at the age of 27, Frank became the publisher of two newspapers, the Virginian-Pilot and the Norfolk Ledger-Dispatch.

Batten's Virginian-Pilot was the only major Virginia newspaper to courageously oppose Governor Almond's 1958 orders to close six Norfolk secondary schools rather than accept court-ordered integration, and its editorials against the plan earned its editor the 1960 Pulitzer Prize.

Frank's company grew with the acquisition of other newspapers and media outlets, and in 1967, Landmark Communications, Inc. was born. Landmark's founder is perhaps best known for the audacious proposal to create a 24-hour weather channel, known as The Weather Channel. A now familiar household name, the Channel is a trusted source that has been relied upon by millions of Americans for more than 20 years when planning family vacations and in times of severe weather.

Education was the cause Frank Batten was most passionate about. After sitting on the State Council of Higher Education and serving as a trustee of Norfolk Academy, Frank became Old Dominion College's first rector in 1962. He guided the school until it achieved university status, and donated \$32 million to ODU in 2003. Frank also created the Access College Foundation in 1988, which is credited with sending 70,000 Hampton Roads high school students to college over 20 years. Frank also donated \$100 million to create the University of Virginia's Frank Batten School of Leadership and Public Policy.

At home, Frank was the proud husband of Jane Parke Batten since 1957. They had three children—son Frank Jr., who followed his father's footsteps into the publishing business, and daughters Mary Elizabeth "Betsy" and Dorothy.

Frank's love for people and community will not soon be forgotten or easily replaced, and his contributions to our lives in Virginia will live on for generations.

HONORING DON FREELS FOR HIS  
THIRTY PLUS YEARS IN REAL-  
TOR SERVICE

**HON. PATRICK J. TIBERI**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 17, 2009*

Mr. TIBERI. Madam Speaker, it is with great pleasure I rise to recognize the distinguished career of the CEO of the Ohio Association of REALTORS, Don Freels.

Homeownership has always been the cornerstone of the American Dream. When moving into a home of our own, we gain immeasurable independence and confidence, as faith in the future of our family and our community grows. The spread of ownership and opportunity helps give us a vital stake in the future of America and the chance to realize the great promise of our country. Therefore, those who contribute to the furtherance of the American Dream for others deserve to be honored for their service. The Ohio Association of REALTORS was created to help protect the investment Americans place in their homes, and for 17 years Don Freels has led this organization with honor and distinction.

Starting over 39 years ago, Don began serving as an active REALTOR in the Chicago area, working as the executive officer of two local boards. By 1985, due to his leadership and the remarkable reputation he built with his peers, Don was selected to head the Michigan Association of REALTORS. The success he achieved in this post caught the eye of REALTORS in the Buckeye State, and in 1992 Don was hired as CEO of the Ohio Association of REALTORS. Since then, Don's unparalleled leadership and passion for his craft has helped maintain the stature of Ohio's largest professional trade organization, improve the realty profession, and solidify its irreplaceable role in the furtherance of the American Dream.

Through commendable loyalty to his profession, Don stands as a pillar of his community. As a former REALTOR, I am very pleased to thank him for all he has done for Ohio.

I offer my congratulations to Don Freels for a career spent in service to REALTORS everywhere. I hope the spirit he daily brings forth in his life and work continues to inspire his friends and co-workers for years to come.

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A TRIBUTE IN RECOGNITION OF  
PROFESSOR GEZA VERMES

**HON. RODNEY ALEXANDER**

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 17, 2009*

Mr. ALEXANDER. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Professor Geza Vermes, an internationally renowned biblical scholar.

His commitment to inspiring and educating the world has been unwavering, and he deserves our congratulations.

Among his impressive list of endeavors, Vermes is perhaps best known as publisher of the first English translation of the Dead Sea Scrolls. His latest work, "The Story of the Scrolls," is set to be published in February, 2010.

Since 1957, Vermes has been teaching in England. Today, he is Professor Emeritus of

Jewish Studies and Emeritus Fellow for Wolfson College, and is a lecturer at Oxford University and throughout the world.

In addition, Vermes is a Fellow of the British Academy (1985) and the European Academy of Arts, Sciences and Humanities (2001), holder of an Oxford higher doctorate and honorary doctorates from the universities of Edinburgh (1989), Durham (1990), Sheffield (1994) and the Central European University of Budapest (2008).

On September 24, Vermes will be a guest lecturer at the University of Louisiana—Monroe. It is an honor to welcome such a distinguished and esteemed scholar to the 5th District.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in saluting Professor Geza Vermes for his remarkable career and countless accomplishments.

A PROCLAMATION HONORING PASTOR VICTOR A. MYERS FOR HIS 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF ORDINATION BY THE LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA

**HON. ZACHARY T. SPACE**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 17, 2009*

Mr. SPACE. Madam Speaker, Whereas, the dedicated people of St. James Evangelical Lutheran Church celebrate Pastor Victor A. Myers' 40 years of service as an ordained minister of the Lutheran Church in America; and

Whereas, this milestone is the result of exemplary dedication to one's church and faith; and

Whereas, occasions such as these illustrate to us that love mixed with grace and trust will stand the test of time; and

Whereas, it is the fond wish that you will continue to present your work as an example to those called to the ministry everywhere; and

Whereas, you have demonstrated excellence in your calling as a minister, and we are proud to have you serving in our midst: Now, therefore be it

*Resolved*, That along with his friends, family, and the residents of the 18th Congressional District, I commend you for your unwavering labor and commitment, recognizing that such great achievements come with extraordinary effort. With great appreciation and respect, we wish you continued abundant grace as you continue to labor for your community and your faith.

STUDENT AID AND FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY ACT OF 2009

SPEECH OF

**HON. BARBARA LEE**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 16, 2009*

The House in committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 3221) to amend the Higher Education Act of 1966, and for other purposes:

Ms. LEE of California. Madam Chair, I rise in support of H.R. 3221, the Student Aid and

Fiscal Responsibility Act. As a member of the Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor, HHS, and Education, with the responsibility for funding these programs, I want to thank Chairman MILLER for crafting this important bill and bringing it to the floor.

Education is the key to ensuring that our future leaders, scientists, teachers, doctors and others are well prepared to be globally competitive. This legislation will help countless students realize the dream of going to college by: (1) Improving college access and completion; (2) Increasing Pell Grant awards and expanding the low-cost Perkins Loans; (3) Investing in Historically Black Colleges and Universities and Minority-Serving Institutions; (4) Strengthening our community colleges; (5) Establishing an Early Learning Challenge Fund; (6) Streamlining student aid applications; and (7) Reforming students loans to help students not banks.

That means more of our youth will go to college and acquire the skills they need to compete in the global economy while graduating with less college debt. Now that's something we should all support.

HONORING THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF JIMMY COBB

**HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 17, 2009*

Mr. CONYERS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the career of my fellow jazz enthusiast, Jimmy Cobb. Born in Washington, D.C. in 1929, Jimmy has for more than fifty years moved audiences with his recordings and live performances.

Jimmy's passion for jazz began at an early age. He performed his first recording with Earl Bostic, and then played extensively with Dinah Washington, Billie Holiday, Pearl Bailey, Clark Terry, and Dizzy Gillespie.

In 1957, Jimmy Cobb joined Miles Davis, Bill Evans, Wynton Kelly, Paul Chambers, John Coltrane and Julian Adderley; two years later they recorded the groundbreaking Kind of Blue album. Kind of Blue stands in American history today as one of the most influential albums in jazz history, ranking number 12 in Rolling Stone magazine's 500 greatest albums of all time.

He collaborated with Wynton Kelly and Paul Chambers to produce the Wynton Kelly Trio Albums, and later released albums with Kenny Burrell, and J.J. Johnson, among others. Jimmy then worked with Sarah Vaughn for 9 years, and freelanced with other acclaimed artists worldwide throughout the 70s, 80s and 90s including, Sonny Stitt, Nat Adderly, Ricky Ford, Hank Jones, Ron Carter, George Coleman, Fathead Newman, The Great Jazz Trio, Dave Holland and Warren Bernhardt. Jimmy has also performed on Sketches of Spain, Someday My Prince will Come, Live at Carnegie Hall, Live at the Blackhawk, and Porgy and Bess.

Jimmy was honored for his contribution to the world of jazz in 2005 when New York's longest running jazz series Highlights in Jazz chose Jimmy Cobb for its annual salute to a living jazz legend. In 2008, Jimmy received the Don Redman Heritage award. He was one of six chosen on October 17, 2008 to receive

the 2009 National Endowment for the Arts, NEA Jazz Masters award. He was also honored with his own album on the Marsalis Music Honors Series.

He currently performs and tours with his So What Band, featuring Miles Davis' protégé Wallace Roney on trumpet, Vincent Herring on alto saxophone, Javon Jackson on tenor sax, Larry Willis on piano, and Buster Williams on bass.

To commemorate the 50th anniversary of Kind of Blue, Jimmy and the So What Band will perform on September 24, 2009 in Washington, D.C. for the Congressional Black Caucus' Jazz Forum and Concert.

Today, Jimmy Cobb stands as the only surviving musician of the original Kind of Blue Sextet. His work remains a legendary standard in American jazz. Through the medium of music, he continues to inspire generations of performers and audiences.

A PROCLAMATION HONORING CENTRAL PRIMARY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

**HON. ZACHARY T. SPACE**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 17, 2009*

Mr. SPACE. Madam Speaker, Whereas, the Central Primary Elementary School in Logan, Ohio has displayed incredible dedication to creating well-rounded students; and

Whereas, the Central Primary School has been supportive of developing sharp young minds; and

Whereas, the Central Primary School has helped to plant the seeds of success in its students; and

Whereas, the Central Primary School has been an exemplary school in Appalachian Ohio: now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That along with their friends, family, and the residents of the 18th Congressional District, I congratulate the Central Primary School of Logan, Ohio on being named a Blue Ribbon School by the U.S. Department of Education in recognition of its astounding academic excellence. We recognize the tremendous dedication of the school's students, teachers and staff in achieving this honor.

HONORING MATTHEW POLNOW

**HON. DONALD A. MANZULLO**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 17, 2009*

Mr. MANZULLO. Madam Speaker, it is my distinct honor to take this opportunity to recognize a heroic resident of the 16th District of Illinois, Matthew Polnow of Rockford. Mr. Polnow works for the U.S. Postal Service and is a member of the National Association of Letter Carriers.

On June 11, 2008, as he was delivering mail on his postal route, Carrier Polnow witnessed a crushing three-vehicle accident. In a matter of seconds, he ran to the first car, checking to make sure that the occupants were not injured. Then he went on to the second vehicle, a truck, where fortunately no one

needed assistance. Carrier Polnow continued to the third vehicle, a van used to transport handicapped and wheelchair-bound individuals, which was beginning to burn. The driver's airbag had deployed, and the driver alerted Carrier Polnow to a handicapped passenger still inside the smoke-filled van.

With smoke continuing to circulate and flames erupting from the engine, Carrier Polnow went to work. He managed to free the side door that had been jammed by a ramp. Maneuvering the ramp into place, he unhooked the restraining belts and dragged the wheelchair—and the now terrified woman passenger—from the vehicle. Once free from the smoke, Carrier Polnow located the controls on the chair and engaged them to move the woman to safety.

Acts of bravery and fortitude such as this should not go unnoticed. Carrier Polnow's heroism has led him to be recognized by the National Association of Letter Carriers with the National Central Hero Award. I am privileged and humbled to represent great constituents like Carrier Polnow, and I wanted to take this brief opportunity today, Madam Speaker, to let my colleagues know of his great act of courage.

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TRIBUTE TO ED HAMAN

**HON. TOM LATHAM**

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 17, 2009*

Mr. LATHAM. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Ed Haman of Stanhope, Iowa, on his dedication to the community of Stanhope and his retirement as Fire Chief at the Stanhope Volunteer Fire Department after forty-one years of service.

The community of Stanhope is celebrating the retirement of this extraordinary man, but I feel it is imperative that we as a Congress celebrate Ed as an example of incredible and valuable citizenship. His service to his community, Iowa, and our nation represents an ideal that should be an inspiration for all Americans.

I commend Ed Haman for his many years of loyalty and service to Iowa and to our country. It is an immense honor to represent Ed in Congress, and I wish him and his family in Stanhope, Iowa, a long, happy and healthy retirement.

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STUDENT AID AND FISCAL  
RESPONSIBILITY ACT OF 2009

SPEECH OF

**HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 16, 2009*

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 3221) to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965, and for other purposes:

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Chair, I rise in support of the Student Aid and Fiscal Responsibility Act and thank Congressman MILLER for his leadership on this bill. I am proud to be an original cosponsor of this historic legislation. In a time of economic crisis and increased hard-

ship across the United States, the Student Aid and Fiscal Responsibility Act ensures that students and families are supported in realizing their education goals.

Access to quality education is a key factor in securing a successful and bright future. This legislation makes historical investments to expand access to education by investing in high-quality early childhood education and increasing college affordability. It invests in community colleges and partnerships with businesses and job training programs to ensure that our nation has the most qualified workforce.

The bill ensures that the success of the students, not the private loan companies, is at the center of the student loan system by converting all federal student lending to a Direct Loan program. In addition, it increases access to federal loans by simplifying the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) form. I am also pleased that the bill provides for the removal of the question regarding first-time, minor drug offenses on the FAFSA form. According to the American Civil Liberties Union, lower-income communities and communities of color are disproportionately denied access to critical federal loans due to the inclusion of this question on the FAFSA form. We have a responsibility to ensure that students wishing to improve themselves and contribute positively to our society are given the chance to do so.

As a strong proponent of early childhood education and the sponsor of H.R. 555, the Universal Prekindergarten Act, I strongly support the establishment of the Early Learning Challenge Fund in this bill. The Early Learning Challenge Fund invests \$8 billion dollars over the next eight years for increasing access to high-quality early childhood education for children of diverse economic and social backgrounds.

I am particularly pleased that two of my amendments are included in this bill. I worked with Congressman Hare on our amendment to expand reporting requirements to include reporting on barriers to high-quality early childhood education programs. Investment in developing and expanding access to high-quality early learning programs is critical in addressing the achievement gap for low-income children.

The other amendment in this bill was taken up as part of the 21st Century Green High-Performing Public School Facilities Act, which provides schools access to funds for modernization, renovation and repair projects that are safer and more energy efficient. My amendment ensures that those school funds can be used to remove sources of lead in drinking water such as pipes, solder and pipe fittings. Childhood exposure to lead has been associated with (see health effects from the press release)

I believe that access to quality education is a universal right. This legislation takes important steps to ensure that students of all social and economic backgrounds are afforded the opportunity to attend high-quality educational institutions. I strongly urge passage of this bill.

RECOGNIZING 15TH ANNIVERSARY  
OF THE VIOLENCE AGAINST  
WOMEN ACT

SPEECH OF

**HON. BETTY McCOLLUM**

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, September 14, 2009*

Ms. McCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H. Res. 738, a resolution honoring the 15th Anniversary of the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA). I am an original cosponsor of this resolution to support the goals and ideals of VAWA. Today we recognize the progress that has been made in reducing domestic violence in our country but also the significant work that remains.

In 1994, the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) began creating safe havens for families affected by domestic violence. This historic legislation has succeeded in making America's women more safe and secure and it has strengthened America's response to the crimes of domestic violence, sexual assault and stalking. Victims of domestic violence are now more able to access services and counseling during their darkest hours and prosecutors have the tools to pursue perpetrators. VAWA is working to bring communities together by coordinating law enforcement officers, victim advocates and prosecutors.

No one should have to live in fear or suffer in silence from domestic violence. We as society must provide sufficient resources to federal, state and local law enforcement officers and prosecutors who specialize in crimes targeted against women. We must also support organizations that offer services to women and families who have experienced violence.

Domestic violence hurts families and entire communities. The communities of Minnesota's Fourth District learned this all too well on September 7, 2009, when North St. Paul police officer Richard Crittenden and Maplewood police officer Julie Olson answered a domestic violence call—one of the most dangerous an officer can receive. Officer Richard Crittenden was killed and Officer Olson was injured in the line of duty. Officer Crittenden made the ultimate sacrifice—his life—to protect a woman from a man who had repeatedly abused her.

Mr. Speaker, at this time I would like to acknowledge all those who work to reduce domestic violence in communities across our country. Much has been accomplished in the last fifteen years, but the number of incidents of violence against women still remains too high. On this anniversary, I urge my colleagues to recommit themselves to ending domestic violence.

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CITY OF PLAINFIELD'S 10TH  
ANNUAL ENVIRONMENTAL FAIR

**HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 17, 2009*

Mr. PALLONE. Madam Speaker, I proudly rise today to recognize the Plainfield Municipal Utilities Authority (PMUA). The Plainfield Municipal Utilities Authority has provided the City of Plainfield with a stable and affordable solid waste operation and sanitary sewer service for

more than a decade. With many investments and accomplishments in the City of Plainfield, the utility authority is a mainstay in the community. It is not only the fifth largest employer of the City of Plainfield, it also holds an annual Environmental Fair. I am pleased to support Plainfield's continued efforts to positively impact both the economy and the environment.

I very much look forward to the Plainfield Municipal Utilities Authority's 10th Annual Environmental Fair on September 12, 2009. In its 10th year, this festive, community-based fair symbolizes a progressive shift toward bettering the environment. This is an important milestone for the City of Plainfield and it coincides with our hard work on energy issues.

The PMUA has done an excellent job over the years of promoting environmental awareness, particularly among the youth. The annual Environmental Fair demonstrates this achievement by featuring fun activities for children. The fair also provides the community with information about utilities, recycling and community services through vendors, public and environmental agencies and civic organizations.

This year's theme of "Conserve and Save" is a message by which we must all abide, for a safe, sustainable, clean energy future.

Congratulations to the Plainfield Municipal Utilities Authority and the City of Plainfield.

#### TRIBUTE TO CHERYL HAMAN

### HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 17, 2009*

Mr. LATHAM. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Cheryl Haman of Stanhope, Iowa, on her dedication to the community of Stanhope as a librarian since 1976.

The community of Stanhope is celebrating this amazing woman, but I feel that we in Washington should praise the contributions of librarians in America and recognize Mrs. Haman for her years of dedication to the town of Stanhope. Her service to the community, Iowa, and our nation represents an ideal that should be an inspiration for all Americans.

I commend Cheryl for her many years of loyalty and service to Iowa and to our country. It is an immense honor to represent Cheryl in Congress, and I know she will serve as a role model of valuable citizenship to Stanhope and all of Iowa.

#### TRIBUTE TO BILL HEFNER

### HON. ROBERT B. ADERHOLT

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 17, 2009*

Mr. ADERHOLT. Madam Speaker, it is an honor to pay tribute to a great American servant in light of his passing on September 2, 2009, former Congressman Bill Hefner, who died of a brain aneurysm at the age of 79 years old.

Bill Hefner served for 24 years in the House of Representatives and was a committed and devoted husband and father.

Mr. Hefner joined the U.S. House back in 1975 and was later considered the dean of

North Carolina's U.S. House delegation. He represented the Eighth Congressional District of North Carolina, which includes cities like Charlotte suburbs, Kannapolis and Concord and other cities like Monroe and Laurinburg. He served in Congress from January 3, 1975 until January 3, 1999.

I had the honor to also serve with Bill Hefner on the House Appropriations Committee. As a member of the Committee he fought for funding for Fort Bragg in his home state when he was chairman and later ranking minority member of the military subcommittee.

Mr. Hefner also prided himself in working very hard on veterans' issues and transportation projects that benefited the entire East Coast.

Having spent much of his life growing up in the district I represent, Bill Hefner decided to retire in the Fourth Congressional District of Alabama. In 1998, Bill Hefner moved to Gunterville in Marshall County to enjoy the beauty that North Alabama has to offer.

After his time in Congress, his days of public service were not over. Congressman Hefner served from October of 2001 until November of 2002 as a District Commissioner for Marshall County, Alabama.

What most people don't know about Bill Hefner is that the 12-term Democratic Congressman was also a southern gospel singer and was a founding member of the very popular Harvesters Quartet, which began in 1953 in Charlotte, North Carolina.

Mr. Hefner was born in Elora, Tennessee and graduated from high school in Sardis, which is located in North Alabama. He graduated college from the University of Alabama in Tuscaloosa.

Mr. Hefner leaves behind his wife, Nancy, and two daughters, Stacey and Shelly. Our prayers and condolences go out to his family and the many fans of southern gospel music, like myself, who will always remember his great tenor voice.

#### HONORING THE MEMORY OF THE VICTIMS OF THE 9/11 TERRORIST ATTACKS

### HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 17, 2009*

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today in remembrance of the terrorist attacks that occurred on September 11, 2001. On this day eight years ago, those attacks struck a heavy blow to American citizens in an effort to crush the American spirit of freedom. The attacks were the first significant attacks on the continental United States since the burning of Washington in 1814 and the deadliest attack on American soil in our nation's history. On that day, nearly 3,000 people lost their lives in a senseless act of hatred and cowardice.

Today, let us remember those whose lives were lost. Let us remember the people who were trapped when the Twin Towers fell and the brave New York firefighters, policemen, policewomen and rescue workers who sacrificed their lives to help them. Let us remember the passengers onboard flights American 11, United 175, American 77 and United 93. Let us remember those who died in the attack on the Pentagon.

This horrible event filled us with outrage, loss and fear; outrage at the idea that our enemies would attack us while we went about our daily lives, loss as we remember those who did not survive, and fear that we were no longer safe. Instead of being consumed by fear and doubt, we remained strong and determined. Since that day eight years ago, we have worked hard to secure our country from those who would do us harm. Through our actions, we have returned the sense of security the attacks took from us.

Although these attacks left us shaken, they did not destroy us. We were able to rebound and grow stronger. We put aside our differences and banded together as a nation. On that day, we were not concerned with past disagreements or misunderstandings. This year, on September 11, let us not only remember those we lost with moments of silence and memorial ceremonies. Let us also commemorate them by once again setting aside our differences and banding together as Americans.

#### STUDENT AID AND FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY ACT OF 2009

SPEECH OF

### HON. JOHN BARROW

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 16, 2009*

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 3221) to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965, and for other purposes:

Mr. BARROW. Madam Chair, I rise today to express my gratitude to the Chairman of the Committee on Education and Labor, Chairman MILLER, and Ranking Member KLINE, for working with me to include an amendment I offered in the Manager's Amendment of this bill.

I believe The Student Aid and Fiscal Responsibility Act will make college education more affordable for more American students than ever before, transform early education opportunities, and ultimately help build a stronger, more competitive American economy for the future, while saving taxpayers money.

For the reforms in this bill to be effective, it's critical that our colleges and universities have the right tools to make these reforms as successful as possible. My amendment requires the Secretary of Education to provide funding and technical assistance to institutions of higher education in operating the Direct Loan program, including assisting institutions with the transition into the program.

Right now, college costs more than ever, while families are struggling more than ever. Allowing our students to graduate with a better education and less debt is the best way to make sure that American workers remain competitive long into the future.

#### TRIBUTE TO JACK READ

### HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 17, 2009*

Mr. LATHAM. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Jack Read of

Stanhope, Iowa, on his dedication to the community of Stanhope as a mayor of the town and as a member of the Stanhope Volunteer Fire Department for over fifty years.

The community of Stanhope is celebrating this incredible man, but I feel that we in the House of Representatives should praise the contributions of volunteer firefighters in Iowa and recognize Mr. Read for his years of dedication to the town of Stanhope. His years in public service, and his commitment to the safety of the citizens of Stanhope provide an incredible example of the importance of active citizen involvement in America.

I commend Jack for her many years of loyalty and service to Iowa and to our country. It is an immense honor to represent Jack in Congress, and I know he will continue to serve as a role model of valuable public service to all of Iowa.

#### A TRIBUTE TO JAY ROTH

### HON. HOWARD L. BERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 17, 2009

Mr. BERMAN. Madam Speaker, I am honored to pay tribute to my very good friend, Jay Roth, National Executive Director of the Directors Guild of America, DGA, on the occasion of his recognition by the Government of France with its prestigious "Chevalier dans l'Ordre de la Legion d'Honneur."

I enjoy, with Jay, a relationship much deeper than simply that of a politician with the leader of an important guild. He has been—for many years—my wise advisor on issues relating to the creative community, the arts, and all aspects of intellectual property. I have been privileged to know him since his days as a prominent labor lawyer in Los Angeles.

Known for his tenacity and acuity in entertainment and labor law, Jay's experience and knowledge places him in a league of his own. Born and raised in New York City and a graduate of the University of Vermont and Boston University Law School, he practiced labor and entertainment law for 25 years prior to being selected by the DGA's National Board of Directors to guide the Directors Guild of America. As the Managing Partner of Taylor, Roth, Bush & Geffner, he specialized in representing entertainment guilds, labor organizations, and pension, health and welfare funds in entertainment, bankruptcy and transactional matters around the world.

He has skillfully represented all three U.S. Guilds—DGA, Screen Actors Guild, SAG, and Writers Guild of America, WGA,—on many international copyright, bankruptcy, residuals and intellectual property rights issues for 20 years. As counsel, he represented many high-profile industries including the Motion Picture Industry and the Directors Guild/Producer Pension and Health Plans. Among his many clients were the United Teachers of Los Angeles, the International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers, and the International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employees.

He is widely known for his dedication to the entertainment community, as Treasurer of the Motion Picture & Television Fund and a member of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences. He is also a highly regarded advocate of the labor community, who has served

as chair of the Labor Law Section of the Los Angeles County Bar Associations and as chair of the American Bar Association Airline-Railway Labor Law Committee. He was recently elected a Fellow of the College of Labor and Employment Lawyers, and he is also recognized as a noted lecturer around the world on matters related to entertainment, labor law, and intellectual property rights of directors, writers and actors.

Jay was appropriately recognized for his invaluable contributions to the DGA when he received the Honorary Life Member Award in 2008.

Madam Speaker and distinguished colleagues, I ask you to join me in saluting Jay Roth on the occasion of his recognition from the French Government of the French Legion of Honor.

#### WES WATKINS AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH LAB AND POST OFFICE

SPEECH OF

### HON. MARY FALLIN

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 16, 2009

Ms. FALLIN. Madam Speaker, Wesley Watkins spent a lifetime in service to Oklahoma and the United States. From his time serving in the Oklahoma Air National Guard to his 20 years in the United States House of Representatives, Wes continually displayed his love for his state and country. He proved to be a great asset to our state during his time as an administrator at Oklahoma State University along with his years as a member of the Oklahoma state senate.

Naming the Agricultural Research Laboratory and the Postal Service facility in honor of Wesley Watkins is the sign of the gratitude the state of Oklahoma and our nation owe the former Congressman from Oklahoma's 3rd Congressional District. Due to his dedication to public service no Oklahoman has proven more deserving of such an honor than Congressman Wesley Watkins.

#### DEPOSIT RESTRICTED QUALIFIED TUITION PROGRAMS ACT OF 2009

### HON. EMANUEL CLEAVER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 17, 2009

Mr. CLEAVER. Madam Speaker, today I am introducing the Deposit Restricted Qualified Tuition Programs Act of 2009. My bill establishes an avenue for those wanting to save for the college education of a child, grandchild or other related individual, to do so in a Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC) insured deposit. At the present time, savers can only access the 529 college savings program through a securities based plan and my bill would not change this avenue.

However, following the recent crash of the stock market, many savers saw their accounts drop in value by fifty percent or more and as such are reluctant to place any more monies in a securities based plan. Furthermore, many small savers can find investing in securities based products both complex and intimidating.

A FDIC insured deposit option would provide guaranteed principal return and a guaranteed return on the deposit, all from a commercial bank that the saver likely has a relationship with. This proposed legislation will help families across the United States save in a safe, sound and simple manner for their children and grandchildren's college education.

Again Madam Speaker, this bill does not make any changes to the current 529 college savings program nor the current delivery system of the program through a securities based plan. It simply adds another 529 college savings program delivery option through an FDIC insured deposit.

#### TRIBUTE TO STEVE RINGLEE

### HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 17, 2009

Mr. LATHAM. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize and congratulate Steve Ringlee, a resident of Ames, Iowa, for being honored as the Ames Tribune's 2009 Citizen of the Year.

For more than a decade, Steve has shown his compassion by sharing breakfast at McDonalds with the city's homeless and dispossessed. His once a week breakfasts are filled with talk and prayer as a way to reach out to those in need. He is motivated by his strong Christian faith and follows the golden rule of loving your neighbor as yourself.

Steve moved to Ames in 1990 and has served as the president of the Ames Community School Board and vice chair of the Ames Education Foundation. Not only does Steve hold weekly prayer breakfasts, he helps men at the local shelter locate jobs and permanent housing. He helps with automobile repairs and directing men to Skunk River Cycles who assist shelter men with bicycle repairs.

I know my colleagues in the United States Congress join me in congratulating Steve Ringlee for receiving the Citizen of the Year Award. I thank Steve for his willingness to volunteer his time and uplift so many people in need within his community. I consider it a great honor to represent Steve in Congress and I wish him the best in his future service to those in need.

#### STUDENT AID AND FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY ACT OF 2009

SPEECH OF

### HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 16, 2009

The House in committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 3221) to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965, and for other purposes:

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Madam Chair, I am proud today to support House Resolution 3221, the Student Aid and Fiscal Responsibility Act. This is long-overdue legislation that will provide funding directly to students, rather than to bankers. In addition, this bill expands a successful, much needed program to help more students go to college, supports job

training at a time when millions of Americans are searching for ways to survive in a tough and changing economy, simplifies the financial aid process to make it easier for families to apply, and supports early childhood education so that more children graduate from high school and proceed to higher education. At the same time, this bill streamlines government programs to put an additional \$87 billion back into the federal budget over ten years.

I've heard from individuals in my home state about how this bill would impact their lives. It will mean that 20,594 students will be eligible for Pell Grants next year and the 107,677 Oregon students who applied for subsidized loans last year will be guaranteed low interest rates. An additional \$1.6 million per year will go towards Oregon's College Access Challenge Grant program, which will have a huge impact on the 25,000 students who use it to help prepare for and make undergraduate and graduate work affordable. I am also pleased that the bill reinvests in our community colleges. I am impressed by the work that the two community colleges in my district, Portland Community College and Mt. Hood Community College, have done to help individuals struggling to prepare themselves for a changing economy. I am pleased that President Obama has recognized the importance of higher education and the need to make it accessible and affordable in today's changing economy.

I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting the Student Aid and Fiscal Responsibility Act.

#### EARMARK DECLARATION

### HON. ELTON GALLEGLY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 17, 2009*

Mr. GALLEGLY. Madam Speaker, I wish to make the following disclosure in accordance with the Republican Earmark Transparency Standards requiring members to place a statement in the Congressional Record prior to a floor vote on a bill that includes an earmark that I have requested.

H.R. 2522, a bill to raise the ceiling on the Federal share of the cost of the Calleguas Municipal Water District Recycling Project, and for other purposes, which I introduced on May 20, 2009, contains one earmark as defined under House Rule XXI, clause 9. The earmark contained in H.R. 2522 would authorize additional appropriations for a project under Title XVI of Public Law 104–266, the Reclamation Recycling and Water Conservation Act of 1996.

The project authorized under H.R. 2522 would authorize an additional \$40 million in federal spending authority, not to exceed 25 percent of the total project cost, to allow the Calleguas Municipal Water District to fully complete their Salinity Management Pipeline, which will generate an additional 27,000 acre feet per year of groundwater and facilitate the use of an additional 16,000 acre feet per year of recycled water in the area.

Consistent with the Republican Leadership's policy on earmarks, I hereby certify that to the best of my knowledge this request (1) is not directed to an entity or program that will be named after a sitting Member of Congress; (2)

is not intended to be used by an entity to secure funds for other entities unless the use of funding is consistent with the specified purpose of the earmark; and (3) meets or exceeds all statutory requirements for matching funds where applicable.

#### HONORING LISA CAMPBELL FOR HER EXEMPLARY SERVICE

### HON. JERRY MCNERNEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 17, 2009*

Mr. MCNERNEY. Madam Speaker, I am proud to recognize police specialist Lisa Campbell of San Ramon for acting on her intuition and training to jumpstart the series of events that unraveled an 18-year-old case and reunited a long-separated family. Ms. Campbell and her colleague Officer Allison Jacobs were able to make our community safer and save an innocent mother and her two young children from horrific circumstances.

As a child of only 11, Jaycee Dugard was kidnapped on her way to school. For 18 years, she suffered terribly and was denied contact with her loved ones and the outside world. Had it not been for Ms. Campbell's realization that something was awry with the man requesting a permit to hold an event on the UC Berkeley campus, the abuse of Jaycee and her daughters would not have stopped.

Lisa Campbell's and Allison Jacobs' quick action and good instincts prevented innocent people from experiencing further harm, led to the arrest of a dangerous person, and reunited a family tragically separated for almost two decades. I am honored to represent Ms. Campbell, and I am grateful for her dedicated public service.

#### STUDENT AID AND FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY ACT OF 2008

SPEECH OF

### HON. JOHN M. SPRATT, JR.

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 16, 2009*

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 3221) to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965, and for other purposes:

Mr. SPRATT. Madam Chair, I rise in support of the Student Aid and Fiscal Responsibility Act. In one fell swoop, this legislation helps millions of students afford to go to college, and it reduces the deficit by making the student loan program more efficient. Rarely are we given the chance to help students, improve government services, and reduce the deficit all at the same time; today we should embrace that opportunity.

By making the student loan program more efficient, the bill reinvests some of those savings into increasing the maximum Pell Grant award next year and in the future, benefitting the six million low-income students who rely on Pell Grants to help pay for college. The legislation provides for the maximum Pell grant to increase from \$5,550 in 2010 to \$6,900 in 2019. The bill also revamps the Per-

kins loan program, expanding it to every college in the country—currently, fewer than 500,000 students receive Perkins Loans. The bill also simplifies the process for applying for federal student financial aid, and offers new services to help students both attend and complete college.

In addition to making college more accessible, this bill also invests in education for preschool and school-aged children. It expands and improves early learning systems through competitive grants for states to offer high-quality services for children age zero to five, and will support more and better training for early childhood educators. The bill also provides funding to help modernize and repair schools—elementary and secondary schools as well as community colleges across the country. The funding is targeted for projects that are energy efficient and that create healthier and safer learning environments for our children.

To help strengthen our economy, the Congressional budget resolution that we passed earlier this year called for significant investments in education—including in Pell Grants—within a framework of fiscal responsibility. Today we have before us a bill that fulfills the challenge. It makes the student loan program run more efficiently, and thus reduces the deficit, while making dramatic improvements in our education system that will help students of all ages. I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this bill.

#### STATEMENT ON VOTE OF H.R. 3221, STUDENT AID AND FISCAL RE- SPONSIBILITY ACT OF 2009

SPEECH OF

### HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 16, 2009*

Mr. BURGESS. Madam Speaker, regretfully, today we voted on yet another expansion of our federal government at a severe cost to the American taxpayer. \$100 billion dollars of stimulus money has already been given to the U.S. Department of Education in the "American Recovery and Reinvestment Act"—the so-called stimulus bill. With money borrowed from our children's future, the full appropriations of the stimulus bill have yet to be spent—and we have yet to be given an accounting of who exactly is getting and spending the American taxpayer's money. I can not support the duplicative spending in H.R. 3221, the Student Aid and Fiscal Responsibility Act of 2009, until there is full accountability from the U.S. Department of Education of how they are spending this stimulus money.

Furthermore, while I cast a no vote on H.R. 3221, I will note there are several good things in this bill. For instance, one of the proposed nine new federal programs at the U.S. Department of Education is one focused on our veterans. Members of our Armed Services should be given loan forgiveness when they valiantly serve to protect our freedoms, and they should be allowed to transfer general education credits from one school to another while they are serving. I wish this portion of this bill was given to Members for individual consideration; however, it wasn't.

Instead, this bill primarily sought to get rid of the Federal Family Education Loan Program



(FFELP) and replace it with the U.S. Department of Education's Direct Loan Program. FFELP has been around for 40 years and served our constituents in allowing them access to higher education. To replace it in its entirety with the direct Loan program would be fiscal malfeasance. The U.S. Department of Education does not have the funds to give loans to students who are eligible for college loans and, in fact, has lost money in this program. From 1995 to 2003 the Direct Loan program borrowed \$137 billion to float this program and has posted a loss in the amount repaid and the amount borrowed.

I am also troubled by particular attention in this bill in Title III directed at giving grants to Louisiana, Mississippi and Alabama for losses suffered during their Hurricane Katrina and Hurricane Rita, but no similar funding will be given to Texas for the losses they suffered during Hurricane Ike. Texas students deserve as much sound infrastructure as a result of hurricane destruction as Louisiana, Mississippi and Alabama.

Furthermore, we should not have to use an education bill to address the voter fraud and tax evasion activity by the organization known as ACORN. I voted yes on the Motion to Re-commit this bill to address the ACORN issues, but considering ACORN could have access to \$1 billion—as compared to the \$50 billion the American taxpayer could lose as a result of H.R. 3221—I will continue to vote no on H.R. 3221.

This bill is just another example of the federal government getting rid of choice and mandating only a public option. Just as I have fought the battle with regards to our healthcare, I am equally concerned that our education program remains vibrant and competitive.

TRIBUTE TO DR. DEAN HARMS

**HON. TOM LATHAM**

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 17, 2009*

Mr. LATHAM. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Dr. Dean Harms of Ames, Iowa as the Ames Tribune's 2009 *Unsung Hero*.

The *Unsung Hero* award honors people who quietly but generously give their time and talents to help others. In 2003, as president of the Rotary Club in Ames, Dr. Harms began searching for ways to serve people. During his search he found that his friend, Doug Perry, who served with him in the U.S. Air Force, had started a mission in El Porvenir, Honduras. Doug welcomed Dr. Harms aboard and he has since been volunteering his time off and on in Honduras for six years. Dr. Harms mostly conducts eye surgeries but does other procedures as well.

When Doug passed away, Dr. Harms took it upon himself to continue the mission along with his friends Chuck and Carolyn Jons, who nominated him for this award. With the help of his friends and the community, Dr. Harms also successfully spearheaded the construction of a high school library in El Porvenir and established reading and literacy programs for local citizens.

Dr. Harms' eagerness to utilize his talents to improve the lives of others serves as a won-

derful example of human compassion. I consider it an honor to represent Dr. Dean Harms in the United States Congress, and I know my colleagues join me in commending Dr. Harms on his well-deserved award. I wish him all the best in his continued voluntary service and future endeavors.

CELEBRATING THE 175TH ANNIVERSARY OF PHILLIPS LYTLE, LLP

**HON. BRIAN HIGGINS**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 17, 2009*

Mr. HIGGINS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Phillips Lytle LLP, a legal institution steeped in history which was founded in 1834 by Orsamus H. Marshall in Buffalo, New York.

While the firm name has evolved through time, its mission and philosophy have remained constant. Phillips Lytle is a full service law firm possessing extraordinary capabilities to service client needs.

Originally Marshall & Harvey, then Harvey & Bass, next Bass and Bissell; in 1874 future President of the United States, Grover Cleveland, joined the practice which then became Bass, Cleveland & Bissell LLP.

While a partner with Bass, Cleveland & Bissell, Grover Cleveland was elected mayor of the City of Buffalo in 1881. In 1883 Cleveland left the firm to become Governor of New York State and in 1885 Cleveland was elected as the 22nd President of the United States.

In 1906, Former State Supreme Court Justice, Daniel J. Kenefick joined the firm and in 1911, former Deputy Attorney General of New York State, Edward H. Letchworth signed on to practice law with Kenefick, Cooke, Mitchell & Bass.

The law practice grew significantly in the early 1930's as new partners emerged. In 1946, William E. Lytle joined and in 1960, additional partners were added including former Majority Leader of the New York State Senate, Walter J. Mahoney, who was later elected State Supreme Court Justice in 1965.

In 1970, under the name Phillips, Lytle, Hitchcock, Blaine & Huber, the firm was positioned for significant growth. Throughout the 1970's and 1980's, the Buffalo-based firm expanded across the State of New York partnering with a firms in Jamestown, Rochester, Fredonia and in 1982, an office was officially opened in New York City.

Several prominent Buffalo attorney's joined the firm in 2000 and in 2003, Phillips, Lytle, Hitchcock, Blaine & Huber was shortened to Phillips Lytle, LLP. The firm's unique approach has stood the test of time as they built practice groups around clients' needs in the areas of Commercial, Corporate, Family Wealth Planning, Labor & Employment and Trial law.

Today, Phillips Lytle has the largest geographic scope of any law firm in New York State, occupying seven (7) offices with over one hundred and seventy (170) attorneys representing some of the best companies in the United States. In total, there are over 450 individuals committed to the long standing tradition of providing exceptional legal services.

Steeped in history and experience, Phillips Lytle, LLP has remained a pillar firm in West-

ern New York. It is my distinct honor, to recognize David McNamara, Firm Managing Partner, along with each and every talented Partner, Associate, and Staff Member of Phillips Lytle, LLP for their outstanding professional and civic contributions to Western New York.

Madam Speaker, I am pleased to have this opportunity to recognize Phillips Lytle, LLP a firm with a long tradition of commitment to defending the law, upon this, their 175th Anniversary.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 125TH ANNIVERSARY OF LAUREL GROVE BAPTIST CHURCH

**HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 17, 2009*

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 125th Anniversary of the Laurel Grove Baptist Church and to celebrate the triumph of human spirit that this church symbolizes.

Before the Civil War, Mrs. Jane Carroll, who was a slave of Dennis Johnston, received 10 acres of land from the estate of her owner. From these humble beginnings, a small but vibrant African American community developed.

In the mid 1800's, George Carroll, one of Jane Carroll's children, along with Thornton Gray and William Jasper, settled in what is now known as Franconia. These three men had been enslaved or were the direct descendants of those who had been enslaved in the Franconia area since the 1700's. The community that they founded became known as Carrolltown.

Carrolltown grew. Freed slaves settled there, bringing the talents and skills that form a community. A general store sprung up. A school was founded, the Laurel Grove Colored School, on land donated by William and Georgeanna Jasper. But there was no house of worship in the town. The people of Carrolltown had to worship in their homes or walk 13 miles to the Alfred Street Baptist Church in Alexandria City.

In 1884, a group of freed slaves and neighbors named George Carroll, Middleton Braxton, Thornton Gray, Laurenda Huntger, Elizabeth Lomax and William and Georgeanna Jasper, joined together in the quest to build a local place of worship. On May 10, 1884, William and Georgeanna Jasper donated a one-half acre parcel of land for the express purpose of building a house of worship adjacent to the Laurel Grove Colored School. This church became the Laurel Grove Baptist Church and has been known by many as "The Little Church by the Side of the Road".

Since that time, over the course of 125 years, the Laurel Grove Baptist Church has ministered to neighbors, friends and descendants of the original founders and the community as a whole. Laurel Grove Baptist Church has stood witness to the history of African Americans in the United States. From the bondage of slavery, to the struggle for equal rights to the election of the first African American President, the spirit and faith of the African American community has been represented by the existence of the Laurel Grove Baptist Church. The determination of the congregants, past and present, has been symbolic of the fight for freedom, equality, fairness and respect.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Laurel Grove Baptist Church on the occasion of its 125th Anniversary and also in expressing our deepest respect and admiration for the triumph of spirit that is symbolized by this "Little Church by the Side of the Road".

RECOGNIZING 15TH ANNIVERSARY  
OF THE VIOLENCE AGAINST  
WOMEN ACT

SPEECH OF

**HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, September 14, 2009*

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res. 738, a resolution honoring the 15th anniversary of the Violence Against Women Act of 1994. As a Co-Chair of the Congressional Caucus for Women's Issues I am proud to support landmark legislation that shined a light on the problem of intimate partner violence and provided women with the resources needed to escape violent relationships.

This 15th anniversary, we celebrate the tremendous gains we have made in raising awareness about domestic violence and empowering women to leave unhealthy relationships and rebuilt their lives away from their abusers.

President Clinton signed the Violence Against Women Act on September 13, 1994, as part of the Omnibus Crime Bill. And over the last 15 years we have made tremendous progress toward ending the cycle of abuse. States have taken up the charge and have passed close to 700 laws to combat domestic violence, sexual assault, and stalking. As a result, more victims are reporting their abuse and the number of women killed by an intimate partner decreased by 24 percent. The number of comprehensive service program has grown exponentially since the passage of VAWA.

However, we have more work to do. Despite these gains, the anniversary of VAWA reminds us that there are many women and children still living in terror and in constant fear for their safety.

Today, the cost of intimate partner violence exceeds \$5.8 billion annually, \$4.1 billion of which is for direct medical and mental health services. Nearly 1 in 4 women in the U.S. will be abused by a current or former partner at some time in their lives.

We need to continue looking for a wide range of solutions to this problem. We need to devote more resources to helping women and their children begin living healthy and happy lives free of violence.

I am glad we are honoring the legislation on its 15th anniversary and I look forward to re-authorizing the program next year. I hope that we will continue our efforts to protect women from abuse and encourage the building of healthy families.

I urge all of my colleagues to strongly support the resolution.

MILDRED L. COX

**HON. MIKE PENCE**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 17, 2009*

Mr. PENCE. Madam Speaker, I rise today with a heavy heart to commemorate the life of a very important friend to my home state of Indiana, Mildred L. Cox.

For more than a quarter century, Millie, as she was known, tirelessly advocated for Indiana's credit unions and worked to ensure that they would provide the best financial services to their members.

Millie was born to William Clyde and Vonnie Pearl South in Jamestown, Tennessee on May 17, 1940. A graduate of Kennard High School in 1957, Millie's zest for life was obvious to all those who were fortunate to know her.

As the "Team Mom" of her late husband's little league teams and president of the Epsilon Sigma Alpha Sorority, Millie touched many lives. In her free time, Millie could often be found reading, gardening, or researching her family's genealogy; however, it was her work on behalf of Indiana credit unions that will cast Millie's most lasting legacy.

Millie joined the staff of the Indiana Credit Union League in February of 1977, serving as secretary in the Governmental Affairs Department. Due to her tremendous work ethic, Millie was first promoted in 1980 and two years later, she became the department's legislative coordinator. In this position, Millie began actively lobbying the Indiana Statehouse and U.S. Congress on behalf of Indiana's credit unions.

Millie soon became a recognizable figure both at the Statehouse and in Washington, D.C. She was known for her passionate convictions and spent a great deal of time educating others with regard to the legislative process, as well as strongly encouraging political involvement.

In 1986, Millie became the Vice President of Governmental Affairs and served as a liaison between the credit unions and regulatory agencies that shape policy.

Upon her retirement in 2003, Millie had amassed a legacy of service that will be remembered for generations to come. Of the many honors she received, the late Governor of Indiana, Frank O'Bannon awarded Millie with the prestigious Sagamore of the Wabash.

The Indiana General Assembly adopted a resolution honoring Millie's service as the Vice President of Governmental Affairs in 2003, and each year, the Indiana Credit Union Foundation now awards the Millie Cox Award. It is presented to a deserving recipient that best exemplifies Millie's qualities in advocating on behalf of the credit unions.

Millie was also blessed with a loving family. She will be sorely missed by her son Curt, her brothers and sisters, extended family and all those who were fortunate enough to know her.

We have lost an important figure in our community and I have lost a dear friend.

Let us keep Millie Cox and her family in our thoughts and prayers as we mark her passing.

STUDENT AID AND FISCAL  
RESPONSIBILITY ACT OF 2009

SPEECH OF

**HON. DORIS O. MATSUI**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 16, 2009*

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 221) to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965, and for other purposes:

Ms. MATSUI. Madam Chair. I rise today in support of the legislation before us today, H.R. 3221.

A college degree is now deeply intertwined with the promise of the American dream, and it is our responsibility to provide equal opportunities to America's students. As the skill requirements of jobs continue to increase, so too should access to postsecondary education for all of our nation's students.

The Student Aid and Fiscal Responsibility Act directs the government to originate all student loans and it also ensures that there is a role for private industry, guarantee agencies, and non-profits in providing their services. This truly is a public-private partnership.

Moving all loans to the Direct Lending program will save the federal government and taxpayers almost \$100 billion over the next 10 years as it eliminates tax-payer funded subsidies private lenders have been receiving to make student loans. Students in Sacramento will see a dramatic increase in their Pell grant awards over the next 10 years with total amounts going from \$44 million to over \$110 million in our community alone.

The savings found through this proposal will help strengthen the Pell grant program, keep interest rates on student loans low, improve community colleges, and expand early childhood education.

Given the recent economic downturn, more and more students are seeking aid, and additional Pell funds will allow them to achieve their goals.

Elisa Piña is a fourth year student at California State University, Sacramento, which is located in my district. She is receiving the Cal Grant and the Pell Grant, and is also a participant in the Federal Work-Study Program. With the recent state budget cuts to the Cal Grant, the Pell Grant is crucial to her ability to stay in school.

Elisa comes from a low-income family. Without the financial aid afforded to her through these programs, she would have never been able to afford college.

Elisa's story, thanks to the federal loan program this Congress has supported, is one of millions in communities all across the country. The bill before us today will make her dream of going to college a reality for millions more.

Madam Chair, for all of these reasons, I urge my colleagues to support the underlying bill.

TURKEY-ARMENIA  
NORMALIZATION

HON. HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 17, 2009*

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I come to the floor today to hail the efforts underway to heal past wounds between the Republics of Turkey and Armenia.

For several years, the two countries have quietly been meeting, with the assistance of Switzerland, to come to an agreement to normalize diplomatic relations and open the borders between Armenia and Turkey. I am quite pleased that these negotiations have been fruitful. I also encourage the two countries to continue to work together to finish the process quickly since it will not only benefit the citizens of these two countries, but the region and the world as well.

I would like to put into the RECORD an article by Hugh Pope from the International Crisis Group who calls this recent action by Turkey and Armenia as taking, ". . . a brave and statesmanlike step.

Like the International Crisis Group, I too am optimistic that these efforts will lead to greater stabilization of the region and am proud to stand here today and congratulate the governments of Armenia and Turkey on their efforts to date and offer our friendship and help as they move on to the next steps in the process.

THE EU-TURKEY-CYPRUS TRIANGLE: "TURKEY AND ARMENIA VOW TO HEAL PAST WOUNDS", BY HUGH POPE

1 SEPTEMBER 2009

It's been a long time coming, but Turkey and Armenia's vow on 31 August to establish diplomatic relations, open their long-closed border and begin to talk seriously about the past is excellent news. As laid out in our 14 April report *Turkey and Armenia: Opening Minds, Opening Borders*, normalization between Turkey and Armenia will benefit not just the bilateral relationship. If successful, it could win back for Turkey and its AKP government much of their recently faded prestige as domestic reformers, as regional peace-makers and as a country seriously intending to push forward with its accession process to the European Union.

The brief joint announcement from Ankara, Yerevan and the Swiss mediators in Bern said that two protocols had been initialed on the establishment of diplomatic relations and the development of bilateral relations. The two sides committed to seeing the protocols through to parliamentary ratifications within six weeks—that is, two days before a 14 October World Cup qualifier match between Armenia and Turkey due to be played in the western Turkish provincial city of Bursa. Turkey hopes that Armenian President Serzh Sarkisian will accept its invitation to attend, just as Turkish President Abdullah Gül initiated the current process by attending the first round match in Yerevan in September 2008.

Texts of the two protocols circulating in Turkey and Armenia set out a fully rounded and reasonable plan. In a "Protocol on the Establishment of Diplomatic Relations" the two sides promised to establish diplomatic relations on the first day of the first month after ratification; to exchange diplomatic missions; to reopen the border within two months of ratification; and to mutually recognize the existing border. In a "Protocol on Development of Relations"—to go into effect

simultaneously with the diplomatic opening—the two sides promised to promote cooperation in all areas from energy infrastructure to tourism; to set up a mechanism of regular foreign ministry consultations, including a main intergovernmental commission and seven sub-commissions; to act jointly to preserve the cultural heritage of both sides; and to establish consular cooperation. The protocols are accompanied by a detailed timetable, in which all steps and commissions would be fully implemented and in motion within four months.

On the vexed question of how to describe the Ottoman-era massacres of Armenians in the First World War—widely known as the Armenian genocide, a label rejected by Turkey—the "Protocol on Development of Relations" agreed to "implement a dialogue on the historical dimension with the aim to restore mutual confidence between the two nations, including an impartial scientific examination of the historical records and archives to define existing problems and formulate recommendations." The timetable adds that this dialogue will be conducted under the aegis of the main intergovernmental commission in a "sub-commission on the historical dimension . . . in which Armenian, Turkish as well as Swiss and other international experts shall take part."

In short, Turkey and Armenia have taken a brave and statesmanlike step. Both will win if it succeeds. Armenia will overcome the sense that it is surrounded and under siege, will open a new commercial and psychological gateway westward to Europe, will be able to look better after the interests of the many tens of thousands of Armenians working in Turkey, will be able to market its electricity surplus and have easier access to the many Armenian cultural and religious sites in eastern Turkey. For Turkey, the gains are just as significant: the ability to show European and Western partners that it is working toward closure with Armenians on the contested matter of the First World War massacres; to add a new plank in its efforts to bring stability, prosperity and cooperation through relations with all three of its Caucasus neighbours; and, finally, to achieve the satisfaction of full and public Armenian recognition of its borders.

The 31 August step towards normalisation was originally expected in April, but Turkey backed away from the deal. All that could be announced on 22 April 2009 was a vague road map. This hesitation was apparently due to pressure from Azerbaijan—a major supplier of cheap gas to Turkey, and with which Turkey shares close linguistic ties—and continued nationalist opposition to compromise with Armenia inside the Turkish political system. This coincided with a period in Turkey in which reforms towards EU accession had virtually halted; in which Prime Minister Erdoğan appeared disengaged with EU ambitions and to be pursuing alternatives in Russia and the Middle East; and in which Turkey appeared to be taking sides in Middle Eastern issues, with notably harsh criticism of Israel. Turkey also appeared to side fully with Azerbaijan against Armenia, and it remains unclear what will happen to Erdoğan's 14 May promise to the Azerbaijani National Assembly that there would be no opening of the Armenia-Turkey border until there is an Armenian withdrawal from occupied Azerbaijani territory.

The news that normalisation with Armenia is back on track, therefore, is a signal that Turkey may be changing direction again. In

the past few months, Turkey and the AKP leadership have also begun to push hard for progress on two other difficult dossiers, coming to terms with the Kurdistan Regional Government in Iraq and firmly setting out a framework of reconciliation with its own substantial Kurdish community. Progress towards Turkey-Armenia normalisation has also been helped by the unusual way that the US and Russia appear to have been working separately toward a similar compromise outcome, and pushing more actively for progress toward a settlement of the Armenia-Azerbaijan conflict over Nagorno Karabakh.

The fact that Turkey is now leaning back towards a reconciliation with Armenia will do much to clear doubts about the country's posture and the priorities of Prime Minister Erdoğan. It will also do proper credit to the polls that showed 70 per cent of the Turkish population supported President Gül's gesture of visiting Armenia for last September's first round football match, and the great strides Turkey's intellectual and political elites have taken in the past decade to dismiss the old-fashioned narrative of nationalist denial towards the catastrophic Armenian massacres of 1915. Normalisation with Armenia will also give real substance to new Foreign Minister Ahmet Davutoğlu's stated goals of "zero problems" and "peace in the neighbourhood".

However, while reconciliation with Armenia will rightly attract great positive attention in Europe, the next test will not be long in coming. Turkey has to find a way to expedite a solution to the long-running Cyprus solution in the next several months, or see its EU accession process effectively grind to a halt.

HONORING REVEREND ANNABELLE  
MCKUNE

HON. YVETTE D. CLARKE

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 17, 2009*

Ms. CLARKE. Madam Speaker, Reverend Annabelle McKune was born in Brooklyn, New York on November 16th, 1924. The youngest of Francinia and Joseph Stanley's six children, she and her siblings Elizabeth, Louise, Eleanora, Vivian and Joseph, Jr. were raised with strong Christian values at Evening Star Baptist church. Reverend McKune was educated in Brooklyn Public Schools attending P.S. 25, P.S. 3 and graduating from Sarah J. Hale High School.

Her appreciation of music and dance led to her meeting her first husband, the late Micah Diego Chandler at the Savoy Ballroom. They were married in 1941 and the union produced two sons, the late Micah Diego Jr., and Paul Fitzgerald Chandler. Known for her strong work ethic, commitment and tender touch, Reverend McKune worked at several city hospitals, including Baptist Medical Center.

She met her second husband, Reverend Earl McKune at West Baptist Church where they both served as deacons. They were married in 1952 and together, they went on to found Christ Memorial, St. Marks Baptist Church and Fellowship Baptist Church. Following her calling, she became an Evangelist, and later, became the first woman ordained at Fellowship Baptist Church.

After 48 years of marriage, Reverend Earl McKune passed and although she remained a faithful member of Brooklyn's Fellowship Baptist church, she relocated to Florida in August

2008 and served as an Elder in New Bethlehem Missionary Baptist Church in Jacksonville, Florida.

Annabelle returned to New York in June 2009 and passed on the morning of August 1st, 2009. She will be remembered as a visionary who believed deeply in her work in the ministry. Her family and friends will remember her great culinary skills, her sense of style, her willingness to listen and her quick wit. Her legacy will live on through her children Donna, Sylvia, Eartha Lee, William, Bobby, Cynthia, Valerie, Yvonne, Jeffery and his wife Patricia and Paul and his wife Gloria. She is also survived by 14 grandchildren, 24 great-grandchildren, a host of loving god-children and numerous nieces, nephews and cousins.

STUDENT AID AND FISCAL  
RESPONSIBILITY ACT OF 2009

SPEECH OF

**HON. PAUL C. BROUN**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 16, 2009*

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 3221) to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965, and for other purposes:

Mr. BROUN of Georgia. Madam Chair, I rise today in opposition to H.R. 3221, the Student Aid and Fiscal Responsibility Act of 2009. I oppose this bill because, as the nonpartisan CBO has reported, it will cost taxpayers more than \$15 billion over 10 years. And it could also eliminate as many as 30,000 private-sector jobs.

In fact, H.R. 3221 will eliminate choice, competition, and innovation, while growing government and increasing the deficit. This bill will eliminate choice and competition by ending the Federal Family Education Loan Program and giving the Federal Government a monopoly over student aid financing.

This bill will also reduce innovation and grow the government by expanding mandatory and entitlement spending by billions of dollars.

When will the massive spending and Federal takeover end?

Congress should not be growing government and increasing the debt burden on taxpayers. It has no business putting taxpayers on the hook for defaulted student loans when the private sector would gladly bear this risk.

As Herbert Hoover once said, "blessed are the young, for they shall inherit the national debt." That is a sad truth. We should be working to lessen that burden, not take away their choices and reduce their chances to succeed.

Parents, college presidents, and financial aid professionals are against this takeover. They are the experts on this issue because they are the ones that have to foot the bill. I urge my colleagues to hear them and vote no on this legislation.

HONORING GAIL-BURNS SMITH

**HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO**

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 17, 2009*

Ms. DELAURO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and achievements of

Gail Burns-Smith, a tireless advocate for victims of sexual assault and abuse. When Gail passed away unexpectedly on September 5th, our country lost an unspoken hero for women everywhere.

As the Executive Director of Connecticut Sexual Assault Crisis Services for twenty-two years, Gail drew critical attention to the prevalence of sexual abuse and the need to end assault and support its victims. She successfully secured federal funding for organizations working to end sexual abuse and assist victims and was instrumental in passing numerous laws in Connecticut that work to protect our residents against assault. A leader in her field, Gail recognized early on the need for collaboration between victim advocates and sex offender treatment providers.

On the national level, Gail worked with the Center for Treatment of Problem Sexual Behavior to develop the first Victim Advocate Program for sex offender treatment, which became recognized as the national model for such programs. She cofounded the National Alliance to End Sexual Violence, an organization that helped to secure passage of the National Violence Against Women Act. Gail also helped to establish the national Women of Color Leadership Project which evolved into the nonprofit Sisters of Color Ending Sexual Assault (SCESA).

While we have made great strides thanks to champions like Gail, the work to protect and support sexual assault victims is not over. Today, nearly one in five Connecticut residents has experienced a sexual assault. Twenty-six percent of Connecticut women and 10 percent of Connecticut men are sexual assault survivors. Further, many sexual assault treatment centers are experiencing dramatic cuts to their funding and have become limited in their outreach efforts. Just as Gail did, we must continue to champion efforts to end sexual assault and provide help and compassion to victims. She was a true role model and will be dearly missed.

CONGRATULATING THE MINORITY  
BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT AGENCY  
ON ITS 40TH ANNIVERSARY

SPEECH OF

**HON. CORRINE BROWN**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 15, 2009*

Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res. 215, a resolution congratulating the Minority Business Development Agency on its 40th anniversary and commending its achievements in fostering the establishment and growth of minority businesses in the United States. I know in my own district MBDA is an integral part of the economic development of Orlando. In fiscal year 2008, the MBDA Florida Minority Business Opportunity Center (MBOC) in Orlando helped minority businesses get \$13.6 million in contracts and \$29 million in financial transactions.

This year in 2009, one of their local success stories includes APC Workforce Solutions, a contract labor, acquisition and management company. With the assistance of the MBDA Florida Minority Business Opportunity Center, APC recently received a three-year renewable

\$45 million per year contract from Sunoco, Inc. to provide staffing services. The contract is that resulted in the creation of 30 new jobs.

MBDA and its network of centers across the country are helping businesses like APC every day. That's why last year MBDA helped minority businesses get over \$1 billion worth of contracts, \$1 billion worth of financial transactions that helped create more than 5,300 jobs across the country. In this tough economy, agencies like MBDA are helping minority-owned firms succeed and Congress needs to do a better job of recognizing the important job MBDA has been doing over the past 40 years. I am ashamed to say that MBDA was overlooked in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) and there was no specific language in ARRA for minority businesses.

In 2050, the minority community will represent 54 percent of the total U.S. population. It is imperative to the continued strength of the U.S. economy to provide for the growth and expansion of minority businesses. The nation is failing to reap the benefits of economic parity through the creation of 16 million jobs, generating \$2.5 trillion in gross receipts and an unrealized tax base of more than \$100 billion per year. Congress must do more to help the minority business community.

I like to say when America has a cold, the African-American community has pneumonia. Right now, Congress is ignoring the long-term health of our economy by ignoring the needs of minority businesses.

Minority-owned firms are in the position to generate long-term employment and economic sustainability in their communities. Minority firms provide nearly 5 million people with steady jobs and create wealth in minority communities. They create jobs, impact local and state economies and pursue global market-places.

MBDA's long term strategic direction is achieving economic parity for minority firms. Economic parity is a benchmark measured by the proportion of U.S. business owned by minorities being roughly equal to the percent of their population. MBDA is focused on creating a new generation of \$100 million dollar minority businesses creating the foundation that helps to close the gap in annual revenues between minority-owned firms and non-minority owned firms. At economic parity, the diverse business community will be larger than the economies of Russia, Italy or Spain. At economic parity, we reduce the unemployment rate from the current level of about 9.4 percent to 7.5 percent. At economic parity, the tax-base that is generated could fund 100 percent of Head Start, 100 percent of State Children's Health Insurance Program or a full 10 percent of the cost estimate to reform healthcare.

In closing, I'd like to again congratulate the Minority Business Development Agency on their 40th Anniversary and reiterate the importance of minority businesses to the economy.

STUDENT AID AND FISCAL  
RESPONSIBILITY ACT OF 2009

SPEECH OF

**HON. TODD TIAHRT**

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 16, 2009*

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under

consideration the bill (H.R. 3221) to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965, and for other purposes:

Mr. TIAHRT. Madam Chair, I rise in opposition to H.R. 3221, the Student Aid and Fiscal Responsibility Act because it will increase our deficit, but not help Americans with the expense of college. This bill is just one more area where the President and his party's leadership in the House are seeking to take over private industry. This is yet another one-size-fits-all government program intended to cripple the private sector and force additional financial risk on the American taxpayer.

In the last few months, we have watched the national debt level grow at an unprecedented rate. We spent billions of dollars bailing out the automobile industry. We have thrown good money after bad to prop up portions of the financial sector that we are told are "too big to fail." We've bailed out Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac, only to watch the housing industry continue to flounder. We have spent more than \$780 billion on a stimulus package that has left us with higher unemployment than we had before the bill. And in the next few weeks, we will need to raise the debt ceiling again.

Claims that this bill will save the nation billions of dollars look like a budget gimmick to pay for new government programs. Government has grown enough in recent years. We need to be looking for ways to save money and reduce our deficit, not spend "projected savings" on new, duplicative programs.

Furthermore, the money that supporters claim will be made available by these budget gimmicks is only expected to cover the first five years of these new programs. After that, Congress will be forced to find alternative sources of funding for them, or eliminate them. This is as productive as a credit card offering no payments for six months. This is a very poor way to manage the finances of the nation.

A second big problem I see with H.R. 3221 is the federalization of the student loan industry. If we run out of money for this program in the future, what happens to the students? With no private lenders, the students are left without any other source of funding for their education.

Fifteen years ago, when the federal government first got involved in the business of providing student loans, Congress was told that this was not an attempt for the federal government to take over the student loan industry, but simply a way to improve the system, and provide "competition" to the private sector. Yet, fifteen years later, here we are, debating a bill that would force private lenders out of the industry.

Does this argument sound familiar? It should. These are the same explanations being offered today by the President and by Democrat leaders in the House and Senate on health care. We are told that the bill will not lead to a government takeover of health care. Proponents say that a "government option" will simply compete, not replace, private health insurance plans. But I wonder, if the health care bill were to pass, how long would it be before this body is having a similar vote to eliminate private health insurance plans.

I urge my colleagues to join me in voting against this bill. This is a big government takeover of a private industry that will saddle taxpayers with the risk of billions in additional

debt, while shrinking access to resources for future generations of students. In short, Madam Speaker, if it ain't broke, don't fix it.

A PROCLAMATION HONORING  
150TH ANNIVERSARY OF ST.  
JAMES EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN  
CHURCH OF JEWETT, OHIO

**HON. ZACHARY T. SPACE**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 17, 2009*

Mr. SPACE. Madam Speaker, Whereas, the dedicated people of St. James Evangelical Lutheran Church celebrate the church's 150th anniversary with great joy; and

Whereas, this milestone is the result of what a tempered people began in 1859; and

Whereas, occasions such as these illustrate to us that love mixed with grace and trust will stand the test of time; and

Whereas, it is the fond wish of this body that you will continue to present this work as an example to congregations and faith communities everywhere; and

Whereas, you have demonstrated excellence in your calling as a church, as anything less would have left you bereaved of such a jubilant occasion, and we are proud to have you as sons and daughters in the great state of Ohio and of our nation; be it

Resolved that along with his friends, family, and the residents of the 18th Congressional District, I commend the congregation for your unwavering labor and commitment, recognizing that all great achievements come with extraordinary effort. With great appreciation and respect, we wish you continued abundant grace as you continue to labor for your community and your faith.

TO RECOGNIZE THOMAS JEFFERSON  
HIGH SCHOOL FOR SCIENCE  
AND TECHNOLOGY FOR BEING  
NAMED A 2009 NATIONAL BLUE  
RIBBON SCHOOL

**HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 17, 2009*

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology for being designated a 2009 National Blue Ribbon School. In 2009, 314 schools from 47 states were named National Blue Ribbon Schools. Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology is one of only two high schools from Virginia so honored for 2009 and in fact, is the only public high school in the Commonwealth to receive this prestigious designation.

The National Blue Ribbon School Program began in 1982 as part of a larger Department of Education effort to identify and disseminate knowledge about best school leadership and teaching practices. Since the program's inception, over 6,150 American schools have received this coveted award. This award honors public and private elementary, middle and high schools that are either academically superior or have made dramatic gains in student

achievement and helped close gaps in achievement among minority and disadvantaged students.

Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology has a long history of academic excellence. It has fielded more National Merit Semifinalists than any other high school in America for most of the 1990s and 2000s. From 2000 to 2005, it fielded more United States of America Mathematical Olympiad qualifiers than any other high school in America and has a distinguished history of U.S. Physics Olympiad Team members and medal winners. In 2007 the school had more Intel Science Talent Search Semifinalists (14) than any other school and in 2009, this feat was repeated with 15 semifinalists.

Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology was ranked as the top high school in the nation by PrepReview in 2004. In that same year, it had the highest average SAT score among all American high schools, both public and private.

It was also ranked number 1 among "America's Best High Schools" in a study by U.S. News and World Report in 2007 and again in 2008. For schools with more than 800 students in grades 10–12, TJHSST was cited as having the highest-performing AP Calculus BC, AP Chemistry, AP French Language, AP Government and Politics: U.S., and AP U.S. History courses among all schools worldwide.

It is fitting that Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology can now add its designation as a National Blue Ribbon School to their extensive list of other extraordinary achievements.

Madam Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in congratulating Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology on receiving this honor. I also ask my colleagues to join me in thanking the principal, Dr. Evan Glazer along with the entire staff, student body and their families for their commitment to excellence in education.

STUDENT AID AND FISCAL  
RESPONSIBILITY ACT OF 2009

SPEECH OF

**HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN**

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 16, 2009*

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 3221) to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965, and for other purposes:

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Madam Chair, I rise today in strong support of the Student Aid and Fiscal Responsibility Act. Today's bill provides access to education and builds a strong 21st Century workforce.

It provides access to college by ensuring that students have a reliable source of affordable federal loans. It simplifies the FAFSA to make it easier to apply for assistance. And it guarantees the Pell grant as a key to college affordability by indexing the maximum award to the Consumer Price Index plus one percent.

SAFRA will also help students stay in college with a new federal emphasis on college completion. As increasing numbers of Americans turn to community college for job training, this bill invests \$3 billion to fund programs to retain and graduate students.

SAFRA provides access to quality early childhood education by making new investments in innovative birth through five programs. The bill ensures that every child enters kindergarten ready to succeed by transforming early education standards and building our early childhood workforce.

And finally, it provides access to safe places to learn with funds to repair crumbling schools and make energy-efficiency improvements to save money over the long term.

Importantly, SAFRA makes these vital investments without adding a single penny to the federal deficit. In fact, it would return \$10 billion in savings to the Treasury.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill and ensure that every child has access to a high quality education, from birth to graduation day.

HONORING THE SERVICE AND SACRIFICE OF UNITED STATES ARMY SPECIALIST NATHAN SPANGENBERG

### HON. GABRIELLE GIFFORDS

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 17, 2009*

Ms. GIFFORDS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor United States Army Specialist Nathan Spangenberg, who died from an illness at Schofield Barracks in Hawaii on September 8, 2009 following his last deployment. He leaves behind his mother, Lois, his brother, Colin, sister, Megan and a niece and nephew.

Born in Tucson, Nathan attended Mountain View High School from 2004 to 2006, then transferred to Mountain Rose Academy charter school before joining the Army in 2007. SPC Spangenberg was an infantryman with the 2nd Stryker Brigade, 25th Infantry Division headquartered in Hawaii.

He and his unit returned there in February after a 15-month tour in Iraq. The Warrior Brigade, as they are known, was responsible for securing an 800 square mile area North of Baghdad that remains one of the most dangerous places for U.S. forces.

Appropriately, Nathan was a warrior. He survived his extended tour in Iraq only to be taken from us too soon.

We remember SPC Spangenberg and offer our deepest condolences and sincerest prayers to his mother, brother, sister, niece and nephew. My words cannot effectively convey the feeling of great loss nor can they offer adequate consolation. However, it is my hope that in future days, his family may take some comfort in knowing that Nathan's legacy reaches beyond the desolate landscape of Iraq and the barracks of Hawaii and into the hearts of a grateful nation.

This body and this country owe Nathan and his family a debt of gratitude and it is vital that we remember him and his fellow servicemembers who have paid the ultimate price.

Nathan is a hero both to his country and to his wonderful family. We salute his selfless service and bravery. May he not be forgotten and may his mission continue in the work of this body and the hearts of all Americans.

DR. ROBERT H. KNAPP

### HON. VERNON J. EHLERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 17, 2009*

Mr. EHLERS. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor the life of Dr. Robert H. Knapp who passed away suddenly on July 13, 2009. I extend my condolences to Dr. Knapp's wife of 31 years, Judy, and his daughters Megan and Sarah, as well as his extended family.

Dr. Knapp attended Wayne State University Medical School in Detroit, Michigan and was a long-time pathologist in the Grand Rapids, Michigan area practicing at Spectrum Health and most recently Grandville Pathology Laboratory.

Dr. Knapp began his service to medicine at the local level. He served as President and Trustee of the Michigan Society of Pathologists and was a member of the Kent County Medical Society and the Michigan State Medical Society.

Dr. Knapp's leadership in pathology allowed him to demonstrate outstanding service to the profession of medicine and his community by serving as an advocate for the important role that pathologists play in improving the quality of health care for Americans.

In fact, Dr. Knapp was very active in advocacy efforts on behalf of both the College of American Pathologists and the American Society of Cytopathology. He visited with me and my staff numerous times over the past few years and hosted me for a laboratory tour at his facility last fall.

In addition to his professional career, Dr. Knapp was an avid cheesemaker and lover of opera.

Dr. Knapp was a dedicated, knowledgeable advocate and respected pathologist. He deserves to be remembered kindly for his legacy of service to the Grand Rapids community and to the medical profession.

### STUDENT AID AND FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY ACT OF 2009

SPEECH OF

### HON. JOHN D. DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 16, 2009*

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 3221) to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965, and for other purposes:

Mr. DINGELL. Madam Chair, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 3221, the Student Aid and Fiscal Responsibility Act. For far too long private lenders have saddled our students with thousands of dollars of debt, all so they could make a profit. Today Congress puts an end to this ensuring that all students who desire a higher education can do so in an affordable manner.

When I was growing up I was told that in order to have a good job you must graduate from grade school, and then it was high school and now it is college. Unfortunately the reality is that all too often, many of our brightest and best are not pursuing college because they cannot afford to do so. I hear time and

time again from my young constituents who are working two or three part-time jobs all so they can take a class or two a semester. We cannot allow our brightest minds to burn out before they can complete their degree. Higher education should be an opportunity and not a burden.

H.R. 3221 will change this by ensuring that the students are the focus of our higher education system once again. This legislation will change the way the student loan system functions by ensuring all new loans are operated through the Direct Loan program, saving the taxpayers \$87 billion and guaranteeing our students have access to low-cost, reliable federal loans.

The savings from this change will be directed towards increasing government grant loan assistance for tuition payments. Pell grants, which serve nearly seven million students, will be increased to \$5,550 in 2010 and to \$6,900 by 2019. To ensure that these grants continue to keep up with the rising costs of tuition, beginning in 2011 the grants will be linked to the Consumer Price Index.

In my district more than 13,000 students rely on the Pell grant to help pay for their schooling. This increase of funding would be critical for each one of these students and would increase the total amount of Pell grant awards in the 15th District from \$34 million to over \$85 million.

This legislation will also simplify the FAFSA, making it easier for families to apply for financial aid. By permitting families to use information from their tax returns, the FAFSA process will be more streamlined and effective for our students. This is critical for families in the 15th District who submitted nearly 38,000 applications last year and are anticipated to submit 56,000 in the 2012 school year.

H.R. 3221 also lowers the interest rates on government-subsidized loans helping to lower college debt after graduation, which will be critical to the nearly 334,000 students in Michigan who rely on these loans.

Increased funding will also be directed to our community colleges, many of whom in Michigan are overwhelmed with trying to serve the thousands of dislocated workers who are looking to start their second career. I have always believed that our community colleges and universities deserve equal treatment; however, this recession has made demonstrated the many different types of students our community colleges serve. This legislation will help these colleges to work more closely with our business community, the state and job training programs and adult education programs to ensure our adult learners have access to the support they need to complete their degree or certificate. And for the over 177,000 students currently enrolled in Michigan community colleges, we must ensure that they have safe, quality facilities in which to learn. Under H.R. 3221 Michigan will receive nearly \$88 million to help finance projects to repair or construct new community college facilities.

Overall this legislation makes unprecedented and much-needed reforms to our student aid system, however, we must also ensure that our colleges and universities have the resources and the support they need to implement this bill. I know for the colleges and universities in my district, they are already struggling with reduced financial assistance from the state, therefore, we must ensure that the consideration of any financial match is

weighed against the current situation in our economy, and what our schools are already committed to doing to assist needy students.

Madam Chair, I am pleased to rise in support of this legislation and I urge strongly that my colleagues do the same. We have all watched the tuition at public and private colleges double, then triple as time has passed, creating a burdensome gap for our students to overcome. The students of this country are our greatest hope—they are our future doctors, our future lawyers, our future teachers and our future public servants. To not ensure that they have an affordable, quality education would be to shortchange their success and the success of our country.

INTRODUCTION OF "NEWSPAPER REVITALIZATION ACT OF 2009"

**HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 17, 2009

Mrs. MALONEY. Madam Speaker, today I am introducing the "Newspaper Revitalization Act of 2009," the companion to legislation introduced in the Senate by Senator CARDIN (D-MD). This legislation will help newspapers across the country that are closing down or facing bankruptcy at an alarming rate by allowing them to become non-profit 501(c)(3) organizations similar to public broadcasting. Large cities whose newspapers include, The Philadelphia Inquirer, The Seattle Post-Intelligencer, The Rocky Mountain News, San Francisco Chronicle, and The Baltimore Sun are at risk of losing their dailies. Unless something is done soon, it is possible that many metropolitan regions may have no local daily newspapers.

Many bloggers, Google news, and punditry get their original news from the diligent work of beat reporters for daily newspapers who have invested years on their beat and provide the best information on an issue from many perspectives. This type of beat reporting requires commitments of both time and money, and unfortunately, the current economic climate has only worsened the already precarious business situation for many newspapers. This bill would provide for a voluntary option for newspapers and a way for a community or foundations to step in and preserve their local papers that are rapidly disappearing.

Newspapers are an essential component to our free democratic society. Studies have shown that areas where daily newspapers have gone out of business there has been a rise in corruption in government and plummeting civil engagement in politics. With the state of the current newspaper model, dependent on advertising and circulation revenue, it will be difficult for newspapers to maintain and produce high quality news without bold changes. I urge my colleagues to support this legislation as an important first step in saving them.

NATIONAL GEAR UP DAY

**HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 17, 2009

Mr. ENGEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Program, or GEAR UP. This program has improved educational outcomes for over a million low-income students across the United States by providing college readiness partnerships and scholarships for low income students.

Tomorrow, September 18th, is the first annual "National GEAR UP Day" to acknowledge the success GEAR UP has had in providing students with the resources they need to go to college despite the challenges they may face in their communities. Over 1.5 million GEAR UP students have been served over the last ten years. GEAR UP offers comprehensive mentoring, tutoring, financial aid counseling and also provides information and activities regarding college admissions.

With my colleagues, Congressman CROWLEY and Congressman SERRANO, I would like to recognize the success of the Bronx Institute at Lehman College which administers three GEAR UP grants in more than 50 schools in the Bronx. These programs serve more than 8,500 Bronx students in grades 8, 9 and 11. They offer after school, weekend and evening classes and workshops for students and parents. Their project staff provides one to one counseling and college readiness support to all students and families. They have in place, and continue to develop and support, rigorous instructional programs that serve to prepare students for college level learning. Additionally, the Bronx Institute at Lehman College's technology program has distributed more than 6,500 laptops to students and will add to that number this year.

In the 110th Congress I was proud to have been a cosponsor and supporter of H. Res. 1311, expressing support for the designation of a National GEAR UP Day and am glad that it has come to realization.

Madam Speaker, I encourage my colleagues to join with me in recognizing and commending the students, families, education professionals, and business and community leaders involved in GEAR UP on its 10th anniversary.

STUDENT AID AND FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY ACT OF 2009

SPEECH OF

**HON. MAXINE WATERS**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 16, 2009

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 3221) to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965, and for other purposes:

Ms. WATERS. Madam Chair, I rise to support H.R. 3221, the Student Aid and Fiscal Responsibility Act of 2009. I'd also like to commend my colleague from California, Chairman GEORGE MILLER for his hard work to bring this bill to the floor today.

Now more than ever, Americans need affordable and quality educational opportunities that will help make our economy stronger and more competitive. This bill embraces President Obama's challenge to produce more college graduates by the year 2020 by making higher education more accessible. This legislation achieves that goal by transforming the way student loan programs operate.

The Student Aid and Fiscal Responsibility Act is the single largest investment in aid to help students and families pay for college in history—and it does so at no cost to taxpayers. The bill reforms the system of federal student loans to save taxpayers \$87 billion—and then invests \$77 billion of those savings back into education, particularly by making college more affordable, and directs \$10 billion back to the Treasury to reduce entitlement spending. Among its many provisions, I am especially pleased that the maximum Pell Grant is increased from \$5,350 in 2009 to \$5,550 in 2010 and to \$6,900 in 2019 and that interest rates are kept low on subsidized federal student loans. This will help more students graduate with less debt. Unfortunately, too many students are graduating with record debt, partly because grant aid doesn't cover nearly as large a share of college costs as it used to. This legislation will allow us to invest \$40 billion in the Pell Grant scholarship, to keep interest rates affordable on need-based federal student loans, to simplify the federal student aid application process, and to invest in other forms of aid that will help low-income, middle class and minority students pay for and complete college.

H.R. 3221 will also stabilize and safeguard the federal student loan program that students and families depend on to pay for college. The intertwined economic and credit crises have exposed serious vulnerabilities in the structure of the federally-guaranteed student loan program—putting it on life support. Families shouldn't have to worry about whether the roller coaster fluctuations of the financial markets will hurt their access to low-cost student loans. By originating all new federal loans through the cheaper Direct Loan program, students and parents will be able to receive the same loans with the added assurance that these loans are entirely reliable, no matter what happens in the economy. This simple change will save taxpayers \$87 billion over 10 years.

H.R. 3221 also builds on the best of what works in the private sector to provide borrowers with top-notch customer service. The legislation will allow state non-profit lenders and private industry to continue doing what they do best—servicing loans. It will allow private entities to compete for contracts to service these loans—ensuring that students get the best services available and maintaining jobs in communities across the country. This bill also eliminates waste and creates a streamlined, cost-effective program for families and taxpayers. Each year, billions of taxpayers' dollars are being sent into a program that no longer works—and that the Department of Education can administer for a much lower cost. This is exactly the kind of waste we need to eliminate in tough fiscal times. By cutting out the middleman, this legislation will save taxpayers \$87 billion over 10 years, according to the Congressional Budget Office. It's a smarter business decision for taxpayers and families.

One of the most exciting provisions of this bill is that it makes an unprecedented \$10 billion investment to make community colleges part of our economy's recovery. For years, business leaders have told us there weren't enough workers with the knowledge and the expertise for their specific industries. H.R. 3221 will change that. It will help us build a 21st century workforce by strengthening partnerships among community colleges, businesses and job training programs that will align community college curricula with the needs of high-wage, high-demand industries. It will provide community colleges with the tools to replicate programs that are successfully educating and training students and workers for these fields.

As a former Head Start volunteer coordinator, I know first-hand that creating better educational opportunities demands that we invest in our students long before they reach college. To ensure that the next generation of students enters kindergarten with the skills they need to succeed in school, the legislation creates an Early Learning Challenge Fund to increase high-quality early learning opportunities for low-income children. It also will help provide every child with access to a world-class learning environment by investing in school modernization, renovation, and repair projects that will create healthier, safer, and more energy-efficient environments—a measure the House is already on record supporting.

However there is one provision that was added to HR 3221 in the Education and Labor Committee that I am very concerned about. I'm sure it was included with the best of intentions, but for the record, I would like to share with my colleagues what I believe will be the real impact of this provision. Under current law, for-profit postsecondary schools are required to maintain a certain formula for how they receive federal funding, commonly known as 90–10. This means that a school must, at a minimum, acquire 10 percent of its funding from sources other than federal money. The original 90–10 provisions were added because too many for-profit schools were receiving large amounts of federal funding from students who indebted themselves without receiving the training they signed up for. I worked with a number of my colleagues here to help put those 90–10 provisions in place. This formula was enacted after years of students being ripped off and schools raking in record profits. If the schools violate 90–10, they are assessed a financial penalty.

The provision added in Committee would weaken the current standards and basically kick the can down the road by extending the violation period from two to three years. This is completely unnecessary. What is the point of having the formula if we'll allow for-profit schools to continue to violate it?

I am looking forward to work with Chairman MILLER and other Members to make sure that the final bill does not include another victory for an industry that does not have students' best interests in mind. Moving forward, it is my recommendation that we revisit the rules that govern these for-profit schools and allow them to continue accessing federal funds but that also ensure that they fully report graduation and dropout rates, default rates, and job placement rates.

In closing, this is not a perfect bill, but it is a tremendous investment in education for American families and I urge my colleagues to

vote for passage on H.R. 3221, the Student Aid and Fiscal Responsibility Act of 2009.

MOUNT NOTRE DAME HIGH SCHOOL

HON. JEAN SCHMIDT

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 17, 2009

Mrs. SCHMIDT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 150th Anniversary of Mount Notre Dame High School in Cincinnati, Ohio. On this date, 150 years ago, the Mount Notre Dame Academy, sponsored by the Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur, opened with 30 boarders. Mount Notre Dame is the oldest catholic girls' high school in the same location in the Archdiocese of Cincinnati.

Over the years, Mount Notre Dame has endured immense enrollment growth and has transitioned to an all girls high school with more than 750 students. The young women of this proud school come from four Ohio counties and 50 church parishes. Today, Mount Notre Dame offers 19 honors and 17 advanced placement courses. Ninety-Eight percent of graduates go on to college. Additionally, Mount Notre Dame was named a Blue Ribbon School of Excellence by the United States Department of Education in 1987.

Mount Notre Dame is also known for their success outside of the classroom. The Cougars have a combined twelve state championships in the team sports of basketball, golf, and volleyball. Just this past March, Mount Notre Dame won the 2009 Division I State Basketball Championship.

Madam Speaker, I ask you to join me in celebrating Mount Notre Dame 150th Anniversary and in wishing them continued success.

MICROSOFT CORPORATION

HON. DAVID G. REICHERT

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 17, 2009

Mr. REICHERT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Microsoft Corporation for receiving an award from the Department of Defense for its unending support of employees who serve in the National Guard and Reserve.

The Microsoft Corporation was presented with the 2009 Employer Support Freedom Award on September 17 along with 14 other employers across the United States. Specifically, Microsoft—among other things—initiated a Military Reservist Council, acknowledges employee service through different company newsletters and, in 2007, donated \$3.7 million to the National Guard Youth Foundation.

Microsoft's support for our service members is a model that other employers should follow, and it is the paramount duty of Congress to do its part to help our service members make a seamless transition back to civilian life from active duty. It is a priority that requires both private and public sector support. I was pleased that the House passed legislation I authored last Congress to improve the government's responsiveness to hiring difficulties our service members face upon their return, and I hope that this body can continue to partner

with private sector champions like Microsoft to help provide a smooth transition for our service members and veterans between military life and civilian life.

Again, I applaud the Microsoft Corporation for supporting their National Guard and Reserve employees and congratulate them on receiving the 2009 Secretary of Defense Employer Support Freedom Award. I know they will continue to provide outstanding support to Washington's service members in the future, and I pledge to continue doing the same serving in this body. We must do all we can to provide for those who have bravely sacrificed so much to defend our freedoms.

STUDENT AID AND FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY ACT OF 2009

SPEECH OF

HON. STEPHANIE HERSETH SANDLIN

OF SOUTH DAKOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 16, 2009

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 3221) to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965, and for other purposes:

Ms. HERSETH SANDLIN. Madam Chair, the House is considering H.R. 3221, the Student Aid and Fiscal Responsibility Act. I support many of the goals of this legislation, including finding savings in the current student loan program and directing these funds toward expanding student grant aid that will help make higher education a reality for more South Dakotans. However, I have heard from constituents who work in the Federal Family Education Loan Program, FFELP, in my State, and in particular from The Student Loan Corporation in Sioux Falls, that the enactment of this bill could result in the loss of hundreds if not thousands of jobs in South Dakota during this period of continuing higher unemployment, as the country works its way out of economic recession. I also have concerns about completely eliminating a role for the private sector in providing student loans and about the potential disruptions in access to loans for students that could occur during the proposed transition to the new system over the next months.

I have helped to lead the effort in the House of Representatives with my colleague and fellow Blue Dog. ALLEN BOYD of Florida, and we've been joined by a number of our colleagues in the House of Representatives in sharing our concerns on this subject with U.S. Department of Education Secretary Arne Duncan and with the House Education and Labor Committee. I urged the Secretary and the Committee to more fully consider all possible alternatives that would substantially increase funding for Pell Grants and other important sources of financial access to higher education, while maintaining jobs in our districts and ensuring continued access to loans for students. Over the course of the FFELP's decades of existence, it has proven that private competition in the student loan system provides benefits to students. I believe that the FFELP has been a cost effective alternative to "direct lending" for many students in South Dakota. In addition, I am concerned that the Department of Education may not have the resources adequate to handle the origination,



administration and servicing of all student loans beginning in July 2010.

The assumption of complete responsibility for providing federally-backed loans to students by the Department of Education Direct Loan, DL, program presents very real risks of job losses and ends the reliable administration and servicing of student loans at the more than 4,000 schools that are not currently enrolled in the DL program, including most colleges and universities in South Dakota. While a number of these schools have begun exploring a transition to DL with the Department of Education, the risks of a possible disruption in students' ability to access student loans is very real during the rapid transition of these 4,000 schools to DL by July 10, 2010. Further, we do not want to put undue resource burdens on schools and States that are already facing increased budgetary pressures during this economic downturn.

While the bill does present potential opportunities for some lenders in South Dakota, overall, the possible downsides of the bill for South Dakota are substantial, and what's more, I believe they could be addressed in this legislation while preserving the goal of increasing financial assistance for higher education. Thus, while I fully support the goal of finding savings within the current student loan program to provide students with much-needed increases in federal financial aid for higher education, I cannot support today's bill, which I believe should be improved before being passed by the House.

As the legislative process moves forward in the Senate, I will continue to work towards a bill that achieves significant increase in financial assistance for students seeking higher education, that preserves jobs for South Dakotans, and ensures our students receive the specialized attention and information needed to make the best choices for funding their higher education.

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#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. LOIS CAPPS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 17, 2009*

Mrs. CAPPS. Madam Speaker, I was not able to be present for the following Roll Call votes on September 16, 2009, I would have voted as follows: rollcall #704: "yes"; rollcall #705: "yes"; rollcall #706: "yes"; rollcall #707: "yes"; rollcall #708: "no"; rollcall #709: "yes."

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#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. LAURA RICHARDSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 17, 2009*

Ms. RICHARDSON. Madam Speaker, on rollcall vote No. 620, I am recorded as voting "aye". That was not my intention. It was my intention to vote "no" on the Hensarling Amendment.

## STUDENT AID AND FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY ACT OF 2009

SPEECH OF

### HON. GENE GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 16, 2009*

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 3221) to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965, and for other purposes:

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to show my support for H.R. 3221, the Student Aid and Fiscal Responsibility Act of 2009.

This legislation will make a college education more accessible to young Americans. Through initiatives such as a \$40 billion investment in Pell Grants, the number of people eligible for a Pell Grant award greatly increases as does the monetary allotment associated with the award. Under this legislation over \$85.4 million will be invested in our district to increase the maximum annual Pell Grant scholarship to \$5,550 in 2010 and to \$6,900 by 2019. In the 2010–2011 academic year 18,184 students in our district will be eligible for a Pell Grant award.

This bill will also help make a college education more accessible and affordable to Americans by streamlining the FAFSA student aid application. The simplification of the FAFSA form will help provide needed support to the growing number of families applying for student aid by allowing them to use the information on their tax returns to verify their eligibility.

The Student Aid and Fiscal Responsibility Act also sets in motion a five-year initiative aimed at improving college access and completion support programs through the College Access and Completion Fund, resulting in at least \$14.1 million a year for the next five years in Texas. The increased funding is to be used towards providing students, particularly those from disadvantaged backgrounds, with the support they need to stay in school and graduate despite obstacles, particularly those of a financial nature.

For students who need further financial assistance, this legislation increases the availability of Perkins Loans, and increases the reliability and affordability of federal student loans through the Direct Loan program.

In addition to making education more affordable, The Student Aid and Fiscal Responsibility Act of 2009 aims to improve the quality of higher education in the United States. One of the main components of the bill I am excited about is the major investment in our local community colleges. In 2007, over 497,500 students were enrolled in Texas community colleges, and this bill will help to increase the effectiveness and impact of community colleges in our area by continuing to develop first-rate affordable education right here in our district, which, in turn, will help build our workforce and community.

H.R. 3221 not only focuses on higher learning, but also childhood education by establishing an Early Learning Challenge Fund. Over the next two years, Texas will receive more than \$359.4 million to develop schools that equip every child with access to a world-class learning environment.

I strongly believe in the power of education, and am proud to support this legislation that increases individuals access to higher education, improves the quality of that education, and helps to develop a skilled workforce, while reducing the deficit.

## TRIBUTE TO KANSAS CITY, KANSAS, SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENT JILL SHACKELFORD

### HON. DENNIS MOORE

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 17, 2009*

Mr. MOORE of Kansas. Madam Speaker, during my years of serving in Congress, the Kansas City, Kansas, public schools have had two excellent superintendents. When Dr. Ray Daniels retired in 2005, he was succeeded by Dr. Jill Shackelford, assistant superintendent of schools, who became USD 500's first female superintendent. Although the Kansas City, Kansas, school district faces the same formidable challenges as other urban districts, one great advantage is the stable leadership it has enjoyed. Other districts in our area have had frequent changes of leadership and vision. The KCK School District has continued to pursue an effective and visionary course, made possible by the "First Things First" program funded by the Kauffman Foundation. This comprehensive school reform program has brought about heartening improvements in student performance and test scores.

We will miss Dr. Shackelford's warm and caring personality, but I am sure that the KCK Schools will choose another fine leader to succeed her. I am including with this statement a recent Kansas City Star article detailing Dr. Shackelford's announcement.

[From the Kansas City Star, Aug. 11, 2009]  
KCK SUPERINTENDENT, AN ADVOCATE FOR URBAN STUDENTS, ANNOUNCES RETIREMENT  
(By Dawn Bormann)

Kansas City, Kan., School District Superintendent Jill Shackelford—who has been a leading voice for urban, at-risk Kansas students—announced Tuesday that she would retire in June.

And it is fair to say that the district's first woman superintendent has left her mark. Students know her as the "lady in pink" who proudly wears pink shoes, pink skirts and a rhinestone lapel pin that spells "believe" in capital letters. Shackelford, a former reading teacher, praises their accomplishments and passes out hugs with the nurturing style of an elementary school teacher.

Education officials know her as the leader of a low-income district that led the charge for free all-day kindergarten and posted double-digit gains in assessments. The changes have stood out at least in part because 83 percent of the students qualify for free or reduced-cost lunch.

When Shackelford, 65, started five years ago, some casually mentioned that she might want to tone down her wardrobe and her feminine approach.

"You know you're the first female, so don't act too female-ish," she said, recalling that advice. "I was told to get into your closet and dig out all your black suits."

It lasted a few weeks. Shackelford had already survived Stage 3 breast cancer. She didn't need to wear black to prove herself, she said.

"Out came the pink. Out came my personality, and I was able to relax," Shackelford said.

So the superintendent didn't hide her tears Tuesday when she officially declared her retirement to her staff at the district's annual employee convocation. It surprised many but not everyone gathered at Memorial Hall. Shackelford has always maintained that she would step down after five years. It was something she made clear from day one.

"There are times in your life where you know it's somebody else's turn," she said.

In 2005, Shackelford replaced Ray Daniels, who was highly regarded for his leadership.

"In one sense, you'd say all she had to do was follow up on the path that Ray Daniels had set. There's some truth to that," said Bill Reardon, the district's lobbyist and a former state lawmaker. But he pointed out that "the more you achieve, the remaining improvements become really difficult."

However, she had a proven track record with curriculum reform for at-risk children.

Shackelford came to the district 13 years ago to work directly with curriculum. She was among the early leaders who helped implement First Things First. Thirteen years ago, the district was 11 percent proficient in reading and 3 percent proficient in math. Students are now 61 percent proficient in reading and 63 percent proficient in math, district officials said.

"There's no other district in the state that's gone from single digits to 60 (percent)," she said, praising the district's more than 19,500 students.

Shackelford credits the success to students, teachers, custodians, bus drivers and others.

### STUDENT AID AND FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY ACT OF 2009

SPEECH OF

#### HON. ALLEN BOYD

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 16, 2009*

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 3221) to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965, and for other purposes:

Mr. BOYD. Madam Chair, I rise to express my concern with H.R. 3221, the Student Aid and Fiscal Responsibility Act of 2009. This legislation was crafted in the Committee on Education and Labor after President Obama's Fiscal Year 2010 Budget proposed reforming the federal student loan system. Although I support the President's goal of ensuring our affordable and accessible educational opportunities for our nation's children, I have some serious reservations with this bill.

H.R. 3221 calls for the transition of all federal student lending to the Direct Loan Program by July 1st 2010. Not only will this move end the reliable administration and servicing of student loans at more than 4,000 schools across the country, this transition will risk job losses at a time when unemployment is threatening to hit 10 percent nationwide. This industry represents over 30,000 jobs throughout our country, and 700 Sallie Mae employees in my district alone.

These employees have a history with the program, the college administrators and the students that they serve, given the over 40 years of the program's existence. During that time the private industry has continued to evolve to better help students with their financial responsibilities through quality customer

service and product innovation. It is evident that as the Direct Loan and Federal Family Education Loan (FFEL) programs have competed over the years the quality of the student experience has been changed for the better. I am not comfortable taking this dynamic out of the equation via the provisions in H.R. 3221. Furthermore, I am concerned that the quick transition required by this bill could prove burdensome to many of the schools that are currently using the FFEL program despite the efforts of the Department of Education to prepare for it.

I believe that the country and students would be better served if the private industry framework of the current system was enhanced instead of proceeding with H.R. 3221 as written and I would therefore urge my colleagues to vote no.

### TRIBUTE TO PAUL BALLOU HOFER, JR.

#### HON. KEN CALVERT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 17, 2009*

Mr. CALVERT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to an individual whose dedication and contributions to the community of Ontario, California were exceptional. Today I ask that the House of Representatives honor and remember an incredible man and American patriot, Paul Ballou Hofer, Jr. Paul was a dear friend of mine and I was deeply saddened by his passing on July 8, 2009.

Paul was born to Paul Ballou Hofer and Frances Morgan Hofer on January 23, 1921 at the family ranch in Ontario, California. He attended Mountain View Elementary School, Chaffey High School and the University of Southern California. A natural athlete, at Chaffey he played varsity basketball for four years and was a halfback on the football team, receiving dual scholarships to USC for both sports.

During World War II Paul served in the U.S. Navy, commissioned as a Naval Aviator, with several thousand hours of flight time. In 1944 Paul married his high school sweetheart, Laura Jean Belcher, who preceded him in death. They had three sons, Paul III, John and Brett who grew up in the same house in which their father was born. Along with his brothers Morgan, also deceased, and Phillip, Paul was a fourth generation vineyard farmer at Hofer Ranch which was founded by his family in 1882. Paul always believed that the lessons learned from lifetimes of farming, hard work and determination, coupled with the deeply held and abiding belief that land is what endures, have been the anchor that has guided the family through seven generations on the ranch.

In addition to ranching, Paul was a man of many interests. He had a great love of the outdoors, with a passion for fly fishing and wing shooting. Paul was a member of the Masons, and also of the Republican Party. He collected antique farm and winery equipment, proudly adding to the collection at Hofer Ranch. In addition to his three sons, Paul is survived by his brother, Phillip, and his family; his grandchildren, Jason Hofer (Christina), Jacklyn Hofer Winton (Jeremy), Morgan Hofer

and Laura Hofer; his great-granddaughter, Elizabeth; and other family members.

Paul's passion for his ranch, his family, and his community has contributed immensely to the betterment of Ontario, California. I was proud to call Paul a fellow community member, American and good friend. I hope his family knows that their father, brother, and grandfather, and the goodness he brought to this world, will always be remembered.

### TRIBUTE TO MARY L. NIRMAIER

#### HON. BLAINE LUETKEMEYER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 17, 2009*

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Mary L. Nirmaier and Rose Ross, two members of the only 300 remaining survivors of the Women's Airforce Service Pilots. I am proud to see these two remarkable women honored with the Congressional Gold Medal.

Women Airforce Service Pilots were the first women in history to fly America's military aircraft. Between the years 1942-1944, women were recruited to fly non-combat missions, so that male pilots could be deployed in combat. Through their actions, Women Airforce Service Pilots were a catalyst for revolutionary reform in the integration of women pilots into the U.S. Armed Services.

The Congressional Gold Medal is the highest and most distinguished award that the U.S. Congress can award to a civilian. Just as the Navajo Code Talkers and Tuskegee Airmen served with distinction and were awarded the Congressional Gold Medal, it is also appropriate for Congress to recognize and honor the service of the WASP with the Congressional Gold Medal.

Our soldiers, sailors, and pilots sacrifice everything they have in service to America and will serve as a permanent reminder of the bravery, loyal patriotism, and love of country.

In closing, Madam Speaker, I ask all my colleagues to join me in wishing Ms. Nirmaier and Ms. Ross our sincerest thanks and appreciation for their commitment, dedication, and service to our nation. It is an honor to represent them in the United States Congress.

### TRIBUTE TO GARY, LISA, JACKSON AND JESSICA WALTERS FOR THEIR SUPPORT FOR KINSHIP PARTNERS

#### HON. MICHELE BACHMANN

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 17, 2009*

Mrs. BACHMANN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor one of the most passionate families I have ever met, Gary and Lisa Walters and their children, Jackson (age 15) and Jessica (age 14). They are passionate about making a difference in their community. To raise awareness and funds for Kinship Partners, a mentoring program that relies only on donations, the Walters Family traveled from Brainerd, Minnesota to our capital, Washington, DC. But unlike most Americans who travel to Washington, D.C. for a cause, they

chose an unusual mode of transportation. Gary and Jackson both rollerbladed across the country, while Jessica biked along side them.

From August 13th to September 7th, Gary and Jackson woke up and strapped on their trusty rollerblades, Jessica hopped on her bike and together, they embarked on this heart-warming adventure. They were sore; they were tired; but they were not discouraged by challenges. For the past 7 years, in fact, Gary has put himself through some rigorous challenges to raise awareness for Kinship Partners, including walking the length of Minnesota, biking to New Orleans and camping out on the Brainerd, Minnesota water tower for more than a week. It is his unwavering dedication to Kinship Partners that has helped raise over 100,000 dollars and kept the program strong.

Kinship is a mentoring program in north-central Minnesota that matches children with caring adults based on mutual interests. For a few hours a week, they get together and spend time doing whatever it is they like. It's not a complicated formula, but it is a somewhat new take on mentoring programs. And Kinship Partners is seeing success stories in 24 Minnesota communities as a result of their back-to-basics strategy. In fact, there is even a waiting list. When children know that there is someone who is absolutely crazy about them and committed to their well-being, there are no limits to their success.

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STUDENT AID AND FISCAL  
RESPONSIBILITY ACT OF 2009

SPEECH OF

**HON. RON KIND**

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 16, 2009*

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 3221) to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965, and for other purposes:

Mr. KIND. Madam Chair, I rise today in support of H.R. 3221, The Student Aid and Fiscal Responsibility Act.

With the struggling economy, rising cost of tuition, and decrease in the availability of student aid, working families are finding it increasingly difficult to send their children to college. In order to ensure that America is able to compete in the global economy and remain a leader in the innovative industries of the future, this historic legislation invests in our economic future by making college more affordable and accessible. By reforming our student loan system, simplifying the student loan application process, investing in community colleges to create a highly skilled workforce, and strengthening early childhood education programs we will guarantee that the next generation is equipped with the necessary skills to compete worldwide.

In a fiscally responsible way, the Student Aid and Fiscal Responsibility Act will make college more affordable and accessible by transforming our student aid system. The reforms will make student loans more reliable and accessible for a greater number of students. Pell Grant Scholarships will receive an additional \$40 billion over the next 10 years, \$500 million of that will go to students in Wis-

consin. In 2019, it is estimated that 20,000 western Wisconsin students will be awarded \$75 million in Pell Grants. The bill also simplifies the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) form by allowing families to fill out the application with information from just a tax return to prove eligibility.

This legislation also invests heavily in community colleges to cultivate a highly skilled workforce to compete in the global economy. It will encourage and support relationships between community colleges, businesses, states and adult education programs. These partnerships are already occurring in western Wisconsin and with additional grants and investment, our community colleges will be able to strengthen and build upon these partnerships, creating additional jobs and economic development.

Not only will the Student Aid and Fiscal Responsibility Act do a better job getting kids to college, it will also provide assistance to ensure that they make it to graduation. Investing in college access and completion support programs will ensure that students receive guidance to ensure they make it to graduation. Further, secondary schools in western Wisconsin will receive \$57 million for school renovation to improve the classroom experience and enhance learning for students.

Ensuring that children are put on a path toward academic success begins at an early age. I have always believed that we must place an emphasis on early childhood education in order to prepare students to excel once they begin in school. I have long supported and advocated for legislation that would strengthen early childhood education by providing states with grant opportunities, increased funding, and better training for educators. In previous years, I have introduced legislation that would have accomplished many of the same goals of this bill by creating an Early Learning Challenge Fund to award competitive grants to states that implement early education reforms. This provision is crucial as we work to provide learning and development opportunities to children at an early age, ensuring that kids are ready for success once they enter the school system.

As the country continues to work through some of the most difficult economic conditions in a generation, it is imperative that we increase our investment in education. Innovation and a highly skilled workforce are keys to unlocking the future potential of America. If we are truly going to compete against emerging nations like China and India, we must continue to invest in our education system.

I am proud to represent western Wisconsin, which is home to six universities and dozens of community and technical colleges. With such an emphasis on higher education, we have long been working to become a leader in producing workers for the 21st Century's global economy. This historic legislation will build on the infrastructure already available in western Wisconsin and make higher education more affordable and accessible for everyone.

IN MEMORY OF DR. M. DELMAR  
EDWARDS

**HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 17, 2009*

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a man who I am proud to have called a friend, a constituent, and an inspiration: Dr. M. Delmar Edwards of Columbus, Georgia. Dr. Edwards was the first African-American to practice surgery in the city of Columbus and was one who blazed new trails for those who would follow him. On September 11, 2009, he passed away at the age of 83.

Dr. Edwards was born on December 19, 1926, in the state of Arkansas. He attended Morehouse College and went on to earn a Bachelor of Science from Central State University in Wilberforce, Ohio, in 1948. He received a master's degree from Atlanta University in 1952 and, in 1957, became the fifth black person to graduate from the University of Arkansas Medical School.

In 1964 he moved to Columbus and started his practice on the corner of Fourth Avenue, now Veterans Parkway, and Eighth Street. He eventually led the general surgery section at the Medical Center and served as chairman of the department of surgery. Later, he trained to be a surgeon at the Residency Training Program in General Surgery at the Tuskegee Veterans Administration Hospital.

In the early 1980s, Dr. Edwards was a founding trustee of the Morehouse School of Medicine in Atlanta, where a scholarship program was eventually named in his honor and has helped dozens of bright, young, aspiring physicians to achieve their goals of becoming a doctor.

In addition to his esteemed medical career, Dr. Edwards found the time to become a mentor to scores of African-American physicians in Columbus and was a driving force behind their decisions to stay and practice within the community. He was also a devoted community leader, becoming the first African-American to serve on the Columbus Housing Authority Board and the second on the Muscogee County School Board.

Madam Speaker, Dr. M. Delmar Edwards served the people of Columbus with honor, respect, and integrity. His lifetime of altruistic care-giving has made him a legend in our community and an inspirational figure for us all. I consider it a privilege to honor his life today and his dedication and lifelong commitment to the welfare of others. He will be missed.

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COMMEMORATING SEPTEMBER 11,  
2001

**HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM**

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 17, 2009*

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Madam Speaker, today on the eighth anniversary of September 11, 2001, we honor the memory of the victims, extend our thoughts and prayers to the victims' families, and recognize the heroism and courage displayed during rescue and recovery

missions. It is a day none of us will ever forget.

Our response to the attacks of September 11, 2001 will define the meaning of that terrible day, and it will define us as a country. While we remain focused on preserving America's security, we must be equally resolute in our commitment to protect the values and character that define America.

The legacy of September 11, 2001 will not be destruction, but instead a spirit of service that will strengthen our nation for generations to come. For this reason, the House of Representatives passed House Resolution 718, which calls on all Americans to observe September 11th as a National Day of Service and Remembrance in honor of those who were injured or lost their lives and in tribute to those who came to the aid of those in need. This resolution also challenges all Americans to continue to live with the same spirit of unity, service, and compassion that was exhibited following the attacks.

As we continue to mourn the victims of that awful tragedy eight years ago, I encourage all Americans to volunteer to serve their communities today and throughout the year.

INTRODUCTION OF THE HEALTH INSURANCE INDUSTRY ANTI-TRUST ENFORCEMENT ACT OF 2009

**HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 17, 2009*

Mr. CONYERS. Madam Speaker, today I am pleased to introduce the Health Insurance Industry Antitrust Enforcement Act of 2009. Both the House and Senate today have introduced identical language to reduce insurance prices for consumers. I want to thank my friend Senator LEAHY for his leadership on the bill and for working with the House on this joint introduction.

I am joined in my efforts on the House side by the honorable Chairman of the Subcommittee on Courts and Competition Policy, Representative HANK JOHNSON of Georgia, and Representative DIANA DEGETTE of Colorado.

The purpose of this bill is to extend antitrust enforcement over health insurers and medical malpractice insurance issuers, which currently enjoy broad antitrust immunity under the McCarran-Ferguson Act. This immunity can serve as a shield for activities that might otherwise violate federal law.

This bill would specifically prohibit price fixing, bid rigging, and market allocation, pernicious practices that are detrimental to competition and result in higher prices for consumers.

The House Judiciary Committee held extensive hearings on the effects of the insurance industry's antitrust exemption throughout the 1980s and early 1990s. It became clear that policyholders and the economy in general would benefit from eliminating this exemption.

The bill I introduce today is intended to root out unlawful activity in an industry grown placid by decades of protection from antitrust oversight. In doing so, we aim to make health insurance more affordable to more Americans.

SHEPHERDSTOWN FIRE DEPARTMENT

**HON. SHELLEY MOORE CAPITO**

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 17, 2009*

Mrs. CAPITO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the Shepherdstown Fire Department, for over 200 years of service by trained volunteers.

As the oldest fire department in Jefferson County, West Virginia, Shepherdstown Fire Department has been a staple of the area for over two centuries. As early as 1793, when Shepherdstown was known as Mecklenburg, the town passed a tax levy to secure money with the purpose of purchasing a fire engine. In 1804, a year after the engine was purchased, the department's first fire house was built. Devoted firefighters have selflessly given their services to the community and have been shown tremendous support in return from their neighbors.

On Saturday, September 12, 2009, Shepherdstown Fire Department held a day long celebration for the public to enjoy. The department hosted several events commemorating this milestone. The events included the final placement of the department's original 1894 fire bell and a rededication of the fire department.

It is an honor to recognize the Shepherdstown Fire Department. Reaching the 200-year mark is an impressive accomplishment. It says wonderful things about West Virginia to have people like these volunteer firefighters.

STUDENT AID AND FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY ACT OF 2009

SPEECH OF

**HON. JAY INSLEE**

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 16, 2009*

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 3221) to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965, and for other purposes:

Mr. INSLEE. Madam Chair, I rise to express my support for H.R. 3221, and to express my gratitude to Chairman MILLER for including in this bill a very important section to close gaps in college degree attainment and completion.

Section 783 of the bill, which provides for innovation in college access and completion national activities, authorizes the Secretary of Education to award grants to innovative programs that improve student outcomes for college bound students.

In 2007, only 27.8 percent of college freshmen, or roughly one-fourth, went on to complete their degrees. In the highly competitive 21st century, America can little afford to fall behind in the technology curve; today, China graduates eight times as many engineering students as us, and India five times more.

We have an abundance of bright students in this country, and by increasing the number of individuals with postsecondary degrees, any expenditure we make towards that end will be returned many times over as these graduates enter the work force and start contributing to

what is already the world's largest and most advanced economy.

In June, I introduced H.R. 3259, to establish grants for college success and completion. My bill, coauthored with Representative REICHERT, would encourage and help students from low-income and disadvantaged families attend college. This group of Americans represents the last great untapped source of American brainpower, as only 6 percent of them are expected to earn a bachelor's degree by age 24—seven and a half times smaller than the expected graduation rates of students from wealthy backgrounds.

I urge passage of H.R. 3221, and encourage my colleagues to continue investing in America's future by cosponsoring H.R. 3259.

RECOGNIZING FORTY & EIGHT, HOMOSASSA, FLORIDA

**HON. GINNY BROWN-WAITE**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 17, 2009*

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Forty & Eight organization. Throughout our Nation's history, we have turned time and again to our men and women in uniform; calling on them to preserve our freedom and uphold our democratic values. Time and again they have heeded the call and protected our Nation with honor and valor.

More than a million of our brave men and women have paid the ultimate sacrifice for their country. Joining the ranks of these heroes are the thousands who have been held as prisoners of war or whose fate has never been resolved. This loss was all the more difficult for their loved ones because it has never been determined whether they perished or survived.

However, their loved ones can take solace in knowing that their sacrifice was for a purpose, one that they were prepared to make. As President Reagan said on the 40th anniversary of D-Day, "You all knew that . . . one's country is worth dying for, and democracy is worth dying for . . . all of you loved liberty. All of you were willing to fight tyranny, and you knew the people of your countries were behind you".

Military families are the first line of support for our service men and women. They provide them the courage they need to march on in battle; and they fight for their legacy long after the battle has been won.

Organizations like Forty & Eight are part of the military family. Since 1920 they have worked tirelessly to insure that the legacies of our service members endure alongside the freedom that they fought so selflessly to defend.

On September 19th, Forty & Eight will come together in Citrus County to award a scholarship to the dependent of a known and verified POW or MIA. The scholarship is named in memory of Lance Corporal John Dewey Killen III, USMC. Lance Corporal Killen was declared missing in action while serving with the Third Reconnaissance Battalion in South Vietnam.

This scholarship is just one example of Forty & Eight's commitment to our veterans, both those who are still with us, those who have gone before us and those whose fate is still yet unknown.

I represent more veterans than any other Member of Congress. I am forever grateful to Forty & Eight, and organizations like them, for their continued commitment to our service men and women and their families.

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TRIBUTE TO AL BALDOCK

**HON. KEVIN MCCARTHY**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 17, 2009*

Mr. MCCARTHY of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Coach Al Baldock, a legendary college football coach from my district, who passed away on Monday, September 14, 2009, at the age of 79.

Coach Baldock was born in Holly, Texas on December 17, 1929. He attended college at the University of Southern California, where he played football for the Trojans from 1948–1950. During his football career at USC, Al was a teammate of future National Football League MVP, Frank Gifford. In an act of service that would prove to be a theme of his life, he took two years off from college to serve our country in the Army. He then returned to USC for his final year in 1953.

Al's career as a head coach began at Allan Hancock College in Santa Maria, California in 1959. Leading the football team at Allan Hancock College, Coach Baldock had future Oakland Raiders head coach John Madden as one of his assistant coaches. When John Madden was inducted into the Pro Football Hall of Fame in 2006, he credited Coach Baldock as one of the influences in his life. Coach Baldock was the head coach at Allan Hancock College until 1961. Coach Baldock continued to succeed as a head coach, first at the College of the Sequoias from 1962 to 1968 and then at Los Angeles City College from 1972 to 1974.

The majority of Coach Baldock's coaching career was spent at Taft College. He was the head football coach at Taft College from 1976 until 1993. Under his leadership, the Cougars won 15 conference championships, six state championships, six Potato Bowls and two national crowns. For his outstanding leadership, Coach Baldock was inducted into the Bob Elias Kern County Sports Hall of Fame in 1997, the California Community College Football Coach's Association Hall of Fame in 1999 and the California Junior College Hall of Fame in 2000.

Coach Baldock also helped to shape lives off the field as an instructor at Taft College for 28 years. He is survived by his wife, Joyce, daughter Erin, and grandsons Nathaniel and Jonathon. He was a fixture in Taft and will be missed by our community.

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CELEBRATING RUTH D. HUNT'S  
60TH BIRTHDAY AND INDUCTION  
INTO THE DAUGHTERS OF THE  
AMERICAN REVOLUTION

**HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 17, 2009*

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to salute and congratulate my dear friend Ruth

Hunt in celebration of her 60th Birthday and her induction into the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR).

On Saturday, September 19, and Sunday, September 20, friends, family and colleagues will gather at Gran Piatto d'Oro in Harlem and at Michael Anthony's in Newport Marina on the Hudson to salute and pay tribute to this remarkable African American woman of excellence.

In 1949, John and E. Patricia Hunt gave birth to their third child, Ruth at Kings County Hospital in Brooklyn, New York. She and her eight siblings grew up in the Albany Houses on Troy Avenue. Ruth received a public school education at Isaac Newton P.S. 83, John Marshall Jr. High School 210 and graduated from the High School of Fashion Industries in New York City. Ruth also attended and graduated from the Vogue School of Charm and Modeling in Brooklyn in 1967, and began a professional modeling career at 17 years old. She completed her higher education at Brooklyn College and at the Fashion Institute of Technology (FIT) Manhattan.

Ruth was the first woman of color to model in the swimwear industry on Manhattan's 7th Avenue breaking barriers at Sirena Swimwear, Cole of California and Gottex of Israel. On the runway, Ms. Hunt modeled along with supermodels Naomi Simms and Iman. She was a Bill Blass model for both his Robes and Furs Collections. As a fashion expert, she was one of the first Fit models of color and since 1970; she has been represented by Model Service Agency. Ruth was the number one pick for JC Penney's Fit and has modeled for them over 20 years.

As a Fit model, she advises designers and technical teams of clothing manufacturers in the area of quality standards and fit, correcting pattern specifications to ensure the proper fit of imported and domestic garments before mass production. She has modeled for over 100 clothing Designers, and manufacturers including Essence by Mail and numerous fashion designer houses on 7th Avenue, including Calvin Klein and NYC's top department stores and industry trade shows.

Ruth Hunt joined and worked for the Jackie Robinson Foundation from its inception in 1977 and was privileged to be mentored by the illustrious Rachel Robinson. It was at the Foundation that Ruth learned the true meaning of service and humanity. Ruth developed and executed her skills in project management, where she coordinated special events and fund raisers, like the famous annual "Afternoon of Jazz" on the Jackie and Rachel Robinson estate in Stamford, Connecticut and the Jackie Robinson Foundation Awards Dinner at the Waldorf Astoria in New York City.

She continues to enjoy and cherishes the relationship with the Robinson family.

This experience propelled her into philanthropic efforts with the Doll League, Inc; Meharry Alumni; Women and AIDS Resource Network, American Cancer Society; American Lung Association, the Leukemia Society and Alvin Ailey Dance Company. All of these organizations have been beneficiaries of Ruth's time and expertise.

During her illustrious career, she also launched "Ruth Hunt Associates" and began a millinery business that travels the eastern seaboard and was featured in the Roanoke Times, Jersey Journal and the Tribute. Known as the "Hat Lady" in the tri-state area, Ruth

has been featured at numerous churches throughout Brooklyn, Queens, and Manhattan, including her very own Abyssinian Baptist Church, where she is a member.

Ms. Hunt is a certified Image Consultant, Beauty Advisor and Model Coach. Drawing from her early days as an instructor for the Vogue School of Charm and Modeling and throughout her career she has conducted workshops for numerous New York City organizations such as: Youth and Action; Young Unwed Mothers; Young Peoples Association; The New Muse; Jack and Jill of America; Girl Friends, Inc; The Delta's Youth; NYC Technical College; Zeta Amicae of Brooklyn; and Professional Re-employment and Outplacement Services.

Madam Speaker: Ruth D. Hunt is not only celebrating her 60th birthday and an illustrious career, but she is scheduled to be inducted into the Daughters of the Revolution this coming October. To become a member of this society, you have to prove your lineal, bloodline descent from an ancestor who aided in achieving American Independence, and through her love of genealogy she was able to trace her heritage. One of the highlights of Ruth's quest for retracing her family history came in 1997 when Ruth gave her father a gift of life. She was able to find her father's long lost World War II son, Barry in Wales, England. The family now enjoys an international relationship from across the ocean and today, Ruth conducts genealogy workshops for the New York Coalition of One Hundred Black Women, Convent Baptist Church, Woodhull Medical Center and Bellevue Hospital Center.

Continuing in her commitment to service and humanity at the New York City Health & Hospital Corporation (HHC), Ruth served as Coordinating Manager In Public Affairs and then as the Director of Marketing and Community Outreach at both Woodhull Hospital Center and Cumberland Diagnostic and Treatment Center. Ruth currently serves as the Assistant Director of Public Relations and Director of Community Affairs at the oldest public hospital in the country, Bellevue Medical Center. She has led the charge at Bellevue and helped raise over \$80,000 for the American Lung Association and the American Cancer Society.

Ruth also received KISS-FM's Phenomenal Woman Award. This honor stemmed from a live radio broadcast at Woodhull Medical Center for "Take Your Love One to the Doctor Day," which generated over 500 screenings. In addition, she supported the Borough President's "Take Your Man to the Doctor Day." To commemorate National Cancer Survivor's Day, at Woodhull, Ruth produced four of her well known, signature, hat fashion shows which included a luncheon.

Let us congratulate and salute this remarkable African American woman of excellence and distinction as we celebrate the 60th birthday and induction into the Daughters of the American Revolution of my dear friend Ruth D. Hunt.

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TRIBUTE TO ALAN WAKEFIELD

**HON. KEN CALVERT**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 17, 2009*

Mr. CALVERT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the life of Alan Wakefield, a close

personal friend and valued member of my home town. Corona, California has been blessed by dynamic and dedicated leaders who willingly and unselfishly give their time and talent and make their communities a better place to live and work.

Alan was five years old and attending kindergarten in Titusville, a small town in western Pennsylvania, when he first met a pretty young girl named Susan. For 58 years, Alan and Susan were best friends. For almost 39 years, they were husband and wife. Over the years, they have enjoyed a multitude of blessings, most importantly their son, Josh, and his wife, Jill, who have blessed Alan and Susan with two beautiful grandchildren. While Alan died long before we would have wished, Alan had some precious time to spend with his grandchildren. During those last months, Matthew and Garret witnessed the character of their "Poppy" that will serve them well for the rest of their lives. They learned that Alan was a man who loved to laugh but was not afraid to cry; that he would stand strong to defend the values that were important to him, but would melt in the face of another's sadness. The size of his heart belied his stature, and his generosity touched so many lives.

Since 1982, the Wakefields have owned ASJ Industrial Hose, whose name is an acronym for Alan, Susan and Josh. Alan would often say, "Hose is my life." It was not, of course. His family was his life, along with the many friendships he formed over the years. He was also passionate about golf, was a gourmet cook, and an avid gardener who referred to plants by their Latin names. While Susan has been active in just about every organization in Corona with three or more members, Alan for the most part remained in the background; he was not "a joiner." But a few years ago, he relented and joined the Corona Rotary Club, and was one of its most popular and active members.

Near the end of his life, visitors would find Alan to be more interested in what they were doing than talking about his health. When friends would mention they were considering a trip or a home improvement project, Alan would say, "Do it. Do it now." He was speaking from a perspective that the rest of us could only imagine, and some of us sensed that he was suggesting something more than that. Don't put off those trips and projects, but more than that, don't put off telling someone you care, righting a wrong and keep focused on your life's priorities.

On behalf of all those who knew him, it is my honor to offer these remarks as a tribute to the life and legacy of my friend Alan Wakefield. His life and presence will be sorely missed and I extend my condolences to his dear family and friends.

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#### THE AMERICAN LEGION DAY

### HON. DAVID G. REICHERT

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 17, 2009*

Mr. REICHERT. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of a service organization that has done as much for America's veterans as any other organization or group in our Nation's history, The American Legion.

Yesterday, the House of Representatives passed a resolution rightly honoring this organization, proclaiming September 16, "The American Legion Day."

The American Legion was founded in 1919 and has proven a formidable organization in the support of veterans of our Armed Forces. I am a proud member of American Legion Post 161 in Redmond, Washington, and appreciate their steadfast and ongoing support of veterans and their families. At a national level, the Legion has been active in supporting veterans through work such as the crafting of the G.I. Bill of Rights, and across the country the Legion is involved and committed in their communities. "Legionnaires" are known for and exemplify the spirit of service and this spirit continues to drive their actions long after they take off their uniforms. They create benevolence funds, host barbeques and involve themselves in civic projects. Legionnaires believe in service. They are the voice of our veterans and advocates for our men and women in uniform. I am grateful for the organization's 90 years of service and sacrifice to our country.

General George Washington said in a letter to the Provincial Congress, "When we assumed the soldier we did not lay aside the citizen," the American Legion exemplifies this attitude. In this body, we must continue supporting The American Legion and I urge Legionnaires to continue to reach out to lawmakers for our support.

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#### RECOGNITION OF REVEREND TRACEY L. BROWN'S 10TH PASTORAL ANNIVERSARY

### HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 17, 2009*

Mr. PALLONE. Madam Speaker, I proudly rise today to pay tribute to Reverend Tracey L. Brown, of Ruth Fellowship Ministries in Plainfield, New Jersey. She was commissioned and installed as Pastor and Founder on April 17, 1999 and is being honored for her 10th Pastoral Anniversary.

Over many years, Rev. Brown has served her community well as an active leader. She is an International Pastor with the Lott Carey Baptist Foreign Mission Convention, serves as the Third Vice Moderator for the Middlesex Central Baptist Association, and as a Commissioner for the Plainfield Municipal Utilities Authority in Plainfield, New Jersey. She is also a former member of the Plainfield Board of Education.

Rev. Brown often preaches the value of our communities and how important it is that we work together, as a team, to make the City of Plainfield a better place. I think her team mentality comes from the lessons she learned on the basketball floor, where she was recently inducted into Montclair State University's Athletic Hall of Fame for Women's Basketball.

Rev. Brown has been a fixture in the Plainfield community as a role model for young women and a spiritual leader for the city. She continues to work every day with tremendous enthusiasm and energy.

Rev. Brown will be celebrating her 10th Pastoral Anniversary as the pastor and found-

er of the Ruth Fellowship ministries. I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Rev. Brown's great achievement and I wish her the best.

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#### STUDENT AID AND FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY ACT OF 2009

SPEECH OF

### HON. FORTNEY "PETE" STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 16, 2009*

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 3221) to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965, and for other purposes:

Mr. STARK. Madam Chair, I rise today in support of creating education opportunity for millions of students. The Student Aid and Fiscal Responsibility Act (H.R. 3221) is the single largest investment in college affordability in our nation's history. In addition, the legislation will provide much-needed resources for states to develop and improve early childhood education programs.

The ideal behind this bill is simple: stop providing taxpayer subsidies to banks to act as the middlemen in student lending, save billions, and reinvest most of those savings into our beleaguered education system.

By moving all student loans into the Department of Education's Direct Lending Program, this legislation saves \$87 billion that would otherwise be siphoned off by private lenders. These savings allow for historic investments in the Pell Grant and Perkins Loan programs for low- and moderate-income students. Over 16,000 students in my Congressional District rely on Pell Grants each year. These students will see the maximum grant rise to \$5,500 in 2010 and automatically increase each year thereafter to keep up with inflation. By 2019, the maximum grant is expected to be \$6,900. Similarly, the Perkins Loan program will receive a \$6 billion boost, providing assistance for thousands of new students.

The bill also invests in another vital resource: Our community colleges. H.R. 3221 invests \$10 billion in community colleges to modernize facilities, implement reforms, and work with local employers to create curricula to ensure that students are graduating able to fulfill local workforce needs.

Finally, the legislation before us will help to make sure that every child enters school ready to learn and achieve by creating the "Early Learning Challenge Fund." This fund will provide resources to states to expand and improve their "Birth to Five" early childhood education programs by improving licensing standards, developing high quality curricula aimed at cognitive, emotional, and social development, and building a highly qualified workforce.

The Student Aid and Fiscal Responsibility Act is an example of reform that this Congress can achieve when we are willing to put aside the narrow concerns of special interests and support common sense policies that will provide greater educational opportunity. I urge all of my colleagues to support the bill.