Motion to Concur in the Senate Amendment to H.R. 3082—Making Further Continuing Appropriations for Fiscal Year 2011 (Rep. OBEY—Appropriations); H.R. 6547—To amend the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 to require criminal background checks for school employees (Rep. GEORGE MILLER—Education and Labor) Suspension bill.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Ms. HERSETH SANDLIN. Madam Speaker, I regret that I was unable to participate in eight votes on the floor of the House of Representatives today.

The first vote was H.Res. 1771—Same Day Consideration Rule. Had I been present, I would have voted "nay" on that question.

The second vote was H.R. 6540—To require the Secretary of Defense, in awarding a contract for the KC–X Aerial Refueling Aircraft Program, to consider any unfair competitive advantage that an offeror may possess. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on that question.

The third vote was Motion to Concur in the Senate Amendment to H.R. 5116—America COMPETES Reauthorization Act of 2010. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on that question.

The fourth vote was Motion to Concur in the Senate Amendment to H.R. 2142—Government Efficiency, Effectiveness, and Performance Improvement Act. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on that question.

The fifth vote was Motion to Concur in the Senate Amendment to H.R. 2751—FDA Food Safety Modernization Act. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on that question.

The sixth vote was S. 3243—Anti-Border Corruption Act of 2010. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on that question.

The seventh vote was Motion to Concur in the Senate Amendment to H.R. 3082—Making Further Continuing Appropriations for Fiscal Year 2011. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on that question.

The eighth vote was H.R. 6547—To amend the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 to require criminal background checks for school employees. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on that question.

HOUR OF MEETING ON TOMORROW

Mr. MCGOVERN. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that when the House adjourns today, it adjourn to meet at 11 a.m. tomorrow.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. HALVORSON). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Massachusetts?

There was no objection.

APPOINTMENT OF HON. DONNA F. EDWARDS TO ACT AS SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE TO SIGN ENROLLED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS THROUGH REMAINDER OF SECOND SESSION OF 111TH CONGRESS

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

DECEMBER 21, 2010.

I hereby appoint the Honorable DONNA F. EDWARDS or, if she is not available to perform this duty, the Honorable GERALD E. CONNOLLY to act as Speaker pro tempore to sign enrolled bills and joint resolutions through the remainder of the second session of the One Hundred Eleventh Congress.

NANCY PELOSI,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the appointment is approved.

There was no objection.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE REPUBLICAN LEADER

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Honorable JOHN A. BOEHNER, Republican Leader:

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, December 21, 2010.

Hon. NANCY PELOSI,
Speaker, U.S. Capitol, Washington, DC.

DEAR SPEAKER PELOSI: Pursuant to Sec. 5605 of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (P.L. 111–148), I am pleased to appoint Mr. Marcus Peacock of Washington, DC and Mr. Tomas J. Philipson of Chicago, IL to the Commission on Key National Indicators.

Both Mr. Peacock and Mr. Philipson have expressed interest in serving in this capacity and I am pleased to fulfill their requests.

Sincerely,

JOHN A. BOEHNER,
Republican Leader.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE REPUBLICAN LEADER

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Honorable JOHN A. BOEHNER, Republican Leader:

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
December 21, 2010.

Hon. NANCY PELOSI,
Speaker, U.S. Capitol, Washington, DC.

DEAR SPEAKER PELOSI: Pursuant to Section 235 of the Tribal Law and Order Act (P.L. 111–211, I am pleased to appoint Mr. Thomas Gede of San Francisco, California to the Indian Law and Order Commission.

Mr. Gede has expressed interest in serving in this capacity and I am pleased to fulfill his request.

Sincerely,

JOHN A. BOEHNER,
Republican Leader.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE REPUBLICAN LEADER

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Honorable JOHN A. BOEHNER, Republican Leader:

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
December 21, 2010.

Hon. NANCY PELOSI,
Speaker, U.S. Capitol, Washington, DC.

DEAR SPEAKER PELOSI: Pursuant to section 1238(b)(3) of the Floyd D. Spence National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2001, (22 U.S.C. 7002) as amended, I am pleased to re-appoint Mr. Larry Wortzel to the United States-China Economic and Security Review Commission, effective January 1, 2011.

Mr. Wortzel has expressed interest in serving in this capacity and I am pleased to fulfill his request.

Sincerely,

JOHN A. BOEHNER,
Republican Leader.

HONORING DOROTHY HARRY

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize an incredible public servant who is retiring from my district congressional office in a few short weeks.

Mrs. Dorothy Harry has served the citizens of the Pennsylvania Fifth Congressional District for 14 years. Dorothy has been in the Titusville district office for more than a decade. The constituent calls have been greeted by her with a professional, courteous, and caring attitude.

Dorothy has never been late by even a minute, is thorough in her service, and leaves nothing undone. She joined the congressional staff with a lifetime of experience working in her family's insurance agency. Constituents of my congressional district that contact our office with insurance-related issues have had her voice of experience to guide them through many concerns.

Dorothy is the mother of two daughters, whom she is very proud of. Dorothy has always been quick to share that one of her daughters created a Christmas ornament that hung on the White House Christmas tree.

On December 31, Dorothy Harry will retire from public service as a member of the Pennsylvania Fifth Congressional District congressional staff at the age of a young 81 years old. The citizens have been well served by her and, I am sure, join me in saying, ''Job well done and thank you, Dorothy. You will be missed.''

□ 1950

CONGRATULATING THE PEARLAND OILERS FOR WINNING THE CLASS 5A DIVISION ONE FOOTBALL CHAMPIONSHIP

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

Mr. OLSON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Pearland Oilers for winning the Texas Class 5A Division One Football Championship last weekend. In front of 43,321 fans, the third largest in Texas history, the Oilers achieved a heart-stopping 28–24 victory, defeating the number one ranked team in the entire Nation, Euless Trinity.

The Oilers were referred to as the underdog, but an underdog doesn't use a play called ''the dead man'' to score a 54-yard touchdown. They demonstrated

their tenacity in the final seconds, when Dustin Garrison, who scored three touchdowns, broke up a fourth quarter pass, sealing the win for the Oilers.

Pearland has lived by a ''plus one'' outlook, always striving to make one more play and give one more degree of effort for the benefit of the team.

The Oilers finished the season with a perfect 16–0 record and brought home to the ''rig'' Pearland's first 5A championship. I congratulate them on their historic victory and well-deserved honor.

PASSING THE DOMESTIC TRAFFICKING VICTIMS ACT

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

Mr. POE of Texas. Madam Speaker, when a young girl is kidnapped in a foreign country and brought into the United States and used as a sex slave and law enforcement gets involved, she is treated as a victim of crime.

If a young girl who is an American citizen is forced into sex slavery as an 11- or 12-year-old and she is trafficked across the United States and law enforcement gets involved, unfortunately that girl is not treated as a victim, but a criminal, and criminal charges are filed on her for prostitution and she goes through the system. Many times, law enforcement does that just to protect that young child.

We need to change that, and today this House of Representatives passed legislation, the Domestic Trafficking Victims Act, which will treat those victims as victims and give resources to put them in places throughout the United States where we can protect them, rescue them, prosecute the trafficker, and prosecute the customer who buys that sex from that poor girl for money.

We need to treat these victims with the dignity that they deserve. This legislation is important. I am glad it passed the House.

And that's just the way it is.

HONORING THE HONORABLE JOHN B. SHADEGG

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

Mr. FLAKE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a valued member of the Arizona delegation, JOHN SHADEGG.

JOHN SHADEGG is ending his service to this institution after 16 years. JOHN came here in 1994 and has served the State of Arizona extremely well during that time. He has promoted the principles of limited government, economic freedom and individual responsibility, and has stayed true to his principles and been a valued member of the Arizona delegation.

Arizona has a habit of producing great legislators, including Barry Goldwater, Mo Udall, Carl Hayden, and others; and JOHN now adds his name to that list of great Arizona legislators.

I just want to pay tribute to him and tell him how much the Arizona delegation and all of us will miss his steady, constant, principled leadership here in the House of Representatives.

Well done, JOHN. Well done, JOHN SHADEGG.

TRIBUTE TO THE LATE REPRESENTATIVE STEPHEN SOLARZ

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

Mr. ENGEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to speak in honor of my friend and colleague, Stephen Solarz, who passed away last month.

When I first came to Congress in 1989, Congressman Solarz was already a respected Member of this body. He was a senior member of the Foreign Affairs Committee and an inspiration to me as I joined that committee. I enjoyed his advice and counsel. I remember he sat on the top rung of the committee, and that is where I am sitting today.

His speeches on the floor were the kind that made his colleagues stop what they were doing and listen. He was a foreign affairs guru to many of us, and the world will miss his knowledge and expertise.

I remember the dinners he and his wife, Nina, hosted at their home. Among the luminaries I met at these dinners was Abba Eban, the former foreign minister and U.N. ambassador of Israel.

Together, we shared the determination to protect America's relationship with Israel. We both understood that the U.S. must continue to engage on issues of importance around the world.

Like me, Congressman Solarz was a product of New York City's public schools. He emerged from humble beginnings to earn his law degree from Columbia, and later became one of the most influential Members of Congress. We each shared the passion for public service, and I know that I will truly miss his advice and his friendship. I consider myself lucky to have known him all these years.

My heart goes out to his wife, Nina, their children Randy and Lisa, and his mother, Ruth. The rest of the country, and certainly the U.S. House of Representatives, mourns with them.

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2009, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

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

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

FLAWED ELECTIONS AND POLITICAL IMPRISONMENT IN BELARUS

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

Mr. SHIMKUS. Madam Speaker, I come down tonight to put into the RECORD the names of some freedom fighters who have been jailed, not only politicians, but also members of the news media, after the stolen elections in Minsk, Belarus, of two nights ago.

The opponents of Dictator Lukashenko were as follows. Their locations are unknown. Some have been jailed: Andrey Sannikaw, Yaraslaw Ramanchuk, Ryhor Kastusyow, Uladzimir Nyaklyayew, Ales Mikhalevich, Vital Rymashewski, Viktar Tsyareshchanka, Mikalay Statkevich and Dzmitry Uss.

Tens of thousands of Belarusians converged on Independence Square in the capital, heeding opposition leaders who called Sunday's election a farce and accused Lukashenko of keeping the post-Soviet country locked in a dictatorship. They gathered on the evening on the 19th and the morning of the 20th.

Also arrested were prominent journalists and civil society activists, folks who are friends of individuals I know: Anatol Lyabedska, leader of the United Civic Party; Mr. Sannikaw's wife, Iryna Khalip; Dzmitry Bandarenka, coordinator of an opposition group called Khartyya97; and Natallya Radzina, the editor of www.charter97.org.

The Organization For Security and Cooperation in Europe called the election ''flawed,'' and the United States of America and the European Union condemned the crackdown.

With me I have some photos of the evening of December 19 showing protestors. Of course, we see members of the Belarusian security forces, and in this photo here you actually see them wielding their clubs and beating one of the opposition members of the party. This is what we have in Europe. The last dictatorship in Europe is in a country called Belarus.

□ 2000

The United States has already—and I would lend to the demand of the release of all political prisoners, presidential candidates, and their official representatives who are being held in KGB detention centers in Minsk. Yes, in Belarus, they still call the secret police the KGB. The United States and this Member stand in solidarity with all opposition activists with those currently being held and those who are still in hospitals and those already who are in jail.

The new media ability of democratic movements in this country are great at especially being able to use the Twitter accounts, using Facebook, using