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House of Representatives

The House met at 12:30 p.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. COLE).

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
September 13, 2004.

I hereby appoint the Honorable TOM COLE to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

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

MORNING HOUR DEBATES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 20, 2004, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning hour debates. The Chair will alternate recognition between the parties, with each party limited to not to exceed 30 minutes, and each Member, except the majority leader, the minority leader, or the minority whip, limited to not to exceed 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE) for 5 minutes.

MISSION ACCOMPLISHED FOR REPUBLICANS AND THEIR SPECIAL INTERESTS

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, over the past couple of weeks, President Bush has attempted to turn attention away from his dismal domestic record by scaring Americans into believing his administration is the only administration that can keep them safe and by proposing a litany of new domestic programs without any specifics on what they entail and how he would pay for them.

The President hopes Americans forgot 9/11 happened on his watch, that he and his administration refused to listen to his own terrorism expert, Richard Clarke, who warned that the possibility of a terrorist attack needed to be taken seriously. President Bush also hopes Americans forgot that it took him several months to back the Department of Homeland Security, time that could have been better used securing our ports and borders. And now, after more than a month of saying he would not support giving complete budgetary authority to a newly created intelligence director, the President is now moving closer to that 9/11 Commission recommendation. But closer is not good enough. Time is of the essence and the President continues to sidestep these critical homeland security issues. His latest proposal only gives the new director control over 70 percent of our Nation's intelligence budget.

Of course, the Republican leadership here in Congress ignores the urgent need to act on the 9/11 Commission recommendations. Last week, Majority Leader TOM DELAY told reporters that he thought it was, and I quote, highly inappropriate to call for immediate passage of the 9/11 Commission recommendations. I guess the majority leader would prefer we continue to delay. It has been 3 years. How much longer would the majority leader like us to wait?

Mr. Speaker, Republicans also would like the American people to forget that they have been doing the work of America's corporate and special interests for the last 4 years to the detriment of the best interests of the middle class.

Senator KERRY and congressional Democrats will take our country in a new direction and put the middle class first. Despite what President Bush and congressional Republicans promise over the next few months, they will continue to put the narrow interests of the few ahead of the middle class. Let us just look at their record over the last 4 years. Republicans have accomplished many of the goals corporate interests have set forth with no concern over how these goals impact middle class Americans.

The Republican mission has been accomplished for companies seeking tax breaks for shipping jobs overseas, but not for workers. We have lost more than one million jobs. This administration still says outsourcing American jobs is a good thing, and they still insist on giving companies tax breaks that ship American jobs overseas. But profits are record high at Halliburton. If only Bush and congressional Republicans fought half as hard for the middle class as they have for Halliburton's no-bid contracts, maybe middle class families would not be hurting so badly.

The Republican mission has been accomplished for drug companies but not for our seniors. Seniors are still splitting their pills in half because prescription drug prices have soared so high. The Republican mission has been accomplished for insurance companies but not for families struggling with high health care costs. While premiums skyrocket, insurance companies continue to rake in record profits.

The Republican mission has been accomplished for big oil companies, not for middle class families struggling with the record high cost of gas. Average families are paying $580 more in gas prices while oil profits rise and the Saudi royal family profits. Bush has made America more dependent on foreign oil and failed to invest in alternative technologies and conservation.

Mr. Speaker, in looking at this record, why should Americans believe President Bush and congressional Republicans would change their emphasis away from the special interests to the middle class in the future? Republican policies have squeezed middle class families. While earnings for middle class families have fallen over the last 4 years, health care costs have increased by more than $2,000, education

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costs are up more than $1,200, and energy costs are up 40 percent. Despite the Republican rhetoric, their actual record is clear. Why should Americans expect anything different from them in the future?

THE WAR ON TERROR, CONTINUED

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 20, 2004, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. STEARNS) is recognized during morning hour debates for 5 minutes.

Mr. STEARNS. I would say to my colleague that the misery index, inflation and unemployment, when added together is the lowest it has been in the last series of Presidents, even going back to Jimmy Carter. So I think the Bush administration is doing a good job.

But this morning, Mr. Speaker, I am observing the third anniversary of 9/11. This is the third year since Islamic terrorists hijacked four passenger planes and killed 3,000 innocent Americans. We all know that. We will never forget those who perished on that day and our prayers are forever with them and their families. In the 3 years since September 11, we have overthrown terrorist-friendly regimes in Afghanistan and Iraq, we have killed thousands of terrorists, frozen their assets, dismantled potential weapons of mass destruction and coordinated a worldwide war on terror. We will never forget the sacrifices made by our military men and women and their families in this war on terror.

Yet despite our successes, Mr. Speaker, we still face a mortal danger. The world was reminded of the threat posed by Islamic terrorists when 90 people were killed in two simultaneous plane crashes that are suspected to have been blown up by Chechen bombers. And just a week after these planes crashed, Chechen thugs took over a Russian school and killed over 300 Russians. Nearly half of the 340 dead were children. These terrorists kept hundreds of children, along with parents who were bringing them in for their first day of school, in a sweltering gymnasium where the heat was unbearable. To make matters worse, these terrorists refused to allow deliveries of food and water. For 3 days they did not let these innocent people use the bathroom. For 3 days they threatened them constantly with death. Mr. Speaker, they made good on their promise.

We must ask ourselves, what kind of depraved animal attacks innocent women and children, holds them hostage and treats them with complete contempt as human beings? We learned 3 years ago that these terrorists are perfectly willing to kill women and children.

A recent article in Atlantic Monthly revealed that certain Muslim clerics and al Qaeda justify the murder of defenseless women and children in their worldwide jihad. The same article also reported that al Qaeda wants to kill 4 million Americans. This is what we are dealing with, a ruthless, remorseless force that will stop at nothing to accomplish their final end, the death of the West. This is yet another example of these Muslim terrorists using bloodshed to influence elections.

A survivor of the Russian terror told a newspaper that she asked the militants why the captives were taken. They replied, ''Because you vote for your Putin.'' Another freed hostage said a terrorist told her, ''If Putin doesn't withdraw forces from Chechnya and doesn't free our arrested brothers, we'll blow everything up.''

A few months ago, al Qaeda bombed a Spanish train in the hopes of overthrowing the pro-American government. They accomplished their goal. Somehow I doubt the Russian people will react in the same way. They are in mourning, but all indications are that they will rise to fight this terror with resolve and determination. President Putin admitted to the Russian people that he has been weak against the threat of terror. Russia has been dealing with Chechen terrorism for nearly a decade. Yet the recent school murders may have finally served as a wakeup call.

President Bush extended his deepest sympathy to the Russian people and we do as well. Now we welcome the Russian government to our international fight against these terrorists.

Mr. Speaker, a couple of months ago, President Putin revealed that Russian intelligence services learned that Saddam Hussein while he was in power was planning attacks on American interests abroad and on America itself. This information still did not persuade the Russian leadership to fully support our international war on terror, but now President Putin and the Russian people understand what is finally at stake.

Some nations and politicians have been reluctant to join us in our war on terror, but no one is safe from these terrorists. Their faith is uncompromising and their violence is unreasoning. They proudly proclaim that they love death. Mr. Speaker, if we have learned anything from the lessons of September 11 and 3 years of our war on terror, it is this, we must kill them where they are before they reach our shores. And if they are so willing to die for their twisted cause, then we must be willing to accommodate them.

NEW OVERTIME RULES THREATEN PAY CUT TO MIDDLE CLASS FAMILIES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 20, 2004, the gentleman from California (Mr. GEORGE MILLER) is recognized during morning hour debates for 5 minutes.

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to draw attention to an impending pay cut to middle class families. As my colleagues here in the Congress know, the House voted last week on a bipartisan basis to stop a new policy that President Bush has put in place to change the definition of who qualifies for overtime pay.

For years it has been clear that in certain types of work you would earn time and a half pay for every additional hour you work if it is more than 40 hours in 1 week.

Overtime pay is not a minor thing to these families. It often accounts for more than 25 percent of middle class families' paychecks.

It helps foremen, assistant managers, journalists, registered nurses, and workers who perform relatively small amounts of supervisory or administrative work. It helps salespeople who perform some amount of work outside the office, chefs, nursery school teachers, workers in the financial services industry, insurance claim adjusters, funeral directors and embalmers, law enforcement officers, athletic trainers and many others from all different parts of the workforce.

But the Bush administration has changed all of that and 6 million middle class families are now at risk of losing their overtime pay.

Democrats in Congress have been leading the fight to stop the President and to stop the pay cut, but the leaders in Congress and the White House are doing everything in their power to see that we do not win.

The whole issue is a very curious thing.

The President looked out at our economy, at the mounting job losses, at the declining real wages and the rising costs of health care and college tuition, and he saw trouble. He believed that the threat to the middle classes was that they were earning too much overtime pay, and he ordered the Department of Labor to devise a scheme that would allow employers to force their employees to work the overtime hours but not receive the overtime pay.

It was not a popular plan. The Department of Labor received tens of thousands of comments from the public opposing it. Lawmakers received calls and letters and e-mails from our constituents opposing the plan. In fact, the department had to revise its proposed changes to try and, quote, make it fairer. Their first plan would have taken overtime pay away from 8 million families. This plan takes it away from 6 million. It still is not fair and it is not the answer to what ails our economy.

But even though the plan was unpopular, the President knew he could count on his friends in Congress to withstand the public opposition.

Late last year, the Senate, in a bipartisan vote, voted to stop the President's plan, and the House cast a procedural vote to support the Senate's provision. But when the final bill made it out of Congress and went to the President, the Republican leadership in the House and the Senate had stripped the bill of the amendment that would have blocked the President's overtime pay cut.

That is where we are again.

Last week, on a bipartisan basis, the House voted to stop the President's overtime pay cut, which went into effect on August 23. It was a pretty big vote for a controversial issue: 223 voted against the President, including 22 Republicans, and 193 voted for the President's plan, all Republicans. Now the Senate is going to take up the issue.

But already aides to House leaders like Majority Leader TOM DELAY have indicated publicly that they will not let this amendment stay in the final bill that goes to the President for signature. Even though the majority of the House voted to stop the President's overtime pay cut, the President's allies are here to prevent the majority will of the House from prevailing.

Mr. Speaker, what is wrong with the current leadership in this Congress? They do not respect the will of the majority.

You know, sometimes it works just the other way. Take the vote on Medicare last year, one of the most controversial pieces of legislation to come before this body. The President's plan was crafted and designed for the drug companies and the insurance companies, even though it was supposed to be for seniors to help them pay for the high cost of valuable prescription drugs. But the Medicare bill does nothing to slow the rising prices of prescription drugs for seniors.

When the bill was brought to the House floor in November last year, those of us who opposed the bill were winning. When the clock ran out and the time was up for the vote to be ended, we were winning. The Medicare bill was going to be defeated. But the Republicans had another idea.

□ 1245

They refused to bring the vote to a close. Twenty minutes went by, a normal time for a vote. We were winning. An hour went by; we were winning. Two hours went by; we were still winning. By this time, early in the morning, the President had been woken up to make phone calls, to help in the feverish effort to twist congressional arms. One Congressman said afterwards that he had been offered a bribe by a congressional leader for his vote, a matter that is still under investigation by the FBI and the House Committee on Standards of Official Conduct.

Finally, after nearly 3 hours, one of the longest votes to be held in the history of Congress, the President's allies turned enough votes; and they proceeded to pass the drug companies' Medicare bill by a slim majority. And that bill is now law.

Whether it is protecting overtime pay of the middle class or protecting seniors from the drug companies' Medicare law, or countless other issues, the current leaders in Congress do not respect or honor the majority here in the Congress who support these measures. They will not respect the will of the majority of Americans who are represented by those Members of Congress, over half of the country expressing their view that they do not want that law to go into effect, whether it is to cut overtime pay or whether it is the phony prescription drug bill that does not provide the benefits that our seniors need and have come to expect.

This is one of the many things that is wrong with the way the House of Representatives is being run under the current leadership, and it is one of the things that must change come this November.

The House and Senate should respect the will of the majority of its Members on these issues of overtime pay and middle-class prescription drug benefits.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. COLE). Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until 2 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 12 o'clock and 46 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess until 2 p.m.

□ 1400

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. ADERHOLT) at 2 p.m.

PRAYER

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

''Glorious things are said of You, Lord God, before the nations!''

This weekend from the pulpits, choirs and cantors across this Nation rang out the freedom of worship enjoyed by the American people.

Now, as the work of the 108th Congress ensues this week, may freedom of speech be modeled in the House of Representatives.

May respect for parliamentary law, civil debate and good order be strengthened in the legislative branch of government here and in other democratic countries around the world.

In modeling such behavior, we give You glory, Lord, and become a sign of Your glory to other nations.

Guide the work of Your people, now and forever.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

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

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

Mr. BORDALLO led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Mr. Monahan, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate has passed bills of the following titles in which the concurrence of the House is requested:

S. 1368. An act to authorize the President to award a gold medal on behalf of the Congress to Reverend Doctor Martin Luther King, Jr. (posthumously) and his widow Coretta Scott King in recognition of their contributions to the Nation on behalf of the civil rights movement.

S. Con. Res. 127. Concurrent resolution representing the sense of Congress that the President should designate September 11 as a national day of voluntary service, charity, and compassion.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

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

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, September 10, 2004.

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

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of Rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Clerk received the following message from the Secretary of the Senate on September 10, 2004 at 9:25 a.m.:

That the Senate passed without amendment H.R. 361.

That the Senate agreed to House amendments S. 2634.

Appointments:

Helping to Enhance the Livelihood of People (HELP).

Around the Globe Commission.

Ticket to Work and Work Incentives Advisory Panel.

With best wishes, I am

Sincerely,

JEFF TRANDAHL,
Clerk of the House.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

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

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, September 10, 2004.

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

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of Rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Clerk received the following message from the Secretary of the Senate on September 10, 2004 at 11:55 a.m.:

That the Senate passed without amendment H.R. 3908.

With best wishes, I am

Sincerely,

JEFF TRANDAHL,
Clerk of the House.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

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

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, September 10, 2004.

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

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of Rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, I have the honor to transmit a sealed envelope received from the White House on September 10, 2004 at 1 p.m. and said to contain a message from the President whereby he transmits a copy of a notice extending the emergency as a result of the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks.

With best wishes, I am

Sincerely,

JEFF TRANDAHL,
Clerk of the House.

CONTINUATION OF THE NATIONAL EMERGENCY WITH RESPECT TO CERTAIN TERRORIST ATTACKS—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES (H. DOC. NO. 108–212)

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following message from the President of the United States; which was read and, together with the accompanying papers, without objection, referred to the Committee on International Relations and ordered to be printed:

To the Congress of the United States:

Section 202(d) of the National Emergencies Act, 50 U.S.C. 1622(d), provides for the automatic termination of a national emergency unless, prior to the anniversary date of its declaration, the President publishes in the Federal Register and transmits to the Congress a notice stating that the emergency is to continue in effect beyond the anniversary date. Consistent with this provision, I have sent to the Federal Register the enclosed notice, stating that the emergency declared with respect to the terrorist attacks on the United States of September 11, 2001, is to continue in effect for an additional year.

The terrorist threat that led to the declaration on September 14, 2001, of a national emergency continues. For this reason, I have determined that it is necessary to continue in effect after September 14, 2004, the national emergency with respect to the terrorist threat.

GEORGE W. BUSH.

THE WHITE HOUSE, *September 10, 2004.*

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings today on motions to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or on which the vote is objected to under clause 6 of rule XX.

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

SALUTING THE LIFE AND COURAGE OF THE LATE COMMANDER LLOYD ''PETE'' BUCHER

Mr. AKIN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 407) saluting the life and courage of the late Commander Lloyd ''Pete'' Bucher, United States Navy (retired), who commanded the U.S.S. *Pueblo* (AGER–2) at the time of its capture by North Korea on January 23, 1968.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. CON. RES. 407

Whereas on January 28, 2004, Commander Lloyd ''Pete'' Bucher, United States Navy (retired), died and was subsequently buried with honors at Fort Rosecrans National Cemetery in Point Loma, San Diego, California;

Whereas Lloyd Bucher was appointed as a commissioned officer in the Navy in June 1953 and in May 1967 was assigned command of the U.S.S. Pueblo (AGER–2), an auxiliary light cargo ship designated as an environmental research vessel;

Whereas the U.S.S. Pueblo, while under the command of Commander Bucher and in international waters conducting an intelligence mission off the coast of North Korea, was attacked by three North Korean torpedo boats and a North Korean sub chaser on January 23, 1968;

Whereas the U.S.S. Pueblo was armed only with two .50-caliber machine guns, and the attack resulted in the death of one Navy sailor and the capture of Commander Bucher, his crew, and the U.S.S. Pueblo;

Whereas Commander Bucher and his crew were starved and tortured for 11 months, and were repeatedly beaten, burned on steam radiators, and otherwise brutally treated by their North Korean captors;

Whereas Commander Bucher bore the brunt of the wrath of the North Koreans;

Whereas crewman James Kell said, ''We were all beaten, we all were tortured. But [Commander Bucher] had it double, triple, quadruple what we got.'';

Whereas crewman Stu Russell said, ''[Commander Bucher] was a giant. No matter who did what, he was always punished. I simply don't know where he got the strength and courage to go through what he did.'';

Whereas on December 23, 1968, the crew of the U.S.S. Pueblo was released, some of whom were crippled or nearly blind because of the brutality and malnourishment they endured;

Whereas Commander Bucher retired from the Navy in 1973; and

Whereas Commander Bucher is survived by his wife, Rose, their two sons, and several grandchildren: Now, therefore, be it

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

(1) salutes the life and courage of the late Commander Lloyd ''Pete'' Bucher, United States Navy (retired), who commanded the U.S.S. Pueblo (AGER–2) at the time of its capture by North Korea on January 23, 1968, and who passed away on January 28, 2004;

(2) praises Commander Bucher for his exemplary bravery and sacrifice, which were an inspiration to his crew and the United States, while he and his crew were held in captivity for 11 months in North Korea;

(3) praises the bravery of the crew of the U.S.S. Pueblo; and

(4) expresses its heartfelt sympathy to the family and friends of Commander Bucher.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. AKIN) and the gentlewoman from Guam (Ms. BORDALLO) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. AKIN).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. AKIN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on the concurrent resolution currently under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, some observers have argued that the United States won the Cold War without firing a shot. While we may have secured our victory without a large-scale military conflict with the former Soviet Union, there are many Americans whose lives were indelibly marked by this not-so-Cold War. One of those Americans was Commander Pete Bucher. I rise today to honor this American patriot and the men who served under his command on the USS *Pueblo*.

On January 23, 1968, the USS *Pueblo* was commanded by Pete Bucher and was monitoring Communist ship movements and intercepting messages in international waters near the North Korean coast when it was attacked by North Korean naval forces. As a result of the attack, one Navy sailor, Fireman Duane Hodges, was killed and the remaining crew members were captured. Their incarceration marked the beginning of a nearly yearlong ordeal for Commander Bucher and the crew of the USS *Pueblo*.

Held in concrete cells for 11 months, Commander Bucher and the *Pueblo* crew were starved and tortured by the North Koreans. Mostly fed turnips, many of the malnourished crew members began to lose their sight. They were repeatedly beaten and burned. According to Crewman Bob Chicca, the North Koreans would use ''rifle butts or pieces of wood, whatever they had handy, to beat us.''

By all accounts, Pete Bucher bore the brunt of the North Koreans' wrath. According to crewman Stu Russell, Bucher ''was a giant.'' As commanding officer, Bucher was the focus of the North Korean efforts. Russell recalled that ''he took the brunt of everything. No matter who did what, he was always punished. I simply don't know where he

got the strength and courage to go through what he did.'' Eventually Bucher, when he was wounded when the *Pueblo* was shelled, was beaten and tortured into signing a ''confession,'' an act he also felt would save the lives of his crew.

During her husband's captivity, Rose Bucher, a native of my home State of Missouri, worked hard to make sure Americans did not forget the men of the *Pueblo*. Rose handed out bumper stickers reminding the public to ''Remember the *Pueblo*.'' Finally, 2 days before Christmas 1968, Commander Bucher and the crew of the *Pueblo* were released one by one across the ''Bridge of No Return'' from North to South Korea. At the time Bucher stated, ''It was like coming out of the grave.''

On 28 January 2004, this courageous warrior passed from this world into the next. He was subsequently buried with honors at Fort Rosecrans National Cemetery in Point Loma, San Diego, California. Three men who served under Pete Bucher on the *Pueblo* carried the flag-draped coffin to its final resting place overlooking San Diego Bay.

Today, I am pleased to be joined by 26 of my House colleagues, both Republican and Democrat, in offering this resolution to honor Commander Lloyd ''Pete'' Bucher and the crew of the USS *Pueblo*. Pete Bucher and his crew sacrificed that each of us may enjoy the liberty for which so many others have given the ultimate sacrifice. In passing this resolution, we continue to remember the *Pueblo*.

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

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

I rise in support of House Concurrent Resolution 407 introduced by my colleague, the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. AKIN). I would like to recognize the gentleman for his leadership and work in bringing forward this resolution to salute the service and extreme bravery of Commander Lloyd Mark Bucher and the crew of the USS *Pueblo*.

Sadly, Lloyd Bucher, who went by the name of ''Pete,'' passed away earlier this year. With his passing, the tragic event of the capture of the USS *Pueblo* in 1968 by North Korea once again brings light upon this exceptional individual. Commander Bucher did not just have the unfortunate privilege of being the commander of the USS *Pueblo* when it was attacked by the North Koreans on January 23, 1968. It was his bravery, loyalty and steadfastness to his men that distinguished him as an extraordinary leader during a dark and very challenging time.

Pete Bucher's life is an American story. He was born in 1927. His parents died when he was an infant. He was adopted, but tragically, his adoptive parents also died during his childhood.

After seeing the film ''Boys Town,'' he wrote to Father Flanagan asking if he could live there. According to a Boys Town account, Father Flanagan sent him a train ticket, and Pete Bucher finally found a permanent home in Omaha, Nebraska.

At 17 years of age, Pete Bucher enlisted in the Navy. He went on to college at the University of Nebraska, and after graduating he became a naval officer and served for 27 years before retiring in 1973.

He might have lived an ordinary naval life if not for the terrible events that unfolded on January 23, 1968. As commander of the USS *Pueblo*, an intelligence gathering ship, Commander Bucher was ordered to cruise off the eastern coast of North Korea to intercept communications and gather intelligence. While on their maiden voyage and in international waters, the *Pueblo* armed only with two .50 caliber machine guns was attacked by three North Korean torpedo boats and a North Korean sub chaser.

The attack ended with one American crewman killed and a number of crew wounded, including Commander Bucher.

□ 1415

Despite radio calls seeking air support, no help ever arrived. Instead, the crew and its captain were taken as prisoners. Beaten, tortured, and starved nearly to death, the crew endured this brutality for nearly a year. Pete Bucher, as the leader of the crew, took the brunt of these punishments.

According to James Kell, a *Pueblo* survivor, many more sailors would have died without Bucher's sense of bravery and leadership. He bore the worst of the tortures and inspired his men to hang on. It was his concern for saving the life of his crew that made him a sailor's sailor, a sign of respect and admiration from his crew. On December 23, 1968, 11 months after their capture, the crew and the captain of the USS *Pueblo* were released. Many were crippled or nearly blind because of malnourishment they endured.

Yet Commander Pete Bucher would not receive the support and recognition that he deserved from his commanding officers. Instead, he faced an official court of inquiry that criticized him for surrendering his ship and recommended a court-martial. But Bucher was never charged. He continued to serve in the Navy and retired in 1973.

Today, we remember the *Pueblo*, and we salute the life and the courage of this exceptional individual and recognize the bravery of all those who served with him aboard the USS *Pueblo*. Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this resolution.

Mr. REYES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Con. Res. 407, of which I am an original co-sponsor, saluting the life and courage of the late Commander Lloyd "Pete" Bucher, United States Navy (retired) and the crew of the USS *Pueblo*.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to say that two of the USS *Pueblo* crew members, First Class Petty Officer Donald R. Peppard and Seaman Ramon Rosales, hail from my Congressional district of El Paso, Texas. Both were among the gallant men who served their country honorably in the face of much hardship. As you know, the members of the USS *Pueblo*, under the leadership of Commander Bucher, endured 11 months of excruciating captivity at the hands of the North Koreans without knowing if they would return to their loved ones.

Mr. Speaker, this is merely a small recognition paying tribute to the late Commander Bucher and the crew of the USS *Pueblo*, for this country owes much more to them than we could ever reciprocate. I strongly urge my colleagues to join me in honoring the brave men of the USS *Pueblo* by supporting the passage of this bill.

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

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. ADERHOLT). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. AKIN) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution, House Concurrent Resolution 407.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the concurrent resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

EXPRESSING GRAVE CONCERN OF CONGRESS REGARDING CONTINUING GROSS VIOLATIONS OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND CIVIL LIBERTIES OF SYRIAN PEOPLE BY GOVERNMENT OF SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 363) expressing the grave concern of Congress regarding the continuing gross violations of human rights and civil liberties of the Syrian people by the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. CON. RES. 363

Whereas the Syrian Arab Republic is governed by an authoritarian regime which continues to commit serious human rights abuses, including the use of torture and arbitrary arrest and detention;

Whereas the Department of State's Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for 2003 states that Syria ''significantly restricts freedom of speech and of the press'', that ''freedom of assembly does not exist under the law'', and that ''the Government restricted freedom of association'';

Whereas Article 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights states ''Everyone has the right to freedom of opinion and expression; this right includes freedom to hold opinions without interference and to seek, receive and impart information and ideas through any media and regardless of frontiers.'';

Whereas Article 20 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights states ''Everyone has the right to freedom of peaceful assembly and association.'';

Whereas Syria's September 2001 press law permits the government to arbitrarily deny or revoke publishing licenses for vague reasons and compels media to submit all material to government censors;

Whereas Syrian authorities have arrested, or, in the case of foreigners, expelled two journalists for writing critically about Syria's policies;

Whereas Human Rights Watch and Amnesty International have reported that the security forces of Syria are targeting emerging Syrian human rights organizations, as well as their attorneys, in an apparent attempt to intimidate those organizations;

Whereas on March 8, 2004, Syrian security forces arrested more than 30 human rights dissidents and civilians at a sit-in in front of the parliament;

Whereas a United States diplomat who was watching the peaceful demonstrations was also arrested and held for an hour in what the United States Government called an unacceptable violation of diplomatic practice and which the United States protested ''in the strongest terms'';

Whereas Article 7 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights states ''All are equal before the law and are entitled without any discrimination to equal protection of the law.'';

Whereas the criminal law of Syria provides for reduced sentences in cases of ''honor'' killings, and spousal rape is not illegal;

Whereas the infringement by Syria on human rights and civil liberties extends into the Lebanese Republic, which it continues to occupy in violation of United Nations Security Council resolutions;

Whereas Human Rights Watch, in its 2003 World Report, stated that ''political activists in Lebanon continued to demand the withdrawal of all Syrian forces from the country and organized demonstrations throughout the year, many of which the internal security forces dispersed forcibly'';

Whereas hundreds of Lebanese civilians are believed to have been killed or ''disappeared'' by Syrian occupation forces or its secret police;

Whereas hundreds of Kurdish civilians were injured or killed in clashes with the Syrian authorities that began on March 12, 2004, in Qamishli, a city in northeastern Syria and, according to Syrian Kurdish sources, security forces used live ammunition against unarmed civilians; and

Whereas human rights and democracy groups in Syria have sponsored a petition urging greater freedoms and the release of all political prisoners, which has garnered more than 6,000 signatures: Now, therefore, be it

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

(1) condemns the consistent pattern of gross violations of internationally recognized human rights by the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic;

(2) calls on the international community to adopt a resolution at the upcoming session of the United Nations General Assembly which details the dismal human rights record of Syria;

(3) expresses its support for the people of Syria in their daily struggle for freedom, respect for human rights and civil liberties, democratic self-governance, and the establishment of the rule of law;

(4) encourages the President and the Secretary of State to reach out to dissidents, human rights activists, and the nonviolent democratic opposition in Syria, and to assist them in their efforts; and

(5) urges the adoption and pursuit of these and other policies to seek a democratic government in Syria that will—

(A) bring freedom and democracy to the people of Syria;

(B) cease the illegal occupation by Syria of the Lebanese Republic;

(C) abandon support for terrorism by Syria;

(D) not pursue research, development, acquisition, production, transfer, or deployment of biological, chemical, or nuclear weapons, will provide credible assurances that such behavior will not be undertaken in the future, and will agree to allow United Nations and other international observers to verify such assurances; and

(E) live in peace and security with the international community.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN) and the gentleman from California (Mr. LANTOS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN).

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H. Con. Res. 363, the concurrent resolution now under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume. I want to thank the leadership and the chairman and the ranking member of the Committee on International Relations, the gentleman from California (Mr. LANTOS), for bringing House Concurrent Resolution 363 to the floor today. This important resolution expresses the grave concern of Congress regarding the continuing gross violations of human rights and civil liberties by the Syrian dictatorship.

The Syrian regime is one that not only supports and facilitates terrorist attacks against innocent civilians throughout the world, but also engages in a widespread campaign of terror against its own people. Throughout this year, Syria's tyrannical regime has intensified its crackdown against Syrian Kurds and pro-democracy forces inside the country. The arrest and the detention in the last few months of Syrian peaceful demonstrators clamoring for the right to exercise their fundamental liberties is but the latest example of the brutal regime of the dictatorship in Damascus.

International human rights organizations, such as Human Rights Watch, Amnesty International, and others, have reported that the security forces of Syria are targeting emerging Syrian human rights organizations, as well as their attorneys, in an apparent attempt to intimidate those organizations into submission and silence.

Unfortunately, the gross violations of human rights are not limited to Syria's immediate borders. The repressive apparatus also extends into neighboring Lebanon, which Syria continues to occupy, making Lebanon a captive nation.

This fact was recently acknowledged by the international community through the adoption of United Nations Security Council Resolution 1559, calling on all foreign troops to withdraw without delay from Lebanon and to stop meddling in the country's November elections. Hundreds of Lebanese civilians are believed to have been killed or disappeared by Syrian occupation forces or its secret police.

House Concurrent Resolution 363 details and condemns the persistent repression of our Syrian and Lebanese brothers and sisters at the hands of the terrorist regime in Syria. It articulates our support for Syria's human rights and pro-democracy activists and calls on free and democratic nations to take a unified stance and condemn the deplorable and heinous human rights record of the Syrian dictatorship. It expresses congressional support for the people of Syria in their daily struggle for freedom, for respect for human rights and civil liberties, for democratic self-governance, and for the establishment of the rule of law.

House Concurrent Resolution 363 further encourages the President and the Secretary of State to reach out to dissidents and to the nonviolent democratic opposition in Syria. It calls for the United States to assist them in their efforts to help bring freedom to Syria so that they can achieve the ultimate goal of a democratic form of government in Syria that is truly responsive to the needs of its people and has permanently abandoned any support for terrorism and the development of deadly unconventional weapons.

The people of Syria and the dissidents, such as the chairman of the Committees For the Defense of Democratic Liberties and Human Rights in Syria, need our support. Upon being temporarily released from jail last month, this human rights activist said: ''I will persist. I will never retreat. And I will continue to exert more pressure for democratic initiatives.''

My colleagues, we cannot stand idly by and allow the Syrian regime to continue these deplorable practices. We too must maintain the pressure on this pariah state. And so, accordingly, I ask my colleagues to support this important resolution.

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

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume, and I stand in strong support of this resolution.

This important resolution supports the people of Syria, who live under a violent, repressive regime. And I am delighted to commend my good friend and distinguished colleague, the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN), for bringing this resolution before the Congress.

It was just 3 weeks ago, Mr. Speaker, that I was in Damascus, Syria, for a series of discussions and meetings with the government of Syria, specifically the foreign minister, our ambassador, and a number of people in Syrian academic and media life.

Last fall, the Syrian Accountability Act was approved overwhelmingly on a

vote of 398 to 4. That bill addressed Syria's behavior in the Middle East, including its sponsorship of terrorist groups and its continuing occupation of Lebanon and its willingness to allow terrorist groups to filter into Iraq. Since the passage of that act, Syria has continued to make only token efforts to prevent the infiltration of foreign terrorists into Iraq. It continues to host terrorist headquarters in Damascus, it maintains 17,000 Syrian troops in Lebanon, it supports the terrorist organization Hezbollah, it transfers Iranian arms to Hezbollah, and it continues its vicious anti-American propaganda on all government-controlled media.

When I met with President Assad in Damascus last year, I urged him to change his government's behavior, both at home and abroad, so that Syria at long last could rejoin the ranks of the civilized world. I repeated that message to Foreign Minister Shaara in a press conference last month in Damascus. Perhaps not surprisingly, while my press conference received considerable attention from the media throughout the region, the Syrian press was prohibited from covering the event. In fact, the Syrians let it be known before my trip that they would be displeased if I were even to hold a press conference. I nevertheless, of course, did so, fully aware that I was delivering a message with which most Syrians agreed but none could utter in public without the severest consequences.

The resolution before us is one result of Syria's failure to heed the advice that I and many others, including our Secretary of State Colin Powell, have given. Another result was an all-too-rare slap from the international community in the form of U.N. Security Council Resolution 1559, passed earlier this month and long overdue, which calls for an end to Syrian interference in and control of Lebanese affairs, the withdrawal of Syrian forces from Lebanon, the disbanding of all militias in Lebanon, including Syria's Hezbollah terrorist movement.

The resolution before us today focuses on Syria's brutal suppression of dissent and human rights at home within Syria, for which Damascus must be held accountable. After all, nobody has suffered more from the brutality of the Syrian government than the Syrian people themselves.

Syria continues to commit egregious human rights abuses, including torture, arbitrary detentions of political prisoners without trial, imprisonment of parliamentarians who dare to deviate from the Baath party line, censorship and harassment of journalists, and the lightest of sentences for so-called honor killings.

According to Amnesty International, Syria is engaged in a campaign to harass and intimidate human rights organizations until their members leave the country. We cannot credibly say we favor political reform in the Middle East if we ignore Syria's crimes against its own citizens.

In 2003, the United Nations Commission on Human Rights classified Syria as one of the world's most repressive regimes. It is very important that Congress be on record not merely to criticize the Syrian government for its actions abroad but, just as importantly, to express our support for the Syrian people in their struggle to achieve the kind of government they should have.

Mr. Speaker, a Syria that is accountable to world standards and norms, a Syria that respects its own citizens and no longer occupies Lebanon or hosts and supports terrorists must be a central goal of our essential project of reforming the Middle East.

□ 1430

In the long run, a Middle East in which people are stakeholders in public life offers the greatest hope for peace and safety in the region and beyond. I urge all of my colleagues to support this carefully crafted resolution.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE).

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of this important resolution, and I thank both of my colleagues, the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN) and the gentleman from California (Mr. LANTOS), for introducing this important resolution.

Despite recent sanctions put on Syria pursuant to the Syria Accountability Act by our government and warnings that the sanctions will continue until Syria ends their support for terrorism, Syria continues to play host to terrorist groups like Hamas and Hezbollah. We know Hamas took responsibility for the suicide bombings in Israel a couple of weeks ago, and yet Syria continues to harbor Hamas leaders. Despite claims that Syria is not an occupying force in Lebanon, recent reports indicate that Syria forced the Lebanese government to keep their hand-picked president in office for another term, basically violating the Constitution of Lebanon. So the fact of the matter is that Syria continues to interfere in Lebanese affairs and is, in fact, an occupying force.

Syria has committed a laundry list of human rights abuses not only in Lebanon but also against its own people. It has imprisoned hundreds of political prisoners without charges, including two journalists from Lebanon who wrote editorials against Syria's occupation.

Mr. Speaker, I have spoken on several occasions regarding Syria's systematic oppression of the Syrian Jewish community. Those Jews who remain in Syria, and there are very few, they nonetheless face constant terror and intimidation from Syria's secret police, nightly curfews and have been forced to carry special identification cards.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join with me in supporting this resolution. Syria has proven to be a destabilizing force in the Middle East, and it is critical that we urge the international community to take a stand on Syria's abysmal human rights record.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today as a long-time supporter of human rights in the Middle East and throughout the world. Clearly, I am in support of human rights in Syria. Every human being deserves to be treated with respect and without the fear of persecution and death. I stand firmly against the use of torture, arbitrary arrest and detention. I cannot deny that Syria has a long way to go to meet the human rights standards that we have established. However, I do not believe complete condemnation of the nation of Syria will yield the results we seek. We must continue to push for freedom of the press and greater freedom for women, but I feel that we must engage Syria in a dialogue instead of turning a cold shoulder to them.

I also feel that it is worth reviewing the relationship between Syria and Lebanon. I do not believe we should condemn Syria for their relationship with Lebanon, but we must engage in an examination to determine if the relationship between Syria and Lebanon can be improved. We must seek to build relationships in the Middle East as opposed to tearing them down. Our goal is to establish greater stability and a more free society in the Middle East; to accomplish these lofty goals we must press forward with new initiatives as opposed to complete condemnations.

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I support and applaud the authors of H. Con. Res. 363 for urging Syria to live in peace and security with the international community and for condemning Syrian human rights violations. The U.S. Congress is an appropriate venue for highlighting human rights abuses and forum for urging other nations to abide by the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

Every year Congress passes dozens of resolutions condemning human rights violations throughout the world. Unfortunately, while there are a plethora of countries that demand censure, the House of Representatives tends to focus more frequently on a few specific countries like the People's Republic of China, Iran and Syria; all countries that we must prod to do better. Many of the statements regarding human rights violations in H. Con. Res. 363 apply to numerous other countries in the world.

If we condemn one country and turn a blind eye to the very same abuses in another country, the magnitude and moral legitimacy of our censure is greatly diminished. For example, H. Con. Res. 363 condemns: "The family law of Syria as applied to Muslim women is governed by Sharia law and is discriminatory in marriage, divorce, and inheritance matters." But Sharia family law is also practiced in numerous other Arab countries, including Saudi Arabia.

Syria needs to understand that by passage of H. Con. Res. 363, the United States Congress expects Syria to improve its human rights record and adhere to the rule of law. Approval of H. Con. Res. 363 should also signal to other countries that the United States will continue to express its disapproval of violators of basic human rights and disregard of the dignities of its citizens.

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

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. ADERHOLT). The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution, H. Con. Res. 363, as amended.

The question was taken.

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

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR FREEDOM IN HONG KONG

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 667) expressing support for freedom in Hong Kong.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. RES. 667

Whereas according to the April 1, 2004, report by the Department of State entitled U.S.-Hong Kong Policy Act Report, ''The United States has strong interests in the protection of human rights and the promotion of democratic institutions throughout the world. The Hong Kong people share many values and interests with Americans and have worked to make Hong Kong a model of what can be achieved in a society based on the rule of law and respect for civil liberties'';

Whereas according to section 103(3) of the United States-Hong Kong Policy Act of 1992 (22 U.S.C. 5713(3)), ''The United States should continue to treat Hong Kong as a territory which is fully autonomous from the United Kingdom and, after June 30, 1997, should treat Hong Kong as a territory which is fully autonomous from the People's Republic of China with respect to economic and trade matters.'';

Whereas the People's Republic of China has frustrated the gradual and orderly process toward universal suffrage and the democratic election of the legislature and chief executive in Hong Kong as envisioned by the Basic Law of the Hong Kong SAR; and

Whereas on April 6, 2004, the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress of the People's Republic of China declared itself, as opposed to the people of Hong Kong, the final arbiter of democratic reform and, on April 26, 2004, declared that universal suffrage would not apply to the election of the third Chief Executive in 2007 or to the election of all members of the fourth Legislative Council in 2008: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) declares that the people of Hong Kong should be free to determine the pace and scope of constitutional developments; and

(2) calls upon the President of the United States to—

(A) call upon the People's Republic of China, the National People's Congress, and any groups appointed by the Government of the People's Republic of China to guarantee that all revisions of Hong Kong law reflect the wishes of the people of Hong Kong as expressed through a fully democratically elected legislature and chief executive;

(B) declare that the continued lack of a fully democratically elected legislature in Hong Kong is contrary to the vision of democracy set forth in the Agreement between the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the Government of the People's Republic of China on the Question of Hong Kong, done at Beijing on December 19, 1984 (the Sino-British Joint Declaration of 1984); and

(C) call upon the Government of the People's Republic of China to honor its treaty obligations under the Sino-British Joint Declaration of 1984.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN) and the gentleman from California (Mr. LANTOS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN).

GENERAL LEAVE

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

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

There was no objection.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise today in strong support of House Resolution 667 expressing support for freedom in Hong Kong. This resolution comes to the floor at an important time. Yesterday, the people of Hong Kong went to the polls to elect the members of their Legislative Council, and for the first time in Hong Kong's history, half of the seats in the Legislative Council were directly elected through universal suffrage.

Unfortunately, the remaining seats are still distributed among a cadre of narrow constituencies that receive disproportionate power over Hong Kong's governance. The people of Hong Kong, along with all other human beings, deserve universal suffrage and full, complete democracy. There is no city in the world that is better equipped to make the transition to self-governance.

Renowned for its open economy, transparency, and excellent rule of law, Hong Kong is widely regarded as the freest economy in the world. Hong Kong is also celebrated for its tradition of respect for civil liberties, including freedom of speech, freedom of assembly, and freedom of religion.

However, despite a rich tradition of democratic values, the people of Hong Kong still lack the most basic of freedoms, the freedom to elect their own government. This year's massive pro-democracy march on July 1 attracted half a million of Hong Kong's residents. It was powerful evidence that the people of Hong Kong are interested in far more than just economic prosperity. The record voter turnout in yesterday's legislative elections was further proof that the people of Hong Kong want to participate in the political process.

The people of Hong Kong have already been promised universal suffrage in their mini-constitution, known as the ''Basic Law,'' but the document fails to outline a timetable for full democracy.

Last April, Hong Kong's legislature was robbed of its tremendous opportunity to implement complete democracy when the People's Republic of China abused its authority to reinterpret Hong Kong's ''Basic Law.'' The National People's Congress in Beijing made the decision that Hong Kong could not have universal suffrage in the election of the chief executive in 2007 and in the election of the legislature in the year 2008. This outrageous decision unacceptably interfered in Hong Kong's internal affairs, it halted the city's orderly progress toward universal suffrage and crushed the democratic aspirations of the people of Hong Kong. Beijing proved yet again that it cannot be trusted to keep its commitments.

Last summer, the Chinese Communist Party tried to exert more authority over Hong Kong by pushing through anti-sedition legislation that could be used to target groups such as the Falun Gong. Thankfully, a people's power movement in Hong Kong stopped this legislation from going forward.

Last winter, the Chinese news media launched vicious attacks against pro-democracy legislators in Hong Kong, using vitriolic rhetoric that harkened back to the days of China's cultural revolution. In the spring, freedom of the press in Hong Kong was compromised when three prominent radio talk show hosts resigned from their talk shows due to intimidation and threats relating to their participation in the democracy movement.

Over the past year, there have been numerous reports of vandalism against pro-democracy legislators. Even yesterday's election was marred by accounts of voter intimidation, as is documented in a recent report published by Human Rights Watch. Such tactics show that the Chinese Communist Party continues to distort the truth, relies on intimidation to control the people, and rules by coercion. While Beijing may not have directly precipitated all of these events, they have certainly fomented the sentiment behind them.

It is my hope that the people of Hong Kong will soon realize their hope for democracy. We congratulate them on the completion of yesterday's election and call on the PRC to respect the ''one country, two systems'' model and allow the people of Hong Kong to come up with a timetable for democratic reform.

Mr. Speaker, I hope that my colleagues will join me in supporting the people of Hong Kong as they work to realize their hope of real democracy.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I strongly support this important resolution and urge all of my colleagues to do so as well, and I would first like to commend the gentleman from California (Mr. COX) for introducing this important and timely resolution. The gentleman from California (Mr. COX) is a fighter for human rights and democracy in Asia and throughout the world, and I am delighted to support this resolution.

Mr. Speaker, when Hong Kong reverted to Chinese control in 1997, some of us who cared deeply about the future of Hong Kong went to witness that event. We feared that the Chinese government would not be true to its word that the people of Hong Kong would be able to maintain their free and open way of life and that they would be free of interference from the Mainland government. My worst fears about China's intentions have now materialized.

On the surface, much about Hong Kong remains the same. The people of Hong Kong continue to play a role in the running of their economy. Just this past weekend, elections were held for half of the seats of the Legislative Council. Opposition is strong and growing in the Hong Kong legislature, and the local press often criticizes those who govern Hong Kong. But, Mr. Speaker, there are very troubling signs that the Chinese government has lost its patience with Hong Kong's independent way of life and is moving steadily to bring the people of Hong Kong under the firm grip of Beijing.

Last year, hundreds of thousands of Hong Kong citizens turned out on the streets after the Hong Kong government at the Mainland's demand attempted to erode civil liberties in the name of protecting national security. Three prominent members of the press who often criticize the Chinese government recently resigned their positions after threats were made to the safety of their families.

And, Mr. Speaker, the Chinese government recently declared that universal suffrage would not apply to the election of the chief executive in 2007 or to the election of members of the Legislative Council in 2008. Despite the solemn promise of the Sino-British Joint Declaration that democratic reform would continue in Hong Kong towards universal suffrage, the Chinese government has clearly had enough of Hong Kong's independent voices.

The Chinese leadership fights full democracy in Hong Kong for a very simple reason: they fully understand that Hong Kong would thrive and prosper under a fully democratic government. Such democratic success would make it impossible to tell the rapidly growing middle class in Shanghai, Beijing, and other cities throughout China that the Chinese people are not ready for open and free elections and that chaos would ensue should such elections occur.

Yesterday's election results from Hong Kong demonstrate clearly the need for fundamentally changing Hong Kong's electoral system. Even though Hong Kong democrats made gains in the elections, they can never win a majority in the Legislative Council because half the seats are chosen by pro-Beijing committees, not the people of Hong Kong. This situation is unacceptable.

Our resolution makes clear that the United States is deeply dissatisfied with these negative trends in Hong Kong, particularly the Chinese government's refusal to ensure that all elected officials in Hong Kong are elected by popular vote. It also calls upon the Chinese government to honor its treaty obligations under the Sino-British Joint Declaration.

□ 1445

Mr. Speaker, it remains my modest hope that the Chinese government will recognize the error of its current approach to Hong Kong and give the people of Hong Kong the full democracy they so richly deserve. I support this resolution.

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

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from California (Mr. COX), the principal sponsor and the author of this resolution.

Mr. COX. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman from Florida for yielding me this time. I thank the gentleman from California (Mr. LANTOS) for his kind words but mostly for his strong efforts in behalf of not only democracy in Hong Kong but around the world. I rise in support of H. Res. 667, which expresses the sense of this House in support of freedom and democracy and self-determination for the people of Hong Kong.

Nearly 2 million of Hong Kong's 7 million people voted yesterday and pro-democracy advocates won 25 out of the 30 seats that they were eligible to compete for. But the other half of the 60 seats in the LegCo were not elected through universal suffrage because those seats were decided by so-called functional constituencies, effectively controlled by Beijing. Many observers have compared the functional constituencies to Britain's ''rotten boroughs,'' where a handful of malleable voters held all the power.

Genuine democracy should be allowed under Beijing's oft repeated slogan of ''one country, two systems.'' It ought to be allowed because it is what the people of Hong Kong want. But at present neither Hong Kong's chief executive nor most of its lawmakers are democratically elected. Hong Kong Chief Executive Tung Chee Hwa, shortly after taking power in 1997, assured this Congressman and the United States Congress that, quote, further democratic evolution will depend on the wish of the Hong Kong people. Seven years later, the People's Republic of China has not made good on that promise.

We have been here before.

Last year, the House passed H. Res. 277, responding to a direct threat against freedom in Hong Kong, a Communist-backed law designed to restrict free speech and civil liberties in the guise of punishing subversion. Just days later, more than a half million people in Hong Kong demonstrated against the proposed law. In combination with American and international outrage, this courageous demonstration of people power resulted in a tactical victory for freedom. The law so far remains shelved.

But this year Beijing has returned with a new tactic. Since it is easier simply to prevent democratic elections than it is to completely crush free speech, the Communist regime simply ruled out any possibility of democratic elections for chief executive in 2007 and for the legislature in 2008. They did this on April 6 of this year without even consulting the people of Hong Kong as is required by the basic law. This new interpretation of the basic law bars the legislature of Hong Kong from any actions towards electoral reform until Beijing has granted its blessings. Beijing then sought to ensure that what little democracy the people of Hong Kong were allowed to exercise would be severely manipulated.

These intentions became clear on May 5 of this year. On that day, just a few months ago, the People's Republic of China sailed eight PLA warships down Victoria Harbor in Hong Kong. This overt show of military force, which was the first time that this has happened since the handover in 1997, included four frigates, two submarines, two destroyers, and all the sailors standing at attention atop their vessels. The display left little doubt as to how seriously the Communist regime viewed the question of fully democratic elections and their intention not to have them.

At the same time, the People's Republic of China began a campaign of harassment and intimidation against Hong Kong's pro-democracy activists. As my colleague from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN) has described, in early May of this year Albert Cheung, a well-known radio host and columnist, was forced to flee Hong Kong after receiving threats against his life from PRC officials. Mr. Cheung left behind an audio recording. It detailed threats of violence made against him and his family. Shortly thereafter, his replacement on the show, Allen Lee, was also forced to quit broadcasting, citing the need to protect his family. He received a late-night threat by telephone from a PRC official who referred pointedly to his wife and his daughter. Media outlets in Hong Kong have been silenced through commercial pressure for supporting or even just reporting on democratic views. Chinese property developers, for instance, boycotted advertising in the Chinese language Apple

Daily newspaper for daring to report on the July 1 pro-democracy demonstrations. This industry has always been the largest ad buyer for the paper. Pro-democracy legislative candidate Alex Ho was detained under suspicious circumstances on a business trip to the mainland in early August. He was accused of consorting with a prostitute and sentenced to 6 months without a trial. According to Asian media outlets, Hong Kong media moguls who steered their outlets towards Beijing's wishes in the run-up to yesterday's elections have been rewarded with political titles and easier mainland China market access.

In mid May, numerous Hong Kong voters called in to local radio shows to report that they were pressured to vote for Beijing's preferred candidates. Several callers reported being contacted by relatives on the mainland and told that if they did not vote for pro-Beijing candidates, their relatives on the mainland would face severe consequences. Human Rights Watch has recounted in a 42-page report on September 9 that one caller reported, quote, a senior staff member of my company asked me to vote for pro-Beijing candidates instead of pro-democracy candidates. To make sure I have done that, he told me to take pictures of my completed ballot with my mobile phone camera.

As the PRC learned to counter potential freedom through the Internet, so has it learned to twist the freedom of wireless communication into just another tool of oppression. On May 19, the office of legislator Leung Yiuchung was defaced with excrement. This vandalism closely followed Leung's support in the legislature for a pro-democracy resolution. In June, vandals set fire to election posters in the office of pro-democracy legislator Emily Lau and wrote, quote, Chinese traitors must die on the wall outside.

In July, Hong Kong's Independent Commission Against Corruption, an anticorruption body admired worldwide, became just another blunt instrument of Communist rule, raiding the offices of local newspapers, including the South China Morning Post, Apple Daily, Oriental Daily News, the Sun, and Sing Tao. Even the ostensibly pro-Communist Ta Kung Pao newspaper was not spared. Some investigators remained on the scene for up to 10 hours. Journalists' homes were searched and many were not so cordially invited for further questioning. Since the commission is answerable to Hong Kong's unelected chief executive, C.H. Tung, it is unlikely that orders came anywhere but from the top.

All these examples constitute a strange melding of criminal elements. The director of the Hong Kong Human Rights Monitor, Law Yuk-kai, has said, quote, we believe the Ministry of State Security and Hong Kong triads are collaborating in this political violence and intimidation. Yet this campaign of intimidation and harassment had a goal more important than simply winning yesterday's elections. It was about the PRC making Hong Kong voters understand that supporting democratic forces carries a heavy price. Despite the very real threats from the Communist regime, the people of Hong Kong still went to the polls in record numbers and they returned a near totality of the democratically elected seats in the LegCo. The people of Hong Kong have shown that they will not be intimidated or silenced.

Stephen Vines wrote in the Hong Kong Standard on August 4, 2004, ''Those of us who work in the media have been accused of crying wolf far too often, but maybe we have not cried wolf often enough.'' According to Vines, the way to prevent such erosions of freedom is not to wait for dramatic events like editors being murdered in Russia or newspapers being forcibly closed in mainland China. ''If we need to wait for the worst before speaking out,'' he said, ''we will have waited too long.''

More than 400 academics declared in an advertisement in the Apple Daily newspaper on May 27 that, quote, in the face of autocratic and political pressure, we will not be silent. The people of Hong Kong know that they must defend their democracy and their way of life against Communist oppression. Now it is up to us to remind them that the American people stand with them.

This House demands that Beijing guarantee all revisions of Hong Kong law reflect the wishes of the people of Hong Kong as expressed through a fully democratically elected legislature and chief executive. A high degree of autonomy is what was promised to the people of Hong Kong in the 1984 Sino-British Joint Declaration. Hong Kong's Basic Law stipulates that Beijing has authority over defense and foreign affairs but that Hong Kong itself should have autonomy for most domestic affairs, driven by an independent electoral democracy. Beijing's attempts this year, as in the past, constitute a blatant violation of the rights of the people of Hong Kong, of the Basic Law and of the People's Republic of China's treaty obligations.

An act of this Congress, the U.S.-Hong Kong Policy Act, directly ties our commercial interests in Hong Kong to the freedom of Hong Kong's people. The President of the United States has the authority under the act to suspend many of the special treatments we extend to the territory in areas including export controls, customs, air service and cultural and educational exchange because Beijing's ham-fisted violation of the Hong Kong autonomy violates that act. The Communists were caught off guard by the massive popular demonstrations in July, both this year and last. For ages, Beijing has maintained the belief that any complaints about autonomy and democracy were really veiled economic frustrations, that the people of Hong Kong could be satisfied with some economic sweeteners. Now perhaps the Communist regime may begin to understand. Business interests can be purchased and bureaucratic machinery can be controlled, but the hearts and minds of the people of Hong Kong are not for sale.

Mr. Speaker, yesterday's elections were part of a broader fight for the soul of Hong Kong and ultimately the future of China. We believe that Communist China must follow Hong Kong's example of freedom, not the other way around. Hong Kong's 7 million people remain the best hope for freedom and democracy for billions of other people in China and throughout Asia.

Mr. STEARNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H. Res. 667. H. Res. 667 comes to us today after an unprecedented turnout in Hong Kong's election, which were held on Sunday, September 12, 2004. Democracy-oriented candidates benefited from a record voter turnout in an election viewed widely as a symbolic clash between the differing value systems of communist China and Hong Kong. This turnout is an important next step for the citizens of Hong Kong and their ability to choose their leaders in future elections. H. Res. 667 seeks to continue toward the path of a democratic elected legislature and calls upon the People's Republic of China to honor their obligations to Hong Kong. I urge my colleagues to support this resolution and support the people of Hong Kong in their quest toward freedom from the captivity of the People's Republic of China.

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

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I congratulate the gentleman from California (Mr. COX) for his resolution.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. ADERHOLT). The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 667.

The question was taken.

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

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

CONDEMNING TERRORIST ATTACKS AGAINST RUSSIAN FEDERATION

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 760) condemning the series of terrorist attacks against the Russian Federation that occurred in late August and early September 2004.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. RES. 760

Whereas on August 24, 2004, 2 Russian passenger airliners, Sibir Airlines Flight 1047

and Volga-Avia Express Flight 1303, exploded nearly simultaneously from bombs believed to have been carried aboard by passengers, killing 90 people;

Whereas on August 31, 2004, a suicide bomber attacked the Rizhskaya subway station in Moscow, killing 10 people and injuring 51;

Whereas on September 1, 2004, a group of approximately 30 terrorists seized Middle School No. 1 in Beslan, Russia, on the first day of school;

Whereas more than 1,180 parents, teachers, and children were held hostage for 52 hours with no food or water;

Whereas this act of terrorism resulted in more than 335 dead, including 156 children, hundreds wounded and 190 still unaccounted for;

Whereas terrorist actions during the standoff were grotesque and cruel;

Whereas this attack parallels tactics used by terrorist groups around the world, including extensive preparations, the simultaneity of attacks requiring coordination, and the use of suicide bombers;

Whereas the terrorists possessed sophisticated weapons and training, including camouflage, gas masks, trained dogs, specialized sniper cartridges, and grenade launchers;

Whereas the attacks were reportedly planned by Shamil Basayev, a Chechen rebel commander, and financed by Abu Omar as-Seyf, a radical Islamic Wahabite, believed to be associated with al-Qaeda;

Whereas these 3 attacks represent an unparalleled level of barbarity against the Russian Federation;

Whereas the United States has provided medical supplies, medicine, and other equipment to help doctors cope with the injured in these attacks;

Whereas terrorism in the 21st century flows across national borders; and

Whereas the school children and people of Beslan, Russia have now joined the people of New York City, Moscow, Karachi, Jerusalem, Madrid, Bali, and many other places around the globe as victims of international terrorism: Now, therefore, be it—

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) deplores the series of terrorist attacks against the Russian Federation that occurred in late August and early September 2004;

(2) expresses its heartfelt condolences to the families of the individuals murdered in the terrorist attacks, expresses its sympathies to the individuals injured in the attacks, and conveys its hope for the rapid and complete recovery of all such injured individuals; and

(3) stands in solidarity with the Russian people in efforts to combat terrorism throughout the world.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California (Mr. ROYCE) and the gentleman from California (Mr. LANTOS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California (Mr. ROYCE).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include any extraneous material on this resolution under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this resolution. I would like to begin by thanking the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. HYDE) and the gentleman from California (Mr. LANTOS) for their support of this resolution.

Mr. Speaker, in recent weeks, the Russian people have suffered greatly from terrorism.

□ 1500

They have seen two airplanes blown out of the sky, killing all on board. They have seen bombs explode in subway tunnels, killing people who were just going home or just going to work. And then they saw the tragedy in a town called Beslan, in southern Russia.

And in Russia the first day of school is known there as ''the day of knowledge.'' For Middle School No. 1 in Beslan, it turned into a day of terror. As students and teachers and parents gathered for that first day, 30 terrorists stormed the school, and they took 1,180 occupants as hostage. They herded the group of children and teachers and parents into the school gymnasium, and they rigged it with explosives. And those who did not obey orders on the spot were executed on that site. And there they sat the hostages in the sweltering gymnasium for 52 hours with no food, with no water. Hostages stripped off their clothes from relief of the heat and did what they could to save themselves and try to stay hydrated.

These attacks were planned in meticulous detail with a cache of weapons and other equipment hidden underneath the school's library wooden floor for weeks before the attack. The terrorists were well trained. They were very well equipped. They possessed gas masks and hand-held radios and specialized weaponry. They even possessed two sentry dogs as expertly trained as the attackers themselves. This attack reflects the tactics used by Islamist terrorist groups around the world, including extensive preparation, simultaneous attacks requiring coordination, and the use of suicide bombers in the attack itself. It was no amateur operation.

The end of the seizure resulted in more than 330 dead, half of them children. Hundreds were wounded, and still more were unaccounted for after the bomb blasts. Children were shot in the back as they tried to escape.

The bombed-out school leaves an unimaginable scene, desks littered with bullet holes, bloody handprints on tiles, body parts of suicide bombers litter the floor and the ceiling of the classroom, and on the chalkboard one can see in the film that the teacher had prepared an arithmetic lesson four plus two equals six.

In Beslan last week, caskets, many of them child-sized, were carried one by one for burial. A patch of land about the size of a football field had to be prepared for more graves because the town's cemetery was not big enough to hold all the bodies.

Mr. Speaker, September 1 is Russia's 9/11. The world has expressed its sympathy for the people of Beslan. At the Russian Embassy here in Washington, D.C., hundreds have lined up to sign condolence books, including Secretary Powell and President Bush. Secretary Powell wrote: ''As a parent, my heart and my prayers go out to those who lost children. The United States stands firmly and with solidarity with Russia in fighting all forms of terrorism. This tragedy will serve to energize our efforts.''

As Americans are now sending their children back to school across the country, this calamity has moved many Americans. Many have commented on the Russian government's response to this war and to its policies in Chechnya and its anti-democratic actions in Chechnya. This deserves debate in appropriate forums. However, one thing is clear: nothing can justify this deliberate targeting of innocent children. The use of children as targets by these trained terrorists is reprehensible. These are children, again, that were specifically targeted. This resolution rightly condemns this establishment.

Mr. Speaker, the unfortunate reality is that today's terrorism knows no borders. This killing has spread and apparently will continue to spread. The children and people of Beslan, Russia, have now joined the people of New York and Bali and Moscow and Karachi and Jerusalem and Madrid and many other places around the globe as victims of international terrorism.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of this resolution. First I want to express my appreciation to the distinguished gentleman from California (Mr. ROYCE), my good friend, for introducing this most important resolution and to the gentleman from Illinois (Chairman HYDE) for facilitating its expeditious consideration on the floor.

Mr. Speaker, September 1 is usually a very happy day for Russian families. It is the traditional first day of the school year, when parents accompany their children to school. And at School No. 1 in the town of Beslan in southern Russia, September 1, 2004, began in a joyous and celebratory manner. Children were dressed in their best clothes, busily catching up with their young friends and with their teachers after the summer break. Festive music played for this important and happy occasion in the lives of these carefree children and their parents.

Suddenly dozens of masked, armed terrorists stormed the school, causing mass chaos and fright, and forcing hundreds of students and parents into the gymnasium of the school. It sickens all of us to read the eyewitness accounts of the school seizure or to watch the video which was shot by the terrorists documenting their bloody and barbaric actions.

Mr. Speaker, there is no need to relive today the violent and despicable

acts which followed. The entire world has seen them on television in all too graphic detail. But we now know that for the town of Beslan, and indeed for all of Russia, September 1, 2004, will hereafter be remembered as a day of horrible tragedy and unspeakable crime.

September 1, 2004, Mr. Speaker, will be remembered in Russia as we in the United States remember September 11, the day when we recognized our vulnerability to the brutality of Islamic terrorism and committed ourselves to a global battle against those who perpetrate these dastardly acts.

The Beslan attack was not Russia's first encounter with Islamic terrorists. Just days before, these same people brought down two commercial airliners in Russia, killing nearly a hundred civilians; and the suicide bombers struck in Moscow at a subway station, causing grief and suffering to families across Russia. Our hearts go out to the families of those who died or were injured in these tragic disasters.

Confronting, resisting, and defeating Islamic terrorism must be a global effort. The most meaningful contribution that we in Congress can make is to continue our commitment to carry on this battle until final victory. Today, as we remember the innocent victims of Beslan, the passengers of Sibir Airlines Flight 1047 and Volga-Avia Express 1303 and commuters and bystanders at the Rizhskaya subway station in Moscow, I want to offer the most heartfelt condolences of the American people to the Russian people and especially to the relatives and friends of the victims of Islamic terrorism.

I strongly support this resolution, and I urge all of my colleagues to do so as well.

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

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SMITH), the vice chairman of the Committee on International Relations.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, first of all, let me thank and commend the gentleman from California (Chairman ROYCE) for his authorship of this very important and necessary resolution, and I am very pleased to join as a co-sponsor of H. Res. 760; and I join in the chorus of the Americans who stand in solidarity with the Russian people in their grief for those who have been murdered by terrorist actions. No words can adequately express the shock and sorrow that we feel at the events in Beslan. Our hearts go out to the people of Beslan as they bury their children and their neighbors. They have our deepest sympathy, and they have our prayers. Our hearts go out to the wounded and disabled, especially the young, who will bear the scars of terrorism for the rest of their lives.

This resolution properly deplores the terrorist attacks against Russia and expresses condolences to the families of the victims. Their grief is our grief. Their anger is our anger. Their loss is our loss.

Mr. Speaker, there is ample reason to criticize Russia's military operations in Chechnya. I continue to believe that Moscow's strategy in that tortured region has been brutal, ill-advised, and self-defeating. As chairman of the Helsinki Commission, I have met numerous times with Russian leaders to protest their policy in Chechnya and have held a number of hearings, including with people like Elena Bonner, to protest what is going on there.

But let me make it very clear that there is no justification, no justification whatsoever, for the bloody violence that was perpetrated by cowardly terrorists who use innocent children to achieve political ends. If the terrorists thought they were helping the people of Chechnya by killing innocent people in North Ossetia, they were tragically in error. The people of Chechnya seek a respite from war. They and many in Russia want a just peace, not more carnage. Slaughtering children and traumatizing many more betrays the cause of peace.

Mr. Speaker, I trust this resolution reflects not only the sentiments of this House but also of millions of Americans that we represent. We mourn the tragic loss, the wanton loss of innocent lives.

And again I want to commend my colleagues, especially the gentleman from California (Mr. ROYCE); the gentleman from Illinois (Chairman HYDE); and the gentleman from California (Mr. LANTOS), ranking member, for their leadership on this important resolution.

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 4 minutes to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. WELDON), who will soon travel to Beslan, Russia.

(Mr. WELDON of Pennsylvania asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WELDON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague and friend for yielding me this time and for his leadership on this issue. I thank the gentleman from California for his leadership.

I rise as a co-author and co-sponsor of this important resolution to send a clear, unequivocal statement to the people and leaders of Russia that we are with them, that we are one in their fight against terrorism.

Mr. Speaker, later on this week I will make my 38th or 39th trip to Moscow. This will be the most solemn trip that I will have made in my career as I extend the sympathy and the concern and the personal feelings of all of our colleagues on both sides of the aisle to our friends in Russia.

Mr. Speaker, it is outrageous that we have witnessed the kinds of actions not just in the school in Beslan but as has been described here today, the terrorist attacks on airlines, the terrorist attacks in hotels where many of us have stayed. In fact, many of us have stayed at the National Hotel in downtown Moscow right across from the Duma headquarters.

□ 1515

That was bombed earlier this year.

The people of Russia have suffered much. Now is not the time for us to criticize, although all of us have differences of opinion with the Russian leadership on various aspects of our bilateral relations. Now is the time to come together unequivocally standing one-on-one with the Russian people as they did with us on September 11.

I would remind our colleagues, Mr. Speaker, that it was Vladimir Putin who was the first foreign leader to telephone President Bush after 9/11. It was not the leader of Great Britain or Canada or Australia; it was President Putin, who expressed his solidarity with the people of America during our darkest hour.

There were scores of Russian Duma deputies, many friends of people in this body and the other body, who were contacted personally as they expressed to us their outrage and their feelings of horror and shock and grief as America came under attack on September 11.

In fact, Mr. Speaker, I was in Moscow shortly after the attack and had a chance to ride by our embassy in downtown Moscow. You could not see the front gate of the American embassy in Moscow for the literally thousands and thousands of flowers and personal notes that literally thousands of Russian ordinary citizens had come to place by our embassy in Moscow expressing their grief and concern with what happened to us.

So it is appropriate that we take this time to stand up and let the world know that today we are standing shoulder to shoulder with the people of Russia. We are supporting their efforts to rid their country of terrorism, and we stand with them to fully investigate the details of the outrageous act that occurred at the school in Beslan, as well as the other terrorist activities that have taken place in that nation.

Mr. Speaker, we have come a long way in the last 12 and 13 years since Russia threw off communism. It has been a rough road. There are those who say that perhaps Russia has not done enough, there are those that say we have not done enough. But now is not the time for us to debate differences, now is the time for us to stand together, shoulder-to-shoulder, and let the people of the world know that in the fight against terrorism we are one and the same.

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank our colleagues for their leadership. It was just 4 short years ago that I hosted the current Speaker of the Duma, my friend Boris Gryzlov, at the Republican National Convention for 6 days. He stayed with me. At the time he was the First Deputy Speaker of the Duma. He went on to become the Minister of Interior. He is one of President Putin's best friends. In fact, he ran President Putin's reelection campaign.

Boris Gryzlov reached out to me as soon as that attack occurred. In words that I can only describe as overtly emotional, he said Congressman WELDON, all of us in Russia share the grief that is being shared by the people of your Nation.

So to our friend Boris Gryzlov, who stands today as the Speaker of the Russian Duma, a close adviser to President Putin, and to President Putin himself, representing all of the people of Russia, America stands ready to pass this resolution, I hope with overwhelming support of both parties, because leadership comes from the most distinguished leaders on foreign affairs issues of this body, that we rise up and let the people of Russia know that they are truly our brothers and sisters.

We pray for those victims, we pray for those families, we pray for those young children. As a teacher myself, I cannot believe on the first day of school, which is a great day in Russia, as my friend and chairman outlined in his opening statement, that they would attack young Russian children, the most vulnerable of their society.

So, Mr. Speaker, I thank our colleagues, I look forward to working to pass this resolution, and, more importantly, I look forward to delivering this message in person when I arrive in Moscow before the end this week.

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

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Mr. Speaker, this tragedy brings the world's attention to a region of the globe that has been perhaps overlooked for too long, but it has also spurred debate about the next steps in an escalating conflict that transcends borders.

It should also galvanize debate about the threat that the world faces. As the bipartisan 9/11 Commission states, ''The catastrophic threat at this moment in history is the threat posed by Islamic terrorism, especially the al Qaeda network and its affiliates and its ideology.''

I believe this is what we are seeing in southern Russia. These are not criminals united by happenstance, but by militant Islam, united by ideology, doctrine and practice, its adherence drawn from Africa to Southeast Asia, from the Middle East to the Caucasus.

Al Qaeda's interest in the Caucasus is undisputed. Chechnya's lawless period of independence produced the conditions ripe for fomenting global jihad. Fighters, weapons, cash and ideology, much of it Saudi Wahabism, poured in from abroad.

Like al Qaeda, Chechen fighters have used front charities to secure funds. Benevolence International Foundation, whose assets were blocked by the U.S. Government for supporting al Qaeda, has also been found to support jihadists in Chechnya. In fact, evidence seized from Benevolence International indicates that it spent over 40 percent of its budget on Chechnya.

The bipartisan 9/11 Commission exposes other links, noting that several of the 9/11 hijackers, including Mohammed Atta, were headed to Chechnya to fight against the Russians. Only a chance meeting on that train in Germany with another terrorist caused the group to make the decision to travel to Afghanistan instead.

Several Chechens, including Shamil Basayev, believed to be the master mind of this school attack, received training in Afghan terror camps. Perhaps most telling, Afghanistan's Taliban was the only regime in the world to recognize Chechnya's independence in January of 2000 and to pledge it help in its fight against Russia.

Mr. Speaker, I could go on, but it is important to recognize these facts. It is important to recognize that this is the enemy that faces Russia, that faces the United States and that faces the world.

As I said earlier, many have commented on the Russian government's response to this war, to its policies in Chechnya and its anti-democratic actions. This is a debate we should have, but we should have this debate with a clear understanding of what the Russian people and what we are up against.

I urge the passage of this resolution.

Mr. SAXTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of this resolution and would like to thank my friend from California for introducing it. Just over a week ago, the civilized world agonized over the massacre of more than 300 Russian school children who were returning to school after summer vacation when Islamic terrorists took them hostage and ultimately, took their lives. This cowardly and inhumane act occurred just days after two other vile acts of terror—the bombing of two Russian airliners, which killed 89 innocent men, women, and children, and the Moscow subway bombing that killed nine.

Mr. Speaker, there is no denying that the situation in Chechnya is a complicated one. Despite the mutually destructive history of Russian-Chechen relations, the acts of terror that have been unleashed upon the Russian people are inexcusable, inhumane, and are representative of the evil that we face today in the War on Terror. The fact that those who carried out these brutal acts purposely picked children as their primary targets further illuminates their utter disregard for the rules of law and the norms of human conduct.

Today, as we express our solidarity with the Russian people, let us take time to remember the fact that the War on Terror is a transnational conflict that requires strong alliances among nations both large and small. The people of Russia have a friend in the United States of America. It is my strong belief, that the murderers who took the lives of children in Beslan share ties with others who seek to wreak havoc within our own borders. Let those who wish us ill know that the United States, Russia and our allies will stop at nothing to destroy the global network of Islamic fundamentalism and all other forms of terrorism.

As the United States House of Representatives expresses its solidarity with the Russian people, I would like to remind my colleagues of the other victims of terrorism that the world has lost in recent years. People have mourned the losses of loved ones in Bali, Jerusalem, Madrid, Jakarta, New York, Washington, Baghdad, Kabul and various other places. May their memories and those of the children of Beslan, the passengers on the two aircraft and the people on the subway be the rallying cry for our ongoing struggle against terrorism.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. PETRI). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. ROYCE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 760.

The question was taken.

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

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

NATIONAL ARCHIVES AND RECORDS ADMINISTRATION EFFICIENCY ACT OF 2004

Mr. PUTNAM. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3478) to amend title 44, United States Code, to improve the efficiency of operations by the National Archives and Records Administration, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 3478

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the ''National Archives and Records Administration Efficiency Act of 2004''.

SEC. 2. EXTENSION OF RECORDS RETENTION PERIODS.

(a) EXTENSION OF RECORDS RETENTION PERIODS BY REGULATION.—Section 2909 of title 44, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by striking '', upon the submission of evidence of need,'';

(2) by striking ''; and, in accordance with regulations promulgated by him,'' and inserting '', and''; and

(3) by adding at the end the following: ''The Archivist shall promulgate regulations in accordance with section 2104(a) of this title to implement this section.''.

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Subsection (d) of section 3303a of title 44, United States Code, is amended by striking the second sentence.

SEC. 3. AUTHORITY FOR RECORDS CENTER REVOLVING FUND TO BE USED FOR THE PURCHASE AND CARE OF UNIFORMS FOR RECORDS CENTERS EMPLOYEES.

Subsection (a) under the heading ''RECORDS CENTER REVOLVING FUND'' in title IV of the Independent Agencies Appropriations Act, 2000 (Public Law 106–58; 113 Stat. 460; 44 U.S.C. 2901 note), is amended by inserting after ''expenses'' in the first sentence the following: ''(including expenses for uniforms or

allowances for uniforms as authorized by subchapter I of chapter 59 of title 5)''.

SEC. 4. AUTHORITY TO CHARGE FEES FOR PUBLIC USE OF FACILITIES OF NATIONAL ARCHIVES AND RECORDS ADMINISTRATION.

(a) PRESIDENTIAL ARCHIVAL DEPOSITORIES.—Subsection (e) of section 2112 of title 44, United States Code, is amended by striking ''space'' and inserting ''space, or for the occasional, non-official use of rooms and spaces (and services related to such use),''.

(b) NATIONAL ARCHIVES BUILDING AND OTHER BUILDINGS USED FOR RECORD STORAGE.—Section 2903 of title 44, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by inserting ''(a)'' before ''The Archivist''; and

(2) by adding at the end the following new subsection:

''(b) When the Archivist considers it to be in the public interest, the Archivist may charge and collect reasonable fees from the public for the occasional, non-official use of rooms and spaces, and services related to such use, in the buildings subject to this section. Fees collected under this subsection shall be paid into an account in the National Archives Trust Fund and shall be held, administered, and expended for the benefit and in the interest of the national archival and records activities administered by the National Archives and Records Administration, including educational and public program purposes.''.

SEC. 5. AUTHORITY TO USE COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS WITH STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTS, EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS, AND OTHER PUBLIC AND NONPROFIT ORGANIZATIONS TO FURTHER NARA PROGRAMS.

(a) AUTHORITY.—Chapter 21 of title 44, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new section:

''§ 2119. Cooperative agreements

''(a) AUTHORITY.—The Archivist may enter into cooperative agreements pursuant to section 6305 of title 31 that involve the transfer of funds from the National Archives and Records Administration to State and local governments, other public entities, educational institutions, or private nonprofit organizations (including foundations or institutes organized to support the National Archives and Records Administration or the Presidential archival depositories operated by it) for the public purpose of carrying out programs of the National Archives and Records Administration.

''(b) LIMITATIONS.—Not more than $25,000 may be transferred under a cooperative agreement entered into as authorized by subsection (a). Not more than a total of $75,000 may be transferred under such agreements in any fiscal year.

''(c) REPORT.—Not later than December 31st of each year, the Archivist shall submit to the Committee on Government Reform of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Governmental Affairs of the Senate a report on the provisions, amount, and duration of each cooperative agreement entered into as authorized by subsection (a) during the preceding fiscal year.''.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections at the beginning of such chapter is amended by adding at the end the following new item:

''2119. Cooperative agreements.''.

SEC. 6. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS THROUGH FISCAL YEAR 2009 FOR NATIONAL HISTORICAL PUBLICATIONS AND RECORDS COMMISSION.

Section 2504(f)(1) of title 44, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (N), by striking ''and'';

(2) in subparagraph (O), by striking the period and inserting a semicolon; and

(3) by adding at the end of the following new subparagraphs:

''(P) $10,000,000 for fiscal year 2006;

''(Q) $10,000,000 for fiscal year 2007;

''(R) $10,000,000 for fiscal year 2008; and

''(S) $10,000,000 for fiscal year 2009.''.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. PUTNAM) and the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. MALONEY) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Florida (Mr. PUTNAM).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. PUTNAM. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 3478, as amended.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, we have witnessed over the last several weeks in Florida just how quickly lives and property and years of work can be taken from us. Many are left with only memories in the wake of these storms, and I would like to thank President Bush and the Members of this House for the outpouring of assistance that we have received.

Our memories and the collective memory of our national life is what in part inspire us to move ahead and to rebuild in the face of tragedy. The custodian of our collective national memory is the National Archives, and I rise today to offer an amendment in the form of a substitute to H.R. 3478 to reauthorize an important part of that agency.

This legislation will reauthorize appropriations through fiscal year 2009 for the National Historic Publications to Records Commission, the eighth passage of this legislation since 1964. The NHPRC's mandate is to look outward, to provide assistance to non-Federal agencies, institutions and individuals committed to the preservation and use of American documentary resources.

The NHPRC remains today the only grant making organization, public or private, in the Nation whose only focus is the preservation of and increased access to American historical documentation in its myriad forms and formats, be it the quill pen or the computer.

Through its competitive grants, the NHPRC provides a kind of venture capital for the historical world, through which solutions to electronic records questions can be discovered and begin to be tested, and new initiatives and new projects in State and local government records, private archival institutions and documentary editions, can be launched and given vital support.

American history did not all happen in Washington. It has unfolded in every State and every locality, through private actions as well as those of the government, and unless we safeguard historical records wisely, there will be gaping holes in our Nation's history.

Records created and maintained within each State are important to individuals and institutions in a democracy, not just national institutions, but government institutions at every level, as well as organizations in the private sector that have a great impact on American life.

The NHPRC safeguards holdings of the State and local archives, the university archival and manuscript collections and the documentary collections of libraries, historical societies and other cultural repositories, private and public.

They have revolutionized the study of American history. One of the Nation's leading historians has called this work the most important and lasting work of the 20th century, the most important work in the American history of the 20th century.

The NHPRC exists to stimulate the care and use of records that are beyond the NARA's jurisdiction. It does that by encouraging documentary work outside the Federal Government, with small grants to archival, historical and cultural organizations throughout our country. It is the only national funding agency that is directly addressing the challenges posed for recordkeeping and records preservation.

Among the types of grants that the commission makes are those designed to assist State and local governments with disaster preparedness to protect the vital records that document the rights and privileges of citizenship. We can attest to the need for that type of readiness in Florida.

Through grants, through working with State advisory boards and through contributing to funding partnerships, the NHPRC plays a critical role in promoting work to ensure that records of many kinds in many parts of the country will be safe and accessible for the scholars who need them.

As chairman of the Subcommittee on Technology, Information Policy, Intergovernmental Relations and the Census, which has jurisdiction over the National Archives, and as a citizen concerned about rights, accountability and history, I request that NHPRC be reauthorized to carry on its important work.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 3478. This bill makes several changes to Title 44 of the U.S. Code that will improve the efficiency of the National Archives and Record Administration. My colleague, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. PUTNAM), has done a terrific job of detailing those changes.

In addition, this bill reauthorizes the National Historic Publications and Records Commission, NHPRC, for 4 years at the current level of $10 million.

I strongly support the reauthorization of the NHPRC. However, I am disappointed that we did not increase the authorization for this program. It is even more tragic that the administration has not fully funded the commission for 2005. The failure to fund this commission will result in the loss of important parts of the history of every State and local government in our country. Much of the good work funded by the commission will have to be put on hold because the administration cut $7 million from the NHPRC budget.

My colleague on the other side of the aisle detailed how we need to preserve the documents in Florida even when we have catastrophes and hurricanes, and so forth. Let me describe just a few of the programs that have been supported by NHPRC in New York over the past several years.

The New York State archives in Albany was given assistance by the NHPRC to organize and make available materials of the effect of the World Trade Center disaster on the lives of New Yorkers. Channel 13, the local education station, was given funds to preserve shows of particular historical significance from the 1970s onward.

□ 1530

The American Foundation For the Blind was provided funds to archive the records of Helen Keller. Hunter College received funds to arrange 15 collections of materials documenting the history and culture of Puerto Ricans.

In addition, NHPRC had provided funds to assist in preserving the papers of Alexander Hamilton; Aaron Burr; Samuel Gompers; John Jay; the slave diary of Elizabeth Drinker; Florence Kelley, the letters of this great settlement leader; and the writer and activist Harriet Jacobs, just to name a few. The list goes on and on.

NHPRC has also been at the forefront of research on preserving electronic documents. Long before most agencies knew they even had a problem, NHPRC was funding research on this important issue.

Electronic records present historical organizations with two quite distinct problems. First, the technological issues of preserving our electronic documents across time are extremely complex. The methods for creating these documents multiply yearly, as does the way in which these documents are stored. However, very little has been done to assure these documents can be read 10 years later. Secondly, electronic records have resulted in increasing both the volume of records created and the volume of records that historians want to keep.

Electronic records confront State and local archives and historical societies with the very same challenges as they do the Federal Government. The National Archives has spent millions of dollars on the Electronic Records Initiative, and real progress has been made in developing a system for preserving the electronic records of the Federal Government. NHPRC has been one of the few places these State and local organizations could go to get help confronting this complex technological and historical problem. It should also be noted that NHPRC was one of the first Federal organizations to recognize the need for research on preserving electronic documents.

Mr. Speaker, absolutely every day in Washington, D.C., as we go about our business, we are reminded of our Nation's history. Buildings and documents are preserved and displayed for all to see. Every citizen deserves that opportunity, not just when they visit their Nation's Capital, but as they walk about the towns in which they live. NHPRC makes it possible for State and local governments to develop the tools and expertise to maintain their own history.

Even if NHPRC was fully funded at $10 million, that would only be about $200,000 per State. That does not go very far. As I have said at the outset, Mr. Speaker, I strongly support the passage of this bill, and I hope that the chairman of the subcommittee will work with me and the gentleman from Florida (Chairman PUTNAM) to raise awareness of the many valuable programs sponsored by NHPRC so that we can increase the authorization level the next time that it comes around.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to conclude by saying that if we do not learn from our past, we may repeat the mistakes of those who went before us. If we do not preserve our past, we cannot learn from it, and each locality has their own unique circumstances and their own unique history. Maintaining our time capsule of government words and deeds is a fundamental responsibility of our government. This legislation is committed to that responsibility, and I urge my colleagues to join me and the chairman in supporting this.

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

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

I appreciate the support of the distinguished gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. MALONEY) and the hard work that the ranking member of this subcommittee, the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. CLAY), has put into this legislation; and I urge its passage.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. PETRI). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Florida (Mr. PUTNAM) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3478, as amended.

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

The title was amended so as to read: ''A bill to amend title 44, United States Code, to improve the efficiency of operations by the National Archives and Records Administration and to reauthorize the National Historical Publications and Records Commission.''.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

ARCHIE SPIGNER POST OFFICE BUILDING

Mr. TURNER of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4632) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 19504 Linden Boulevard in St. Albans, New York, as the ''Archie Spigner Post Office Building''.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 4632

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

SECTION 1. ARCHIE SPIGNER POST OFFICE BUILDING.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The facility of the United States Postal Service located at 19504 Linden Boulevard in St. Albans, New York, shall be known and designated as the ''Archie Spigner Post Office Building''.

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

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

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. TURNER).

GENERAL LEAVE

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

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

There was no objection.

Mr. TURNER of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to support H.R. 4632, a post office designation act sponsored by the gentleman from New York (Mr. MEEKS). The legislation before us honors Archie Spigner, a man who has been a political institution in Queens and indeed all of New York City for more than a quarter of a century.

Archie Spigner served a respected tenure on the New York City Council from 1974 until 2001. Mr. Spigner ultimately became the second highest ranking member of the council as he rose to the post of deputy majority leader. In addition, he served on the advisory board of the National League of Cities, an urban advocacy organization.

Mr. Speaker, I know the gentleman from New York considers Mr. Spigner a close friend and political ally. That is why I am pleased to join with him today in urging passage of H.R. 4632. The post office in the legislation is appropriately located within Archie Spigner's former district at Linden Boulevard and 196th Street in Queens.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, as a member of the House Committee on Government Reform, I am pleased to join my colleague in consideration of H.R. 4632, legislation designating the United States postal facility in St. Albans, New York, after Archie Spigner. This measure, which was unanimously reported by our committee on July 21, 2004, was introduced by the gentleman from New York (Mr. MEEKS) on July 21, 2004. H.R. 4632 enjoys the support and cosponsorship of the entire New York delegation.

A native New Yorker, Archie Spigner was born and educated in New York. He was called early on into the world of politics and community activism.

In 1974, Mr. Spigner began his first term as a city councilman from Southeast Queens. As a member of the New York City Council, Mr. Spigner chaired the committees on Housing and Building, Economic Development, and the Legislative Office of Budget Review.

As a result of his legislative prowess, he was able to assume the post of deputy majority leader, the second highest position in the New York City Council.

Mr. Spigner served on the advisory board of the National League of Cities, the City Council Budget Negotiating Team, and liaison for the Queens delegation. As district leader and executive member of the Guy R. Brewer United Democratic Club, Mr. Spigner was instrumental in electing the first African American Supreme Court Justice, Assembly member, State Senator, and Congress member in the Borough of Queens.

He was also instrumental in the campaigns for the Honorable David Dinkins, former mayor of the City of New York; the Honorable Percy Sutton, former Manhattan borough president, the Honorable Carl McCall, former state comptroller; former Congressman Floyd H. Flake; and my friend and colleague, the gentleman from New York (Mr. MEEKS).

Archie Spigner retired from the New York City Council in 2001; and although retired, Mr. Spigner is still involved in politics and community affairs.

Mr. Speaker, I commend my colleague, the gentleman from New York (Mr. MEEKS), for seeking to honor this political legacy of City Council Member Archie Spigner in this manner. I urge swift passage of H.R. 4632.

Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as she may consume to the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. MALONEY).

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, I join my colleagues in honoring former Council Member Archie Spigner. I had the great honor of serving with him as a member of the Housing and Buildings and Economic Development Committee of the New York City Council, a committee which he chaired for many years with great distinction, with great judgment, honesty, and fairness. In a city that has a terrific need, a deep need for affordable housing, he was one of the truly outstanding leaders in our city in the area of working to build more housing that is affordable, and truly as a leader in our city, serving for many years as the deputy majority leader.

He was also active on a national level, with the League of Cities. He dedicated, really, his life to the problems of cities; and he used to say that one of the great challenges of the next century would be who pays for the cities, with their ailing infrastructure and their many, many needs for housing and other areas.

He not only was active in the National League of Cities. He was on the Finance Committee and the City Committee on the Budget, and I had the honor of serving with him on the Committee on the Budget where he was a great bridge-builder. He would often negotiate compromises that would enable us to move a budget to the floor for a vote. He is an outstanding person, kind and wonderful. He is very active politically also and played a major role in the election of one of my good friends and colleagues, the gentleman from New York (Mr. MEEKS), along with many other important leaders in New York City and State.

Even though Archie retired from the City Council in 2001, he has continued to be an important leader and adviser on both the city and local level. He is a terrific person. To know him is to love him.

I am delighted to join my colleagues today in naming this important building after him and in really applauding his lifetime of service to the communities in Queens and the City and the State of New York.

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to join my colleague and fellow New Yorker, Mr. MEEKS in supporting this bill, H.R. 4632, to name the post office in St. Albans, Queens, New York after my old and close friend, Archie Spigner.

Archie Spigner and I go back a long time in the political life of New York; myself in Harlem and Archie in St. Albans. He has been providing leadership in his community for nearly four decades. He has provided the shoulders for many of our current successful leaders. It is unfortunate that term limits have deprived his community of his representation. Archie held his seat from 1974 until term limits ended his service in the New York City Council in 2001.

As District Leader and Executive Member of the Guy R. Brewer United Democratic Club, he was instrumental in electing the first African-American Supreme Court Justice, Assembly Member, State Senator and Congress Member in the Borough of Queens. He was a leader in the campaigns of the Hon. David Dinkins, Hon. Percy Sutton, Hon. Carl McCall, our former colleague Congressman Floyd H. Flake and the sponsor of this bill, the current member from St. Albans, our distinguished colleague GREG MEEKS. He and I have been allies on countless battles in the effort to provide equality, opportunity, and justice for our constituents, for New Yorkers and Americans.

Having a public building in this historic African American community named after as an esteemed member of the community as Archie Spigner is quite fitting.

Mr. MEEKS of New York. Mr. Speaker, I come before you today to honor a man that has given much to my district and asked for very little.

Former City Council Member Archie Spigner is considered the Godfather of African American politics in my district in southeast Queens. A mentor to many of our current successful leaders, Archie held his seat from 1974 until term limits ended his service in the New York City Council in 2001.

As a member of the City Council, Archie rose to the post of Deputy Majority Leader—the second highest position in the Council. HIs legislative responsibilities included Chairmanships of the Committees on Housing and Buildings, Economic Development and the Legislative Office of Budget Review. He also served on the Council's Budget Negotiating Team and acted as liaison for the Council's 14 member Queens delegation. He was elected to and served on the advisory board of the National League of Cities, an advocacy group for our Nation's urban areas.

As District Leader and Executive Member of the Guy R. Brewer United Democratic Club, he was instrumental in electing Queens' first African-American Supreme Court Justice, the first African-American Assembly Member, the first African-American State Senator, and the first African-American Member of Congress. He played a pivotal role the mayoral campaigns of David N. Dinkins and Percy Sutton, as well as the gubernatorial campaign of H. Carl McCall. Archie helped elect my precedessor to Congress, and of course, provided indispensable support and counsel when I sought this office.

A post office facility bearing Archie's name, located a few blocks from the headquarters from which Archie's political organizing emanated will be a reminder to the community he served long and well of the gratitude they owe to this man who made a difference in their everyday lives and effectively represented them in the corridors of New York City government.

Please join me in designating the Saint Albans postal facility the Archie Spigner Post Office Building, in honor of this accomplished gentleman.

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

Mr. TURNER of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I urge passage of H.R. 4632, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. TURNER) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4632.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

HONORING FORMER PRESIDENT WILLIAM JEFFERSON CLINTON ON THE OCCASION OF HIS 58TH BIRTHDAY

Mr. TURNER of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to

the resolution (H. Res. 717) honoring former President William Jefferson Clinton on the occasion of his 58th birthday.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. RES. 717

Whereas former President William Jefferson Clinton was born in Hope, Arkansas, on August 19, 1946;

Whereas William Jefferson Clinton attended Georgetown University as an undergraduate and received a Rhodes Scholarship in 1968;

Whereas William Jefferson Clinton received a law degree from Yale University in 1973;

Whereas William Jefferson Clinton established a record of public service as Attorney General of Arkansas, Governor of Arkansas, and Chairman of the National Governors Association;

Whereas William Jefferson Clinton campaigned for and won the Democratic nomination for President in 1992;

Whereas William Jefferson Clinton was elected the 42d President of the United States in 1992 and was reelected for a second term in 1996;

Whereas during William Jefferson Clinton's time in office the United States experienced 8 years of economic expansion, job growth and the transformation of a budget deficit into a budget surplus;

Whereas William Jefferson Clinton rallied the members of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization to put an end to ethnic cleansing in the Balkans and to depose the murderous regime of Slobodan Milosevic, actions which eventually led to the signing of the Dayton Peace Accords;

Whereas William Jefferson Clinton played a major role in the Good Friday Peace Accords which finally brought peace to war-torn Northern Ireland; and

Whereas, in the words of President George W. Bush, William Jefferson Clinton ''showed a deep and far-ranging knowledge of public policy, a great compassion for people in need, and the forward-looking spirit the Americans like in a President'': Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives honors former President William Jefferson Clinton on the occasion of his 58th birthday on August 19, 2004, and extends best wishes to him and his family.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. TURNER) and the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. MALONEY) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. TURNER).

GENERAL LEAVE

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

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

There was no objection.

Mr. TURNER of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the House of Representatives, I gladly wish former President Bill Clinton a happy belated birthday. Last month, on August 19, President Clinton turned 58, and House Resolution 717 salutes our Nation's 42nd President on that occasion.

Mr. Speaker, our well-known honoree today was born in the small town of Hope, Arkansas, as William Jefferson Blyth, IV in 1946, 3 months after the death of his father. After his mother remarried a few years later, the future President took the name of his stepfather, Clinton, as a teenager. He came to college here in Washington at Georgetown University and later earned a law degree at Yale. He entered politics and went on to become Attorney General and then Governor of the State of Arkansas.

Then, Bill Clinton, the little-known chief executive of Arkansas, shocked the world when he sought and was elected to the Presidency in 1992. Four years later, he became the first Democrat since Franklin Delano Roosevelt to win a second term. His depth of policy knowledge and poignant speaking ability served him very well while he presided over the Nation for 8 years.

A key event of Clinton's Presidency was the brokerage of peace in the Balkans. The Dayton Peace Accords, which ended the war in the Balkans, were negotiated at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base in Dayton, Ohio, located in my district. Today, the Dayton Peace Accords remains a significant foreign policy achievement of the Clinton administration.

Mr. Speaker, today it is especially gratifying to wish a happy birthday to President Clinton because of all that he has gone through in recent days. As we all know, the former President underwent a 4-hour quadruple coronary artery bypass operation in New York City a week ago today.

□ 1545

Fortunately, we understand President Clinton is doing well and should make a full recovery over the next few weeks. Without question, the thoughts and the prayers of the House of Representatives are with President Clinton.

Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to wish President Clinton a happy birthday at a time when he has been on the minds of so many Americans.

I thank my colleague in the Committee on Government Reform, the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. MALONEY), for introducing this House resolution.

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

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

On August 19, William Jefferson Clinton, our 42nd President, celebrated his 58th birthday. Today, we honor him not just for serving as our Nation's 42nd President, but for the legacy that President Bush recently described as ''a deep and far-ranging knowledge of public policy, a great compassion for people in need, and the forward-looking spirit Americans like in a President.''

We honor President Clinton for presiding over our Nation's longest ever economic expansion, largest ever budget surplus, and the growth of 22 million jobs during his Presidency. We honor President Clinton for projecting American power on the world stage, to further the cause of international peace and understanding, without antagonizing our historic allies, and we honor him for helping to broker the Good Friday Accords for Northern Ireland, engaging in Middle East peace talks, and bringing an end to ethnic cleansing in the Balkans. We honor President Clinton for encouraging Americans to care for their fellow men and women, creating AmeriCorps, which engages more than 50,000 Americans each year in community service.

At this moment, President Clinton is recovering from an unexpected but perhaps life-saving surgery in New York City. We in Congress are thankful for President Clinton's improved health and send forth our thoughts and prayers to him and his family, especially Senator HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON and his daughter Chelsea. We wish him a complete and speedy recovery.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank the gentleman from Virginia (Chairman TOM DAVIS) for moving this resolution through his committee in a speedy manner and to the House leadership for bringing it to the floor for this consideration today.

Mr. Speaker, from his birth in a town called Hope in the State of Arkansas through his education at Georgetown University, Oxford and Yale Law School, to his service in Arkansas as Attorney General, Governor and Chairman of the National Governors' Association, to his two terms as President of the United States, to now as a private citizen, still engaged and thoughtful on our Nation's public policy, we honor President Clinton. President Clinton, happy birthday, and we hope you get well soon.

Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS).

(Mr. DAVIS of Illinois asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, as one who grew up, went to school, still have strong family ties, social ties in the State of Arkansas, on the occasion of President William Jefferson Clinton's 58th birthday, it is with great pride that I stand to celebrate and to honor the life of the man who epitomizes the American dream and makes the Horatio Alger story become real.

Born in the tiny town of Hope, Arkansas, on August 19, 1946, President Clinton demonstrated from an early age the determination and vision that would ultimately take him to the White House and lead our country to a period of economic prosperity that has been unrivaled by any period in American history.

As a man who always fought for those who could not always fight for themselves, Bill Clinton after graduating from Yale Law School spurned

private practice and began a career in public service.

President Clinton began his political career after being elected Attorney General in 1976. He went on to serve as the Governor of Arkansas, and by the time Governor Clinton left Arkansas for the White House the State of Arkansas had been transformed from a State that faced large deficits and polarizing issues into a shining example of what government can do for its citizens when those in government put aside partisan differences in the best interest of what is right.

As America's 42nd President, Bill Clinton faced an even more daunting task, and in 1992, the American people were fed up with government. The economy was in bad shape. Unemployment was at a record high, and it was a time when many American parents struggled with basic financial decisions such as what holiday presents they could afford to buy their children.

By the time President Clinton left office 8 years later, he had led our country out of this darkness and into one of the brightest eras in American history, the lowest unemployment rate in modern times, the lowest inflation rate in 30 years, the highest home ownership in the United States history, and dropping crime rates in many American cities. Contrary to the bogus stereotype thrown at Democrats, he proposed the first balanced budget in decades, balanced the budget, and then went on to produce a surplus.

Since leaving office, President Clinton has continued his lifelong odyssey of working for those in need. Working from his office in Harlem, President Clinton has remained engaged on many social issues. Just last year, he brokered an historic agreement with four generic drug companies to provide low-cost AIDS drugs in developing countries. The world is a better place today because of the 58 years President Clinton has given us so far, and we look forward to many more.

We are pleased to hear that President Clinton is expected to make a full recovery from his bypass surgery. We certainly wish him and his family the best, and take this opportunity to say thank you, Mr. President, and happy birthday.

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

I came to Congress with President Clinton in 1992. It was called the Year of the Woman, where many people voted for women candidates, not as a slogan, but as a force to be reckoned with, and we came to Washington and we worked together, not only for women, children and families, but during this time we doubled the funding for breast cancer research, banned assault weapons, put more police on the streets and more teachers in the classroom. We narrowed the gap between those in poverty and those that are affluent, which is a good trend for this country, an important trend.

During his 8 years, we had really I could say the best economy in my lifetime, the first balanced budget. He came to Washington with a $250 billion deficit, and when he left, it was a huge, huge surplus.

I remember very much his hard work on his initiative to reinvent government and to make government more accountable to the people that we serve.

Mr. Speaker, I am very pleased to yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Indiana (Ms. CARSON).

Ms. CARSON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. MALONEY) for yielding me the time.

Mr. Speaker, one of my favorite passages is that all good and perfect gifts come from on high, and we are here today to renew a celebration of a President on the occasion of his 58th birthday, William Jefferson Clinton, 42nd President of the United States.

What I admire most about President Clinton, he was an extraordinary individual who related very well to ordinary people, and the ordinary people of this world loved Bill Clinton.

He was born on August 19, 1946, in Hope, Arkansas, and began a record of stellar public service to the country and humanity as a very young man.

President Clinton's administration would be noted for the creation of 22 million jobs, the rallying of international support to stop the ethnic cleansing in the Balkans, and reaffirming U.S. recognition of Africa as a continent of the birthplace of humanity with many countries, cultures and vast potentials.

I had the privilege of going to Africa with Mr. Clinton and saw his concern and compassion for the women and children and men who were battling AIDS and saw how he has made the battle against AIDS and HIV a focal point of his foundation's activities, which does not surprise me.

I want to say to the President, in the event that he receives this video message of his colleagues in the United States House of Representatives, I wish you a rapid recovery. You, unlike me, knew what you were going into as an open heart surgery recipient. I did not know it and was not fast enough to have it explained to me. I just got it, and I want to wish you well. I am so happy it turned out for you as well as it did, and God bless.

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

President Clinton's leadership was instrumental in expanding freedom and democracy around the world and really uniting a divided world. He was a uniter, and he worked to bring people together, and he was very, very loved. People felt very comfortable about Bill Clinton and everybody liked him.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. CORRINE BROWN).

(Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida asked and was given permission to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I, along with my constituents and all of the American people, want to extend a happy birthday to William Jefferson Clinton. His leadership in so many areas is sorely missed, in particular as today on the assault rifles that without his leadership we would not have passed. Many Members gave up their seats in the House of Representatives because they felt it was the right and honorable thing to do to protect the American people from these assault rifles.

We had leadership in President Clinton in so many areas. He had the foresight to appoint Jesse Brown as the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, who fought for the veterans. His contributions as far as economic development, housing, laying the foundation for a program that is being gutted under this last administration, it just goes on and on.

So I would like to put my comments in the RECORD and let President Clinton know that I dearly love him and the people dearly miss him.

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

I want to express the admiration and support of the New York delegation, many of whom are in New York City now at 9/11 events and will be joining me in this Congress in tributes in writing later.

Let me just end by saying that Bill Clinton is loved and admired by millions of Americans and by countless others around the world, and we want him to know that he, as he is recovering, is in the thoughts and prayers of this Congress and the country. We are with him in his courageous battle to heal himself so that he can return to his good works and helping other people.

So happy birthday, Mr. President, and get well soon.

Mr. Speaker, seeing no other speakers, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. TURNER of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

It was during the Clinton administration when Congress was controlled by Republicans that the Federal deficit started to shrink. It was not until the fiscal year 1995 that the Republican budget was in place that deficits turned into surpluses.

□ 1600

Mr. Speaker, I urge all Members to support the adoption of House Resolution 717 that honors former President William Jefferson Clinton.

Mr. CUMMINGS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in enthusiastic support of H. Res. 717, honoring former President William Jefferson Clinton on the occasion of his 58th birthday. I wish him happiness—and health—in his 58th year.

The outlines of President Clinton's story have become familiar to us. Born in the small town of Hope, Arkansas, the young Bill Clinton began cultivating the values—compassion, perseverance and commitment to social justice—that would guide him throughout his Presidency.

He benefitted from the love and will of his mother—Virginia Clinton—a widow and survivor of domestic violence who worked tirelessly to support her children. He was a dutiful son, a protective brother, and a gifted student. In college, Clinton juggled coursework with an internship for Senator Fulbright, relishing his introduction to politics. Awarded the prestigious Rhodes Scholarship, Clinton went on to Oxford University and Yale Law School. There he met his match and wife-to-be in the form of a driven Hillary Rodham.

Mr. Speaker, it was as President that Mr. Clinton captured the hearts, the imagination, the hope, of so many Americans. A post-Cold War President, Bill Clinton believed we must become a domestic as well as a military superpower. He knew our strength came from more than just our military might, but from our commitment to the ordinary men and women of this country. He nurtured our country's strength through economic growth, support for the middle class and a ladder for the poor.

Bill Clinton forged a Third Way, a new path to bipartisanship that remains a model for lawmakers and citizens alike. He made our streets safer with the Brady bill, he made our working families stronger with the Earned Income Tax Credit, and he made our economy soar by balancing the budget and erasing the deficit. He protected our environment, he created jobs, he strengthened alliances across the world and he labored for peace.

Mr. Speaker, President Clinton continues to be a devoted public servant, crusading against the global AIDS pandemic. His foundation has succeeded in lowering the cost of HIV/AIDS tests and treatment for millions of people in developing countries across the world.

I am fortunate to call Bill Clinton a friend. I have seen him light up a crowded room, and I have seen him connect with struggling individuals in a way that only he can. A musicians and a musician, he is a Blues man with soul. He knows the sorrow of life's harsh realities, and he knows the joy that comes from striving towards our collective potential. Most of all, Bill Clinton is a man of heart. I wish him—and his heart—continued health. I thank Congresswoman MALONEY for sponsoring this resolution and I urge my colleagues to support its passage.

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to add to the overwhelming support of this House for this resolution honoring former President Bill Clinton as he celebrates his 58th birthday.

President Clinton is a gifted and charismatic leader who has devoted his professional life to public service.

His administration was marked with great economic success, transforming quadrupled budget deficits into a budget surplus. He achieved the lowest unemployment rate in 28 years, the lowest percentage of Americans on welfare 29 years, and the lowest inflation rate in 33 years.

During his presidency, the economy expanded by 50 percent in real terms, and when he left office, the U.S. had a gross national product of $10 trillion—one-quarter of the entire world economic output.

During his administration, 15 million jobs were created and average wages rose. Home ownership rates were the highest in history. Funding public education, saving Social Security, and ensuring health care for all Americans were priorities.

Our economic success was a sign of stability that sparked growth in domestic and international markets.

He was a great supporter of human rights and promoting peace through humanitarian relief efforts, refugee assistance, and aiding in peace process negotiations.

I was honored to accompany President Clinton on historic trips to Northern Ireland and Africa. We went as ambassadors of peace and reconciliation, and it was heartening to see how well received we were by our international hosts. The people of this country were welcomed and well respected abroad.

I have great respect and admiration for him personally and for his outstanding leadership of our great country, and I believe his legacy will long enjoy the approval of a grateful nation.

I extend to him my best wishes for a happy birthday, and I offer my wholehearted support for this resolution.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. PETRI). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. TURNER) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, House Resolution 717, as amended.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

THOMAS E. CREEK DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS MEDICAL CENTER

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4836) to name the Department of Veterans Affairs medical center in Amarillo, Texas, as the ''Thomas E. Creek Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center.''

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 4836

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

SECTION 1. NAME OF DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS MEDICAL CENTER IN AMARILLO, TEXAS.

The Department of Veterans Affairs medical center in Amarillo, Texas, shall after the date of the enactment of this Act be known and designated as the ''Thomas E. Creek Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center''. Any reference to that medical center in any law, regulation, map, document, record, or other paper of the United States shall be considered to be a reference to the Thomas E. Creek Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SMITH) and the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. CORRINE BROWN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SMITH).

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 4836 would name the VA Medical Center in the City of Amarillo, Texas, for Lance Corporal Thomas E. Creek. This heroic Marine gave his life on February 13, 1969, to save fellow Marines by falling on a grenade near Cam Lo, Vietnam. He was awarded our Nation's highest military declaration, the Congressional Medal of Honor.

Lance Corporal Creek was only 18 years old when he went above and beyond the call of duty while serving as rifleman with Company I, 3rd Battalion, 9th Marines. He was one of three Medal of Honor recipients who served with the 9th Marines during the Vietnam War.

I commend my distinguished colleague, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. THORNBERRY), for introducing H.R. 4836 to honor one of our Nation's heroes, and I will momentarily yield to him.

The VA medical center in Amarillo, Texas, Mr. Speaker, opened in 1940 and played an important role during and after World War II in caring for and rehabilitating U.S. servicemembers. The medical center today provides general medical and surgical treatment and alcohol rehabilitation and vocational rehab services for veterans. Expansion and renovation projects have kept the facility modern, and it currently has some 69 inpatient beds and 120 nursing care beds. I think it is entirely fitting and appropriate to remember the ultimate sacrifice of this young brave Marine by naming the Amarillo VA Medical Center for him.

Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. THORNBERRY), the prime author of this bill.

Mr. THORNBERRY. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the chairman, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SMITH); and the ranking member, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. EVANS); the subcommittee chairman, the gentleman from Connecticut (Mr. SIMMONS); and all the members of the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, including John Bradley of the staff, for their assistance and support with this measure.

I also want to thank all my Texas colleagues. Each of them is a cosponsor of this bill, as is the gentleman from Kansas (Mr. MORAN), and the gentleman from New Mexico (Mr. UDALL), to whom I am also grateful.

I want to acknowledge my staff members who have worked on this issue, especially Sylvia Nugent and Bryan Whitworth.

I also want to recognize Larry Milam, Selden Hale, Pat Cunningham, Marvin Graham, and the other veterans of the Texas panhandle region who initiated this effort, as well as the veterans organizations which have lent their enthusiastic support, including the American Legion, Disabled American Veterans, Vietnam Veterans of America, Veterans of Foreign Wars, Paralyzed Veterans of America, and AMVETS.

I want to acknowledge as well the excellent work in exploring Thomas

Creek's story done by the Amarillo Globe News and High Plains Public Radio. And, finally, I want to thank the Creek family for their patience and understanding and dignity with which they have approached this matter.

Mr. Speaker, in the late 1960s, Thomas E. Creek was in many ways a typical young man from the Texas panhandle. He had worked in a variety of jobs since he was 11 or 12 years old. He was a fan of Elvis Presley. He enjoyed being with his friends, and one remembered that he liked being in the middle of things. His brother, Ross, has been quoted as saying that ''he didn't think Tom was afraid of anything. That's what gets me,'' he said to the Amarillo Globe News. ''If he was afraid of anything, he kept it inside.''

Tom Creek left school early and joined the Marine Corps. On the 4th of July, 1968, he stepped foot in Vietnam. In letters home, he called it hell. But on February 13, 1969, Marine Lance Corporal Thomas E. Creek was a rifleman with Company I, 3rd Battalion, 9th Marines, 3rd Marine Division. His unit was part of a resupply convoy that was ambushed by enemy forces using mortars, mines, fragmentation grenades, and small arms.

According to the documents recommending him for the Medal of Honor, the fierce combat found the men firing at point-blank range. Corporal Creek was struck in the neck by a bullet. Blood was seen flowing from the wound. But then he noticed a fragmentation grenade land between him and the rest of the squad. Though wounded, he threw his body on top of the grenade. One of the Marines with him recalled seeing him run towards the grenade and yell, ''I've got it, Mac.'' His body absorbed the full impact of the grenade, saving the lives of at least five Marines nearby. His act inspired the rest of the squad to defeat the enemy and complete its mission to resupply the forward combat base. Eleven others were wounded, but only Tom Creek was killed.

Lance Corporal Thomas E. Creek was awarded the Medal of Honor, the highest honor our Nation can bestow. This bill, as the chairman mentioned, will rename the Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center in Amarillo, Texas, the Thomas E. Creek Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center.

Dr. Craig Barnes has said that as he read the book ''The Greatest Generation,'' he was struck by the fact that each of those described was a regular person. No one was born a hero. But when pushed, they found something heroic inside themselves. Heroes are ordinary people who refuse to be governed by fear when times are hard, he said.

Tom Creek was a regular person. He was also a hero. He reached down within himself and made a decision in a split second, a decision to sacrifice his life in order to save the lives of others. It is the same kind of sacrifice which men and women have made throughout our history, from the Revolutionary War to the streets of Iraq and the mountains of Afghanistan, sacrifice for others while serving and defending the Nation.

I believe that naming this veterans medical center for this 18-year-old who sacrificed everything he had is a fitting tribute to his incredible heroism and sacrifice; that it will enhance the honor that rightfully belongs to those who have served our Nation and will be treated in this facility; and I hope that it will remind the rest of us that we too can refuse to be governed by fear and find something heroic inside ourselves as our duties demand.

Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this legislation to honor Lance Corporal Thomas E. Creek by renaming the Amarillo VA Medical Center for him. As we are once again forced to confront on an almost daily basis the sacrifice of the young men and women who are serving our Nation, it is fitting and appropriate that we continue to honor the uncommon bravery of those soldiers who came before them.

Thomas Creek embodied such bravery, when in February of 1969 he selflessly gave his own life to save the lives of fellow Marines in Vietnam.

Mr. Speaker, by all accounts, Thomas Creek was a young man who deserves this honor which we can bestow upon him today, and I am proud to support this bill.

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

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SMITH) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4836.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

GENERAL LEAVE.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the bill, H.R. 4836.

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

There was no objection.

THOMAS P. NOONAN, JR., DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS OUTPATIENT CLINIC

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1318) to name the Department of Veterans Affairs outpatient clinic in Sunnyside, Queens, New York, as the ''Thomas P. Noonan, Jr., Department of Veterans Affairs Outpatient Clinic.''

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 1318

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

SECTION 1. NAME OF DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS OUTPATIENT CLINIC, QUEENS, NEW YORK.

The Department of Veterans Affairs outpatient clinic in Sunnyside, Queens, New York, shall be known and designated as the ''Thomas P. Noonan, Jr., Department of Veterans Affairs Outpatient Clinic''. Any reference to such clinic in any law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States shall be considered to be a reference to the ''Thomas P. Noonan, Jr., Department of Veterans Affairs Outpatient Clinic''.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SMITH) and the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. CORRINE BROWN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SMITH).

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 1318 would name the Department of Veterans Affairs outpatient clinic in the City of Sunnyside, Queens, New York, for Lance Corporal Thomas P. Noonan, Jr., a Marine, who on February 5, 1969, was killed in action in Quang Tri Province, Vietnam.

Lance Corporal Noonan was 25 years old on that fateful morning in Vietnam when serving as a fire team leader he was mortally wounded while valiantly trying to drag a wounded Marine to safety. For his heroic actions, he was awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor, our Nation's highest military decoration.

I want to commend my distinguished colleague on the other side of the aisle, the gentleman from New York (Mr. CROWLEY), for introducing H.R. 1318. This is the second naming bill the Committee on Veterans' Affairs has brought to the floor today to honor servicemembers who gave their lives in Vietnam. These are bipartisan measures which pay homage to our fallen heroes. I am pleased to bring these bills before the House for its consideration.

I hope that these stories of bravery and sacrifice are an inspiration to the new generation of soldiers, sailors, Marines, and airmen who are so ably serving our country in the war against terrorism. By naming these facilities to honor Lance Corporals Noonan and Creek, we also signify our intent to continue providing health care to veterans of our Armed Forces now and into the future.

Again, I am grateful to my friend and colleague on the other side of the aisle for introducing it.

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

Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to support the bill introduced by my colleague, the gentleman from New York (Mr. CROWLEY), to rename the Veterans Affairs outpatient clinic in Sunnyside, Queens, New York, after Lance Corporal Thomas P. Noonan, Jr.

Lance Corporal Noonan was mortally wounded in combat in Vietnam. For his actions under fire, he received the Congressional Medal of Honor and the Purple Heart. Mr. Speaker, I support this bill and thank my colleague for consideration in honoring a valiant veteran who gave his life defending the principles that America stands for.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. MALONEY).

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. CORRINE BROWN) for yielding me this time and for her leadership on this important committee.

Mr. Speaker, as a proud New Yorker and a representative of the people of Queens, New York, I am very pleased and honored to rise in strong support of H.R. 1318, a bill authored by my good friend and colleague, the gentleman from New York (Mr. CROWLEY).

This bill would designate the Federal Veterans Administration outpatient clinic located at 4103 Queens Boulevard in Sunnyside, Queens, as the Lance Corporal Thomas P. Noonan, Jr. Veterans Outpatient Clinic.

Thomas P. Noonan, the son of Thomas Patrick Noonan, Sr., and Florence, was a life-long resident of Woodside, Queens, New York. He attended school at St. Theresa's parish and graduated from Hunter College with a bachelor's degree in physical education in 1966.

On December 26, 1967, he enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve; and in July 1968 he was sent to the Republic of Vietnam, where he served as a mortar man with his battalion and later as a rifleman in the 3rd Marine Division. He was promoted to Lance Corporal on New Year's Day 1969.

On February 5, 1969, his company was ordered to change the position they had been holding near the Vandergrift Combat Base in A Sahau Valley. This change was made especially difficult by recent heavy rains. Descent down the steep hillside proved treacherous, and four leading men in the company were wounded by North Vietnamese soldiers concealed in the area.

The other members of the company were unable to rescue the four wounded Marines in the midst of heavy enemy fire. Noonan left his position of relative safety and descended through the hazardous terrain. Protected by rocky outcropping, Noonan shouted words of encouragement to his fellow friends who were wounded.

Bracing himself, Noonan then made a dash towards the injured men and had started to drag the most seriously wounded one to safety when he himself was hit by enemy fire. Noonan picked himself up and continued to drag the other soldier, his friend, away but was mortally wounded himself before he could carry his comrade to safety.

His heroic actions in the face of great danger so roused his fellow Marines that they launched an assault on the enemy position that forced the North Vietnamese soldiers to withdraw.

Noonan was awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor by President Nixon, as well as the Purple Heart, the National Defense Service Medal, the Vietnam Service Medal, with two Bronze Stars, and the Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal.

Lance Corporal Noonan's courage, inspiring initiative, and selfless devotion to duty upheld the highest traditions of the Marine Corps and the United States Naval Service. He gallantly gave his life for his country.

In 1996, to commemorate his life, his spirit, and his heroic acts, the City of New York dedicated a public park in his honor in Queens. Now this Congress is taking the appropriate step to name the VA outpatient clinic in Sunnyside, Queens, after Lance Corporal Noonan. This tribute enjoys the support of every major veterans service organization in New York State, and many local veterans posts throughout Queens, including but not limited to the Queens County American Legion; Queens County Catholic War Veterans; the Vietnam Veterans of America, Queens Chapter; and the John V. Daniels VFW Post.

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On behalf of my colleagues in New York and especially my Queens neighbor, the gentleman from New York (Mr. CROWLEY), I urge support of my colleagues for this fitting tribute to an American hero.

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

Mr. CROWLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of the bill H.R. 1318. This bill, which I have introduced, will designate the Federal Veterans Administration Outpatient Clinic located at 41–03 Queens Boulevard in Sunnyside, Queens as the "Lance Corporal Thomas P. Noonan, Jr. Veterans Outpatient Clinic."

On October 30, 2000, I presided at the opening of the Sunnyside Veterans Outpatient Clinic—something I had been championing on behalf of the veterans of northwestern Queens County. After the ribbon cutting ceremony, I was invited across the street for a drink with a few of the people who would most benefit from this clinic—the veterans of the John V. Daniels Veterans of Foreign Wars post.

That day, I sat down with the late Adolph Seifert, Post Adjutant and Ray Murray, Commander of the Post. And they told me about Lance Corporal Thomas Noonan.

Thomas P. Noonan was born November 18, 1943, in Brooklyn, NY, the son of Thomas Patrick Noonan, Sr., and Florence. He was a lifelong resident of Woodside, Queens; attended St. Theresa's Parish, Grover Cleveland High School in Ridgewood, and later graduated from Hunter College with a bachelor's degree in physical education in 1966.

On December 26, 1967, Thomas Noonan enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve and was subsequently discharged to enlist in the Regular Marine Corps on 31 January 1968. Private Noonan completed recruit training with the 3d Recruit Training Battalion, Marine Corps Recruit Depot, Parris Island, SC, in April 1968, and was promoted to private first class, 1 April 1968. Transferred to the Marine Corps Base, Camp Lejeune, NC, he underwent individual combat training with the 1st Battalion, 1st Infantry Training Regiment.

Ordered to the Republic of Vietnam in July 1968, he was assigned duty as mortar man with H&S Company, 2d Battalion, 27th Marines, 1st Marine Division (Rein), FMF. In August, he was reassigned to the 3d Marine Division where he saw combat as a rifleman, M–79 man with Company G, 2d Battalion, 9th Marines. He was promoted to Lance Corporal on January 1, 1969.

On February 5, 1969, his company was ordered to change the position they had been holding near the Vandergrift Combat Base in Ashau Valley. This change made especially difficult by recent heavy rains; descent down the steep hillside provided treacherous and four leading men in the company were wounded by North Vietnamese soldiers concealed in the area. The other members of the company were unable to rescue the four wounded marines in the midst of heavy enemy fire. Noonan left his position of relative safety and descended the hazardous terrain. Protected by a rocky outcropping, Noonan shouted words of encouragement to the wounded men. Bracing himself, Noonan then made a dash toward the injured men and had started to drag the most seriously wounded one to safety when he himself was hit by enemy fire. Noonan picked himself up and continued to drag the soldier away, but was mortally wounded himself before he could carry his comrade to safety.

His heroic actions in the face of harrowing danger so roused his fellow marines that they launched an assault on the enemy position that forced the North Vietnamese soldiers to withdraw. Noonan was awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor posthumously as well as the Purple Heart, the National Defense Service Medal, the Vietnam Service Medal with two bronze stars and the Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal.

Lance Corporal Noonan was survived by his parents, three sisters and one brother.

I was taken by his bravery and loyalty. After the request from Adolph Seifert to name the VA clinic in honor of Thomas P. Noonan, I got to work and put together legislation to enact this change.

It is an honor to be here today seeing this tribute pass the House of Representatives. This tribute today goes to his memory. But we would not be here today without the support of the late Adolph Seifert, or Ray Murray and Regis Quirin—all of the Daniels VFW Post.

But this legislation enjoyed the strong support of veterans all over Queens County and the State of New York. On a State level, this legislation enjoys the support of the American Legion, AMVETS, the Vietnam Veterans of America—which is currently headed by another Queens resident John Rowan—the Disabled American Veterans, the Veterans of Foreign Wars, the Marine Corps League, the Military Order of the Purple Heart, the Blinded

Veterans Association, the Eastern Paralyzed Veterans Association—based in my Congressional District in Queens—and the New York State Counsel of Veterans Organizations. Their help was invaluable in this process.

But I especially would like to note the help from local Queens County veterans chapters, starting with the Daniels VFW Post—the inspiration behind this tribute—as well as John Severa and the Queens County American Legion; William Roach and the Catholic War Veterans of Queens County; Donald Haber and the Jewish War Veterans Queens County Chapter; Thomas Lakeman and the Frank Kowalinski Post representing the Polish War Veterans of Queens County; Donald McBride and the Sgt Edward R. Miller VFW Post in Glendale, Queens. I want to thank them all.

I also want to pay tribute to Florence Noonan, the mother of Lance Corporal Thomas P. Noonan. While we pay tribute to a hero, she mourns the loss of a son. Lance Corporal Noonan's indomitable courage, inspiring initiative and selfless devotion to duty upheld the highest traditions of the U.S. Marine Corps. He gallantly gave his life for his country.

In 1996, to commemorate his life, his spirit and his heroism, the city of New York dedicated a public park in his honor in Queens. Now children can play and recreate in a safe community park dedicated to an American hero, who himself majored in physical education at Hunter College. Now, this Congress is taking the appropriate step to name the VA outpatient clinic in Sunnyside, Queens, after Lance Corporal Noonan.

On behalf of all of my New York State colleagues—Democrat and Republican, upstate and from the city—who were all cosponsors and supporters of this legislation, I am pleased that the House is debating this legislation and I look forward to its passage and enactment into law.

This is a fitting tribute to an American hero.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SMITH) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1318.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

GENERAL LEAVE.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 1318.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. PETRI). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New Jersey?

There was no objection.

CASTILLO DE SAN MARCOS NATIONAL MONUMENT PRESERVATION AND EDUCATION ACT

Mr. RADANOVICH. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2457) to authorize funds for an educational center for the Castillo de San Marcos National Monument, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 2457

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

TITLE I—CASTILLO DE SAN MARCOS NATIONAL MONUMENT PRESERVATION ACT

SEC. 101. SHORT TITLE.

This title may be cited as the ''Castillo de San Marcos National Monument Preservation and Education Act''.

SEC. 102. VISITOR CENTER.

(a) AUTHORIZATION.—Subject to the availability of appropriations and the project being prioritized in the National Park Services 5-year, line-item construction program, the Secretary of the Interior (referred to in this section as the ''Secretary'') may design and construct a Visitor Center for the Castillo de San Marcos National Monument (referred to in this section as the ''Monument'').

(b) PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE.—The Visitor Center authorized in subsection (a) shall be located and constructed in accordance with the Preferred Alternative identified in the Record of Decision for the General Management Plan for the Monument, expected to be signed in 2005.

SEC. 103. COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT.

The Secretary may enter into cooperative agreements with the City of St. Augustine, Florida, the Colonial St. Augustine Preservation Foundation, other Federal, State, and local departments or agencies, academic institutions, and non-profit entities for the planning and design, construction, management, and operation of the Visitor Center.

SEC. 104. BOUNDARY EXPANSION.

(a) PROPERTY ACQUISITION.—If the Preferred Alternative for the Visitor Center authorized by section 102 is located outside the boundary of the Monument, the Secretary is authorized to acquire the site for the Visitor Center, from willing sellers, by donation, purchase with donated or appropriated funds, or by exchange.

(b) ADMINISTRATION OF NEWLY ACQUIRED LAND.—Land added to the Monument pursuant to subsection (a) shall be administered by the Secretary in accordance with applicable laws and regulations.

(c) BOUNDARY MODIFICATION.—The boundary of the Monument shall be modified to reflect the acquisition of land authorized in subsection (a) after completion of the acquisition.

SEC. 105. PROJECT APPROVAL.

Prior to initiating any planning, design, or construction on the Visitor Center authorized by section 102, the project must be reviewed and approved by the National Park Service consistent with partnership construction guidelines established by that agency.

TITLE II—CASTILLO DE SAN MARCOS NATIONAL MONUMENT BOUNDARY MODIFICATION

SEC. 201. SHORT TITLE.

This title may be cited as the ''Castillo de San Marcos National Monument Boundary Adjustment Act of 2004''.

SEC. 202. FINDINGS.

Congress finds the following:

(1) The early defense lines for Fort Marion, Florida, today known as the Castillo de San Marcos National Monument, included defenses extending in a line due west to the Sebastian River, a distance of about one half mile.

(2) In the 1830's, during the Seminole Wars in Florida, these defensive lines were maintained, but as Florida became more settled they fell into disrepair and/or became obsolete.

(3) In 1908 the War Department deeded much of the property running west to the Sebastian River to the St. Johns County Board of Public Instruction. The portion of this property remaining in federal ownership today is occupied by Orange Street, a City of St. Augustine, Florida street.

(4) For nearly a century, the City of St. Augustine has maintained and managed Orange Street, a modern city street, and associated utilities in the Orange Street corridor.

(5) Any archeological remains that are still present on the property overlaid by Orange Street are adequately protected by the City's archeological ordinances, and by the City having an archeologist on staff.

(6) Although the city currently operates Orange Street under a right-of-way from the National Park Service, from a management perspective it is appropriate for the City of St. Augustine to own Orange Street.

SEC. 203. BOUNDARY ADJUSTMENT.

(a) CONVEYANCE OF LAND.—The Secretary of the Interior shall convey, without consideration, to the City of St. Augustine, Florida, all right, title, and interest of the United States in and to the lands known as Orange Street, a portion of the Castillo de San Marcos National Monument (Monument), consisting of approximately 3.1 acres, as shown on the map entitled Castillo de San Marcos National Monument Boundary Adjustment and Correction, numbered 343/80060, and dated April 2003. Upon completion of the conveyance, the Secretary shall revise the boundary of the Monument to exclude the land conveyed.

(b) BOUNDARY REVISION.—Effective on the date of the enactment of this Act, the boundary of the Monument is revised to include an area of approximately 0.45 acres, as shown on the map identified in subsection (a). The Secretary shall administer the lands included in the boundary as part of the national monument in accordance with applicable laws and regulations.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. BLACKBURN). Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California (Mr. RADANOVICH) and the gentlewoman from Guam (Mr. BORDALLO) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California (Mr. RADANOVICH).

GENERAL LEAVE

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

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

There was no objection.

Mr. RADANOVICH. Madam Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. MICA).

Mr. MICA. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 2457, the Castillo de San Marcos National Monument Preservation and Education Act. It is also entitled the Castillo de San Marcos National Monument Boundary Adjustment Act of 2004. I thank the gentleman for taking me out of order at the beginning as sponsor of this legislation to explain it for a second and speak in support.

The Castillo de San Marcos National Monument is the oldest existing permanent seacoast fortification in the continental United States. This is not only a unique national park, but also a

national treasure. This 16th century fortress is the most complete and historic fortification in the United States. The star-shaped fort, surrounding moat, and earthworks were constructed between 1672 and 1756 to protect Spanish territory in Florida and the shipping routes along the coast.

This National Monument was the site of a British garrison during the American Revolution and was last employed for defense purposes in 1898 during the Spanish-American War.

Madam Speaker, more than 1.5 million tourists visit this National Monument each year. This 16th century fortress, while it has never been conquered in battle, is straining under the modern-day requirements to accommodate its growing visitors' population.

I have been working with the Colonial St. Augustine Preservation Foundation, the City of St. Augustine and the National Park Service to improve and expand educational resources and public accommodations at this national park site.

As Members can imagine, adapting a four-century old structure with adequate public facilities, meeting handicap and disability standards and visitor educational facility requirements is not an easy task. This bill authorizes funding for both the museum, education and visitor center facilities to compliment and serve this important 16th century structure.

For the first time, this legislation appropriately authorizes the use of Federal funds to construct this visitor center and educational resource center for the Castillo de San Marcos National Monument. Not only will this new visitor center assist the fort in maintaining its historical integrity, but it will also accommodate visitors' needs and provide a great educational experience.

The Park Service is expected to complete a general management plan in the following months which will include design, planning and construction options at the facility. This legislation will properly authorize a major infrastructure improvement for our National Park Service.

Finally, this bill will preserve for future generations this historic site, and will add to the enjoyment and education for both visitors and local citizens.

Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman from California (Mr. RADANOVICH), the gentleman from California (Chairman POMBO), and others on both sides of the aisle for their help in pushing this legislation forward and urge its adoption.

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

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

Ms. BORDALLO. Madam Speaker, a new general management plan which will guide this National Monument called the Castillo de San Marcos National Monument for the next 10 to 15 years is currently being developed. As with the development of any new GMP, this is an extensive process which relies heavy on input from local communities as well as interested parties from around our country. Clearly, one of the most important issues to be resolved in this new GMP is the need for a visitor facility at the monument.

As introduced, we were concerned that H.R. 2457 effectively prejudged the issue of a visitor facility by mandating that one of the options on the table would be selected before the GMP process identified a preferred alternative. However, working with the sponsor of the legislation and the National Park Service, the bill before us today has been amended to simply provide the NPS with the funding and authorization necessary to implement whatever the GMP identifies as the best option.

Madam Speaker, we appreciate the cooperation of everyone involved, and urge our colleagues to support H.R. 2457.

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

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. RADANOVICH) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2457, as amended.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

AVAILABILITY OF NOAA REAL PROPERTY ON VIRGINIA KEY, FLORIDA

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4027) to authorize the Secretary of Commerce to make available to the University of Miami property under the administrative jurisdiction of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration on Virginia Key, Florida, for use by the University for a Marine Life Sciences Center, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 4027

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

SECTION 1. AVAILABILITY OF NOAA REAL PROPERTY ON VIRGINIA KEY, FLORIDA.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Commerce may make available to the University of Miami real property under the administrative jurisdiction of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration on Virginia Key, Florida, for development by the University of a Marine Life Science Center.

(b) MANNER OF AVAILABILITY.—The Secretary may make property available under this section by easement, lease, license, or long-term agreement with the University.

(c) AUTHORIZED USES BY UNIVERSITY.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Property made available under this section may be used by the University (subject to paragraph (2)) to develop and operate facilities for multidisciplinary environmental and fisheries research, assessment, management, and educational activities.

(2) AGREEMENT.—Property made available under this section may not be used by the University (including any affiliate of the University) except in accordance with an agreement with the Secretary that—

(A) specifies—

(i) the conditions for non-Federal use of the property; and

(ii) the retained Federal interests in the property, including interests in access to and egress from the property by Federal personnel and preservation of existing rights-of-way;

(B) establishes conditions for joint occupancy of buildings and other facilities on the property by the University and Federal agencies; and

(C) includes provisions that ensure—

(i) that there is no diminishment of existing National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration programs and services at Virginia Key; and

(ii) the availability of the property for planning, development, and construction of future Federal buildings and facilities.

(3) TERMINATION OF AVAILABILITY.—The availability of property under this section shall terminate immediately upon use of the property by the University—

(A) for any purpose other than as described in paragraph (1); or

(B) in violation of the agreement under paragraph (2).

(d) USE OF FACILITIES BY SECRETARY.—The Secretary may—

(1) subject to the availability of funding, enter into an agreement to occupy facilities constructed by the University on property made available under this section; and

(2) participate with the University in collaborative research at, or administered through, such facilities.

(e) NO CONVEYANCE OF TITLE.—This section shall not be construed to convey or authorize conveyance of any interest of the United States in title to property made available under this section.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California (Mr. RADANOVICH) and the gentlewoman from Guam (Ms. BORDALLO) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California (Mr. RADANOVICH).

GENERAL LEAVE

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

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

There was no objection.

Mr. RADANOVICH. Madam Speaker, I yield such time as she may consume to the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN).

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 4027. This is an important bill to my constituents, indeed to the people of all of south Florida.

Madam Speaker, this bill makes available to the property on Virginia Key, Florida, under the jurisdiction of

NOAA for use by the University of Miami for a marine life science center. This property may be made available to the University via easement, lease, license or long-term agreement.

Madam Speaker, Virginia Key, Florida, which is located just a few miles from downtown Miami, is the site of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric's National Marine Fisheries Service Southeast Fisheries Science Center. It is also the home for NOAA's Office of Atmospheric Research Atlantic Oceanographic and Meteorological Laboratory, as well as the University of Miami's Rosenstiel School of Marine and Atmospheric Sciences.

Due to their proximity and because they overlap in research interest, NOAA and the Rosenstiel School have had a close working relationship for many years. This legislation is designed to maintain and strengthen that relationship.

Located on a 16-acre campus on Virginia Key in Miami, the Rosenstiel School is the only subtropical applied and basic marine and atmospheric research institute of its kind in the continental United States. Rosenstiel's research interests include satellite oceanography, with particular emphasis on remote sensing and satellite imagery, as well as experimental fish hatchery. It also leads in the field of global marine and atmospheric chemistry program, comprehensive oceanic and atmospheric numerical modeling activities, sedimentary geology and marine geophysics groups with considerable expertise in seismic methods, and has an innovative ocean acoustics program.

□ 1630

In short, Madam Speaker, the Rosenstiel School is a proud and indispensable establishment for all of us in south Florida, in the State of Florida and indeed throughout the Nation.

The genesis of a new University of Miami and NOAA marine science complex will bring together expertise in environmental and fisheries research, assessment and management, and facilitate the intellectual exchange of ideas and results. H.R. 4027 is a critical first step in reaching the goal of establishing a new marine science complex.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to have introduced this important legislation and am most appreciative of the consideration and focus of this vital project in my congressional district.

Mr. RADANOVICH. Madam Speaker, I urge an ''aye'' vote on H.R. 4027. I compliment the gentlewoman from Florida for her leadership on behalf of her constituents and want to thank the Committee on Science for their assistance in moving this important legislation.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

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

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

Ms. BORDALLO. Madam Speaker, H.R. 4027 is noncontroversial legislation that would encourage cooperative use of Federal land at Virginia Key, Florida under the administrative jurisdiction of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration between the Federal agency and the University of Miami. The existing long-term relationship between the two NOAA laboratories at Virginia Key and their neighbor, the University's Rosenstiel School of Marine and Atmospheric Science, has produced an enviable record of scientific achievement.

While this legislation, Madam Speaker, will not authorize the conveyance of any Federal land, it is expected to provide helpful guidance for future collaboration among the institutions as they look to upgrade their respective research facilities at Virginia Key. I urge Members to support this legislation to enhance ocean and coastal scientific research.

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

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. BLACKBURN). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. RADANOVICH) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4027, as amended.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

WILSON'S CREEK NATIONAL BATTLEFIELD BOUNDARY ADJUSTMENT ACT OF 2004

Mr. RADANOVICH. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4481) to amend Public Law 86–434 establishing Wilson's Creek National Battlefield in the State of Missouri to expand the boundaries of the park, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 4481

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the ''Wilson's Creek National Battlefield Boundary Adjustment Act of 2004''.

SEC. 2. EXPANSION OF BOUNDARIES, WILSON'S CREEK NATIONAL BATTLEFIELD, MISSOURI.

(a) BOUNDARY EXPANSION; PRIVATE PROPERTY PROTECTIONS.—The first section of Public Law 86–434 (16 U.S.C. 430kk) is amended—

(1) by striking ''That the Secretary'' and inserting the following:

''SECTION 1. WILSON'S CREEK NATIONAL BATTLEFIELD: ESTABLISHMENT AND ACQUISITION OF LANDS.

''(a) ESTABLISHMENT, INITIAL BOUNDARIES.—The Secretary''; and

(2) by adding at the end the following new subsections:

''(b) EXPANSION OF BOUNDARIES.—(1) The boundaries of the Wilson's Creek National Battlefield are revised to include lands and interests therein consisting of six parcels totaling 615 acres and identified as parcels '1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6' on the map entitled 'Wilson's Creek National Battlefield Proposed Boundary', numbered 410/80,037 and dated January 27, 2004. The map shall be on file and available for public inspection in the appropriate offices of the National Park Service.

''(2) The Secretary is authorized to acquire the lands referred to in paragraph (1) by donation, by purchase from willing sellers with donated or appropriated funds, or by exchange. The Secretary may acquire by the same methods personal property associated with, and appropriate for, interpretation of the park.

''(c) ACCESS TO PRIVATE PROPERTY.—Nothing in this Act shall be construed to—

''(1) require any private property owner to allow public access (including Federal, State, or local government access) to such private property; or

''(2) modify any provision of Federal, State, or local law with regard to public access to or use of private property.

''(d) LIABILITY.—The revision of the boundaries of the Wilson's Creek National Battlefield by subsection (b) shall not be considered to create any liability for, or to have any effect on any liability under any other law of, any owner of private property with respect to any person injured on that private property.

''(e) RECOGNITION OF AUTHORITY TO CONTROL LAND USE.—Nothing in this Act shall be construed to modify the authority of Federal, State, or local governments to regulate land use.

''(f) PARTICIPATION OF PRIVATE PROPERTY OWNERS.—Nothing in this Act shall be construed to require the owner of any private property located within the boundaries of the Wilson's Creek National Battlefield to participate in, or be associated with, the National Battlefield.

''(g) EFFECT OF EXPANSION.—The boundaries of the Wilson's Creek National Battlefield, as revised by subsection (b), represent the area within which Federal funds appropriated for the purpose of this Act may be expended. The boundary revision shall not be construed to provide any nonexisting regulatory authority on land use within the National Battlefield or its viewshed by the Secretary or the National Park Service.''.

(b) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—Section 3 of such Act (16 U.S.C. 430mm) is amended by adding at the end the following new sentence: ''There are authorized to be appropriated such sums as may be necessary to carry out section 1(b).''.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California (Mr. RADANOVICH) and the gentlewoman from Guam (Ms. BORDALLO) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California (Mr. RADANOVICH).

GENERAL LEAVE

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

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

There was no objection.

Mr. RADANOVICH. Madam Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. BLUNT), the majority whip.

Mr. BLUNT. I thank the gentleman for yielding me this time.

Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of this legislation. H.R. 4481, the Wilson's Creek National Battlefield Boundary Adjustment Act of 2004, will expand the park boundaries at the site of one of our Nation's most significant Civil War battles. H.R. 4481 has garnered the bipartisan support of the entire Missouri delegation and has received the bipartisan support of the entire House Resources Committee.

On August 10, 1861, just 20 days after the first battle of Bull Run, about 20,000 Union and Confederate soldiers met just west of Springfield, Missouri on the banks of Wilson's Creek. The fight that ensued became the second major engagement of the Civil War, the first major battle west of the Mississippi River, and the first battle where a Union general was killed. Most importantly, however, the battle of Wilson's Creek dealt a decisive blow to the secessionist movement in Missouri and preserved Union control of the State.

When the National Park Service set aside 1,750 acres for the Wilson's Creek National Battlefield in 1960, not all of the land upon which the battle occurred was included nor was all the land that the Park Service recommended to be included put within the boundaries of the park. In fact, only about two-thirds of the battle site currently falls within the park's boundaries. At the time, the land surrounding the park had changed little since the battle took place and still has not had significant development around the park. Today, however, this land is becoming more attractive to developers. The southern portion of the park is located in the fastest growing county in Missouri and pressure to further develop the area will only increase.

With this bill, we have the opportunity to protect an additional 615 acres of this important battle site by authorizing the National Park Service to acquire specific parcels of land surrounding Wilson's Creek through donation, through purchase or exchange with willing landowners. With the acquisition of these parcels, the Wilson's Creek National Battlefield will contain 99 percent of the battle site.

H.R. 4481 will allow the National Park Service also to obtain one of the most valuable and distinctive Civil War collections ever assembled. General Sweeney's Museum of Civil War History, which is located on one of the parcels identified for acquisition, is a privately owned collection of artifacts related to the Civil War in Missouri and Arkansas, and the owners have indicated their eagerness to sell. By the way, those owners have been big supporters of the park in every way for a long time. This collection currently houses approximately 15,000 pieces, including Civil War documents, photographs, letters and diaries. The National Park Service's chief curator, the museum curator at Gettysburg National Park and the staff curator at Harper's Ferry Center have all visited the Sweeney museum. These experts have praised the nature of the collection and confirmed its historical significance. The acquisition of the Sweeney museum, along with the John K. and Ruth Hulston Civil War Research Library, which was established at the park in 1985, will truly make Wilson's Creek National Battlefield an essential spot for historians and others.

H.R. 4481 will add priceless new assets to the Wilson's Creek National Battlefield, preserve the battle site and allow future generations to experience the park just as Americans would have seen it more than 140 years ago. Madam Speaker, on behalf of our delegation and with appreciation to the Committee on Resources, I certainly ask the House to support this important legislation to protect the Wilson's Creek Battlefield and authorize the early addition of this property to the park.

Mr. RADANOVICH. I thank the gentleman from Missouri and I urge adoption of the bill.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

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

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

Ms. BORDALLO. Madam Speaker, the majority has already explained the purpose of H.R. 4481. The battle at Wilson's Creek was the first major engagement of the Civil War west of the Mississippi and was important in keeping Missouri in the Union. The National Park Service supports the acquisitions authorized by the bill. The expansion of the national battlefield also has the support of the local community and Civil War historians.

The bill was amended to make several changes that while unnecessary do not undermine the overall purpose of the legislation. As such, we do not object to passage of H.R. 4481 by the House today.

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

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. RADANOVICH) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4481, as amended.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

CLARIFYING BOUNDARIES OF JOHN H. CHAFEE COAST BARRIER RESOURCES SYSTEM

Mr. RADANOVICH. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3056) to clarify the boundaries of the John H. Chafee Coast Barrier Resources System Cedar Keys Unit P25 on Otherwise Protected Area P25P, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 3056

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

SECTION 1. REPLACEMENT OF CERTAIN JOHN H. CHAFEE COASTAL BARRIER RESOURCES SYSTEM MAP.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Of the 2 maps subtitled ''P25/P25P'' that relate to the John H. Chafee Coastal Barrier Resources System unit designated as Coastal Barrier Resources System Cedar Keys Unit P25/P25P and are included in the set of maps entitled ''Coastal Barrier Resources System'' referred to in section 4(a) of the Coastal Barrier Resources Act (16 U.S.C. 3503(a)), the map depicting the northernmost area of that unit is hereby replaced by another map relating to that unit entitled ''John H. Chafee Coastal Barrier Resources System Cedar Keys Unit P25/P25P'' and dated February 9, 2004.

(b) AVAILABILITY.—The Secretary of the Interior shall keep the replacement map referred to in subsection (a) on file and available for inspection in accordance with section 4(b) of the Coastal Barrier Resources Act (16 U.S.C. 3503(b)).

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California (Mr. RADANOVICH) and the gentlewoman from Guam (Ms. BORDALLO) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California (Mr. RADANOVICH).

GENERAL LEAVE

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

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

There was no objection.

Mr. RADANOVICH. Madam Speaker, I yield such time as she may consume to the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE).

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to speak in favor of H.R. 3056.

In 1992, Congress made changes to the Coastal Barrier Resources System that have effectively protected environmentally sensitive communities and have deterred residents from building or buying lands that are prone to natural disasters, such as flooding and erosion. Under the Coastal Barrier Resources Act, also known as COBRA, residents may build within the system but if they do, they will not qualify for Federal assistance. In order to qualify for Federal assistance, the most important being Federal flood insurance, residents must live in an excluded area.

The maps used to depict the Coastal Barrier Resources System were created over 10 years ago using the technology that was available at that time. Basically they were paper maps with longitude and latitude markings and

hand-drawn boundaries and land masses. Today we have digital technology available to more accurately depict where Congress intended the COBRA boundaries to actually lie. Unfortunately, this new technology has found a number of incorrect determinations. Areas that were meant to be excluded from the system were inadvertently included in the act.

Three such cases exist in my district in Cedar Key. Prior to purchasing their properties, all three families were told by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service that the areas were in the ''excluded area.'' The families purchased their properties, paid the premiums for the flood insurance required by the mortgage lender, but then last year they were told by the Fish and Wildlife Service that an error had been made and that in fact they were within the Coastal Barrier Resource System. Thus, they do not qualify for Federal flood insurance.

Can any of us imagine the anguish and heartache that they are feeling today? They paid premiums for flood insurance for years, only to be hit by back-to-back hurricanes Charley and Frances, and possibly the impending Ivan, and then they are told that because of an incorrect determination they have no coverage. We still do not know how many billions of dollars these disasters are going to cost the residents of the State of Florida. The assistance residents may receive from FEMA will only cover a fraction of the cost of damages in my area of Cedar Key. Moreover, flood insurance is virtually unavailable in the private market and can cost six times that of a federally insured flood policy. What is even worse is one of these families was in the process of selling their home last year and upon receiving the new determination from Fish and Wildlife, their home depreciated actually on the real estate market by over 50 percent.

My bill clarifies the boundaries of Unit P25 and the Otherwise Protected Area P25P of the Coastal Barrier Resources System where my constituents live. This bill uses digital technology to redraw the boundaries to better reflect the intent of Congress in 1992 and it excludes those families from the system. H.R. 3056 does not seek to add any areas to the excluded portion of the system. It merely clarifies the mistakes the outdated technology made in these instances. I believe it is imperative that our citizens receive the assistance that they are entitled to receive. It is imperative that Congress correct the flaws in this good law to ensure that more residents in the area are not adversely affected.

I would certainly like to thank the gentleman from California (Mr. POMBO), the chairman, and the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. GILCHREST), the subcommittee chairman, for all their assistance with this bill. I urge the Members' favorable support of the bill.

Mr. RADANOVICH. I thank the gentlewoman from Florida.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

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

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

Ms. BORDALLO. Madam Speaker, I appreciate the brief summary of the bill provided by the previous speaker. As noted, H.R. 3056 is noncontroversial legislation to correct a legitimate mapping error for a John H. Chafee Coastal Barrier Resource System unit in the State of Florida.

□ 1645

Recent hurricanes in Florida have dramatically shown that building on low-lying coastal barriers is inherently risky and costly both in lives and property. I might add, Madam Speaker, that if anyone is familiar with coastal areas and storms and the damage that occurs after such a storm, it would be a resident from Guam, where we have had three major typhoons in a year and a half.

Upholding the integrity of the Coastal Barrier Resources System is essential if we hope to protect the Federal taxpayer from the folly of subsidizing future foolhardy private development along these undeveloped high-risk areas.

I commend the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. GILCHREST), chairman of the Fisheries Conservation, Wildlife and Oceans Subcommittee, and the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE), the subcommittee's ranking Democrat member, for their diligent evaluation to ensure that the new maps adopted through the legislation are accurate and consistent entirely with the purposes of the Coastal Barrier Resources Act. I urge Members to support this noncontroversial legislation.

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

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. BLACKBURN). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. RADANOVICH) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3056, as amended.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

HARPERS FERRY NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK BOUNDARY REVISION ACT OF 2004

Mr. RADANOVICH. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the Senate bill (S. 1576) to revise the boundary of Harpers Ferry National Historical Park, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read as follows:

S. 1576

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the ''Harpers Ferry National Historical Park Boundary Revision Act of 2004''.

SEC. 2. HARPERS FERRY NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK.

The first section of the Act of June 30, 1944 (58 Stat. 645, chapter 328; 16 U.S.C. 450bb), is amended to read as follows:

''SECTION 1. HARPERS FERRY NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK.

''(a) IN GENERAL.—To carry out the purposes of this Act, the Secretary of the Interior (referred to in this Act as the 'Secretary') is authorized to acquire, by purchase from a willing seller with donated or appropriated funds, by donation, or by exchange, land or an interest in land within the boundaries as generally depicted on the map entitled 'Boundary Map, Harpers Ferry National Historical Park', numbered 385–80,021A, and dated April 1979.

''(b) BRADLEY AND RUTH NASH ADDITION.—The Secretary is authorized to acquire, by donation only, approximately 27 acres of land or interests in land that are outside the boundary of the Harpers Ferry National Historical Park and generally depicted on the map entitled 'Proposed Bradley and Ruth Nash Addition—Harpers Ferry National Historical Park', numbered 385–80056, and dated April 1, 1989.

''(c) BOUNDARY EXPANSION.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary is authorized to acquire, by purchase from a willing seller with donated or appropriated funds, by donation, or by exchange, land or an interest in land within the area depicted as 'Private Lands' on the map entitled 'Harpers Ferry National Historical Park Proposed Boundary Expansion,' numbered 385/80,126, and dated July 14, 2003.

''(2) ADMINISTRATION.—The Secretary shall—

''(A) transfer to the National Park Service for inclusion in the Harpers Ferry National Historical Park (referred to in this Act as the 'Park') the land depicted on the map referred to in paragraph (1) as 'U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Lands' and revise the boundary of the Park accordingly; and

''(B) revise the boundary of the Park to include the land depicted on the map referred to in paragraph (1) as 'Appalachian NST' and exclude that land from the boundary of the Appalachian National Scenic Trail.

''(d) MAXIMUM NUMBER OF ACRES.—The number of acres of the Park shall not exceed 3,745.

''(e) MAPS.—The maps referred to in this section shall be on file and available for public inspection in the appropriate offices of the National Park Service.

''(f) ACQUIRED LAND.—Land or an interest in land acquired under this section shall become a part of the Park, subject to the laws (including regulations) applicable to the Park.

''(g) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There are authorized to be appropriated such sums as are necessary to carry out this section.''.

SEC. 3. CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.

Sections 2 and 3 of the Act of June 30, 1944 (58 Stat. 646, chapter 328; 16 U.S.C. 450bb–1, 450bb–2), are amended by striking ''Secretary of the Interior'' each place it appears and inserting ''Secretary''.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California (Mr. RADANOVICH) and the

gentlewoman from Guam (Ms. BORDALLO) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California (Mr. RADANOVICH).

GENERAL LEAVE

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

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

There was no objection.

Mr. RADANOVICH. Madam Speaker, I yield such time as she may consume to the gentlewoman from West Virginia (Mrs. CAPITO), the author of the bill.

Mrs. CAPITO. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of S. 1576, the Harpers Ferry National Historical Park Boundary Revision Act of 2004. Harpers Ferry is at the eastern-most portion of my congressional district and borders on Virginia and Maryland and has a very historic significance in our Nation's history.

This legislation represents cooperative efforts among local civic groups and the National Park Service to preserve an additional 1,240 acres of West Virginia's historic and pristine wilderness from development.

In addition, expanding the park will help make a significant investment in the local tourist economy by attracting an estimated 25,000 additional visitors to the eastern panhandle of West Virginia each year. New visitors mean more revenues for area businesses, and that keeps the local economy moving forward.

Expanding the park represents a reasonable and necessary investment in the future of this national treasure. This portion of West Virginia is undergoing tremendous growth; and placing these additional 1,200 acres under the governance of the National Park Service will preserve this area of West Virginia from further economic development, but more historic development.

Last summer I walked the Murphy Farm, an area in the proposed expansion. I was able to see a part of America rich in Civil War and civil rights history as well as breathtaking beauty. The passage of this legislation will allow the local community, the National Park Service, and various nonprofit organizations to work together in partnership to preserve a historic part of our country's heritage, a section of America which is now West Virginia that Thomas Jefferson once remarked was ''worth a trip across the Atlantic.''

Madam Speaker, I can assure all of my colleagues that this legislation is worth their support, and I urge them to make a trip across Maryland to Harpers Ferry where they can visit a beautiful parcel of West Virginia, Harpers Ferry National Park.

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

Madam Speaker, S. 1576 is supported by the majority and the minority of the Committee on Resources and the administration. I urge adoption of this bill.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

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

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

Ms. BORDALLO. Madam Speaker, at the outset I would note that the gentleman from West Virginia (Mr. RAHALL), Committee on Resources ranking member, had hoped to be here to manage this extremely important legislation, but has been delayed in returning from his congressional district. However, he joins with me in saluting Senator ROBERT C. BYRD for his tireless efforts on this vital legislation that will serve to enhance both the scenic beauty and historic resources of Harpers Ferry in the State of West Virginia. Madam Speaker, we have a statement from the gentleman from West Virginia (Mr. RAHALL) which will be included in the RECORD.

Just as important as the substance of the bill is the process through which this proposal was developed. The sponsor of this legislation, Senator ROBERT C. BYRD, understood that units of the National Park Service work best when the local community feels connected to the park and is included in the decision-making process regarding the park's management. To accomplish this goal, Senator BYRD directed the National Park Service to conduct extensive public outreach to provide the local community information regarding the needs of the park and the impacts of any potential expansion. As a result, S. 1576 has near-universal support in the local communities near the park.

We commend Senator BYRD for his tireless efforts on behalf of Harpers Ferry, and we urge our colleagues to support S. 1576. And, Madam Speaker, I would be remiss if I did not mention, and I would like to commend her as well, the gentlewoman from West Virginia (Mrs. CAPITO) for her efforts on this legislation.

Mr. RAHALL. Madam Speaker, few places possess both the scenic beauty and historical significance of Harpers Ferry. Enactment of this legislation is critical because it will enhance both the scenic and historic resources of this unique place.

Like my home State of West Virginia itself, the pivotal location of Harpers Ferry has allowed it to serve as the backdrop for many of the most significant events in American History. As a result, some of the icons of American freedom and discovery—George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, Merriweather Lewis, John Brown, ''Stonewall'' Jackson, Abraham Lincoln and Frederick Douglas—have walked the ground that now makes up this Park.

From the earliest settlement of this great Nation, through the founding of the railroad, John Brown's raid, the Civil War, reconstruction, the industrial revolution and integration, Harpers Ferry has been the stage on which many of the most significant chapters in American history have unfolded.

As for the scenic beauty of the place, none could describe it better than a visitor did in 1783 when he wrote that, ''The passage of the Potomac through the Blue Ridge is perhaps one of the most stupendous scenes in nature.'' That awestruck visitor was, of course, Thomas Jefferson.

And during his distinguished career in the United States Senate, Harpers Ferry National Historical Park has had no better friend, no better protector, than Senator ROBERT C. BYRD. Back in 2000, Senator BYRD recognized the need for this Park expansion but was also well aware that units of the National Park System work best when the local community feels a sense of ownership and pride in the Park.

Senator BYRD directed the National Park Service to conduct extensive public outreach to provide the local community information regarding the needs of the Park and the impacts of any potential expansion. Once that process was complete, Senator BYRD had accomplished the near-impossible: Surveys show that 94 percent of the respondents support this legislation.

I share Senator BYRD's great love of history—West Virginia's history in particular. Harpers Ferry is an incredibly powerful tool for telling the great story of our State, our People and our Nation. These proposed additions will allow the Park to tell those stories even more powerfully and more completely.

I salute Senator BYRD for his tireless efforts on behalf of Harpers Ferry and West Virginia and urge my colleagues to support S. 1576.

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

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. RADANOVICH) that the House suspend the rules and pass the Senate bill, S. 1576.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

AMENDING THE ORGANIC ACT OF GUAM

Mr. RADANOVICH. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2400) to amend the Organic Act of Guam for the purposes of clarifying the local judicial structure of Guam.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 2400

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

SECTION 1. JUDICIAL STRUCTURE OF GUAM.

(a) JUDICIAL AUTHORITY; COURTS.—Section 22(a) of the Organic Act of Guam (48 U.S.C. 1424(a)) is amended to read as follows:

''(a)(1) The judicial authority of Guam shall be vested in a court established by Congress designated as the 'District Court of Guam', and a judicial branch of Guam which branch shall constitute a unified judicial system and include an appellate court designated as the 'Supreme Court of Guam', a trial court designated as the 'Superior Court of Guam', and such other lower local courts as may have been or shall hereafter be established by the laws of Guam.

''(2) The Supreme Court of Guam may, by rules of such court, create divisions of the Superior Court of Guam and other local courts of Guam.

''(3) The courts of record for Guam shall be the District Court of Guam, the Supreme Court of Guam, the Superior Court of Guam (except the Traffic and Small Claims divisions of the Superior Court of Guam) and any other local courts or divisions of local courts that the Supreme Court of Guam shall designate.''.

(b) JURISDICTION AND POWERS OF LOCAL COURTS.—Section 22A of the Organic Act of Guam (48 U.S.C. 1424–1) is amended to read as follows:

''SEC. 22A. (a) The Supreme Court of Guam shall be the highest court of the judicial branch of Guam (excluding the District Court of Guam) and shall—

''(1) have original jurisdiction over proceedings necessary to protect its appellate jurisdiction and supervisory authority and such other original jurisdiction as the laws of Guam may provide;

''(2) have jurisdiction to hear appeals over any cause in Guam decided by the Superior Court of Guam or other courts established under the laws of Guam;

''(3) have jurisdiction to issue all orders and writs in aid of its appellate, supervisory, and original jurisdiction, including those orders necessary for the supervision of the judicial branch of Guam;

''(4) have supervisory jurisdiction over the Superior Court of Guam and all other courts of the judicial branch of Guam;

''(5) hear and determine appeals by a panel of three of the justices of the Supreme Court of Guam and a concurrence of two such justices shall be necessary to a decision of the Supreme Court of Guam on the merits of an appeal;

''(6) make and promulgate rules governing the administration of the judiciary and the practice and procedure in the courts of the judicial branch of Guam, including procedures for the determination of an appeal en banc; and

''(7) govern attorney and judicial ethics and the practice of law in Guam, including admission to practice law and the conduct and discipline of persons admitted to practice law.

''(b) The Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Guam—

''(1) shall preside over the Supreme Court unless disqualified or unable to act;

''(2) shall be the administrative head of, and have general supervisory power over, all departments, divisions, and other instrumentalities of the judicial branch of Guam; and

''(3) may issue such administrative orders on behalf of the Supreme Court of Guam as necessary for the efficient administration of the judicial branch of Guam.

''(c) The Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Guam, or a justice sitting in place of such Chief Justice, may make any appropriate order with respect to—

''(1) an appeal prior to the hearing and determination of that appeal on the merits; or

''(2) dismissal of an appeal for lack of jurisdiction or failure to take or prosecute the appeal in accordance with applicable laws or rules of procedure.

''(d) Except as granted to the Supreme Court of Guam or otherwise provided by this Act or any other Act of Congress, the Superior Court of Guam and all other local courts established by the laws of Guam shall have such original and appellate jurisdiction over all causes in Guam as the laws of Guam provide, except that such jurisdiction shall be subject to the exclusive or concurrent jurisdiction conferred on the District Court of Guam under section 22 of this Act.

''(e) The qualifications and duties of the justices and judges of the Supreme Court of Guam, the Superior Court of Guam, and all other local courts established by the laws of Guam shall be governed by the laws of Guam and the rules of such courts.''.

(c) TECHNICAL AMENDMENTS.—(1) Section 22C(a) of the Organic Act of Guam (48 U.S.C. 1424–3(a)) is amended by inserting ''which is known as the Supreme Court of Guam,'' after ''appellate court authorized by section 22A(a) of this Act,''.

(2) Section 22C(d) of the Organic Act of Guam (48 U.S.C. 1424–3(d)) is amended—

(A) by inserting '', which is known as the Supreme Court of Guam,'' after ''appellate court provided for in section 22A(a) of this Act''; and

(B) by striking ''taken to the appellate court'' and inserting ''taken to such appellate court''.

SEC. 2. APPEALS TO UNITED STATES SUPREME COURT.

Section 22B of the Organic Act of Guam (48 U.S.C. 1424–2) is amended by striking '': *Provided*, That'' and all that follows through the end and inserting a period.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California (Mr. RADANOVICH) and the gentlewoman from Guam (Ms. BORDALLO) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California (Mr. RADANOVICH).

GENERAL LEAVE

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

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

There was no objection.

Mr. RADANOVICH. Madam Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. FLAKE).

Mr. FLAKE. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding me this time.

I am pleased that this bill that I introduced with the gentlewoman from Guam (Ms. BORDALLO) is being considered on the floor today.

Madam Speaker, in what currently poses a potential threat to self-governance in the territory of Guam, the Guam legislature and the Guam executive branch currently have the power to abolish the Supreme Court of Guam, thus infringing on the judiciary's independence. This unintentional unequal balance of power was created by the 1984 Omnibus Territories Act, which authorized the creation of an appellate court on Guam. Unfortunately, this statute left the newly created court subordinate to the powers of the legislature and the executive.

The possibility of removing judges if rulings are unpopular or abolishing the court and replacing it with one elected by the legislature would directly threaten the people of Guam's faith in their own courts and the democratic process. It is an unacceptable situation.

This legislation remedies the potential constitutional crisis by making the Supreme Court of Guam a court equal in stature with the other branches of government and providing the Guam judiciary the same protection as the other two branches have in their status under the Organic Act of Guam.

I had the unique opportunity to hear first hand many of Guam's political leaders express support for this legislation during our CODEL to the Pacific Islands earlier this year. I also have a constituent right around the corner from me who spends time on Guam, and he has educated me over the past couple of years to the potential problem here with this, and I am glad that we are moving through on it.

I want to thank the leadership of the gentleman from California (Chairman POMBO) for moving this ahead and for his leadership on all other areas and concerns of our territories. And I want to thank the gentlewoman from Guam also for working hard on this.

I urge adoption of this important legislation.

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

The gentlewoman from Guam (Ms. BORDALLO) has introduced legislation that seeks to resolve issues of uncertainty surrounding the judicial branch and its powers in Guam. Her legislation, H.R. 2400, will amend the territory's Organic Act to clarify the structure of Guam's judicial branch. At this point I will allow the author to explain the bill.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

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

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

Ms. BORDALLO. Madam Speaker, today we are considering legislation to amend the Organic Act of Guam to establish the Guam judiciary as the third co-equal and independent branch of the government of Guam. Passing H.R. 2400 is an important and necessary step in the exercising of Congress's plenary authority over the territories as granted in article IV of the United States Constitution. The bill is relatively straightforward and has the full support of all Guam's leaders.

I introduced H.R. 2400 last year at the request of the chief justice of the Supreme Court of Guam and the chairman of the 27th Guam legislature's Committee on the Judiciary. The bill would empower Guam's judiciary by clarifying the territory's local judicial structure. In essence, H.R. 2400 would amend the Organic Act of Guam to vest

the Supreme Court of Guam with authority over all inferior courts in the Guam judiciary, including the Superior Court of Guam and any such other lower courts as may be established by the laws of Guam.

A quick understanding of the history and evolution of the local judiciary in Guam reveals the need for this legislation. Guam's Organic Act, passed in August of 1950, provided for the organization of the territorial government. Therein, the judicial branch of the Government of Guam was created, which consisted of a district court of Guam having the jurisdiction of a district court of the United States and designated as Guam's appellate court to hear appeals from the local court.

In 1973, Guam's leaders made their first attempt at creating a Supreme Court of Guam, but that court's existence was short lived. The establishment of the first Supreme Court of Guam was ruled inorganic by the United States Supreme Court in the Territory of Guam v. Olsen. In rendering this decision, the United States Supreme Court held the Organic Act of Guam did not authorize the transfer of appellate jurisdiction from the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals to a locally established appellate court.

In 1984, in response to the United States Supreme Court decision, Congress amended the Organic Act of Guam through the passage of an Omnibus Territories Act, Public Law 98–454, and granted the Guam legislature the authority to establish a local appellate court. In 1993, the Guam legislature exercised its authority and created the Supreme Court of Guam through passage of local law.

However, in authorizing the creation of a Supreme Court of Guam, the Congress left the newly created court subordinate to Guam's other two branches of government. Guam's executive and legislative branches are established in the Organic Act of Guam, which in lieu of an adopted constitution serves to provide the framework and powers for the territory's executive and legislative branches.

□ 1700

As the current judicial structure is established in Guam law, it can be subject to manipulations based upon shifts in control of Guam's executive and legislative branches. Currently, the Guam legislature and the Guam executive branch have the power to abolish the Supreme Court of Guam, and, as such, may infringe upon the judiciary's independence.

H.R. 2400 would remedy this situation by making the Supreme Court of Guam an ''Organic'' court equal in stature to the other branches of government and providing the Guam judiciary the same protection as the other branches have in their status under the Organic Act of Guam. Just as the Governor cannot disband the legislature and the legislature cannot abolish the executive, so too should the judiciary be free from the threat of abolishment by the legislative or executive branches if their judicial decisions are found to be unpopular at any given point in time.

Madam Speaker, judicial independence cannot and should not be taken for granted. As Guam's self-governance continues to advance, the legal rights of the people of Guam should not be left to the discretion of the political branches. As Alexander Hamilton wrote in The Federalist No. 78, ''There is no liberty if the power of judging be not separated from the legislative and the executive powers.''

An independent judiciary is in its purest form accountable only to the rule of law, not other political actors. H.R. 2400 seeks to solidify such an independent judicial structure for the government of Guam in the Organic Act in the highest traditions of American federalism.

The version of the legislation we are considering today, Madam Speaker, is in the same form as reported out by the Committee on Resources in the 107th Congress. This bill has evolved since it was first introduced in the 105th Congress by my predecessor, former Congressman Robert Underwood, as the Guam Judicial Empowerment Act, and in its current form reflects improvements suggested by the U.S. District Court of Guam and the Committee on Resources.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill to amend the Organic Act of Guam in recognition of the importance of having a strong judiciary and in furtherance of Guam's efforts to achieve the greatest amount of self-governance possible.

Madam Speaker, I include for the RECORD a letter from the Governor of Guam, the Honorable Felix P. Camacho, in support of establishing Guam's judicial branch in the Organic Act of Guam; a resolution from the 27th Guam Legislature urging passage of H.R. 2400; and a resolution in support of the bill from the Judicial Council of Guam.

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR OF GUAM,
Hagåtña, Guam, May 7, 2004.

Hon. MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO,
Congresswoman, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR MADELEINE: This letter is written in reference to H.R. 2400, a bill to amend the Organic Act of Guam for the purposes of clarifying the local judicial structure of Guam.

I stated in previous testimony in reference to a similar bill introduced by your predecessor in the 107th Congress, ''I certainly support the independence of all branches of government, inclusive of the judicial branch of Guam.'' As the Chief Executive of our Territory, I certainly appreciate our tri-partite form of government which was crafted by the founders of our great nation and unanimously adopted by the states of our union. I fully recognize that the effectiveness of our system of government, both on the federal and local level, rests in checks and balances. To this end, I recognize that the judicial branch of our Territory, like our executive and legislative branches, must be ''constitutionally'' established or in our case, have an ''Organic'' existence with similar powers to govern, reorganize, manage and account for its branch with judicial independence founded under our U.S. Constitution. To the extent H.R. 2400 furthers this principle, I am supportive of your efforts and the assistance of your colleagues.

My personal preference is for our tripartite structure of government to be established in a Guam Constitution. Further, the specifics of the internal operation of our judicial branch should be established locally. However, I am cognizant that since I submitted my previous testimony to Congress on this issue, local law affecting the Guam judiciary has changed. In addition, until Guam adopts its own constitution, the Organic Act functions as Guam's de facto constitution. For these reasons, I support your efforts to establish Guam's judicial branch in our Organic Act.

With Warm Personal Regards,

FELIX P. CAMACHO,
Governor of Guam.

I MINA'BENTE SIETE NA LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN

2004 (SECOND) Regular Session—Resolution No. 139 (LS)

As amended on the Floor.

Introduced by: v.c. pangelinan; F.R. Cunliffe; R. Klitzkie; T.R. Muña Barnes; F.B. Aguon, Jr.; J.M.S. Brown; C. Fernandez; Mark Forbes; L.F. Kasperbauer; L.A. Leon Guerrero; J.A. Lujan; J.M. Quinata; R.J. Respicio; Toni Sanford; Ray Tenorio.

Relative to amending the Organic Act of Guam for the purpose of clarifying the local judicial structure of Guam.

Be it resolved by I Mina'Bente Siete na Liheslaturan Guåhan:

Whereas, in our island's quest to achieve greater self-governance, the United States Congress amended the Organic Act of Guam in 1984 authorizing the Guam Legislature to reorganize the island Judiciary and establish an appellate court for island residents; and

Whereas, from 1984 to 1992, bi-partisan legislators, executive and judicial branch officials, legal practitioners and the community-at-large contributed to preparing draft legislation which culminated in the passage of Public Law 21–147, the ''Frank G. Lujan Memorial Act'' that reorganized the island's Judicial Branch, creating the Supreme Court of Guam as the island's highest appellate court and establishing it as the administrative head of the island Judiciary; and

Whereas, since 1996 when the Supreme Court of Guam was first empanelled in accordance with the provisions of Federal and local law, the island's high court and the Judiciary has been subjected to frequent legislative changes eroding the independence of the Guam Judiciary; and

Whereas, in reaffirming the original intent of local and Federal lawmakers who sought to create a supreme Court of Guam with the Supreme Court as the head of the island Judiciary, the Twenty-Seventh Guam Legislature, I Miná Bente Siete Na Liheslaturan Guåhan, passed Public Law 27–31, ''An Act to Reorganize the Judiciary as the Third Co-Equal and Independent Branch of the Government of Guam . . .'' in October 2003; and

Whereas, Public Law 27–31 and similar local legislation can be amended or repealed at any time, thus further threatening the independence of the Guam Judiciary; and

Whereas, local legislators, officials, and resident alike believe that absent a Guam Constitution, an amendment to the Organic Act is needed to firmly establish the Judicial Branch of Guam, with the Supreme Court of Guam at its head, as a separate, co-equal and independent branch within the government of Guam; and

Whereas, H.R. 521 was introduced in the 107th Congress, heard by the House Committee on Resources and favorably reported

and recommended to the House of Representatives by unanimous consent; and

Whereas, the 107th Congress soon thereafter expired with no further action on the measure; and

Whereas, H.R. 2400, the successor bill to H.R. 521 was introduced by Guam's Congresswoman Madeleine Z. Bordallo; and

Whereas, H.R. 2400 seeks to ensure through an amendment to the Organic Act, the independence of the Guam judiciary and to maintain the judicial branch as a separate and co-equal branch of government, now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That I Miná Bente Siete Na Liheslaturan Guåhan does hereby, on behalf of the people of Guam, respectfully request the United States Congress to expeditiously and favorably pass H.R. 2400 to amend the Organic Act recognizing the Supreme Court of Guam as the highest court of Guam and to firmly establish the Judicial Branch as a separate, co-equal branch within the government of Guam; and be it further

Resolved, That the Speaker certify, and the Legislative Secretary attest to, the adoption hereof and that copies of the same be thereafter transmitted to the Honorable Madeleine Z. Bordallo, Member of Congress, U.S. House of Representatives; to the Honorable Richard Pombo, Chairman, House Resources Committee; to the Honorable Pete Domenici, Chairman, Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee; to Attorney Joaquin C. Arriola, Jr., President of the Guam Bar Association; to the Honorable F. Philip Carbullido, Chief Justice, Supreme Court of Guam; and to the Honorable Felix P. Camacho, I Magálahen Guåhan.

Duly and regularly adopted by I Mina'bente Siete na Liheslaturan Guåhan on the 23rd day of April, 2004.

vincente (ben) c. pangelinan, Speaker.

TINA ROSE MUÑA BARNES, Senator and Legislative Secretary.

JUDICIAL COUNCIL RESOLUTION NO. JC04–008

RELATIVE TO SUPPORTING AN AMENDMENT TO THE ORGANIC ACT OF GUAM TO CLARIFY THE LOCAL JUDICIAL STRUCTURE OF GUAM

Whereas, the Organic Act of Guam as it was originally drafted, did not authorize the establishment of a local appellate court;

Whereas, in 1977 the Guam Legislature's first attempt to create a Supreme Court of Guam was struck down by the United States Supreme Court because the Organic Act did not so authorize the Legislature;

Whereas, in 1984, the United States Congress amended the Organic Act of Guam to authorize the Guam Legislature to create a local appellate court;

Whereas, bi-partisan legislators, executive and judicial branch officials, legal practitioners and the community-at-large worked together to create Public Law 21–147, the Frank G. Lujan Memorial Court Reorganization Act of 1992, which re-organized the Judiciary, created the Supreme Court of Guam as the island's highest appellate court and established it as the administrative head of the Judicial Branch;

Whereas, in 1996 the Supreme Court of Guam was empaneled in accordance with the provisions of the Frank G. Lujan Memorial Act;

Whereas, the Supreme Court of Guam has since been subjected to frequent legislative changes, stripping it of administrative authority over the Judicial Branch thereby eroding the independence of the Guam Judiciary and compromising the traditional tripartite democratic system of government;

Whereas, in reaffirming the original intent of local and federal lawmakers who sought to create a Supreme Court of Guam with the Supreme Court as the head of the island Judiciary, the Twenty-Seventh Guam Legislature passed Public Law 27–31 ''An Act to Reorganize the Judiciary as the Third Co-Equal and Independent Branch of the Government of Guam . . .'' in October 2003;

Whereas, since November of 2003, the Supreme Court of Guam has taken its rightful role as the head of the Judicial Branch;

Whereas, since November of 2003, the newly composed Judicial Council has aggressively striven to unify the judiciary and improve the administration of justice in Guam;

Whereas, Public Law 27–31 and similar local legislation can be amended or repealed at any time, thus further threatening the independence of the Guam Judiciary;

Whereas, local legislators, officials and residents alike believe that, absent a Guam constitution, an amendment to the Organic Act is needed to firmly establish the Judicial Branch of Guam, with the Supreme Court of Guam at its head, as a separate, co-equal and independent branch within the Government of Guam;

Whereas, on April 23, 2004 the Twenty-Seventh Guam Legislature, with near unanimous bi-partisan support, passed a resolution supporting and requesting the United States Congress to amend the Organic Act of Guam to establish the Supreme Court as the highest court of Guam and establish the judiciary as a separate and co-equal branch of government;

Whereas, H.R. 2400, amending the Organic Act of Guam to establish the Supreme Court as the highest court in Guam to protect the independence of the Guam judiciary and to maintain the Judicial Branch as a separate and co-equal branch of government, was introduced by Congresswoman Madeleine Z. Bordallo.

Now, therefore be it resolved, that the Judicial Council of Guam hereby respectfully requests the United States Congress to expeditiously and favorably pass H.R. 2400 to amend the Organic Act recognizing the Supreme Court of Guam as the highest court of Guam and to firmly establish the Judicial Branch as a separate, co-equal branch within the government of Guam; and

Be it further resolved, that the Judicial Council of Guam hereby respectfully requests the support of the Governor and the continued support of the Legislature for the passage of H.R. 2400; and

Be it further resolved, that copies of this Resolution be provided to the Honorable Madeleine Z. Bordallo, member of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Honorable Richard Pombo, Chairman, House Resources Committee, the Honorable Pete Domenici, Chairman, Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee, Mr. Joaquin C. Arriola, Jr., President of the Guam Bar Association, the Honorable Felix P. Camacho, the Governor of Guam and the Honorable Vicente C. Pangelinan, Speaker of the Guam Legislature

Duly adopted this 30th day of April, 2004 at a duly noticed meeting of the Judicial Council of Guam.

Chief Justice F. Philip Carbullido, Charman, Date: May 6, 2004.

Attest:

Julie M. Lujan-Torres, Secretary, Date: May 6, 2004.

In closing, Madam Speaker, I want to thank my colleagues who have cosponsored this legislation to establish an independent and coequal judiciary in Guam, including my good friend, the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. FLAKE), who has taken an active interest in this legislation and has traveled to Guam; the gentleman from Montana (Mr. REHBERG); the gentleman from California (Mr. GALLEGLY), the former chairman of the Subcommittee on Insular Affairs; the gentleman from Hawaii (Mr. ABERCROMBIE); the gentleman from American Samoa (Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA); the gentlewoman from the Virgin Islands (Mrs. CHRISTENSEN); and the gentleman from Puerto Rico (Mr. ACEVEDO-VILÁ).

I appreciate their support in this effort, as well as the support of the gentleman from California (Chairman POMBO), the chairman of the Committee on Resources, who has done a great deal to see that this legislation was put forward, and the gentleman from West Virginia (Mr. RAHALL), our ranking member. Their leadership in shepherding H.R. 2400 to this point in the process is also appreciated, and I thank them for their support as well.

Madam Speaker, I yield I urge unanimous passage of this bill.

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

Mr. RADANOVICH. Madam Speaker, I urge adoption of this bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. BLACKBURN). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. RADANOVICH) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2400.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

PROVIDING FOR TEMPORARY EXTENSION OF PROGRAMS UNDER SMALL BUSINESS ACT AND SMALL BUSINESS INVESTMENT ACT OF 1958

Mrs. CAPITO. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 5008) to provide an additional temporary extension of programs under the Small Business Act and the Small Business Investment Act of 1958 through September 30, 2004, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 5008

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

SECTION 1. ADDITIONAL TEMPORARY EXTENSION OF PROGRAMS UNDER SMALL BUSINESS ACT AND SMALL BUSINESS INVESTMENT ACT OF 1958.

The authorization for any program, authority, or provision, including any pilot program, that was extended through June 4, 2004, by section 1 of Public Law 108–217 is further extended through September 30, 2004, under the same terms and conditions.

SEC. 2. TECHNICAL AMENDMENT.

Section 2 of Public Law 108–205 is amended by striking ''October 1, 2003'' and inserting ''March 15, 2004''. The amendment made by the preceding sentence shall take effect as if included in the enactment of the section to which it relates.

SEC. 3. COMPENSATION OF AGENTS.

Section 5 of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 634) is amended—

(1) in subsection (g)(4), by adding at the end the following:

''(C) The Administration may contract with an agent to carry out, on behalf of the Administration, the assessment and collection of the annual fee established under section 7(a)(23). The agent may receive, as compensation for services, any interest earned

on the fee while in the control of the agent before the time at which the agent is contractually required to remit the fee to the Administration.''; and

(2) in subsection (h)—

(A) by redesignating paragraph (2) as paragraph (3); and

(B) by inserting after paragraph (1) the following:

''(2) The agent described in paragraph (1)(B) may be compensated through any of the fees assessed under this section and any interest earned on any funds collected by the agent while such funds are in the control of the agent and before the time at which the agent is contractually required to transfer such funds to the Administration or to the holders of the trust certificates, as appropriate.''.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. FLAKE). Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from West Virginia (Mrs. CAPITO) and the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. VELÁZQUEZ) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from West Virginia (Mrs. CAPITO).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mrs. CAPITO. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 5008.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, this bill extends until September 30 the programs of the Small Business Administration not covered by an appropriation, including the Preferred Surety Bond Program, SBA's Private Sector Cosponsorship Authority, the Small Disadvantaged Business Procurement Assistance Program, the Small Business Development Center Drug-Free Workplace Assistance Grants Program and the Very Small Business Concerns Program.

Last June, the House acted responsibly by passing H.R. 4478 to extend the programs of the SBA, but the other body failed to act. These programs have been in limbo since June 4, and it is important that they are extended while we continue to work on an SBA reauthorization bill.

In addition, H.R. 5008 would help many existing Women's Business Centers keep their doors open. Passage of H.R. 5008 would free up the remaining $4 million already appropriated for the program this year to provide at a minimum approximately $70,000 to each Women's Business Center and sustainability status.

Finally, H.R. 5008 corrects a legal problem regarding how the SBA pays fiscal transfer agents, who provide a vital role in the secondary market. For nearly 10 years, the SBA's fiscal transfer agent has been paid by a float on interest on the pools of securitized 7(a) guaranteed loans. Recently there has been some confusion as to whether or not this practice violates the Anti-Deficiency Act. The SBA has proposed a fix to this problem, and that solution is incorporated in section 3 of H.R. 5008, which essentially codifies the existing practice.

Passage of this legislation is needed in order to prevent the crippling of the SBA's 7(a) loan program, because without the liquidity of a secondary market banks will not make as many 7(a) loans as in the past.

This bipartisan bill has the support of the ranking minority member, the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. VELÁZQUEZ), and it has the support of the Bush administration. I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 5008.

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

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

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

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, we are here today because Congress has failed to complete its work. Over 1 year ago, the Committee on Small Business unanimously reported out a bipartisan reauthorization bill. As a result of the failure to move this legislation, the authorization for the SBA expired last year and we are now forced to pass our fourth extension. Shamefully, the agency has been operating for 3 months without any authorization.

It is clear that the Nation's job creators, small businesses, are struggling. The United States has lost 1.7 million jobs since 2001, and we are continuing to see growth rates that only keep up with inflation. American manufacturers are being hit hardest, with 2.7 million jobs lost during that period and 11,000 lost in June alone. This is clearly not the picture of an economy that is getting back on its feet.

Last week, the House Committee on Small Business Democrats released a quarterly small business index showing that business conditions are at 7-year lows. Skyrocketing health care and energy costs and exploding Federal budget deficits are but a few of the barriers small firms face in achieving the growth our economy needs so badly.

At a time when we should be providing our Nation's entrepreneurs a leg up, this administration and the Republican Congress has continuously failed to provide the assistance they need by blocking passage of the SBA reauthorization.

The bipartisan reauthorization bill will provide the most comprehensive overhaul of the SBA in over a decade. It will broaden or modernize the SBA loan programs so firms can access the capital they need. At a time when the Federal Government failed to meet the small business contracting goals for the fourth consecutive year, the Republican leadership is blocking this bill that will expand procurement opportunities for small companies.

The legislation ensures small firms are given a fair chance to break into the Federal marketplace. By doing so, we provide the Federal Government a quality service at a good price. This is not just good for small businesses, it is good for the American taxpayer. Additionally, the likelihood of success for small business is nearly doubled when they have access to technical assistance.

Passage of the reauthorization bill will offer the greatest expansion of entrepreneurial assistance programs in decades.

Even more concerning is the possibility that our failure to act will actually worsen the business environment for small businesses. Small businesses are faced with a possible doubling of fees on SBA loans at the end of this month. Without immediate action, the current structure will lapse, leaving banks and entrepreneurs in a worse situation than when the program was shut down last year.

Although the gentleman from Illinois (Chairman MANZULLO), who cannot be here today, has tried repeatedly to bring this bill up for consideration, the Republican House leadership and the administration have blocked it.

In today's economic climate, small businesses are more important than ever. We need to ensure that they have all the tools for success, as they are facing numerous obstacles. It is unfortunate that we are here today passing an extension, rather than celebrating the passage of an SBA reauthorization.

These issues should not be subject to partisan politics. When our small businesses need us the most, our committee was able to work in a bipartisan manner to produce this legislation. We now ask the Republican leadership to recognize these efforts and pass the reauthorization bill that will get small businesses back creating jobs.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Guam (Ms. BORDALLO).

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 5008, and I would like to take this time to thank the chairman of the Committee on Small Business, the gentleman from Illinois (Chairman MANZULLO), and the ranking member, the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. VELÁZQUEZ), for their continued leadership in crafting a long-term reauthorization of the Small Business Administration.

As you know, Mr. Speaker, H.R. 5008 will provide temporary reauthorization of the Small Business Administration. While I support H.R. 5008, I do share the ranking member's frustration that we still have not had the opportunity to vote to pass a permanent reauthorization of the Small Business Administration, and consequently this raises concerns about the future of the 7(a) loan guarantee program, which is often the only source of long-term financing on reasonable terms for small businesses, particularly those in poor, rural and underserved areas.

While H.R. 5008 will maintain the current authority for the 7(a) program,

small business owners will see a doubling of administration fees.

As you know, Mr. Speaker, the Committee on Small Business approved on a unanimous, bipartisan basis a permanent Small Business Administration reauthorization, H.R. 2802. The committee marked up this bill on July 21, 2003. H.R. 2802 would revise the 7(a) fee calculation for small businesses, avoiding the increase that they will otherwise face under the current authority.

□ 1715

These small firms represent the future of our economy, Mr. Speaker, as they account for 75 percent of all new jobs created in the United States.

Therefore, I hope that we can work together to resolve any outstanding issues with respect to this bill and move this important legislation to the floor before we recess. In the meantime, I respectfully urge my colleagues to vote today in favor of the temporary reauthorization.

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

While reauthorization is extremely important, I think it would behoove us at this time to really think about all of the things that have been done and are in the process of being done for small businesses here and across America.

Twenty-five million small business owners will receive tax relief, totaling $75 billion. That is real savings. The rate reductions in the tax benefit plan is more than 90 percent small business. We also have raised the small business expensing limit from $25,000 to $100,000, and I can tell my colleagues in my home State of West Virginia, small businesses are beginning to do and beginning to feel the growth effects of being able to hire another person, being able to buy that extra piece of equipment as a result of the tax incentives.

Regulation, which is another burdensome thing on small business, this administration has slowed the growth of burdensome new rules by 75 percent. Also, small businesses saved $7 billion last year in regulatory costs, and that is significant.

We have worked a lot to try to incent and grow our small businesses, and there is always more, much more, that can be done. But in terms of government procurement, for the first time in many years, the Federal Government exceeded its small business goal by providing a record $65.5 billion in prime contracts to small businesses. That is a significant increase over past years.

So, in conclusion, I would like to say that reauthorization of SBA is exceedingly important to small business, and what we are doing here today in extending the authorization is extremely important. But much has been done and much needs to still continue to be done to help small business, which is the backbone of our American economy.

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

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

I would like to set the record straight regarding the tax cut that the President submitted to Congress and that Congress passed.

The tax cuts are not helping small businesses. The President's tax cuts have provided little relief for small businesses. In fact, under the latest tax cut, over half of small businesses receive less than $500, despite a cost of $350 billion. And, while the President talks about how the top tax rate cut helps small businesses, only 1 percent of small business owners benefit from the reduction in the top tax rate. In fact, out of the 28 million small businesses, only 180,000 benefited from the top tax rate, according to the figures presented to us by the Department of the Treasury. Those are your own numbers. Less than 5 percent of the latest 2003 Jobs and Growth package was in the form of targeted tax relief for small businesses.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from the Virgin Islands (Mrs. CHRISTENSEN).

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

Although I would rather be here to support the SBA reauthorization, I rise today in support of H.R. 5008, which would simply, once again, extend the important programs under the Small Business Act and the Small Business Investment Act.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 5008 marks the fourth extension of the SBA programs. The House Committee on Small Business passed the extension on the SBA programs with bipartisan support a year ago. I want to take this opportunity to commend the leadership of our ranking member, the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. VELÁZQUEZ), and our chairman for their strong leadership and their bipartisanship in working on that reauthorization.

Yet, the House leadership has failed to bring this bill to the floor for a vote. Why?

The leadership in this and the other body give a lot of lip service to small business. We constantly tout them as the backbone and the engines of our economy. Yet, on legislation as critical to their and, thus, our Nation's well-being as the reauthorization of programs on which they depend, this Congress has, once again, failed to act.

It is getting late in the year. Our small businesses cannot wait. They need security now. They need the assurance that the programs they will need to continue will be there now. They need to know what to expect, and we need to stop these stop-gap measures and give them that security and that assurance.

I am particularly concerned because I have heard Members ask, Why should we continue to fund agencies and programs that have not been reauthorized?

Mr. Speaker, actions speak louder than words. Failure to act on this legislation is sending the message that our Nation's small businesses are not a priority for this administration. But they are very important to both the Democrats and the Republicans on the committee.

It is also of great concern that this bill fails to address the current problem of high fees associated with the 7(a) program, the flagship lending program for the Small Business Administration. If the leadership fails to bring the reauthorization to a vote by the end of this month, the 7(a) lending program will once again be in jeopardy.

It is a good thing that, in our districts, the agencies charged with supporting small businesses are doing what they need to do. On that positive note, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize and congratulate the University of the Virgin Islands Small Business Development Center, the university president, Dr. Laverne Ragster, and the SBDC director, Mr. Warren Bush, for successfully hosting its Small Business Innovation Research Program and Small Business Technology Transfer Program Orientation Conference last week.

Finally, on a bill previously before this body today, I want to take this opportunity to also join my colleagues in supporting House Resolution 717 and belatedly extend, on behalf of all of my constituents in the U.S. Virgin Islands, our best wishes to President Bill Clinton on his 58th birthday, as well as to wish him a continued speedy recovery, many, many more birthdays and good health and happiness, and God's richest blessings on him and his family.

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

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. TIERNEY).

Mr. TIERNEY. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman from New York, both for yielding me this time and for bringing this matter to the floor today.

It is obviously essential that we finally take some action on this legislation. We need to extend critical funding to women's business centers across the United States. In particular, the Center for Women and Enterprise in Boston serves many of the constituents in my district and throughout the State of Massachusetts. It has been long overdue, and many of these centers have already suffered because of Congress's inaction.

It is a bit disturbing to know that it has been 10 months since the Small Business Administration authorization bill has expired. And it continues to linger, and we need the majority to come forward and the White House to come forward at this point in time and bring it and put it on the agenda. Everybody has great rhetoric about how important small businesses are to our country, to our districts and to the economy. But now it is time to put that rhetoric into action and make sure we move on this bill.

We do not have to tell people or remind them about how this economy is suffering: almost 2 million jobs lost in the last several years and still not anywhere near back to where we were in January of 2001.

We know what a generator of jobs, what a booster of the economy small businesses can be, and we also know how important the Small Business Administration is in providing capital for these businesses. So if we could do the bill that is before us today but also bring forward the Small Business Administration reauthorization, we could deal with that issue of capital.

At a time when the economy is suffering as much as it is, many businesses are starting to fail. They need that capital so that they can retool. Some need it to grow. And we need some new businesses to fill in where others have left. That cannot happen without this bill coming forward.

The so-called 7(a) loans are by far the most critical capital vehicles that we have for small businesses: $11 billion in loans to small businesses every year. That aspect has to be assured to businesses. If we do nothing by the end of this month, fees for that will double, freezing out many businesses from the opportunity to get access to this money so that they can expand or they can start up.

Time after time, we hear on the floor and we hear in people's individual districts how much they feel for small business and how certain they are that small businesses add to the benefit of our country.

Mr. Speaker, we need to put our money where our mouth is. We need this measure to be brought forward. I support today's bill because it does a good thing, particularly with respect to the women's business centers across the country, but realize that we have to do more and move the Small Business Administration reauthorization forward.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, there is no disagreement that we should pass this extension. It is, though, embarrassing that it has come to this. We expect small businesses to meet their taxes, comply with Federal regulations and pay their employees on time. But when it comes to Congress, we are not held accountable for our failure to meet their needs.

At a time when our economy is struggling, at a time when small businesses are struggling, Congress should be holding up its end of the deal. Passing the Small Business Administration Reauthorization Act must be a priority.

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

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

I would like to thank the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. VELÁZQUEZ) for not only her advocacy for this bill before us today, but for her advocacy for small business. She is one of the staunchest cheerleaders for small businesses across this Nation, and I appreciate her service and her ability to get things done.

I thank our chairman, the gentleman from Illinois (Chairman MANZULLO), who is not with us today, to thank him also for his small business advocacy. It is good to know that we have a bipartisan opinion on this bill. I look forward to its passage, and I look forward to all of us working together to see that small business not only grows but thrives under this bill and also under further legislation.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. FLAKE). The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from West Virginia (Mrs. CAPITO) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 5008.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until approximately 6:30 p.m.

Accordingly (at 5 o'clock and 27 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess until approximately 6:30 p.m.

□ 1830

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. WALDEN of Oregon) at 6 o'clock and 30 minutes p.m.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, proceedings will resume on motions to suspend the rules previously postponed.

Votes will be taken in the following order:

House Concurrent Resolution 363, by the yeas and nays;

House Resolution 667, by the yeas and nays; and

House Resolution 760, by the yeas and nays.

The first electronic vote will be conducted as a 15-minute vote. The second and third vote in this series will be 5-minute votes.

EXPRESSING GRAVE CONCERN OF CONGRESS REGARDING CONTINUING GROSS VIOLATIONS OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND CIVIL LIBERTIES OF SYRIAN PEOPLE BY GOVERNMENT OF SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The pending business is the question of suspending the rules and agreeing to the concurrent resolution, H. Con. Res. 363, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the concurrent resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution, H. Con. Res. 363, as amended, on which the yeas and nays are ordered.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 342, nays 0, answered ''present'' 1, not voting 90, as follows:

[Roll No. 441]

YEAS—342

Abercrombie
Aderholt
Akin
Alexander
Allen
Andrews
Baca
Bachus
Baird
Baldwin
Barrett (SC)
Bartlett (MD)
Barton (TX)
Bass
Becerra
Bell
Berkley
Berman
Berry
Bilirakis
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (NY)
Blackburn
Blumenauer
Blunt
Boehner
Bonilla
Bonner
Bono
Boswell
Boucher
Boyd
Bradley (NH)
Brady (PA)
Brady (TX)
Brown (SC)
Brown, Corrine
Brown-Waite, Ginny
Burgess
Burns
Burton (IN)
Butterfield
Buyer
Calvert
Camp
Cantor
Capito
Capps
Cardin
Cardoza
Carson (IN)
Case
Castle
Chabot
Chandler
Chocola
Clyburn
Coble
Cole
Collins
Cooper
Costello
Cox
Cramer
Crane
Crenshaw
Cubin
Culberson
Cummings
Cunningham
Davis (AL)
Davis (CA)
Davis (FL)
Davis (IL)
Davis (TN)
Davis, Jo Ann
Davis, Tom
Deal (GA)
DeFazio
DeGette
Delahunt
DeLauro
DeLay
Deutsch
Diaz-Balart, L.
Diaz-Balart, M.
Dicks
Dingell
Doggett
Dooley (CA)
Doolittle
Doyle
Dreier
Duncan
Dunn
Edwards
Ehlers
Emanuel
Eshoo
Etheridge
Farr
Fattah
Feeney
Ferguson
Filner
Flake
Foley
Forbes
Ford
Fossella
Frank (MA)
Franks (AZ)
Frelinghuysen
Gallegly
Garrett (NJ)
Gibbons
Gilchrest
Gillmor
Gingrey
Gonzalez
Goode
Goodlatte
Gordon
Granger
Graves
Green (TX)
Green (WI)
Greenwood
Gutknecht
Hall
Harman
Harris
Hart
Hastings (WA)
Hayes
Hayworth
Hefley
Hensarling
Herseth
Hill
Hinojosa
Hobson
Holden
Holt
Honda
Hooley (OR)
Hostettler
Hoyer
Hulshof
Hunter
Hyde
Israel
Issa
Istook
Jackson (IL)
Jackson-Lee (TX)
Jefferson
Jenkins
John
Johnson (CT)
Johnson (IL)
Johnson, Sam
Jones (NC)
Jones (OH)
Kanjorski
Keller
Kelly
Kennedy (MN)
Kildee
Kilpatrick
Kind
King (IA)
King (NY)
Kingston
Kirk
Kline
Knollenberg
Kolbe
LaHood
Lampson
Lantos
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Latham

Leach
Lee
Levin
Lewis (CA)
Lewis (GA)
Lewis (KY)
Linder
LoBiondo
Lofgren
Lowey
Lucas (OK)
Maloney
Manzullo
Marshall
Matheson
McCarthy (MO)
McCarthy (NY)
McCollum
McCotter
McCrery
McDermott
McHugh
McIntyre
McNulty
Meehan
Meek (FL)
Meeks (NY)
Menendez
Mica
Michaud
Millender-McDonald
Miller (FL)
Miller (MI)
Miller (NC)
Miller, Gary
Miller, George
Mollohan
Moore
Moran (KS)
Moran (VA)
Murphy
Musgrave
Myrick
Nadler
Napolitano
Neugebauer
Ney
Northup
Norwood
Nunes
Nussle
Oberstar
Obey
Olver
Ortiz
Osborne
Ose
Otter
Oxley
Pallone
Pastor
Payne
Pearce
Pelosi
Pence
Peterson (MN)
Petri
Pickering
Pitts
Platts
Pombo
Pomeroy
Porter
Portman
Price (NC)
Putnam
Radanovich
Rahall
Ramstad
Rehberg
Renzi
Reyes
Reynolds
Rodriguez
Rogers (AL)
Rohrabacher
Ros-Lehtinen
Ross
Rothman
Roybal-Allard
Royce
Ruppersberger
Rush
Ryan (OH)
Ryan (WI)
Ryun (KS)
Sánchez, Linda T.
Sanchez, Loretta
Schiff
Scott (GA)
Scott (VA)
Sensenbrenner
Sessions
Shadegg
Shaw
Shays
Sherman
Sherwood
Shimkus
Shuster
Simmons
Skelton
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Snyder
Solis
Souder
Spratt
Stearns
Stenholm
Strickland
Stupak
Sullivan
Tancredo
Tanner
Tauscher
Terry
Thomas
Thompson (CA)
Thornberry
Tiahrt
Tiberi
Tierney
Turner (OH)
Udall (CO)
Upton
Van Hollen
Velázquez
Visclosky
Walden (OR)
Walsh
Wamp
Watson
Watt
Weldon (FL)
Weldon (PA)
Weller
Wexler
Whitfield
Wicker
Wilson (NM)
Wilson (SC)
Wolf
Woolsey
Wu
Wynn
Young (AK)
Young (FL)

ANSWERED ''PRESENT''—1

Waters

NOT VOTING—90

Ackerman
Baker
Ballenger
Beauprez
Biggert
Bishop (UT)
Boehlert
Boozman
Brown (OH)
Burr
Cannon
Capuano
Carson (OK)
Carter
Clay
Conyers
Crowley
DeMint
Emerson
Engel
English
Evans
Everett
Frost
Gephardt
Gerlach
Goss
Grijalva
Gutierrez
Hastings (FL)
Herger
Hinchey
Hoeffel
Hoekstra
Houghton
Inslee
Isakson
Johnson, E. B.
Kaptur
Kennedy (RI)
Kleczka
Kucinich
Langevin
LaTourette
Lipinski
Lucas (KY)
Lynch
Majette
Markey
Matsui
McGovern
McInnis
McKeon
Murtha
Neal (MA)
Nethercutt
Owens
Pascrell
Paul
Peterson (PA)
Pryce (OH)
Quinn
Rangel
Regula
Rogers (KY)
Rogers (MI)
Sabo
Sanders
Sandlin
Saxton
Schakowsky
Schrock
Serrano
Simpson
Slaughter
Smith (MI)
Smith (WA)
Stark
Sweeney
Tauzin
Taylor (MS)
Taylor (NC)
Thompson (MS)
Toomey
Towns
Turner (TX)
Udall (NM)
Vitter
Waxman
Weiner

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. WALDEN of Oregon) (during the vote). Members are advised there are 2 minutes remaining in this vote.

□ 1857

Mr. TIERNEY changed his vote from ''nay'' to ''yea.''

So (two-thirds of those present having voted in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the concurrent resolution, as amended, was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

The title of the concurrent resolution was amended so as to read: ''Concurrent resolution expressing the grave concern of Congress regarding the continuing gross violations of human rights and civil liberties of the Syrian and Lebanese people by the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic.''.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, and notwithstanding intervening debate, the next two electronic votes will be conducted as 5-minute votes.

There was no objection.

IN HONOR OF WILLIAM D. FORD

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

Mr. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise with great sadness this evening to announce the death of our dear friend and former colleague, Congressman William D. Ford. He died on August 14.

Congressman Ford spent 3 decades serving the Nation in this institution. He was a great champion for the causes that concerned so many Americans, from ensuring that each child had a quality education to become successful citizens, to making sure that our workplaces were safer.

His father's death in a factory accident lead to a lifelong commitment to protect the health and safety of employees in the workplace. Congressman Ford worked every day in his life to be the champion of the working poor and the middle class.

Bill Ford was a member of the House from 1965 to 1995, representing Michigan's 15th and 13th congressional districts. During his 30-year-and-more tenure, he served as chairman of the House Committee on the Post Office and Civil Service, as well as the chairman of the Committee on Education and Labor.

He was the oldest son of immigrant Spanish parents and the first member of his family to attend college. He served his Nation in the United States Navy. He attended the University of Denver on the GI Bill.

He was the author of many important pieces of legislation to benefit ordinary, working Americans.

Prior to serving in the Congress, he was a delegate to the Michigan Constitutional Convention and a member of the Michigan State Senate. He served as city attorney in a number of communities in Michigan.

He is survived by his three children, William D. Ford, Jr.; Margaret Van Fleet Ford; and John Ford; three grandchildren; a sister, Janet Ford; and a brother, Robert Ford.

Our Nation is a better place because of his work and dedication. His life left a mark on this Nation. His death is a tremendous loss, and those of my colleagues who knew him understand the sorrow that I feel tonight, as I am sure they feel their own.

A memorial service will be held tomorrow in Washington.

EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR FREEDOM IN HONG KONG

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The pending business is the question of suspending the rules and agreeing to the resolution, H. Res. 667.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 667, on which the yeas and nays are ordered.

This will be a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 345, nays 0, answered ''present'' 1, not voting 87, as follows:

[Roll No. 442]

YEAS—345

Abercrombie
Aderholt
Akin
Alexander
Allen
Andrews
Baca
Bachus
Baird
Baldwin
Barrett (SC)
Bartlett (MD)
Barton (TX)
Bass
Becerra
Bell
Berkley
Berman
Berry
Bilirakis
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (NY)
Blackburn
Blumenauer
Blunt
Boehner
Bonilla
Bonner
Bono
Boswell
Boucher
Boyd
Bradley (NH)
Brady (PA)
Brady (TX)
Brown (SC)
Brown, Corrine
Brown-Waite, Ginny
Burgess
Burns
Burton (IN)
Butterfield
Buyer
Calvert
Camp
Cantor
Capito
Capps
Cardin
Cardoza
Carson (IN)
Case
Castle
Chabot
Chandler
Chocola
Clyburn
Coble
Cole
Collins
Cooper
Costello
Cox
Cramer
Crane
Crenshaw
Cubin
Culberson
Cummings
Cunningham
Davis (AL)
Davis (CA)
Davis (FL)
Davis (IL)
Davis (TN)
Davis, Jo Ann
Davis, Tom
Deal (GA)
DeFazio
DeGette
Delahunt
DeLauro
DeLay
Deutsch
Diaz-Balart, L.
Diaz-Balart, M.
Dicks
Dingell
Doggett
Dooley (CA)
Doolittle
Doyle
Dreier
Duncan
Dunn
Edwards
Ehlers
Emanuel
Eshoo
Etheridge
Farr
Fattah
Feeney
Ferguson
Filner
Flake
Foley
Forbes
Ford
Fossella
Frank (MA)
Franks (AZ)
Frelinghuysen
Gallegly
Garrett (NJ)
Gibbons
Gilchrest
Gillmor
Gingrey
Gonzalez
Goode
Goodlatte
Gordon
Granger
Graves
Green (WI)
Greenwood
Gutknecht
Hall
Harman
Harris
Hart
Hastings (WA)
Hayes
Hayworth
Hefley
Hensarling

Herseth
Hill
Hinojosa
Hobson
Holden
Holt
Honda
Hooley (OR)
Hostettler
Hoyer
Hulshof
Hunter
Hyde
Israel
Issa
Istook
Jackson (IL)
Jackson-Lee (TX)
Jefferson
Jenkins
John
Johnson (CT)
Johnson (IL)
Johnson, Sam
Jones (NC)
Jones (OH)
Kanjorski
Keller
Kelly
Kennedy (MN)
Kildee
Kilpatrick
Kind
King (IA)
King (NY)
Kingston
Kirk
Kline
Knollenberg
Kolbe
LaHood
Lampson
Lantos
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Latham
Leach
Lee
Levin
Lewis (CA)
Lewis (GA)
Lewis (KY)
Linder
LoBiondo
Lofgren
Lowey
Lucas (OK)
Maloney
Manzullo
Marshall
Matheson
McCarthy (MO)
McCarthy (NY)
McCollum
McCotter
McCrery
McDermott
McHugh
McIntyre
McKeon
McNulty
Meehan
Meek (FL)
Meeks (NY)
Menendez
Mica
Michaud
Millender-McDonald
Miller (FL)
Miller (MI)
Miller (NC)
Miller, Gary
Miller, George
Mollohan
Moore
Moran (KS)
Moran (VA)
Murphy
Musgrave
Myrick
Nadler
Napolitano
Neugebauer
Ney
Northup
Norwood
Nunes
Nussle
Oberstar
Obey
Olver
Ortiz
Osborne
Ose
Otter
Oxley
Pallone
Pastor
Payne
Pearce
Pelosi
Pence
Peterson (MN)
Petri
Pickering
Pitts
Platts
Pombo
Pomeroy
Porter
Portman
Price (NC)
Putnam
Radanovich
Rahall
Ramstad
Rangel
Regula
Rehberg
Renzi
Reyes
Reynolds
Rodriguez
Rogers (AL)
Rohrabacher
Ros-Lehtinen
Ross
Rothman
Roybal-Allard
Royce
Ruppersberger
Rush
Ryan (OH)
Ryan (WI)
Ryun (KS)
Sánchez, Linda T.
Sanchez, Loretta
Sanders
Schiff
Scott (GA)
Scott (VA)
Sensenbrenner
Sessions
Shadegg
Shaw
Shays
Sherman
Sherwood
Shimkus
Shuster
Simmons
Simpson
Skelton
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Snyder
Solis
Souder
Spratt
Stearns
Stenholm
Strickland
Stupak
Sullivan
Tancredo
Tanner
Tauscher
Terry
Thomas
Thompson (CA)
Thornberry
Tiahrt
Tiberi
Tierney
Turner (OH)
Udall (CO)
Upton
Van Hollen
Velázquez
Visclosky
Walden (OR)
Walsh
Wamp
Watson
Watt
Weldon (FL)
Weldon (PA)
Weller
Wexler
Whitfield
Wicker
Wilson (SC)
Wolf
Woolsey
Wu
Wynn
Young (AK)
Young (FL)

ANSWERED ''PRESENT''—1

Waters

NOT VOTING—87

Ackerman
Baker
Ballenger
Beauprez
Biggert
Bishop (UT)
Boehlert
Boozman
Brown (OH)
Burr
Cannon
Capuano
Carson (OK)
Carter
Clay
Conyers
Crowley
DeMint
Emerson
Engel
English
Evans
Everett
Frost
Gephardt
Gerlach
Goss
Green (TX)
Grijalva
Gutierrez
Hastings (FL)
Herger
Hinchey
Hoeffel
Hoekstra
Houghton
Inslee
Isakson
Johnson, E. B.
Kaptur
Kennedy (RI)
Kleczka
Kucinich
Langevin
LaTourette
Lipinski
Lucas (KY)
Lynch
Majette
Markey
Matsui
McGovern
McInnis
Murtha
Neal (MA)
Nethercutt
Owens
Pascrell
Paul
Peterson (PA)
Pryce (OH)
Quinn
Rogers (KY)
Rogers (MI)
Sabo
Sandlin
Saxton
Schakowsky
Schrock
Serrano
Slaughter
Smith (MI)
Smith (WA)
Stark
Sweeney
Tauzin
Taylor (MS)
Taylor (NC)
Thompson (MS)
Toomey
Towns
Turner (TX)
Udall (NM)
Vitter
Waxman
Weiner
Wilson (NM)

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. WALDEN of Oregon) (during the vote). Members are advised there are 2 minutes remaining in this vote.

□ 1908

So (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the resolution was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

Stated for:

Mrs. WILSON of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 442 I was inadvertently detained. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

CONDEMNING TERRORIST ATTACKS AGAINST RUSSIAN FEDERATION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The pending business is the question of suspending the rules and agreeing to the resolution, H. Res. 760.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. ROYCE) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 760, on which the yeas and nays are ordered.

This will be a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 347, nays 0, not voting 86, as follows:

[Roll No. 443]

YEAS—347

Abercrombie
Aderholt
Akin
Alexander
Allen
Andrews
Baca
Bachus
Baird
Baldwin
Barrett (SC)
Bartlett (MD)
Barton (TX)
Bass
Becerra
Bell
Berkley
Berman
Berry
Bilirakis
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (NY)
Blackburn
Blumenauer
Blunt
Boehner
Bonilla
Bonner
Bono
Boswell
Boucher
Boyd
Bradley (NH)
Brady (PA)
Brady (TX)
Brown (SC)
Brown, Corrine
Brown-Waite, Ginny
Burgess
Burns
Burton (IN)
Butterfield
Buyer
Calvert
Camp
Cantor
Capito
Capps
Cardin
Cardoza
Carson (IN)
Case
Castle
Chabot
Chandler
Chocola
Clyburn
Coble
Cole
Collins
Cooper
Costello
Cox
Cramer
Crane
Crenshaw
Cubin
Culberson
Cummings
Cunningham
Davis (AL)
Davis (CA)
Davis (FL)
Davis (IL)
Davis (TN)
Davis, Jo Ann
Davis, Tom
Deal (GA)
DeFazio
DeGette
Delahunt
DeLauro
DeLay
Deutsch
Diaz-Balart, L.
Diaz-Balart, M.
Dicks
Dingell
Doggett
Dooley (CA)
Doolittle
Doyle
Dreier
Duncan
Dunn
Edwards
Ehlers
Emanuel
Eshoo
Etheridge
Farr
Fattah
Feeney
Ferguson
Filner
Flake
Foley
Forbes
Ford
Fossella
Frank (MA)
Franks (AZ)
Frelinghuysen
Gallegly
Garrett (NJ)
Gibbons
Gilchrest
Gillmor
Gingrey
Gonzalez
Goode
Goodlatte
Gordon
Granger
Graves
Green (TX)
Green (WI)
Greenwood
Gutknecht
Hall
Harman
Harris
Hart
Hastings (WA)
Hayes
Hayworth
Hefley
Hensarling
Herseth
Hill
Hinojosa
Hobson
Holden
Holt
Honda
Hooley (OR)
Hostettler
Hoyer
Hulshof
Hunter
Hyde
Israel
Issa
Istook
Jackson (IL)
Jackson-Lee (TX)
Jefferson
Jenkins
John
Johnson (CT)
Johnson (IL)
Johnson, Sam
Jones (NC)
Jones (OH)
Kanjorski
Keller
Kelly
Kennedy (MN)
Kildee
Kilpatrick
Kind
King (IA)
King (NY)
Kingston
Kirk
Kline
Knollenberg
Kolbe
LaHood
Lampson
Lantos
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Latham
LaTourette
Leach
Lee
Levin
Lewis (CA)
Lewis (GA)
Lewis (KY)
Linder
LoBiondo
Lofgren
Lowey
Lucas (OK)
Maloney
Manzullo
Marshall
Matheson
McCarthy (MO)
McCarthy (NY)
McCollum
McCotter
McCrery
McDermott
McHugh
McIntyre
McKeon
McNulty
Meehan
Meek (FL)
Meeks (NY)
Menendez
Mica
Michaud
Millender-McDonald
Miller (FL)
Miller (MI)
Miller (NC)
Miller, Gary
Mollohan
Moore
Moran (KS)
Moran (VA)
Murphy
Musgrave
Myrick
Nadler
Napolitano
Neugebauer
Ney
Northup
Norwood
Nunes
Nussle
Oberstar
Obey
Olver
Ortiz
Osborne
Ose
Otter
Oxley
Pallone
Pastor
Payne
Pearce
Pelosi
Pence
Peterson (MN)
Petri
Pickering
Pitts
Platts
Pombo
Pomeroy
Porter
Portman
Price (NC)
Putnam
Radanovich
Rahall
Ramstad
Rangel
Regula
Rehberg
Renzi
Reyes
Reynolds
Rodriguez
Rogers (AL)
Rohrabacher
Ros-Lehtinen
Ross
Rothman
Roybal-Allard
Royce
Ruppersberger
Rush
Ryan (OH)
Ryan (WI)
Ryun (KS)
Sánchez, Linda T.
Sanchez, Loretta
Sanders
Schiff
Scott (GA)
Scott (VA)
Sensenbrenner
Sessions
Shadegg
Shaw
Shays
Sherman
Sherwood
Shimkus
Shuster
Simmons
Simpson
Skelton
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Snyder
Solis
Souder
Spratt
Stearns
Stenholm
Strickland
Stupak
Sullivan
Tancredo
Tanner
Tauscher
Terry
Thomas
Thompson (CA)
Thornberry
Tiahrt
Tiberi
Tierney
Turner (OH)
Udall (CO)
Upton
Van Hollen
Velázquez
Visclosky
Walden (OR)
Walsh
Wamp
Waters
Watson
Watt
Weldon (FL)
Weldon (PA)
Weller
Wexler
Whitfield
Wicker
Wilson (NM)
Wilson (SC)
Wolf
Wu
Wynn
Young (AK)
Young (FL)

NOT VOTING—86

Ackerman
Baker
Ballenger
Beauprez
Biggert
Bishop (UT)
Boehlert
Boozman
Brown (OH)
Burr
Cannon
Capuano
Carson (OK)
Carter
Clay
Conyers
Crowley
DeMint
Emerson
Engel
English
Evans
Everett
Frost
Gephardt
Gerlach
Goss
Grijalva
Gutierrez
Hastings (FL)
Herger
Hinchey
Hoeffel
Hoekstra
Houghton
Inslee
Isakson
Johnson, E. B.
Kaptur
Kennedy (RI)
Kleczka
Kucinich
Langevin
Lipinski
Lucas (KY)
Lynch
Majette
Markey
Matsui
McGovern
McInnis

Miller, George
Murtha
Neal (MA)
Nethercutt
Owens
Pascrell
Paul
Peterson (PA)
Pryce (OH)
Quinn
Rogers (KY)
Rogers (MI)
Sabo
Sandlin
Saxton
Schakowsky
Schrock
Serrano
Slaughter
Smith (MI)
Smith (WA)
Stark
Sweeney
Tauzin
Taylor (MS)
Taylor (NC)
Thompson (MS)
Toomey
Towns
Turner (TX)
Udall (NM)
Vitter
Waxman
Weiner
Woolsey

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

□ 1916

So (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the resolution was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 441, 442, and 443, I was in the Cleveland airport awaiting a flight which was delayed. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes" on 441, "yes" on 442, and "yes" on 443.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, on September 13, 2004, I was unavoidably absent due to an important meeting and missed Rollcall votes numbered 441 through 443.

Had I not been unavoidably detained earlier this afternoon, I would have voted "yea" on Rollcall votes No. 441, 442 and 443.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. CAPUANO. Mr. Speaker, I was not present to vote on September 13th due to the death of a close family friend.

I intended to vote "nay" on the motion to suspend the rules and agree to H. Con. Res. 363, condemning the human rights violations in Syria. While I am strongly opposed to the human rights abuses being perpetrated by the Syrian government, I am troubled by some of the language in the resolution. Specifically, the resolution states: "Whereas the family law of Syria as applied to Muslim women is governed by Sharia (Islamic) law and is discriminatory in marriage, divorce and inheritance matters." While I fundamentally disagree with this law, I feel that this statement unnecessarily denigrates the religious-based laws of a sovereign nation.

In addition, I would have voted "aye" on H. Con. Res. 667 and "aye" on H. Res. 760.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to be present for Rollcall votes 441, 442, and 443. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall votes 441, 442, and 443.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. KANJORSKI. Mr. Speaker, on September 9, 2004, I was away from Washington on official business in my district and unable to vote on several matters.

Had I been present, on rollcall 434 I would have voted "yea." On rollcall 435, I would have voted "nay." On rollcall 436, I would have voted "yea." On rollcall 437, I would have voted "yea." On rollcall 438, I would have noted "nay." On rollcall 439, I would have voted "yea." And on rollcall 440, I would have voted "yea."

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. WALDEN of Oregon). Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings today on motions to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or on which the vote is objected to under clause 6 of rule XX.

Record votes on postponed questions will be taken tomorrow.

EXPRESSING GRATITUDE TO CITIES OF BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS, AND NEW YORK CITY, NEW YORK, FOR HOSTING 2004 NATIONAL POLITICAL CONVENTIONS

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 765) expressing gratitude to the cities of Boston, Massachusetts, and New York City, New York, for their extraordinary hospitality and successful planning and hosting of the 2004 national political conventions.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. RES. 765

Whereas the Democratic National Convention was held from July 26 through July 29, 2004, in Boston, Massachusetts;

Whereas the Republican National Convention was held from August 30 through September 2, 2004, in New York City, New York;

Whereas Mayor Thomas M. Menino, the Boston 2004 Host Committee, and the people of Boston, including a large number of dedicated volunteers, were extremely gracious in their hospitality;

Whereas Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg, the New York City Host Committee 2004, and the people of New York City, including a large number of dedicated volunteers, were extremely gracious in their hospitality;

Whereas Police Commissioner Kathleen M. O'Toole and the entire Boston Police Department went to extraordinary lengths to keep Boston safe throughout the duration of the Democratic Convention;

Whereas Police Commissioner Raymond W. Kelly and the entire New York City Police Department went to extraordinary lengths to keep New York safe throughout the duration of the Republican Convention;

Whereas countless city, State, regional, and nationwide agencies cooperated to ensure the safety of each Convention, including the United States Capitol Police, which assisted the local jurisdictions, and the United States Secret Service, which coordinated Federal anti-terrorism and counter-terrorism assets for each of the Conventions as National Security Special Events;

Whereas Members of Congress, delegates from across the Nation, and other interested parties participated in the Conventions and benefited from the secure environments; and

Whereas millions of Americans watched, heard, or read about the Conventions and thereby participated in our national political process: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives thanks, pays tribute to, and expresses gratitude to all of those who assisted in the significant hospitality, logistical, and security efforts to successfully execute the 2004 national political conventions in Boston, Massachusetts, and New York City, New York.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. NEY) and the gentleman from Connecticut (Mr. LARSON) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. NEY).

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of House Resolution 765, and I am joined on the floor by our ranking member, the gentleman from Connecticut (Mr. LARSON); and it is good to be here to express the gratitude of the House of Representatives to the cities of Boston, Massachusetts, and New York, New York, for their extraordinary hospitality and successful planning and hosting of the 2004 national political conventions.

Mr. Speaker, I think I speak for everyone in the House in thanking the people of the cities of Boston and New York, their cities' host committees, and the countless volunteers for making both cities open and welcoming to the many Members of the Congress, delegates from across the Nation, and all other interested parties who participated in our great conventions.

Special recognition needs to go to the Boston Police Department and the New York City Police Department, whose professionalism and constant vigilance guaranteed not only the safety of the residents they routinely protect on a day-by-day basis but the many visitors who attended the conventions.

In addition, we have to thank the countless city, State, regional and nationwide agencies who cooperated to ensure the safety of everyone involved with both conventions. I would also like to recognize the exceptional efforts of the hundreds of United States Capitol Police Officers who provided around-the-clock security for all Members during the convention and who coordinated, of course, with the Secret Service, the FBI and, again, the New York City Police Department. And we cannot forget the firefighters in both New York and Boston that were on hand.

So I am here on a bipartisan basis, though I would note, Mr. Speaker, for the record, I did not see my colleague, the gentleman from Connecticut (Mr. LARSON), at the New York convention. But I am glad to be with him here tonight to thank both cities and everyone involved in both conventions.

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

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

(Mr. LARSON of Connecticut asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, I want to associate myself with the remarks of the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. NEY), my brilliant co-chair. And I also did not see him at the Boston convention; but, nonetheless, he would have been welcome, as was everybody there.

This is indeed a moment for us to celebrate the outstanding job that was done both in Boston and New York, led by Mayors Thomas Menino and Michael Bloomberg, respectively. Their tireless efforts to make the 2004 major-party conventions such successful events are deeply appreciated.

Mr. Speaker, I commend the two police commissioners, Kathleen O'Toole of Boston and Raymond Kelly of New York, now there is diversity for you, for making it possible for the delegates to nominate their candidates, which of course is the purpose of the convention.

I also want to thank the thousands of other public employees who helped to make this possible, not only the Boston and New York municipal governments but also at all levels, Federal, State, and local; and of course as the chairman has already pointed out, the outstanding job that was done by our Capitol Police and all the security that went into these two wonderful events.

I would especially like to thank the Massachusetts delegation for the hospitality that they provided for each and every one of us, and of course their two great Senators, Senator KENNEDY, for which this was a homecoming, and Senator KERRY as well, who was featured prominently in Boston as well, and our outstanding House delegation here from Boston as well. So I thank the chairman and join him in these remarks.

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

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume to say that I am sure the minority leader, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. PELOSI), did a wonderful job at the convention in Boston; and as far as our convention in New York, I want to thank the Speaker and also Scott Palmer, Ted Van Der Meid, and Bill Pitts, who did the rules and carried out the process at the convention and service to the Members.

Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from New York (Mr. REYNOLDS).

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

Mr. REYNOLDS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to thank the cities and residents of Boston and New York City for their tremendous efforts in hosting this year's national political conventions. With two of the Nation's most historic and vibrant cities as their backdrops, the Democrat and Republican conventions were both great successes.

Boston and New York have long been known as centers of culture, education, and heritage. After this summer's conventions, it is apparent why they are also recognized for their hospitality, charm, and warm spirit. As tens of thousands of delegates, elected officials, volunteers, and tourists converged on these great cities, countless others worked behind the scenes and on the front lines to make sure programs ran smoothly and safely. These individuals labored tirelessly, not just during the conventions but for several weeks prior, crossing every ''T'' and dotting every ''I.''

These events would not have been possible without the efforts of everyone involved. A special thanks to those at the city, State, and regional, as well as national, levels who coordinated and secured the safety of Boston and New York. This includes, of course, the city police and fire departments, the United States Secret Service, the United States Capitol Police, and numerous other agencies that coordinated protective services for both convention-goers and city residents alike.

As the first political conventions held in the post-9/11 world, our police, firefighters, and first responders faced security risks never before envisioned. True to their great reputations, the respective agencies of New York and Boston exhibited consummate professionalism and ensured the safety and security of all those attending and visiting these greats cities.

Those accolades extend as well to our Capitol Police and those Federal agencies that worked side by side with their brethren in New York and Boston to ensure a seamless coordination.

Mr. Speaker, the cities of Boston and New York have long represented the freedoms and liberty that nurtured democracy in this country. Today, several hundred years later, one of the best enduring examples of these fundamental rights is the ability to participate in the political process. National political conventions provide a forum for this participation like no other.

To all those who helped make the conventions possible, and to the gracious residents of Boston and New York, I wish to extend a heartfelt thanks on behalf of the House for helping to foster greater political participation.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this resolution and join me in expressing gratitude to the cities of Boston and New York.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. NEY) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, House Resolution 765.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the subject of House Resolution 765, the resolution just agreed to.

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

There was no objection.

ONCOLOGISTS GIVE CONGRESS BAD NEWS

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

Mr. LAMPSON. Mr. Speaker, oncology services are critical for Texans. The American Cancer Society expected 83,400 new cancer patients for Texas in 2003.

Cancer sufferers need access to care near where they live, and they need stability of care. An accessible, caring oncology clinic is welcome news for people who have heard some very bad news from their diagnosis. Congress gave some very bad news to oncologists in the passage of the Medicare bill this past session.

The American Society of Clinical Oncology came out on September 8 with their take on the effects of this bill. Their analysis finds that half of practices expect that they will pay more than they are reimbursed for specific drugs for anemia or lung, colon, or pancreas cancers; that they expect a loss of funds for community-based cancer care in the range of 43 to 54 percent; and that one-fourth of the drugs used for cancer treatment will cost the typical oncology practice more than what is covered by Medicare.

I urge my colleagues to press for restoring oncologists' ability to give cancer patients the ability and stability in treatment they need to fight their illnesses. Congress should not deny the drugs necessary to those who need them in this life or death struggle.

U.S. ECONOMY IS IN A MESS

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

Mr. MCDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, every time I hear the administration announce that the economy is going very well, I wish they could ride home on a United Airlines flight with me. On the way back today, four out of the six flight attendants raised the same question with me: Is there money in the pension guarantee fund for our pensions?

Mr. Speaker, we know that this country is in a mess. USAir declared bankruptcy this morning. There go the pension for those folks. And Delta Airlines over the weekend, they are talking

about it. They are saying if the pilots take those pensions, they will bankrupt the company; it will be gone. United is in the same position. All those people who were out there with Enron, Enron went down; and what did they have left? All they had left was Social Security. Nothing, if this administration had its way.

We have an administration that has to be changed. We have lost 1.4 million people's health insurance, 1.5 million people's jobs, and countless numbers of pensions. The regime change ought to come in 49 days.

HONORING CALIFORNIA'S 2004 OLYMPIANS

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

Ms. WATSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the participants of the 2004 Summer Olympics from California. Last month, 537 American athletes traveled to Athens to compete for what is arguably the most esteemed prize in the sporting world, an Olympic medal. Among them, were 143 athletes from my own home State of California, and I was able to witness their success.

Our California Olympians made their country proud, winning 78 medals: 31 were gold, 17 silver, and 30 bronze. As representative of the 33rd Congressional District, I would like to honor these California Olympians and their contributions to the Golden State's tradition of individual and collective human achievement.

In particular, I wish to enter into the RECORD the names of those Californians who brought home Olympic gold from Athens:

Lindsay Benko, Women's Swimming, 4x200 Meter Freestyle Relay; Laura Berg, Women's Softball; Shannon Boxx, Women's Soccer; Crystl Bustos, Women's Softball; Brandi Chastain, Women's Soccer; Natalie Coughlin, Women's Swimming, 100 Meter; Backstroke, 4x200 Meter Freestyle Relay; Matthew Deakin, Men's Rowing.

Joy Fawcett, Women's Soccer; Lisa Fernandez, Women's Softball; Jennie Finch, Women's Softball; Tairia Flowers, Women's Softball; Julie Foudy, Women's Soccer; Amanda Freed, Women's Softball; Yolanda Griffith, Women's Basketball; Joanna Hayes, Women's 100 Meter Hurdles.

Monique Henderson, Women's 4x400 Meter Relay; Lovieanne Jung, Women's Softball; Lenny Krayzelburg, Men's Swimming, 4x100 Meter Medley Relay; Lisa Leslie, Women's Basketball; Jason Lezak, Men's Swimming, 4x100 Meter Medley Relay; Misty May, Women's Beach Volleyball; Jessica Mendoza, Women's Softball.

Stacey Nuveman, Women's Softball; Leah O'Brien-Amico, Women's Softball; Kimberly Rhode, Women's Double Trap Shooting; Diana Taurasi, Women's Basketball; Jenny Topping, Women's Softball; Alyson Wagner, Women's Soccer; Kerri Walsh, Women's Volleyball; Andre Ward, Men's Light Heavyweight Boxing; Natasha Renee Watley, Women's Softball.

The talent, dedication and sportsmanship of our California Olympians serves to inspire all of us to strive for success, no matter what our goals. I am proud to stand here to pay tribute to these California Olympic heros, and to all of America's Olympic athletes. I thank them all for using their gifts to inspire us all to greatness.

IRAQ AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

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

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, violence is rampant both at home and abroad. At least 80 civilians died in Iraqi violence. As the Washington Post reports, ''Car bombings, mortar attacks, and clashes between insurgents and the U.S.-Iraqi security forces killed at least 80 civilians across the country Sunday.''

□ 1930

In Baghdad, the scene of some of the most intense fighting in months: 27 people died, and 107 were wounded. The green zone no longer exists. There is no exit strategy with honor in Iraq.

Mr. Speaker, it is time for the American people to hear from this administration and this Congress how we are going to address the valiant work of our young men and women on the front lines every day and their safety being jeopardized and threatened or killed because we have no foreign policy plan. It is time for an after-plan for Iraq. The reason we are in this catastrophe is because we went into an ill-directed war with no plan.

Today, of course, we bring shame on the House of Representatives for not extending the assault weapons ban. The ATF said assault weapons were designed for rapid-fire and close-quarter shooting, not for Olympics or the duck line.

Mr. Speaker, we need to reauthorize the assault weapons ban to stem the violence at home and the violence abroad.

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. KLINE). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 7, 2003, 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 gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. MCCARTHY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

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

ORDER OF BUSINESS

Mrs. CAPPS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to proceed with my Special Order at this time.

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

There was no objection.

ASSAULT WEAPONS BAN EXPIRES

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

Mrs. CAPPS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to express my outrage at the decision of the President and the leadership of this House to allow the assault weapons ban to expire. This law has been a critical part of our Nation's successful effort to dramatically bring down the violent crime rate. Since the ban went into effect in 1994, annual firearm deaths have decreased by 25 percent.

According to a study published by the Brady Center, the number of cases in which the ATF traced an assault weapon to a crime has dropped by 66 percent since the enactment of the ban. And the ATF has data showing, the longer the ban is in effect, the fewer assault weapons have been available for use by a criminal. The effect is to dry up the source.

This ban has broad public support. Most importantly, key law enforcement officers and agencies support it. They know these weapons have no place in our communities. The ATF description of these weapons in their ''Assault Weapons Profile'' clearly shows us why. It says, ''Assault weapons were designed for rapid-fire, close-quarter shooting at human beings. That is why they were put together the way they were. You will not find these guns in a duck blind or at the Olympics. They are mass-produced mayhem.''

The Department of Treasury has reported these weapons are not suitable for sport and are more attractive to criminals. The ATF goes on to say that, ''Access to them shifts the balance of power to the lawless.'' In essence, these are not weapons to be used by sportsmen or kept at home. They are weapons designed to kill people, lots of them.

Assault weapons have been at the center of many of the worst mass murders in the United States. In 1984, 21 people were killed and 19 people injured by a man with an Uzi in a McDonald's in California.

In January of 1989, another man used a semiautomatic version of an AK–47 to kill five children at an elementary school, and 29 other children and their teacher were wounded in the same incident. This man fired 106 rounds in 2 minutes.

In 1993, Mir Aimal Kasi killed two CIA employees and wounded three others outside Langley using a Chinese-made semiautomatic AK–47 he bought in a gun store in Virginia.

And in July of 1993, eight people were killed and six people were wounded in a San Francisco law office. The man responsible used two TEC-DC9 assault pistols with 50-round magazines.

These weapons are a serious threat to the men and women who serve our

communities as law enforcement officers. Allowing access to these weapons means our law enforcement officers have to carry heavier firepower that they do not want to use.

In 1994, every major national law enforcement organization worked hard to pass the assault weapons ban, and now, this President and our congressional leadership have abandoned these peace officers by letting the ban expire. This is particularly stunning given the world we live in after September 11, 2001. Yet they have now made it easier for terrorists to arm themselves in our country.

Mr. Speaker, this is unacceptable. We do not need these weapons in our communities. They are an invitation to death and destruction and a threat to our freedom. This Congress needs to restore the ban immediately to protect our constituents and our children.

I urge the Speaker to schedule a vote as soon as possible and ensure that assault weapons do not come flooding back into the United States.

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

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

THANKING SYLVIA NUGENT

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

Mr. THORNBERRY. Mr. Speaker, there are many ways to serve our country. We are most mindful of the men and women serving on the front lines of the war on terrorism, who risk or even lose their lives for our freedom and security.

But as Ken Towery, a remarkable man who has been a POW in World War II, a Pulitzer Prize winner and Presidential appointee reminds us, ''Not all men are called upon to respond to battlefield conditions. But all men and women will face many, many situations where courage and duty and responsibility are required and where the true measure of their worth is how well they respond to those challenges.''

One way to serve our Nation is by working on the staff of a Member of Congress. It is the Members themselves who receive most of the attention, positive and negative. It is our names on the ballot and in the newspapers. We are the ones who cast the votes on legislation and are ultimately responsible for all that is done in our name or on our behalf.

But as each Member knows, everything we do is assisted by and made possible by the men and women who serve on our staffs.

I am extremely fortunate, for I have had and have today a group of exceptional individuals who have worked with me as I have tried to represent the people of the 13th Congressional District of Texas. At the center of everything I have tried to do for my constituents and for our Nation has been my chief of staff, Sylvia Nugent.

Sylvia comes from a heritage of service to the country. Her father, Vernon Herrington, is a retired FBI agent, having served in the Bureau for more than 25 years. Sylvia grew up learning a sense of patriotic duty as her family moved around the country in her father's various stations.

Sylvia has been married to Dr. Rod Nugent for more than 36 years. And first, she raised her family and volunteered in her community, contributing much. As her children matured, however, she became more involved in politics, becoming active in several campaigns in Texas.

In 1994, to my good fortune, she became the campaign manager for my first race for Congress. Then she served as chief of staff for my office until August 31, 2004. Sylvia is now a grandmother, and she and Dr. Nugent are preparing for the next phase of their lives.

In some ways, Sylvia has not been a typical congressional chief of staff. She was a bit older than most when they entered government service. She has been based in the district; whereas, most chiefs of staff work out of Washington. Yet, the exceptional qualities of patriotism and commitment to service which she exemplifies do represent the best of the people and the work which goes on in the legislative branch of government.

Sylvia is exceptionally gifted. Her intelligence and knowledge help her to get to the root of a problem quickly. Her emotional intelligence and perceptiveness, her people skills, are even more impressive. She is someone to whom a person on an airplane flight will pour out their problems and leave rejuvenated after hearing her counsel. Underlying all of her talents and abilities is a caring heart that wants to help and serve.

She made sure that, in all of the work which my staff and I undertook, we remembered that we work for the people of the 13th Congressional District of Texas, that our efforts are funded by the taxpayers, and that our mission is to help people and serve our Nation. Whether it was locating a lost Social Security check or obtaining military medals earned by a veteran 60 years ago, she was committed to helping the people of the 13th Congressional District. Whether it was cosponsoring a rural health care bill or passing the bill to create the Department of Homeland Security, she was committed to doing what was right for the country.

As she supervised all of the constituent service, communication and legislative work in my office, she also helped advise and guide staff members and interns on their careers and lives, leaving her mark for years to come. Having raised four outstanding children of her own, she brought those nurturing abilities to all with whom she came in contact.

Most importantly, everything she did was motivated by a love of country and a desire to serve and improve. Sylvia has responded to challenges and to opportunities with courage and duty and a sense of responsibility beyond what was required. In a way, her commitment and dedication have been extraordinary, but in another sense, it is the same kind of commitment and dedication that has made America great and continues to ensure that Americans do their duty in whatever circumstances they are placed.

Mr. Speaker, I know that I have been tremendously blessed. And my family and I will continue to be blessed to count Sylvia and Rod Nugent among our dearest friends. But the Congress, Texas, and the Nation have also been fortunate to have had the service of this extraordinary lady.

CONGRESS COMMITS SHAMEFUL ACT OF OMISSION

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

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, today, this Congress committed a shameful act of omission. When today's congressional session ended, so too ended the assault weapons ban that has helped to keep our streets safe for the past decade.

In 1994, President Clinton bravely ushered the assault weapons ban through Congress. This act took its political toll on not only President Clinton but also the Democratic Party, but he stuck to his guns, so to speak, and strongly supported passage of this important legislation.

As a result, the use of military-style automatic weapons in crimes dropped from 4 percent in 1995, before the ban had taken effect, to 1 percent in the year 2002. In fact, according to the Department of Justice, the proportion of banned assault weapons traced to crimes has dropped by 66 percent since 1995.

The refusal by the House Republican leadership to bring up an extension of the assault weapons ban and the failure of President Bush to push for its renewal is about much more than gun control. This issue is about nothing less than the very security of our Nation.

Today's failure to extend this important law will make Americans less safe. In fact, al Qaeda, in their training manuals that were recovered from Afghanistan, specifically cited the ease of obtaining automatic rifles and machine guns in the United States. To many terrorists around the world, America is known as the great gun bazaar.

Let us break down the facts: First, al Qaeda, our worst enemy, has specifically instructed terrorists on how to

exploit America's gun laws to obtain the weapons they intend to use to kill Americans.

Next, the United States had a proven and effective law on the books that made it difficult to purchase these deadly weapons, and this law needed to be renewed.

Finally, President Bush, who claims to be a huge homeland security supporter, stayed silent. Why did he remain silent? Why did the President not act? I believe the answer is really pretty simple.

□ 1945

The National Rifle Association, the NRA, refused to support President Bush's reelection bid until after the renewal date for the assault weapons ban came and went, that was today, came and went untouched by the White House. This President has been cowed by the NRA. The sad irony is that last week Vice President DICK CHENEY made the outrageous claim that it is absolutely essential on November 2 that Americans make the right choice because if we make the wrong choice, then the danger is that we will get hit again. I quote that from the Vice President's remarks.

This misleading connection in addition to insulting the intelligence of the American people wrongly asserts that a vote for JOHN KERRY and JOHN EDWARDS is a vote for terrorism. Instead, al Qaeda will be poised to hit us again because in large part on September 13, 2004, today, the Republican leadership has allowed Islamic militants and others to once again purchase American machine guns, all for the reelection of the President. How very, very shameful that is. If we truly want to secure our homeland, we need to pursue policies that are smarter than those that would decriminalize deadly weapons to elect someone to office. By the way, virtually every major law enforcement organization in the United States of America supports extending the ban.

That is why I have introduced a new SMART security platform for the 21st century. H. Con. Res. 392 is legislation to create a sensible, multilateral, American response to terrorism. SMART security is stronger on national security than President Bush claims to be. SMART security will stop the sale of weapons to oppressive regimes and regimes involved in human rights abuses. SMART security will pursue enhanced inspection regimes and regional security arrangements to ensure that state sponsors of terrorism do not get ahold of more light weaponry, or even deadlier chemical or biological weapons.

Let us talk for a moment about presidential flip-flops. When it comes to keeping assault weapons out of the hands of terrorists, George Bush speaks out of both sides of his mouth.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. KLINE). 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).

FACTS SPEAK FOR THEMSELVES ON MEDICARE REFORM

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

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, the President spent some time recently taking, and I concede this, well-deserved credit for last year's Medicare bill, for foisting last year's 678-page, $534 billion Medicare law on seniors and the rest of the American public. The fact that he is proud of this law, a law that hands HMOs $12 billion in bonus payments, HMO insurance companies get $12 billion in bonus payments while raising seniors' premiums by 17 percent, a record amount, raises a larger issue: How have seniors fared under the last 3½ years of the Bush administration? It is not a difficult question to answer. The facts speak for themselves.

We remember several months ago the President actively lobbied for the Medicare overhaul that would treat seniors without drug coverage like second-class citizens, forcing them out of traditional Medicare and into private insurance company HMOs.

Members will remember that vote. It took place in the middle of the night. It was a 3-hour vote, the longest in congressional history. There was more campaign payoff money on that vote from insurance companies and drug companies to Republican Members of the Congress. We all remember that. The President put his weight behind that new Medicare law that lines the pockets of HMOs to the tune of $12 billion, that lines the pockets of drug companies to the tune of $182 billion, and explicitly blocks seniors from access to competitively priced prescription drugs. The insurance companies, as I said, got a payment of $12 billion. The drug companies' profits went up $182 billion and Republican leadership and the President did very well in this campaign year with contributions from the drug companies and the insurance companies. They could certainly afford it after legislation that will create and bring to them those huge profits.

After that, the President spends millions of dollars of our money, of taxpayer money, of dollars that could have gone to a prescription drug plan, could have gone to seniors to reduce the cost of seniors' drugs, but the President spends millions of dollars of our money on ads touting the new Medicare bill with the slogan ''same Medicare, better benefits,'' even though the President and his advisers knew his handiwork would be directly responsible for the largest premium increase in Medicare history, 17 percent, the largest premium increase in Medicare's 38-year history, not to mention deductibles that will for the first time that seniors have to pay increase year after year after year.

Do not believe anyone that tells you the Bush administration is not responsible, in spite of the ads the President is running, is not responsible for the 17 percent premium increase just because he says premiums are calculated by a formula. Yes, they are calculated by a formula written in the bill that the drug and insurance companies wrote that the President pushed through. That is like pouring gasoline on a campfire, then blaming someone else when the forest burns down.

The President's Medicare law, inflated by a $12 billion HMO slush fund and an outright prohibition on bulk rate prices, bringing the price down, swelled the overall cost of Medicare which in turn increased the premium that seniors pay. America's seniors know it. You and I know it. Everyone in this Chamber knows that is why premiums went up, because of the deal the President made with the drug companies and the insurance companies.

In his budget proposal this year, the President recommends cutting $60 billion from the Medicaid program, $60 billion, even though Medicaid covers 70 percent of the nursing home care provided in this country. Without Medicaid, two-thirds of America's seniors in nursing homes would have to find some other source of care. For many of those seniors, there is no other source of care. For others, families have to patch together the care any way they can, even if it means they become impoverished.

Medicaid provides health care, nursing home care and home health care to nearly 5 million seniors living below the poverty line, 149,000 people in my State of Ohio alone. The recession and massive job losses have left States struggling to finance their full financial obligations to Medicaid. If the Federal Government does not do its part, the Medicaid program is in jeopardy. The Bush administration is simply not doing its part because of its budget cuts to Medicaid and because of the tax cuts which have gone overwhelmingly to the 1 percent wealthiest Americans.

The President's hand-picked Social Security Commission came up with a privatized plan to drain $1.8 trillion from the Social Security Trust Fund over the next 5 years. Privatizing Social Security, privatizing Medicare, cutting Medicaid is no benefit to seniors. It is the wrong direction for our country.

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

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

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

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

SPLIT PERSONALITY

Mr. MCDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to speak out of order.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the gentleman from Washington (Mr. MCDERMOTT) is recognized for 5 minutes.

There was no objection.

Mr. MCDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, my colleague from Ohio has shown one of the hallmarks of this administration, its ability to spin a tale. Say it often enough and the American people may actually begin to believe it. In fact, they are so good at it they may have begun to believe their own press releases.

The other day, Secretary of War Rumsfeld delivered a major speech at the National Press Club. Along the way, terror got a new name, Osama Hussein. Or was it Saddam bin Laden? In English, the rule is I before E except after C but in this administration I equals A. Iraq equals al Qaeda because they say so, not because there is a shred of evidence. There is not.

Mr. Rumsfeld appeared to link Osama bin Laden and Saddam Hussein in the same breath. He has got them all confused in his head now. He has said the story so many different times and they still are trying to connect the al Qaeda with what happened on 9/11. Or maybe it was just a stumble compounded later in his appearance by another gaffe. Or was it reading too many spin memos that your head begins to turn and spin and spin and you do not know where you are. At the very least, this shows the effect of a PR campaign that began well before the invasion of Iraq. The separation between the rhetoric and the reality has blurred into one and the same. Over and over again, the administration has exaggerated the tie between Iraq and al Qaeda. When questions from the Congress and the American people outstripped the rhetoric, the administration's rhetoric got louder, a lot louder. Today it is so loud that it is hard to hear the quiet truth. But it is there.

It has been over a year and a half since the President ordered the beginning of hostile action against Iraq. It has been over a year since the President declared ''mission accomplished.'' Absolutely no one on the planet believes that the mission has either been accomplished or will be anytime soon. Even some Republicans are now talking about a presence in Iraq over the next two decades. Is that the plan for winning the peace? Is that the plan or the consequence of going to war in Iraq?

Today, U.S. military commanders are using more air strikes in Iraq. If that helps save American lives or keep soldiers safe, out of harm's way, I am all for it. If this is a new military strategy, then it raises the question, why can we not get a lot of American soldiers out of Iraq and get them out of harm's way? It has been almost 3 months since the so-called handover. In those 90 days, 150 soldiers have died and 900 have been wounded. We cannot ask what we are going to do to win the peace because U.S. soldiers are still fighting and dying in a war. This is not the time to ask how the administration plans to win the peace, because there is no peace in Iraq today.

Colin Powell came out yesterday and said we have a secret plan that sometime soon we will roll out so we can get stability at the time of the election. What is he waiting for? The election? Or the fact that he does not know what he is doing? U.S. forces managed a weekend without a military death but the death count of innocent Iraqi citizens is up dramatically over the last 48 hours. In another day of war, there can be no peace.

Today, the American people have a fog of war, reality obscured by an administration which would prefer that we merely accept their version of reality or versions when the story needs to change. While it may have been a slip of the tongue the other day at the National Press Club, one wonders whether Secretary Rumsfeld inadvertently expressed publicly what he thinks privately. Are bin Laden and Hussein two different faces of evil, or are they some kind of split personality? Spin the rhetoric around enough and it gets hard to separate it from the reality on the ground, here or there.

The administration has wrapped itself in the mantle of fighting the war on terror. Just today this administration could have struck a major blow against terrorism simply by extending the ban on assault weapons. These are bona fide weapons of mass destruction. We know where they are and we know how to keep them out of the hands of the bad guys. The President said he favored the ban, but then he did absolutely nothing to make it happen. You think he could not get the leadership in the House of Representatives to act on this if he meant business? He never meant anything close to that.

The administration did not need weapons inspectors from the U.N. or air strikes from the military to find and isolate weapons of mass destruction that will threaten police officers and our security officers and our homeland security. All the President needed to do was tell his surrogates in this body and the other body to extend the ban. That did not happen, despite overwhelming support from the American people, despite overwhelming support from law enforcement officers. Instead, the administration used empty rhetoric to disarm a true weapon in the war on terror.

The regime is coming to an end, Mr. Speaker, in 49 days.

FLORIDA WEATHERS THE STORMS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, in a few minutes, my other colleagues from Florida will be speaking on the horrible disasters that have befallen our State. I am proud to stand with my Florida colleagues in a bipartisan manner to congratulate and thank all of the men and women who have helped to make our fellow citizens be better able to cope with this crisis.

I want to express my condolences for the victims of Hurricanes Frances and Charley and the victims of Hurricane Ivan in the Caribbean. These storms have caused a great loss of life and property, but it would have been far worse had it not been for the sound planning and the quick response from Governor Jeb Bush and President George W. Bush. Governor Bush organized an effective plan and ensured that the National Guard would mobilize in the areas that were hardest hit.

I also would like to commend President Bush for his quick declaration of an emergency and his handling of the disasters. Thanks to President Bush, Floridians were able to quickly receive the essentials that they needed. President Bush traveled to Florida to inspect the disaster and was handing out water and ice to those affected and he spoke to Floridians who had lost everything in this disaster.

Here in Congress, we acted last week to pass an emergency supplemental appropriations bill to help FEMA pay for the disaster relief of Hurricane Charley. Soon our colleagues in Congress are once again rising to the same challenges as we prepare to pass another supplemental appropriations bill for Hurricane Frances.

□ 2000

I am proud to represent both Miami-Dade County and Monroe County. Miami-Dade experienced the loss of electricity in many areas as well as a shortage of fuel, and the Florida Keys have been evacuated twice, leading to a huge economic loss to that area. Today for the third time in a month, another part of Florida braces for a disastrous storm. All of south Florida prays for the safety of those in the path of Hurricane Ivan, and I am confident that if it were to strike our State, Governor Bush and President Bush and all of the emergency workers will once again be ready to quickly respond.

Mr. Speaker, I would also like to bring to the attention of this Chamber the economic losses which the Florida Keys have suffered as a result of the two mandatory evacuations imposed in less than a month. Tourists had to leave, which meant a huge economic loss for the area. The Florida Keys badly depends on the thousands and thousands of tourists who come to enjoy south Florida. My good friend, the colorful commissioner of Key West,

Tom Oosterhoudt, will be manning the emergency operations center tonight from 10 to midnight when the winds of Hurricane Ivan will be whipping by Key West.

The Florida Keys, as all of us know, are the southern-most point of Florida. Their abundance of nature and beaches, fishing, and coral make them one of the largest destinations for tourists, and they come from every corner of the globe to bask in the year-round beach weather. Conservationists and nature lovers come to enjoy the many birds and plant species that are found in no other place.

However, because of these three hurricanes that have threatened to strike, the Florida Keys have been evacuated at various times in these weeks. And for an economy that is heavily dependent on tourism, these hurricanes have been economically devastating.

My district office staff helped out today at Florida International University, the shelter for the Monroe County residents who had to evacuate their lovely keys. This week alone Key West lost 20 to $30 million in lost sales tax revenues. This is just in 1 week.

So I call on all Americans to plan a visit once again to the Florida Keys now that the hurricanes have almost passed. I invite them to discover the beauty and the wonder that Hemingway and President Truman fell in love with and which encouraged them to make the Florida Keys one of their homes. Come to our beaches, swim in our coral reef, fish in our waters, enjoy the sun; and while there, of course, a mandatory visit to a bar in Key West; swim in Sombrero Beach in Marathon, and ride a jet ski in Key Largo.

As the Florida Keys representative in Congress, I welcome people to come and visit the Florida Keys and all of south Florida once again, and they will see why I am so proud to represent such a beautiful and diverse place.

H. RES. 717, RECOGNIZING 58TH BIRTHDAY OF WILLIAM JEFFERSON CLINTON

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. KLINE). Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. CORRINE BROWN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the resolution to honor the 58th birthday of the 42nd President of the United States, William Jefferson Clinton.

I came to Washington the same year that the President did. We both were elected in 1992 and took office in 1993. Those 8 years were the best anyone could imagine. Under his leadership, the United States ran a budget surplus for the first time since Lyndon Baines Johnson's administration. The economy had its highest productivity level in decades, and nothing has been seen recently that even remotely compares to this.

This President had the leadership to push through Congress an assault weapons ban that stopped dangerous and unnecessary automatic and semiautomatic guns from our neighborhoods. Rather than leaving important policy decisions to others, he took the lead in some unpopular positions to place this country in a position to lead the world. Under the Presidency of Mr. Clinton, our country achieved new heights of respect.

I wish former President Clinton my best wishes on a speedy and successful recovery.

Once again I want to wish a happy birthday to William Jefferson Clinton. I speak for my constituents and many millions of Americans in expressing my gratitude. We thank him once again for his leadership of service, and this country truly misses him.

HONORING LU PALMER AS A FORCE IN COMMUNITY LIFE

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

Mr. RUSH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of Mr. Lutrell ''Lu'' Palmer, a noted and respected Chicago leader and national leader. I am saddened to announce that Lu Palmer has been called to glory by our God in Heaven. He made his transition early Sunday morning at his home.

Lu Palmer's life was a life of courage, commitment, and compassion. His extraordinary sacrifices made on behalf of the voiceless, the disinherited, and the disadvantaged are legendary. Lu Palmer sacrificed a successful career as a columnist for the Chicago Sun Times because he would not compromise his principles and write what the editors wanted. He resigned rather than cave in to those who tried to silence and censor his voice.

Mr. Palmer's radio commentaries on WVON entitled ''Lu's Notebook'' were heard on radio each and every day. And again, although his commentaries were very popular and eagerly anticipated by thousands of listeners, his sponsors tried to again silence his voice by withdrawing their sponsorship, thereby removing his ''Lu's Notebook'' from the radio waves. Lu Palmer remained steadfast. Lu Palmer still would not be silenced.

Mr. Palmer's community activism created a campaign which ultimately elected Harold Washington as the first black mayor of the city of Chicago. His ''We shall see in '83'' motivated a movement the likes of which were and still are unprecedented.

Mr. Speaker, it is exceedingly difficult, if not impossible, to capture Lu Palmer's life in the brief time that I have. The impact that Lu Palmer has made on the local and national arena will require much more than what is encapsulated here. All over the country, Lu Palmer has conducted seminars and has participated in workshops where his expertise and his messages have been that of imparting valuable information and providing direction for untold masses of people from Boston to Marquette University, to Carlton and St. Olaf's College, to Valparaiso, to Missouri and Colorado and Mississippi and Georgia, and to countless other States and college campuses and meeting halls. He transmitted a powerful image to and for the enrichment and uplifting of African Americans.

In Chicago, alone, Lu Palmer led such fights as the removal of asbestos from Chicago public schools and the fight against the wrongful draft of African Americans in the armed services. Behind the scenes, he helped in the mobilization to unseat the notorious Edward Hanrahan as Cook County state's attorney after the murders of Fred Hampton and Mark Clark of the Illinois chapter of the Black Panther Party, and he also provided assistance in the mobilization against police brutality in the 1970s.

Lu Palmer also provided vital research to the groups that fought overcrowding of schools in African American neighborhoods and did the same for groups that coalesced to have the first African American selected as the superintendent of the Chicago School Board. This group ultimately became CBUC, Chicago Black United Communities.

In 1981, the organization launched a historical march toward a black mayor, and it was very successful. It was Lu Palmer who solidified Kwanzaa as an African American observance. On his above-mentioned radio program, he presented the 12 principles of Nguzo Saba on a daily basis, to the extent that listeners began to understand, absorb, and seek more clarity and participation in the African-based cultural rhythms.

Thousands and thousands read Lu Palmer's articles and columns in mass media newspapers, but even more heard his insightful and incisive commentaries on ''Lu's Notebook.''

Mr. Speaker, Lu Palmer made his transition. We have lost a giant. And, Mr. Speaker, my condolences and the condolences of my family are extended to Georgia Palmer and to her entire family. We mourn the loss of Lutrell ''Lu'' Palmer. We will miss him.

Carry on, brother. God bless.

THE ASSAULT WEAPONS BAN

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON-LEE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, in 1994 Congress passed the Federal Assault Weapons Ban as part of the Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act of 1994. The law banned the sale to civilians of 19 types of semiautomatic weapons, but many manufacturers have been able to skirt the prohibition by offering knock-off models. Domestic gun manufacturers were required to stop production of semi-automatic assault weapons and ammunition clips that hold more than 10 rounds, except for military or police use.

The assault weapons ban will expire or ''sunset'' today unless Congress passes legislation to renew the law. President Bush has stated his support for the assault weapons ban. Unfortunately, the House refuses to act until the President calls on Republican congressional leadership to do so.

The Assault Weapons Ban is supported by virtually every Federal, State and local law enforcement agency, including the Fraternal Order of Police, the National Sheriff's Association, the International Association of Chiefs of Police, the Major City Chiefs Association, and the International Brotherhood of Police Officers. The ban was supported by Presidents Reagan, Ford, Carter, and Clinton, and by Republicans Tom Ridge and Rudy Giuliani.

Prior to the ban, ATF found criminals prefer assault weapons over law-abiding citizens eight to one. In the 5 years before the ban, assault weapons made up almost 5 percent of ATF crime gun traces. Since the ban, assault weapons have made up only 1.5 percent of these traces—a drop of 66 percent from the preban rate.

As recently as December 2003, an NBC News/Wall Street Journal poll found that 78 percent of adults nationwide support renewal of the ban. Additionally, 57 percent of people with a gun in their household support the assault weapons ban. The ban does not include hunting rifles and shotguns, which is probably why a majority of hunters support extending the ban today. The greater the availability of assault weapons, the cheaper their price, and the more wind up on the streets.

We need to take action immediately, and I urge my colleagues in Congress to step up and do the right thing by extending this ban.

CONGRESSWOMAN JACKSON LEE URGES HOUSE GOP LEADERSHIP TO SCHEDULE IMMEDIATE VOTE TO RENEW ASSAULT WEAPONS BAN THAT EXPIRES TODAY

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Today, September 13, 2004, the ten-year federal ban on assault weapons is set to expire unless Congress takes immediate action to extend it. Congresswoman Sheila Jackson Lee has continued to urge the House Republican leadership to schedule an immediate vote to renew the ban. The Congresswoman has received many calls in support of an extension by local enforcement officers and gun control advocates who have been lobbying for congressional action on the ban. Extension of the ban is supported by more than three-quarters of Americans nationwide. The Senate approved a renewal of the ban earlier this year, but the House has not voted on the matter because the House Republican leadership refuses to allow a vote.

''For ten years, the assault weapons ban has helped keep semi-automatic assault weapons off the market, off our street, and out of the hands of gangs, terrorists, drug dealers, and most importantly our children,'' Congresswoman Jackson Lee said. ''It is imperative that the House Republican leadership schedule an immediate vote to renew and strengthen the assault weapons ban so that these deadly weapons are not allowed on our streets again. These are not the weapons people use for hunting deer or wild game. These assault weapons are designed to kill as many people as quickly as possible.''

The ban, which was approved in 1994, prohibits the domestic manufacture, import, and sale of 19 types of semi-automatic assault weapons such as AK–47s, TEC–9s, and Uzis, as well as dozens of other weapons, which are designed to kill quickly and violently. Unlike weapons firing single rounds, assault weapons are designed to spray many bullets into a single area, as opposed to a single target, increasing the chances of hitting innocent bystanders who are in the crossfire.

According to the U.S. Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives (ATF), there has been a 66 percent reduction in the number of traced crimes committed with assault weapons since the ban went into effect. A study of FBI data by the Violence Policy Center reveals that one in five law enforcement officers slain in the line of duty between January 1, 1998 and December 31, 2001 were killed with assault weapons. '' This serves as further proof that the assault weapons ban not only needs to be renewed, but intensified,'' Congresswoman Sheila Jackson Lee stated, ''I am a cosponsor of a bill to renew the ban for another ten years as well as another bill to strengthen the ban by adding weapons to the prohibited list and making it permanent.''

Congresswoman Jackson Lee continued, ''The Second Amendment to the United States Constitution allows people to 'keep and bear' firearms. The important question is where we should draw the line. People should not be allowed to have shoulder-fired rocket launchers, nor do they need a semi-automatic weapon that can fire off 30 shots in a matter of seconds for recreational hunting. We need to renew and strengthen the federal ban on assault weapons.''

The assault weapons ban is supported by virtually every federal, state, and local law enforcement agency, as well as organizations including the Fraternal Order of Police, the National Sheriff's Association, the International Association of Chiefs of Police, the Major City Chiefs Association, and the International Brotherhood of Police Officers.

THE REPUBLICANS' COZY RELATIONSHIP WITH CORPORATE INTERESTS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 7, 2003, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, this evening I want to remind the American people about the Republican Party's cozy relationship with our Nation's corporate interests. This relationship has been extremely beneficial to America's corporate elite, but has been extremely harmful to America's middle class. It is necessary for me to remind the American people of this relationship because Republicans are now doing everything they can to run away from the relationship.

Republicans are hoping the American people forgot that Vice President CHENEY worked behind closed doors with corporate executives from the oil and gas companies to write an energy bill that benefited them with billions of dollars while doing virtually nothing to help middle-class Americans with rising prices at the gas pump.

Republicans are hoping the American people will forget President Bush misled the American people into supporting the war in Iraq and rushed to war with absolutely no plan to win the peace. Last month the President finally admitted that he miscalculated in Iraq, but now Republicans would like the American people to forget such comments.

They would also people to forget that the war in Iraq has now cost the American taxpayer $200 billion in which billions of dollars have gone to another corporate friend of the Bush administration, Vice President CHENEY's old company, Halliburton.

Mr. Speaker, Republicans are hoping the American people forgot that while their own Medicare director was negotiating a final Medicare prescription drug bill, he was interviewing for jobs with the very pharmaceutical companies that benefit from the new Republican Medicare law. This same director, Tom Scully, illegally kept critical information about the costs of the Medicare bill from Congress, which most likely would have killed the controversial bill before it became law. But Republicans would like the American people, particularly the 40 million seniors who depend on Medicare and who deserve a real prescription drug benefit, to forget that the new law benefits the pharmaceutical companies and only provides a minuscule benefit to senior citizens.

Republicans also would like the American people to forget that they have been doing the work of America's corporate and special interests for the last 4 years to the detriment of the best interests of America's middle class.

Mr. Speaker, Senator KERRY and congressional Democrats will take our country in a new direction and put the middle class first. Despite what President Bush and congressional Republicans promise over the next few months before the election, they will continue to put the narrow interests of the few ahead of the middle class.

Let me talk about some of these special interests this evening, Mr. Speaker, if I can. Let us just look at the record of the Republicans over the last 4 years. Republicans have accomplished many of the goals that corporate interests have set forth with no concern about how these goals would impact middle-class America. I want to just talk about the economy first, and then I will maybe yield to the gentlewoman from Florida, who I see has come down here to join me.

On the economy, the Republican mission has been accomplished for companies seeking tax breaks for shipping jobs overseas, but not for America's workers. The Bush administration needs to create more than 900,000 jobs in 2 months, over the next 2 months, in order to actually create its first net job.

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Now, one would think that the administration would be doing everything possible, looking at every creative solution, to get Americans back to work; but, instead, what we see is the Bush administration taking the side of the corporate interests. They

are not worried over the fact that in the next 2 months they are not going to be able to create almost 1 million jobs to show a net job gain.

The Bush administration would like the American people to forget that the centerpiece of its supposed economic stimulus plan was a provision to eliminate the amount of taxes paid by individuals on stock dividends. Economists concluded that this handout to the President's corporate friends would not create high-paying jobs to the middle class. Three years later, after this tax cut was put in place, it now turns out that the economists were right. Instead of creating jobs for the middle class, President Bush hit them with a $364 billion deficit, something our children will be forced to pay off in the future. All this not to create one single job; remember, we have a net loss right now of almost 1 million jobs, not to create one single job but, instead, to help inflate the wallets of President Bush's corporate friends.

Now, one would think that the administration would be against companies moving jobs overseas. We have heard about the outsourcing, Mr. Speaker, many times over the last year. But earlier this year, we learned that the Bush administration views the movement of American factory jobs and white collar work to other countries as a positive transformation that will, in the end, enrich our economy. How many of the administration's economists said that outsourcing was a good thing?

The administration stated exactly that in the President's economic report for 2004. This was the President's own economic report for this year. Now, no wonder President Bush thinks that our Nation's economic forecast is rosy. He is not concerned about creating jobs here in the United States. As long as the economy continues to grow and the President's corporate interests continue to make record profits, that is fine with him. President Bush cannot be too concerned about his dismal job creation record since he refuses to discontinue his administration's policy of giving tax breaks that shift American jobs overseas.

Now, by contrast, if I could, Mr. Speaker, Senator KERRY and congressional Democrats want to help middle-class Americans by ending special tax breaks for companies that outsource jobs and creating tax incentives for companies that keep jobs here in America. Those are the companies that we should be rewarding, those that will keep the jobs here, not send them overseas.

Congressional Democrats have also long supported a transportation bill that would stimulate the economy by creating millions of jobs all over the Nation and provide much-needed transportation modernization funding. That transportation bill is stalled because the administration refuses to support the necessary funding that is also supported by some Republicans in this Chamber.

Now, I know the gentlewoman from Florida would like to have some time. I just wanted to say, one of the things, before I yield to her, one of the things that I cannot forget when I look back over the 4 years of the Bush administration is that 4 years ago, in January, when the President first took office, and by March, he took office in January, and by March of that year it was looking like the economy was starting to falter, and the congressional Democrats met in a caucus. We had a special caucus meeting, and we came up with an economic stimulus package, because our feeling was that if we were able to provide an economic stimulus, transportation projects, infrastructure, sewer plants, money than went back to the States for all kinds of activities, school construction, hospital construction, that that would make it possible for the economy to keep moving along and not fall into a recession.

But the congressional Republicans and the President, President Bush, absolutely refused. Their answer was, we are not interested in that kind of economic stimulus that creates jobs, that provides infrastructure; we just want tax cuts. And then by, I guess, the spring or the summer of that year, they had implemented the first round of their many tax cuts.

The bottom line is it is 4 years later, all the rhetoric about how the tax cuts were going to turn the economy around has simply proven to be false, and the only thing that would have made a difference then, and I think still would make a difference now, if there was some sort of economic stimulus package that dealt with infrastructure, particularly as I mentioned the transportation bill; but I really believe that at the time, if we had worked on a bipartisan basis and not implemented these tax cuts, but rather implemented an economic stimulus package, we would not be in the situation we are now where there is a net loss of almost 1 million jobs since President Bush took office.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman from Florida for joining me tonight, and I yield to her.

Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the gentleman from New Jersey before he leaves. I know that he heard about the back-door announcement made by the administration on the Friday afternoon before Labor Day: the cost of Medicare for seniors is rising by 17.5 percent to $78.20 per month. This is something that I know my grandmother and all of our grandparents cannot afford.

The blame for this increase has been put on the rising medical costs. However, it is this administration with its close ties to health care lobbyists that has failed to do something about spending. In fact, that bill that we passed, the Republican Party will finally do what they have been trying to do for 35 years to the program: destroy the program with these inflated costs. Can the gentleman address this?

I come from Florida where Claude Pepper, my mentor on health care issues, the most well-known advocate for seniors, a man who fought for years and years to strengthen Medicare and Social Security, would be rolling in his grave if he were here today.

This is a life and death issue for many of our senior citizens. The bill that was passed that prohibits the Secretary from negotiating the prices of the drugs, the bill that was passed in the House in conference, not one single Democrat was permitted to be in the room, the people's House, not one. And in the Senate, for the first time ever, the Senate leader was not able to pick who was going to be in the room.

Can the gentleman from New Jersey explain to me and to the people who are listening today about this increase and what can we do to repeal this hideous Republican bill that was pushed through by this President?

Mr. PALLONE. Well, first of all, let me thank the gentlewoman so much for not only coming here, but also for what the gentlewoman is asking. I am not leaving; I am here with you. I like to go back and forth, and I certainly have a lot more to say tonight.

Let me also say, before I start getting into the issue, I am so glad the gentlewoman mentioned Claude Pepper. I was elected the year he left, and I remember because it was a Presidential year. I think it was the year that the first President Bush was elected, and I got to meet him at the convention.

Sometimes, when we talk about procedure, people fall asleep because they figure we are going into procedure, so what does it all matter. But one of the things that I was so determined to do when I got here in 1988, because of Claude Pepper, is that I wanted to be on the Select Committee on Aging, which he had chaired for many years. And when that committee met, they did incredible oversight. They would have hearings on a regular basis, looking into the Medicare program. I would tell the gentlewoman right now, if that committee still existed today, we would never have had the problems that the gentlewoman is talking about and this misrepresenting by the Republican administration about what is going on with the Medicare program.

One of the biggest criticisms I had was that in 1994 when Republicans took the majority and Gingrich became Speaker, was that they got rid of the select committees, including the aging committee which I served on. Because even though Claude Pepper had not been there, and I think it was the father of the gentlewoman from California (Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD) who was the chairman, we did such a good job in terms of oversight. And once that committee was gone, the oversight function of the programs for the seniors just disappeared, and I blame the Republicans for that, frankly.

I know that is not what the gentlewoman is talking about, though.

Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, if the gentleman will yield, when the Republicans took over in 1994, I will never forget that they tried to take his picture down out of the room, someone who served this institution, this country, and dearly beloved. I participated in a march to that room to make sure that we reinstated Claude Pepper's position, because he deserved to have his picture in that Committee on Rules room.

I have to tell the gentleman, I remember him at the conventions and his liveliness and how he fought so hard for seniors in this country. And now this administration, with their lies and misleading people about this Medicare bill, this bill that prohibits the Secretary from negotiating the price of the drugs. We on the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, along with the Department of Defense, insist, insist that they negotiate the price of the drugs so we can keep the costs down for our veterans, for our people, military families. No one can explain it. There is no discussion. When we raise that issue, they give us a blank stare, because the pharmaceuticals wrote those provisions.

What has happened here, the fox has moved into the House of Representatives, into the people's House. We see it with this Medicare bill. We see it on environmental issues. We see it over and over again. If this administration, and I do want to talk about Medicare, but if this administration that totally runs this House of Representatives, totally controls the agenda of the House of Representatives wanted an assault ban, it would have been on the floor and it would have been passed. They control. We cannot have a hearing.

We talk about homeland security. We cannot even have a hearing on railroad safety because the administration will not sanction it. I have never seen anything like it. I have been elected to the House of Representatives for 12 years. I have been an elected official for 23 years, and I have never seen such disrespect for the House of Representatives, for the people's House. I take it very seriously, because I was one of the first African Americans elected to Congress from Florida in 129 years. I take my job very seriously. And it is just, it saddens me to no end to see how the administration, which is a separate branch of government, runs the people's House, the House of Representatives. It is a disgrace.

Now, would the gentleman please tell me about the Medicare and what can we do so that my grandmother, who does not have an additional $78, $80. I know to these big-timers, that is nothing. But the seniors who are living on a fixed income, that is deciding whether to buy their medicine or buy food. They are going to raise the costs, and where is the money going? It is going to the HMOs and the pharmaceuticals. It is criminal.

Mr. PALLONE. Exactly.

Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida. We can play politics on some things, but in an area like this, it should not be any politics played.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, the gentlewoman is absolutely right. The premium increase is very significant. It is the largest one we have had in the history of the Medicare program: 17 percent.

Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida. They want to kill the program.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, it has gone from basically $66 to $78, about an $11 increase, the biggest we have ever had. President Bush says it is because of the high costs of health care. That is simply not the case. The bottom line is there are two major reasons why this increase is so high. One is what the gentlewoman mentioned, when they passed the so-called, and I call it ''so-called'' because it really is not a Medicare bill, it is a privatization bill. When they passed their so-called Medicare prescription drug bill, they increased the amount of money that would go to the HMOs, the insurers in general, but particularly the HMOs, in order to entice them to cover senior citizens. And the result is that a significant amount of this increase, and this increased premium is going to go to pay those HMOs and those insurers to entice them to get into the Medicare program which, as the gentlewoman knows, most of them do not want to get into any; and no matter how much money you give them, they are probably not going to get into it.

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The second thing is they have been raiding the trust fund. Just like Greenspan was saying a couple of weeks ago during the break, he got up and talked about how the Social Security Trust Fund was running dry, same thing with the Medicare Trust Fund. Why? Because the Republicans are borrowing the money to pay for their tax cut. There is a huge deficit. Where is the money borrowed from? The Social Security and Medicare Trust Fund.

Now, these funds in the last year of the Clinton administration were starting to build up the money that they had so that they would not be bankrupt at all. I mean frankly if we had not had those tax cuts I would predict within 5 or 10 years the trust fund would be so solvent for both Medicare and Social Security that we would not even have a problem for the next generation or two, but no, they could not do that because they wanted to give back those tax cuts.

If we read that, that increased premium, another significant part of it, goes into the trust fund to replenish the trust fund. So what are we talking about here? This is Republican, Bush administration policy that has caused this big increase.

As my colleague said because you are giving the money to insurers, the HMOs primarily, and also to replenish the trust fund because they borrowed from it to pay for the deficit, which has been generated by their tax cuts and all this for a Medicare prescription drug program bill which as you went on and described is practically worthless. In fact, I would say it is a detriment to the program.

It is not bad enough, as my colleague says, that there is a specific prohibition on negotiating prices. I mean, if they did not put a specific prohibition, the Medicare administrator would have been able to do that because as my colleague knows, right now with the VA, with the veterans, with the military, the DOD and the Veterans Affairs are allowed to go in and negotiate price reductions because they have the power now of all these veterans and military. That is just a natural thing that you would do in a capitalist society. I mean, we are all about negotiation and bargain. That is what capitalism is all about, right?

But, no, because the drug companies did not want that to happen, they specifically put in a prohibition on negotiating prices so the government and Medicare administrator could not negotiate the prices.

When I hear my colleagues say, well, we had to do that because somehow it would be un-American for the Medicare administrator and others to negotiate prices, we are already doing it with the VA and the military. What is un-American about going out and trying to get a bargain? I thought that is what capitalism was all about. It is unbelievable to me.

I yield back to the gentlewoman.

Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I just want to say that the Republican Party, with the direction, because he definitely gives direction to this House, they do not do anything without his direction, he has done more to destroy Medicare. What the Republicans have been trying to do for 35 years, that is just where we are now. They want to bloat the bill so that next they cannot afford it, and next on the agenda will be Social Security. Coming from Florida, next will be Social Security, and he wants to gamble with Social Security. This administration wants to kill the New Deal. Let us just face it. They want to kill public education with all of their gimmicks.

I said they practice what I call reverse Robin Hood. When I was growing up, I loved that program, Robin Hood. This administration practices what I call reverse Robin Hood. Robbing from the poor and working people, poor and working people, to give tax breaks to the rich, to the top 2 percent, and it just amazes me how they say one thing and do another.

I must go to the assault weapons. The President said, I understand, and it is amazing they were able to pin him down that he said anything, but he said during 1999, because during the debates he never answered one question. I am hoping that the media insists that he answer some questions during the debate because he never answered any. They said he looked comfortable and looked like he could prop his feet up

but never did he answer a question. So to say that he actually committed one thing that he would support the assault weapons ban, to continue the ban, well, then he says, well, if it is put on his desk. I guess you say that and then someone said whatever you do, do not pass that bill, do not even bring it up for a vote on the House of Representatives floor, not even in the people's House, when the majority of the American people support it. Why can we not have a vote on this floor to send a message where we stand as elected officials on this particular bill? But if the President wants it, I can rest assured and you can rest assured that the American people, we would have that ban.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, let me tell my colleague, when it comes to the procedures around here, I mean we could talk on. You are absolutely right. Everything is orchestrated from the White House, and any notion that any legislation that the President wants would not come up for a vote or that the President does not want, it is all orchestrated and you gave an example before of where we were talking about the Medicare bill.

One of the things that was so amazing to me was how that vote was orchestrated. One of the criticisms that I mentioned when I started out this evening is how the Medicare administrator Tom Scully orchestrated this whole vote in the House, and when his own actuary Foster said to him that the cost of this bill was going to be significantly more than what the Bush administration had told the Congress and what the congressional Republicans had suggested, the administrator told the actuary that if he revealed that information to Congress he would be fired. As a consequence, the Congress never got the information about the actual cost of the Medicare bill.

My colleague knows that there were many on the Republican side of the aisle that did not want to vote on that bill because they thought it was going to be too costly, and they did not like, for whatever reason, the cost, and now we know the GAO came out with a report last week that said that Scully's action was illegal, it was illegal for him to deny that information to Congress. He was told by the GAO that he had to refund his salary from the day he threatened to fire the actuary who had the truth about the cost. My colleague talks about procedure, I mean they are literally not giving Congress information in an illegal fashion. How can we even vote on anything around here if we cannot get the true facts about what the costs are?

Now that we know that it was illegal, well, the Department of Health and Human Services says we are not going to go after him for the money, he does not have to give back the money, and he said he is not giving back the money. Where did he go? He went to work for a law firm that represents all the drug companies that benefited from the bill. You talk about the procedure. I will never see the disgrace that we had that night of the vote.

You know we had 218 votes on that board against the bill. There is absolutely no question that the will of this House of Representatives was to defeat that Medicare prescription drug bill because almost all the Democrats and a significant number of the Republicans knew it was a bad bill, it was not going to accomplish anything and probably suspected it was going to cost a lot more than that was represented by the administration.

I looked on that board. I have never in my life seen a situation where the majority have voted against the bill and there was not anybody left who was going to make a difference who had not voted, and we sit here for 3 hours in the middle of the night until the President gets on the phone and calls enough Republicans. He invites Vice President CHENEY to change the votes.

You try to tell me that they are not directing what goes on the floor of the House of Representatives? What kind of a democratic process is that where the House has voted and 218 people have voted and said this is a lousy bill and I do not want to vote for it and we sit here for 3 hours while the White House twists arms and who knows what they promised people. One guy, they told him what, was SMITH, I guess, from Michigan.

Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida. His son.

Mr. PALLONE. They told him they were going to deny his son the nomination to replace him if he did not change his vote. I mean, this is the kind of thing that was going on. When you talk about procedure, I totally agree with you. They control the process from the White House. Do not let anybody tell you they do not.

Ms. CORINNE BROWN of Florida. My comment that night was a snake is a snake, no matter what color it is, and the AARP are getting in bed with a snake, the Republican Party, on this issue. I said it and I stand by it. Now I understand that the AARP is asking for some changes. My constituents constantly call me about AARP and I tell them my position. I have always supported them because they were an advocate for the seniors, but on this issue they really deserted the seniors.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, if I am not mistaken, and I do not know, I do not have the information in front of me, but there was a strong suspicion that AARP was looking to sell this Medicare prescription drug policy, and again it is an example of corporate interests holding sway around here because somebody is trying to make a buck.

I yield back to the gentlewoman.

Ms. CORINNE BROWN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I want to raise another issue with my colleague, and it is pertaining to the Vice President CHENEY and the package he received when he decided to run for Vice President.

My understanding, and I want to be correct on this, but I understand he got a $34 million retirement package when he retired, but also I am trying to find the exact amount that he gets every month.

What was very disturbing to me is that his company Halliburton got a sole source contract before the first shot was fired. I have worked really hard trying to help minority and female businesses get a part of government opportunities, government business, but this is an example of sole source, no competition, no nothing, billions of dollars to your company and then say, well, you know, I had nothing to do with it. Well, who believes that? But let us go on.

I received calls from soldiers. Let us say Halliburton was supposed to provide 25,000 meals a day, twice a day. They were charging the American taxpayer for 100,000 a day. That is criminal, but yet there is nothing and we are still doing business with them, and you know it is just nothing. It is just amazing about how they are running this war.

We gave them, I want to be correct, $89 billion for the first 6 months. Six months later, they came back and asked for another $87 billion. Everybody talked about the second $87 billion. No one talks about the first $89 billion. There is no accountability. They will not even tell Congress what they did with the first. They certainly did not provide the military with the flak suits and the armor and what they need to protect the Humvees. What happened? What happened to the first $89 billion? There is no accounting, no telling the people, that is our job of oversight, what happened to it, and then 6 months later, they came with another $87 billion. I did not vote for it and I support the troops 100 percent, even though I know that they were sent to a war based on lies from the beginning.

I went to all of the briefings. I went to all of the discussions, and they did not show me not one single thing that they did not know in 1991.

So people said, well, why did some Democrats vote for it and others did not? Well, I come from Florida and I know they stole the election in Florida, and my grandmother always told me if you lie, you steal, and it goes on and on. So I had no trust in this administration.

Certainly, they were telling Members, please give the President the authority to go to war, he is going to use it as a hammer. I mean, I guess some people really trusted him, and I guess the American people still trust him, but I go with the facts. I knew that this administration started out based on lies.

What happened in the 2000 election was criminal and what have we gotten from that? We have a war in Iraq. Now we are taking the Medicare prescriptions, pollution, and Leave No Child Behind is just a slogan, because we

have cut funds for after school programs, Head Start programs, day care programs. A wonderful slogan, Leave No Child Behind, stolen from the children defense armor, should I say, adopted by this administration.

So there is a lot of anger in me because this administration constantly misleads the Congress and the American people.

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Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the gentlewoman again. She made a comment before about who represents the majority, and not that I am looking to take away from the electoral college, because I know that is the way we elect the President under our Constitution, and I am not going to get into the specifics about what happened in Florida, because the gentlewoman knows much more than I do about what happened. But the bottom line is, there is no one who can contest the fact that President Bush lost the majority. He lost the election in terms of the majority, in terms of the actual number of people who voted, by half a million people. Half a million less voted for him than for his opponent.

So I often wonder, when I come down here and hear some of the things he says, it is not difficult to figure out that he is not representing the majority, because, clearly, the majority did not elect him. Nobody on either side of the aisle is contesting that, the fact that the man lost the popular vote by almost a half million people, which is a huge amount.

Beyond that, I want to say to the gentlewoman that I did not vote for any of those appropriations, nor did I vote for the war either. We know now that the war has already cost over $200 billion. These figures that come up about 80, or 80 here or there; it is well over $200 billion already. And one of the biggest things that worry me beyond the actual cost of the war is this money that is being spent to rehabilitate or redevelop or whatever the term is in Iraq.

We talked earlier about infrastructure here in the United States and how, over the last 4 years, as Democrats, we wanted an economic stimulus package, whether it was new school construction or new highways or new hospitals. Well, that is what is going on in Iraq. Millions and millions of that money is being spent for reconstruction in Iraq. And I am not talking about damage that was done as a result of the war; I am talking about new buildings.

I will never forget, they did not do it this year in September, but last September, in 2003, there were a couple of my Republican colleagues who, with glee, came to the floor and brought bookbags. They had just come back from Iraq, and they had these bags loaded down with bookbags and books and pencils and paper and everything, the American eagle on the front of it. And they proudly displayed them here in the well and said, Look, every schoolchild in Iraq today got one of these bookbags with these books and papers and pencils.

And I looked at it, and I even got on the floor, I believe, at the time and said, You know, I have schools in my district, and I am not one of the poorest in the State, believe me, where nobody has anything like that. Not only does the school not issue it, but the kids cannot even afford to come to school with the pencils or the paper.

Now, I am not trying to begrudge anybody anything, but, to me, it is an outrage that we are spending all this money in Iraq, and we are not spending it here in the United States. It is just outrageous.

Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, if the gentleman will, on just that point.

Mr. PALLONE. I yield to the gentlewoman.

Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida. The President indicated from the beginning that they would be able to pay for the expenses. They have one of the largest oil reserves in the world.

But then the President says, Well, we do not want to burden their people down with debt. But it is okay for the American people, our children and grandchildren, to pay this debt.

And then they cut Social Security and Medicare and Housing and Veterans' Affairs. This administration has already put out a memo that, If reelected, we will cut all domestic programs, all domestic budgets.

So it is okay for the American people to carry this burden, but yet, why are we saving the oil reserves? Why is it that part of it, a portion of it, cannot be a loan to these people? It is just amazing to me.

Mr. Speaker, when the gentleman talks about teachers, when I go to the Dollar Store, they are in there buying supplies themselves, the teachers, because the schools cannot afford it, particularly with this new provision of Leave No Child Behind. It is a real crunch to the school systems throughout. I know, Florida, in talking to the superintendents, where we put in these additional standards, standards are wonderful, but once we find out that a kid has a deficiency, what are they going to do about it? We did not put the money there to follow the standards.

In other words, it is what they call an unfunded mandate. Does the gentleman know about unfunded mandates?

Mr. PALLONE. Oh, absolutely. I remember, years ago, and it may be before the gentlewoman was here, that the Republicans, when we were in the majority, because I was here from 1988 to 1994 when the Republicans took the majority, and we would get procedural motions on a regular basis from the Republicans about unfunded mandates, how the Democrats were passing legislation and not providing the money to back it up.

Clearly, No Child Left Behind is the biggest unfunded mandate that ever existed around this place. The gentlewoman is absolutely right.

We do not hear anything about that now because they just want to talk about how wonderful the program is. But there is no money for it, not anywhere near what there was supposed to be to fund it.

I wanted to go back, and maybe the gentlewoman does not want to stress this Halliburton thing so much.

Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida. No, no, I want to stress the Halliburton thing.

Mr. PALLONE. Well, I have to just talk a little about it, because I have some of the statistics. The gentlewoman had asked about some of the statistics concerning the money.

Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida. Does the gentleman know how much a month Mr. CHENEY gets?

Mr. PALLONE. Well, this is what I have. This is a Congressional Research Service report that was issued several weeks after he made that statement on, I guess it was on Meet the Press, and CHENEY made a statement that he severed the ties with the company, got rid of all his financial interests, has had no financial interest in Halliburton of any kind, has not had now for over 3 years.

Despite those claims, the Congressional Research Service issued a report several weeks after that Meet the Press interview, and they concluded that, because he receives a deferred salary and continues to hold stock interests, he still has a significant financial interest in Halliburton. And they said, basically, he has $433,000 in stock options. Basically, his deferred salary is about $200,000 a year. That is what he gets deferred, because of these stock options, about $200,000 a year that he gets from Halliburton.

This notion that somehow he does not have a financial interest anymore is just nonsense.

Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida. Well, Mr. Speaker, my records indicate that the deferred compensation account was valued at between $500,000 and $1 million.

Mr. PALLONE. That is correct, if you take the whole value of it. I think it gives him about $200,000 a year for the rest of his life. But if you take the whole value of it, that would be right.

The other thing I wanted to say is that, when we talk about Halliburton and what they have done in Iraq and the illegal activities, we are not making this up. I just wanted to give some facts. First of all, Halliburton has acknowledged, so this is not myself or the gentlewoman making this up, they have acknowledged, and I quote, ''They accepted up to $6 million in kickbacks for their contract work in Iraq.'' They admitted that.

Second, they are now being investigated by the Pentagon for overcharging the American Government for its work in Iraq. They face criminal charges in a $180 million international bribery scandal during the time that

CHENEY was the CEO. They have repeatedly been warned by the Pentagon that the food they were serving 110,000 U.S. troops in Iraq was dirty. And a Pentagon audit found blood all over the floor of the kitchens that Halliburton supplies all over in Iraq.

And, finally, Halliburton is getting around an American law that forbids doing business with rogue nations. Thanks to a giant loophole, Halliburton is able to do business with Iran, of all nations, through one of its subsidiaries in the Caymen Islands.

So here we go. In World War II, they called these war profiteers. If you were a war profiteer in World War II, it was like you were the worst person on earth. People would not even talk to you. They would not have anything to do with the company. Here, they are profiting off the war in this fashion, and we do not hear anybody from the administration talking about it in terms of their wanting to sever their ties or they do not want them to continue doing their work. They continue to get all these no-bid contracts as we speak. It is just unbelievable.

So I do not know if the gentlewoman wanted to say anything else, but the other thing I wanted to mention tonight when we talk about these special interests, because it still has not been resolved, is this whole issue of this energy task force. When he first became Vice President, one of the first things CHENEY did was establish this task force that was supposed to come up with a new energy policy.

Groups like the Sierra Club and a few other groups that wanted to find out who was on this task force and who was behind this task force, because this was a secret task force, they had to go all the way to the Supreme Court because CHENEY and Bush refused to give out the information about who sat on this task force.

Now, the gentlewoman and I can speculate, but, obviously, they were trying to hide something, probably some oil and gas CEOs that were involved in this thing. And to this day, they do not reveal the names of the members and what this task force was about. And when they finally came up with the legislation from this task force, all it did was help the oil and gas companies.

As the gentlewoman and I mentioned, one of the biggest problems the average American faces right now is the rising cost of gas. I do not know what is going to happen this year with home heating oil again. These guys, both CHENEY and President Bush, were from the oil industry, and they continue to hide who was involved in this energy task force in coming up with this energy policy.

Fortunately, that bill, which passed here, has not passed over in the other body, so it has not become law. And I hope it does not between now and the end of the year. But this is just another example of playing right into the corporate interests. It just never ceases.

If the gentlewoman does not want to add anything else, I will conclude this evening, Mr. Speaker. But I just wanted to say, once again, that, if we look at the record of President Bush and the congressional Republicans, there is absolutely no indication that they are shifting in any way their emphasis away from the special interests to the middle class. They have squeezed the middle class families.

When I was home during our August break, I had open houses. I had hundreds of people showing up at my offices, and they all had the same problem: I lost my job; my job went overseas; I tried to get money for retraining, and the money was not there. The public is just being squeezed.

Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida. Just one thing, if the gentleman will continue to yield.

We constantly try to bring up an extension on the unemployment. This is money that people have actually paid into it. But this administration and the House refuses. Because of what reason? Because I am not quite sure. They do not want the public to know how many people are unemployed? What is it?

Mr. PALLONE. Well, I do not understand the whole phenomena. Somehow, in some Republican minds, and I am not saying all of them, because I know there are some that do not agree, but certainly the majority and the leadership seem to think that somehow unemployment compensation is somehow welfare or some sort of giveaway.

They refuse to acknowledge, I think, that people have paid into it while they worked, and they just seem to think somehow it is some sort of giveaway to people who do not want to work.

These are people that have tried to look for a job and have not been able to find one. You have to show that in order to get the benefits.

Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida. Well, Mr. Speaker, this whole question of outsourcing and then this administration talking about the jobs they have created, they are low-paying service jobs. And most people are happy to have a job, but we have lost the best jobs. And this administration refuses to do training programs, or they cut those programs, educational programs.

The 9/11 Commission was talking about the recommendations, and I was listening to them. And they were talking about the young people in Iraq, and they did not have jobs or training. And I said to myself, We have that same problem right here in the United States.

We have that same problem right here in the United States. And so while we are addressing other areas, other countries, Iraq, their training and education, we need to be doing the same thing here with the people that are paying the bills. It is amazing.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, let me give the gentlewoman an example, and I have used this example before, but I will use it again.

I mentioned all the people that came into my office for the open houses. The one thing that very much stuck in my mind was a gentleman came, and I will not mention his name, who had worked for the Frigidaire plant in Edison, my largest town. The plant closed, and 1,500 jobs went to China. Everybody lost their jobs, good jobs, union jobs, health benefits, good pension, the whole thing.

Under one of the bills that was passed here, in the event that you lose your job because it goes overseas, and I have not favored these trade bills, but regardless, it provided that there was going to be, absolutely, retraining programs for these people if a plant closed and so many jobs went to China or some other place overseas.

This guy comes into my office, and he had actually found another job. I do not think it paid as much or was as good, but it was still a good job.

□ 2100

It required retraining. He went to the Federal office or maybe it was a State office with Federal dollars to do the retraining to qualify for the job. They told him we do not have any more money. Federal dollars had been cut back, and there was no money. This was something that was authorized and required under the law. There was no money from the Federal Government to do it, he was not able to get the job. He is sitting home not working.

It is unbelievable. As the gentlewoman says the promises, if you lose your job overseas, we are going to retrain you, we are going to give you a Medicare prescription drug benefit, and it is absolutely not true. When I go home, that is all I hear. I call it the middle class squeeze: Rising prices, health care, higher education costs, and gas prices. At the same time if you have a job and are not keeping up, even those people who have a job, they are getting less real dollars and the prices keep going up, and nobody in the Bush administration seems to think anything is wrong. That is reason enough why we have to have a change in November.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. CORRINE BROWN) for joining us this evening.

Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE) for his leadership day in and day out speaking to the American people. I hope this is a wake-up call because God knows, we need one. This administration talks the talk, but they do not walk the walk. As the veterans say, they do not rule the world. They talk about how much they care about veterans as they cut programs. There will be a cut in all programs under another 4 years of this administration.

These people on the other side of the aisle really do believe in giving the moneys to their corporate friends, what I call reverse Robin Hood, robbing from the poor and working people, to

give tax breaks to the rich. That is their agenda, and they push it through over and over again. I really hope the American people will give us some help in the next election.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 4571, LAWSUIT ABUSE REDUCTION ACT OF 2004

Mr. SESSIONS, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 108–684) on the resolution (H. Res. 766) providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 4571) to amend rule 11 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure to improve attorney accountability, and for other purposes, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

HURRICANE SEASON

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. KLINE). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 7, 2003, the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Mr. Speaker, since the early weeks of August, Florida and its residents have endured the unrelenting and unsympathetic wrath of Mother Nature. Through the harsh design of fate, Florida was dealt the unfortunate circumstances of bearing the brunt of not one but two hurricanes, and it appears more dark clouds are poised to visit the Sunshine State.

This map very carefully tracks the two hurricanes that hit Florida. The first one in orange is Hurricane Charley. It was upgraded to a tropical storm at 5 on August 10, continued raising havoc in Jamaica, and in Jamaica it became a hurricane on the 11th, and it hit Punta Gorda, Florida on the 13th, exactly one month ago today, at 4:30 p.m.

Frances became a category 4 on the 28th of August. On the 2nd, it was in the Bahamas, and Frances made landfall in Stewart, Florida, at 1 on September 5. So Florida has been hit twice and based on the latest weather forecast, it appears that the Panhandle will be hit again with Hurricane Ivan.

It is not the first time that Florida has been devastated by three hurricanes all at once. The State has experienced such occurrences before. Actually in 1964, three storms hit Florida within an 8-week period. The hurricanes were named Cleo, Dora and Isabel. Regardless of what we name them, it does not make living in a State with so many hurricanes a lot of fun. Those hurricanes slammed the State. Thus, Floridians are not bewildered by the sheer numbers of hurricanes that threaten to trounce the State.

With regard to the power and force of these menacing natural disasters, well, before Hurricane Charley came ashore the people of Florida have understood and respected the potential power that a hurricane wields. I recall in 1992 when Hurricane Andrew hit the State, and it hit the Homestead, Florida, area and had a devastating effect there.

We have a few photos of some of the examples of the kind of destruction that a hurricane can do. Obviously this house as a result of the hurricane was damaged and would have to be completely torn down. Again, we have more destruction. This is an area that certainly as we look at the picture we say, how could people go back and say I want to rebuild. But wanting to rebuild and having the courage and the strength that so many Floridians do to face the hurricane and the destruction that goes along with the hurricane and yet have the spirit, the human spirit that says we are going to stay, we are going to rebuild and make the community even stronger.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. KELLER) from the Orlando area.

Mr. KELLER. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I have just returned from Florida where I took a helicopter tour of the greater Orlando area and saw firsthand the extensive damage which has literally turned upside down the lives of several hundred Central Floridians. I have empathy for those who have suffered such severe damage because my own mom, Laura Keller, completely lost her home in Hurricane Charley.

Despite these temporary heartaches, I am optimistic about central Florida's future. Last Tuesday, we passed legislation in Congress to immediately provide $2 billion to FEMA to help our citizens in Florida recover from Hurricanes Charley and Frances. The very next day, President Bush signed this legislation into law. Together we acted with near-lightning speed to provide immediate relief. This $2 billion will be able to help Central Florida families with things like temporary lodging, food, water supplies, medical care, and will allow roofs to be repaired. I know that I speak for all central Floridians when I say to my congressional colleagues all across the country, thank you for being there and voting for this important relief package.

But after taking this helicopter tour, I can tell Members this $2 billion we have already provided is only a down payment, and I say that regretfully because I know how tight money is around here these days. Fortunately, President Bush agrees more money is needed. Earlier today the White House requested that Congress provide an additional $2.5 billion in hurricane relief for Florida. I will strongly support this much-needed appropriation.

Mr. Speaker, our citizens have suffered enormous out-of-pocket costs which should be taken into account by FEMA. For example, imagine that a person has a $300,000 home and he has suffered $30,000 in property damage as a result of these two hurricanes. Now some people outside of Florida may mistakenly think no problem, you have insurance, insurance will pay for it.

Actually, it is a big problem and here is why. Since many of these Florida insurance policies have 5 percent deductibles and these two hurricanes are viewed by insurance companies as two separate and distinct events, it is entirely possible that the individual will have to pay the entire $30,000 bill himself, 100 percent out of pocket. I believe in this type of circumstance, if the person is not eligible for a FEMA grant, he should at least get a zero percent loan from FEMA to cover the out-of-pocket cost. It is patently unreasonable for us to assume that the average citizen has $30,000 lying around in his checking account just in case he unexpectedly gets blind-sided by two hurricanes.

Mr. Speaker, these people need help, and it is up to those of us in Congress to try to help them. Rest assured that Congress, especially those from Florida, will continue to work very closely with President Bush and Governor Jeb Bush over the next few weeks to help rebuild Florida as quickly as possible and in a way that makes Florida stronger than ever before.

I urge all of my colleagues in Congress to support this $2.5 billion hurricane relief package. It is the right thing to do and now is the right time to do it.

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Mr. Speaker, earlier I mentioned Hurricane Andrew, and Hurricane Andrew came around the fall of 1992 when I was just elected to the Florida Senate. I served at the time with the very distinguished gentleman now in Congress with me, the gentleman from the Palm Beach, Florida, area (Mr. FOLEY).

Mr. FOLEY. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for organizing this opportunity for us to come to the floor and let the rest of the country know what Florida has been living through.

I came to Florida from Massachusetts at the age of 3, and I remember waking up early one morning in 1960 to a storm that we had never known in Massachusetts, and that was Hurricane Donna. We went about putting masking tape on our jalousie windows. That is what we were told to do for safety. My, how things have changed.

The people of Florida are storm weary and they are fatigued. Their resilient nature and strong character have been tested over the last few weeks. But as we have done before, Floridians are banding together, helping their neighbor and slowly rebuilding their homes, their businesses and their communities.

Never in our Nation's history have two storms brought this much destruction back to back to one State. Unfortunately, the people of the 16th District have weathered the worst. Hurricane Charley reached landfall on August 13, 2004, and blasted its way

through southwest Florida with winds of upwards of 145 miles an hour and 10-foot storm surges.

This is Hurricane Charley as it originated off the African coast. It was upgraded along the way, became a very, very distinguished storm in intensity. We heard it would probably go to Tampa. I can remember watching that storm at 3 in the afternoon in West Palm Beach, my home, and watched as that storm made almost a right-hand turn into Punta Gorda and increased in velocity and intensity.

That was a Friday afternoon at 4:30. At 7 a.m., Governor Bush and FEMA Director Mike Brown and I hit the tarmac at Fort Myers airport to begin a very telling and shocking look, an aerial observation of death and destruction. It is hard for anyone to quantify the feeling you have when you watch somebody who is about 80 years old walking out of a totally destroyed mobile home park with nothing more than a pair of white dress shoes. That was all she could find. I watched that repeated home after home in beautiful Punta Gorda, Florida, never before known to many, now known to all. The names Punta Gorda and Port Charlotte have been replayed on every national news broadcast as the scene of just total and complete devastation.

□ 2115

Hurricane Frances reached landfall 3 weeks later on September 4, 2004, and battered Florida's East Coast and central region with 105-mile-per-hour winds and up to 17 inches of rain. Again another storm, I must tell you, coming from a similar track and a similar trajectory, coming towards us at quite a bit of speed. Fortunately it started to slow as it approached the Bahama chain and clearly then stalled off of West Palm. I remember watching from the emergency operations center at West Palm as that storm seemed to set there for an incredible amount of time. It finally made landfall again in the 16th District in Sewells Point, Florida, which is located in Martin County close to the city of Stuart, and proceeded to do damage and destruction as it virtually made an X across Orlando. The gentleman from Florida (Mr. FEENEY) will be talking a little bit about how it impacted his district, which has Brevard and I believe Osceolo and Orange Counties, but he will tell you how it basically made an X over Orlando as if they were charted and plotted to take that trajectory.

Twenty-seven people lost their lives from the wrath of Hurricane Charley to date. Eighteen people lost their lives from the devastation caused by Frances. Insured property losses for Charley are climbing in excess of $7 billion. Hurricane Frances damages are estimated up to $4 billion. More than 20,000 farms were in the path of Hurricane Frances and damage estimated to Florida's agricultural community exceeds more than $2 billion. The travel and tourism industry faces millions of dollars in lost revenue. Power outages have affected more than 6 million people and, boy, have we heard it. At times I felt like I was the service representative for the power company, we had so many calls coming to our office. Believe me, I understand your aggravation because I too was without power for a significant part of last week.

Florida's Governor Jeb Bush took immediate action to declare a major disaster for the entire State of Florida and deployed necessary resources to deal with the crisis. The Federal Emergency Management Agency, FEMA, has more than 2,700 agency workers helping with the recovery effort. The National Guard was quick to mobilize more than 4,100 troops to help in the relief efforts, both to provide security for people in the region as well as provide humanitarian relief for those impacted. $2 billion has been requested and granted thanks to the hard work of the Florida delegation, including its chairman, Mr. BILL YOUNG, chairman of the Appropriations Committee, Chairman CLAY SHAW of the entire delegation, and $2.5 billion of emergency moneys is now being forwarded to this Chamber by the White House.

Some reforms are in the process. We filed a bill that would allow one-time penalty free withdrawals from IRA accounts for people living in natural disaster areas. We have asked for the potential halting of cement tariffs so we can quickly rebuild our communities. We have asked to consider the insurance disaster relief reserve accounts that we think would stabilize and make insurance companies more financially sound to weather these storms and the burdens they place on those companies' reserves, regional emergency energy reserves to look at the coordination between Federal-State agencies bringing fuel supplies to regions most impacted to run the diesels, the power, the waste treatment plants, and, of course, to review our energy repair efforts after a disaster.

And now Ivan is somewhere stirring in the coast and we are praying, I have prayed more in the last 4 days than I did in 10 years of Catholic school, hoping that Ivan would not do the destruction that was contemplated just several days ago. We pray for all those in the Panhandle. Our colleague JEFF MILLER and I were speaking today and worried about its potential impact on the Panhandle, of course, New Orleans, any of those areas. We just hope maybe the storm loses its steam and subsides. But you see now why Florida and even areas in Virginia were hit by hurricanes.

But I just want to thank again my colleague from Florida for providing this opportunity to kind of let people know how difficult it has been the last 5 weeks in Florida but how strong the people have been and how I know with the help of the Federal Government and our colleagues in this Chamber that we will do our best to remedy. We will not be able to right every wrong or every problem people have suffered, but we are certainly going to work on trying to make their lives at least better as we prepare to deal with these back-to-back tragedies.

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. We both had experiences both with Hurricane Andrew and these hurricanes that we have had this year. I have noticed a marked improvement in FEMA and with the coordination of FEMA and the State agencies. Having been involved and had people who suffered through both of those hurricanes, I see a much more rapid response on the part of FEMA this time. I know that is exactly what is happening in the Tampa Bay area and I am sure it is happening in your area. If you would like to take just a moment to address that, I would appreciate it.

Mr. FOLEY. It is interesting you mention that, because last night I saw Joe Allbaugh, who was the former FEMA Director under President Bush, the first FEMA Director under this administration. He told me how President Bush during his term as Governor had suffered 14 hurricanes in Texas over the course of those 3 years. One of the things they talked about is the plan that they put in place to rapidly position rescue efforts, relief efforts, water, ice and other things in staging areas so that we would not repeat the tragedies of years past, Andrew being one of them, where it was a week before even then Governor Chiles asked for even Federal help.

So it is interesting as we watched particularly in Charley, if I can take you for a minute to that day, Saturday, when we were aerial above the community. Hundreds of trucks moving in on the highways. Very little other traffic. But these relief trucks were already there. The winds had only stopped blowing a few hours before and they were making their way into Florida to try and remedy the damage. I know we have not got everything right. There are still some kinks, but the difference in the way they have approached restoration of basic utilities, of water, of the basic provisions, including two visits by President Bush to Florida, helping hand out supplies himself. We are all touched by these storms and we cannot work miracles, but I can tell you and I thank you for bringing that to the attention of our colleagues, because FEMA and its response through its lead agent, Mike Brown, has been tireless, relentless and has been thorough. I salute them because they are under a lot of pressure, as you can well imagine. Constituents are upset, mad, aggravated, tired, hot. Every emotion you could possibly have has been felt in Florida. But FEMA really has stepped up to the plate.

The other person is Governor Bush. You have got to give him credit. I have known Jeb probably since 1982, when he was a Secretary of Commerce, a young real estate lad in Florida and now obviously our esteemed Governor. I do not think he has taken his eye off the ball

once in the last 5 weeks. It has been an incredibly focused effort, hourly updates. You cannot imagine what I Blackberry him about. I am wondering when I am going to get the Blackberry back fully. Take a nap. But he responds. He is getting the problem solved. It has been a very, very wonderful thing to watch. And he does not have an election before him. He is in his second term. He cannot run for reelection. The kind of effort he is putting through, I have heard a few people say, oh, it's all politics. He is not running for anything. He is finished. He has done his two terms. He is working hard on behalf of the people because he feels their pain. And he was in Andrew. He was in Miami at the time. He remembers the lack of response and he is not going to let that be repeated to the citizens of this great State.

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Without a doubt, there has been rapid response. Part of the redesign of FEMA is that they have so many people on standby, whether it is a retired nurse or a doctor who will take time off to go exactly where they are needed. We must always remember, too, that the National Guard has been of great assistance. I know they have been in several of the counties that I represent. As I went around the counties, people are saying it is much better organized. If I could wave a magic wand, just as you have said this, too, wave a magic wand and have everybody's power put on, but we do not want to have those power companies out there endangering the lives of their crew either. This is difficult sometimes for people to realize. Nobody likes to be in the dark sitting there by candlelight but overall between FEMA and all of the mutual assistance that came in from the other States from utility companies, it was a much more rapid response, much better coordinated.

I agree with you that our Governor has done a wonderful job. He is there at the emergency operations center up there in Tallahassee, he has toured around the State. I know we have been in touch with him about some snafus. Between FEMA and Governor Bush, the problems get resolved very quickly.

Mr. FOLEY. Let me expand on one thing, if I could. You mentioned the persons that are part-timers. That is a very significant new part of FEMA. From around this great country of ours, there are people standing ready in reserve, that have other jobs, other lives. They may be firefighters, nurses. You mentioned those trades. They are ready to receive the call at a moment's notice. A bag is already packed in their home. They get the call. I met several of them in Punta Gorda. They are coming from Oregon, Washington State, Texas, you name it. These are people that give up 2 weeks of their own lives to come help, aid and assist, not as a volunteer, they are paid for their 2 weeks, but they leave their own homes to come provide the relief, which means the Federal Government does not have to have all these full-time employees.

That was one of the most incredible things I had seen. They had set up a MASH unit in the parking lot because we lost all three hospitals in Punta Gorda. Those people were in there that were medical doctors, surgeons that came from their communities to give their 2 weeks. It is just one of those things that you realize we are not in this world alone no matter what problems we face. This country rises to the challenge and the people that are part of this great Nation are up to the challenge of remedying whatever is thrown in our way.

I want to thank the gentlewoman for the chance to discuss, and I know our good colleague from Florida (Mr. FEENEY) is here. I thank the gentlewoman for the opportunity to be part of the special order tonight.

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. I thank the gentleman for being here. I yield to the distinguished gentleman from Orlando (Mr. FEENEY).

Mr. FEENEY. I thank the gentlewoman for organizing this hour and our colleague from Florida (Mr. FOLEY) whose district really took the brunt of both the one-two punch from hurricanes one and two. My district fortunately is a little bit more inland for the most part although I represent from Kennedy Space Center up to Daytona Beach on the beach. We also got hit with a one-two punch. By the time the storm hit us, it was significantly diluted from, say, where the first storm hit Punta Gorda but it was still significant. We got hurt bad. We had people without power for a week. We had an enormous amount of damage done, trees and debris all over, kids lost a week of school. But what is remarkable as you live through the awesome fury of Mother Nature is how resilient the people of Florida and their leaders have been in this response to these two disasters that have really hurt us very badly.

I want to share an experience. One of the things that I did after the first hurricane is to take a little tour with our sheriff of Orange County, Sheriff Kevin Beary. Senator BILL NELSON joined us on that tour with some other local public officials. I will never forget going to a mobile home area that had been mandatorily evacuated, but there was a gentleman that decided to send his family out. He was going to ride out the storm. Within the first 5 minutes of 130, 120-mile-an-hour winds, the entire roof of his mobile home blew off. Within the next 5 minutes, most of the walls had blown off. He only survived the storm because he was able to take all of the food out of his refrigerator and pull the door shut. I guarantee you by the time Frances came around, that same gentleman had evacuated what was left of his mobile home.

One of the lessons that we have learned is that if people will listen to their leaders as a disaster comes through, we are getting much better at predicting the path of hurricanes. Obviously they change their minds at the last minute and you can never know for sure, but it is an enormous amount of help in a State like Florida. We have got only a couple of major arteries, transportation arteries and interstates that people can evacuate on. If everybody from Palm Beach, Broward and Dade County decided to leave within the same 2 hours, we would have nothing but a parking lot for a week on I–95, for example. What we have learned to do is evacuate in stages as our intelligence becomes better and because of that, we are talking about tens of billions of dollars lost, but thankfully we are not talking about thousands or even hundreds of lives lost in large part because of our great Governor Jeb Bush and the leadership he has shown. We can eventually clean up the streets, the debris, we can rebuild the buildings and we can replace most of the property that has been lost over time.

We will rebuild a healthy, thriving, economic Florida, although it will take time but obviously if you make a decision that costs you your life, that is a decision you can never recover from. The casualties given the awesome fury that these storms have invoked on Florida so far have been thankfully, and we thank the Lord for this, have been thankfully relatively minor, especially considering some of the storms in the past.

One of the great things that we have learned to do at the National Hurricane Center is to do a much better job in long-term forecasts, meaning 4- or 5-day forecasts in terms of where these hurricanes are going. It is the reason that we can plan, it is the reason we can evacuate, it is the reason we can board up the proper pieces of property. It is the reason that we can get people into safety. It is the reason that we can get supplies in before the storm hits rather than waiting for weeks afterwards. It has obviously saved not only a lot of lives, but it has done a great job in reducing the property destruction and it has stopped aggravating an already frustrated group of Floridians throughout the State in virtually every county that has been touched one way or another by this incredible storm.

□ 2130

The 5-day forecast is run out of the Naval Operations Center in Norfolk, and they have done a terrific job in making sure that we can define as narrowly as possible which areas are most likely to be hit by the storm. And as Craig Fugate, the Director of the Florida Division of Emergency Management, observed, ''All Floridians should welcome the increased awareness that the 5-day forecast has provided.'' We are grateful for that.

The other thing that I did immediately after the storm was to call the sheriffs in our area. I happened to be at the Emergency Operations Center in

Tallahassee on 9/11, the day the terrorists attacked. I spent that day as the Speaker of the House of Florida with Governor Jeb Bush and other leaders as we made decisions about how to respond to attacks that we did not know when they would end. We did not know whether Florida might be a target as well that morning on 9/11.

But what I learned there that day is, all of the private agencies, from Red Cross and other charitable organizations, from the Federal agencies, including FEMA, from all of our departments at the State level, transportation, health, we have learned remarkably to respond in a regional and Statewide way to disasters that heretofore, before Andrew, were really thought to be a local problem by and large.

And it is the remarkable coordination by all levels of Government and agencies within the Government that not only hopefully will help us with these nature-ordained disasters but will help us deter and respond, if we ever should need to, to manmade attacks, namely terrorism.

I want to tell the Members that FEMA has done a much better job, as the gentlewoman was just saying with the gentleman from Florida (Mr. FOLEY). In the aftermath of Andrew, we had literally weeks where we did not have certain equipment, certain supplies, certain emergency necessities.

In this situation, that has not been the case, with the exception of power. In some cases, we have had people down for a week or two without power. That is an enormously challenging, frustrating, maddening experience. I can tell my colleagues when it is 110 degrees outside, and the kids are hot, and they do not have the ability to go anywhere, to relax, to take a cool shower, it is very difficult to function.

But with the exception of power, we have had, within a day or two for the most part, gas supplies back up and running. We have been able to get the debris cleared up in the roads so people could get to and from their shopping centers to buy fresh food, to replenish supplies. So the response in Central Florida has really been amazing.

Already FEMA assistance in Florida has reached more than $162 million as of today. Approximately $100 million of that is in emergency housing, people that literally would not have any shelter if it was not for the work of FEMA. Everywhere I went, my sherifs, my local law enforcement, my local fire chiefs, my local mayors and county commissioners all remarked that FEMA was giving them everything that was humanly possible to provide in a fairly organized and reasonable manner, and they were very grateful.

One of the issues that has already been touched on by the gentleman from Florida (Mr. KELLER) when he was first here was, in the aftermath of Andrew, we had really had a crisis. We had 11 property and casualty, i.e. homeowners' insurance, go bankrupt. Even State Farm in Florida literally went belly up. And only because of the good graces of the other 49 State Farms in the various States decided to bail out the State Farm program were they able to pay claims and stay in business.

If, in Florida, we lost all of our property and casualty market, that is, if insurers no longer wanted to write homeowners' insurance policies, Americans everywhere need to be aware of what the effect would be on Florida's economy and ultimately on the United States' economy.

The truth of the matter is that real estate is one of our key economic drivers in Florida. We do not have a big manufacturing base like many States in the Midwest, for example. But we have an awful lot of thriving commercial and homeownership in the real estate area, and it is one of the things that drives not just the Florida economy but ripples and has a positive effect on the entire U.S. economy.

If we do not have the ability to have insurance, lenders will not lend to buy property. Not only will the lenders and the mortgage brokers and mortgage bankers go out of business, but the people that work for title companies will go out of business. People that build houses, subcontractors, people that build pools, people that sell lumber, people that survey property, we would literally have dozens of industries wiped out potentially for a significant period of time.

As a consequence, we did a couple of things that were very important. It is the reason, after two horrible storms, the Florida insurance property and casualty market is still relatively healthy. It would not have been true if we had not done some of these reforms.

One is, we provided a catastrophic policy that all companies are obligated to pay into to prepare for an event like this. That catastrophic insurance has only used about half of its reserves at the last count, which means that we are still able to function and hopefully the insurance market will still stay relatively healthy.

We upgraded all of our building codes. A building permit to build a new home, especially in coastal areas, means that one has to have a seriously upgraded plan in civil engineering that will protect their property from most winds below 100 or 110 miles an hour. Mobile homes, before the Andrew event, often were put together in a very cheap and slipshod manner, and they literally were just standing like a house of cards on a concrete floor.

We now tie down those buildings. We now make sure that they are much better produced and manufactured and secured in a way that most of the mobile homes that were built after Hurricane Andrew, in 1993, survived the storm in relatively good shape. So we are very grateful for that.

The last thing that I wanted to mention before I turn it back to the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE) is that all of us have some unique damages here. I have a lot of ferneries and nurseries as part of the key agricultural businesses in Congressional District 24. Under the Department of Agriculture's emergency plan to help farmers and agricultural leaders through a disaster like this, if they have a product that is consumed, they are eligible for some relief.

We are trying, with the good work of the gentleman from Florida (Mr. PUTNAM); of the gentleman from Florida (Mr. FOLEY); of the gentleman from Florida (Mr. YOUNG), the Committee on Appropriations chairman, to see to it that we cannot get some relief for folks that produce the ferneries and the nurseries because they are just as severely impacted by the potential loss of all of their income.

The last thing that I wanted to mention is that, right before I came up here, this Saturday, I spent the better part of the mid morning with Jim Kennedy, the Center Director at Kennedy Space Center. I will tell the Members that we believe that Kennedy has had about $120 to $140 million worth of damages at this point. There are some 14,000 workers that have been off work that started back to work today. They are enthusiastic. They are determined that we are going to continue the leading manned space flight in the history of the world.

Fortunately, the three shuttle orbiters that were all there at the Center at the time were safely preserved in their buildings. All Kennedy Space Center personnel are safe and sound. But there have been a couple buildings seriously damaged, including the famous Vehicle Assembly Building.

Until a few years ago, the largest indoor-contained building in the world, this is where the Space Shuttle components are assembled and then moved to eventually the launch pad. By the way, the launch pads, gratefully, are also preserved intact. But over an acre of the south wall, 4-foot-by-16-foot aluminum panels have blown off, including part that make up the beautiful American flag, which is probably about the size of two or three football fields. So this is going to need to be repaired. It is going to take some significant time.

The Thermal Protection System Facility lost half of its roof. It is the place where the outside tiles and the thermal blankets inside protect the Shuttle crew from the intense heat, and literally the top of the building was peeled off like a can opener.

The Florida Space Authority was asked immediately after the storm whether it had any room to possibly continue the production of these very critical tiles for return to flight on a timely schedule and the blankets, and thanks to Winston Scott, the Executive Director of the Florida Space Authority, within seconds, he told Jim Kennedy that absolutely they were going to be able to use the facility that the Florida Space Authority had.

Within 3 or 4 hours, components of the tile and the blanket manufacturing

and processing team was moving into this new facility. So we had very little interruption in what could have been a very significant challenge.

Finally, the diligence of the men and women in the Kennedy Space Center team, including NASA and the private contractors, has made this such that, like a lot of us, we are going to have some damages to repair. We are going to have some streets to clean. We are going to have some buildings to put back in place. But, fortunately, in my district, the Kennedy Space Center came through with the type of harm that could be fixed, fixed very rapidly, and we are anxious to get back to work and get back to normal in Florida.

The last thing I will say is, I thank the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE) for her leadership here, but we know, having been through two of these now just in the last month, that our thoughts and our prayers are with the folks in the Panhandle of Florida, the folks in Alabama, the folks in New Orleans. We are thinking about them.

And if there is anything good that comes out of these horrible events, it is the way we bond together as communities and as families. I do not think I will ever forget teaching my two small boys, Tommy, who is 12, and Sean, who is 6, as we literally pulled out mattresses from some of the other bedrooms. We pulled them into Mom and my room. We were there with our blankets and pillows. We had our transistor radios. The power was, of course, out. We had a cooler, and we had everything that we needed as a family there during about an hour and a half of real horror during Charley.

But families bond. Communities bond. States bond, and we are grateful to the people of America for thinking about and helping Floridians

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Without a doubt, Mr. Speaker.

Reclaiming my time, the gentleman was in the State legislature, and he had mentioned this, the change in the State building code. And it was very difficult to pass because it did raise the cost of home building in Florida. And I remember that, at the time, and I am sure his constituents complained also, it was causing the cost of home construction to go up, and the builders were very upset, too.

As he looks around his district, I am sure he can differentiate the homes that were built to the newer, higher wind codes as opposed to the older homes, where the wind actually came in and did the substantial amount of damage. And in retrospect, I am sure that all those people who had to pay a couple hundred dollars more, and it did end up being a couple of hundred dollars more, are very glad that Florida did impose stricter building codes.

And it was a tough sell at the time, as I remember, but it truly was as a result of Hurricane Andrew, but also it was because, when a hurricane comes, Florida is usually the first place that it hits.

Mr. FEENEY of Florida. Mr. Speaker, if the gentlewoman will yield.

I have a friend who is a civil engineer, and his primary job is to certify each and every set of plans, which is now required since the 1993 changes. I remember asking him at one point, because he designs dozens or hundreds of homes, Why would he have to certify each set of new plans for each new home? Why could he not just certify a model? Would that not be a lot less expensive, cheaper? And his answer was that every location and every building is a little bit different and that, absent this, some day we may regret that we did not require the diligence that the gentlewoman is talking about. That is in the design stage.

Obviously, we required more substantial materials in places. We required storm shutters in certain areas. We have allowed those people to take discounts from their insurance if they would go out and purchase storm shutters. All of that investment was some of the best money ever spent by individual home buyers and home builders in Florida, and I think we are all grateful that we changed, and we were adaptable, we were flexible after Andrew.

There will be lessons learned from Charley and Frances and Ivan, but thanks to her leadership and the policymakers that are forward thinking in Florida, I think we will be in even better shape the next time we face one of these horrible events

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Mr. Speaker, the other thing that I wanted to share with the gentleman is, just before I came down to the floor, I was handed a list of agricultural losses, and these were compiled obviously from the very hardworking members of the agricultural industry.

And the loss for the fern industry, which I know is very large in the gentleman's area, was anywhere from 65 to 75 million. So, as we proceed with a supplemental bill to assist those who were devastated by the storm, certainly, we are hopeful that we will be able to help out not only the nursery industry, the ferns, but I have a large dairy industry in my area. And so we want to make sure that we are able to help so many of the very hardworking members of the agriculture and aquaculture industry, too.

Mr. FEENEY. Right, Mr. Speaker.

And again, we appreciate her leadership on that. As I took the helicopter ride, we deliberately went over some of the nurseries and ferneries, and they have a lot of glass and plastic buildings that they use to soak up the sun and provide the right amount of water. They do a terrific job, but they have been devastated in many respects. And they are sort of caught in the middle. If they are a typical business, they are eligible for a very low-interest Small Business Administration loan if they are subject to a disaster attack. If one is an agricultural farmer that grows products for consumption, they are covered by emergency processes in the Department of Agriculture's contingency budget.

□ 2145

But if you grow ferns or other nursery products because your product cannot be consumed, you are at this point considered eligible for neither business assistance nor for agriculture assistance. So it is one of those things that we will work with the administration on to try to fix as rapidly as possible.

I yield back to the gentlewoman.

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Mr. Speaker, when we remember Hurricane Frances, we have to remember that it was so large that at one point it obstructed nearly the entire State of Florida on satellite views. The hurricane actually was estimated to measure twice the size of Texas.

As I went around my district, and my district goes from the coast, from the west coast to just bordering on the gentleman from Florida's district in the Orlando area, as I went around my district after the hurricane struck, I would see homes and stop and talk to the owners. It is amazing, as I mentioned to him, the difference between the older homes and the newer homes. The newer homes did not sustain as much damage because they were built to better safety codes; they were better designed, higher wind loads for the roof. All of those facets made those homes sustain the storm a whole lot better.

While Frances may have ripped roofs off stores and homes, flattened gas station canopies and slammed moored boats against each other, it did not dampen the spirits of the people of Florida. I had a mother come up to me and say, you know, it has always been difficult to turn off the TV, to get the kids to turn off the TV. She said, I never thought I would say this, but we were able to have the television off, and we actually played some board games. She found this to be a great time to get closer to her children. She now has her power restored, and I am sure that television is back on. But overall, people found this a time of great reflection and a time to pray that their friends and neighbors and that their own family members would remain safe.

Mr. Speaker, there is still a lot of repairing that needs to be done. I know, as I was driving Saturday evening around my district, there were piles of debris along the road. And right now, there are still some 213,000 Floridians still without power. When we put that into perspective, there are some people who do not have a home anymore. They do not have the family heirlooms; they do not even have photographs, because all of those were destroyed in the storm. So people can put this lack of electricity into perspective, because in Florida it gets hot and very, very muggy; but at least they still have their homes. A woman pointed that out

to me because she had a friend in another part of the State who lost everything, absolutely everything.

Mr. Speaker, Floridians have hope because they know that we as public servants will not forget them. They know that we will work to the fullest of our abilities to see that they receive the relief that they so desperately need.

I would like to take a moment to certainly applaud FEMA, the SBA, the Red Cross, the Salvation Army, and so many other organizations that have coordinated relief efforts in our State. There is a wonderful group in my district that is called the Christian Contractors of America, and these are very dedicated, skilled workmen who go out and assist people. I had one constituent who had a tree land on her house and somebody misinformed her that FEMA would take care of the tree. Well, FEMA does not go around cutting down trees. But this great group of Christian contractors we were able to call and, without a doubt, they are there to help. They were there long before the storm, helping people, helping people living in substandard housing. I can think of another example where they helped a battered spouse who had all the windows knocked in.

Organizations such as this, certainly the Salvation Army, the Red Cross, all of the church groups that opened up their doors if they had power and they provided food and they provided air-conditioning and they provided shelter and respite, and a place to come where the community could all come together.

Mr. Speaker, we must answer the needs of Florida and other States. It is not just Florida that gets hit by hurricanes, as Alabama is about to find out, as North Carolina found out last year. I joke with my sister; she lived in North Carolina in Morehead City and she was tired of all the hurricanes hitting there, so she decided to move down to the panhandle of Florida. Well, guess what? She is about ready to be hit by another hurricane.

All of the members of the Florida delegation, regardless of which party we belong to, do not forget our commitment to our constituents. Florida must be helped, and I am sure that Congress will take action.

IRAQ WATCH

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. KLINE). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 7, 2003, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. STRICKLAND) is recognized for 60 minutes.

FLOODING IN OHIO

Mr. STRICKLAND. Mr. Speaker, I was sitting here listening to my colleagues from Florida talking about the disaster that Florida has experienced, and I thought about my own experience in Ohio over the last 2 or 3 days. Ohio is a long way from Florida, but Ohio has been affected, seriously affected by the results of the hurricane, the flooding that has occurred in a number of Ohio counties, which has absolutely been devastating.

In Columbiana County, where I was earlier today, one small township, it is estimated that they have public damages of between $400,000 and $500,000. Many roads have been completely washed out. The day before yesterday, I was in another county in my district, Belmont County, a little town called Ness, and in that community there were homes that were completely destroyed and demolished, homes where people will never be able to return to live because they were so terribly damaged. And the damage was caused, in large part, by rain that occurred as a result of the hurricanes that had come in and through Florida.

So it is true that we are very sympathetic with the good people of Florida who have suffered so deeply. We are happy that help and hope is on the way for them. But just this day, I faxed a letter to the White House asking the President to act expeditiously on a request for a Federal declaration which has been sent to him by Ohio's Governor, Bob Taft, asking that these communities in Ohio which have been so terribly, terribly affected be also declared a Federal disaster area, so that appropriate Federal resources can be made available to them.

We need FEMA to come in, to provide temporary housing. I spoke just the day before yesterday with a lady nearly 80 years old who lived by herself, whose total monthly income was $655 a month. She also was receiving, I think, $70 per month in food stamps. But her home had been literally destroyed. Her medicine costs were very high, and she was asking what kind of help would be available. And I told her that as soon as the offices opened this morning, Monday morning, that I would be on the phone to the office of FEMA here in D.C. When I contacted them this morning and asked about the request that Governor Taft had submitted for one of the counties, for Columbiana County in Ohio, we were told that the request was under consideration.

But the fact is that we can wait no longer. There are people who are living in cars. There are children who are being kept in fold-out campers. People are without water. We are concerned about the spread of disease. The bottom line is people are suffering terribly in Ohio. I call upon the administration, the President, to recognize what people are going through there.

The geographic area is much smaller than that which was affected in Florida, obviously; but I would contend that there is no one in Florida that has suffered any more than some of the people that I represent. Because when you have lost all that you have, all of your material possessions, when you have no clothing, no personal items, no furniture, when your home has been destroyed and you are with nothing, you are in desperate circumstances; and those are the circumstances that exist across part of Ohio tonight. I am hopeful that by tomorrow I will get a positive response from the President and the White House, and my hope is the help from the Federal level will be flowing into Ohio just as it is flowing into Florida.

I would also like to note, Mr. Speaker, that even the Red Cross has diverted so much of their personnel and their equipment and their resources to Florida that I am afraid that many of my constituents will fall between the cracks, so to speak, and that their terrible plight will not be expeditiously and properly recognized by our Federal Government.

IRAQ

Having said that, Mr. Speaker, I rise tonight, and I will be joined later by some of my colleagues, to talk about Iraq and what is happening in Iraq. This is an effort that we began literally several months ago, myself and some of my colleagues, coming here to the floor to talk about the policies that we are pursuing in Iraq and trying to point out some of the concerns that we have.

I would just begin our Iraq Watch tonight by sharing an editorial from the Columbus Dispatch, which is the capital city newspaper in Ohio. The Columbus Dispatch has been publishing since 1871. They ran an editorial this past Saturday in observance of the anniversary of September 11. I see my friend, the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. DELAHUNT), has joined me. Before I yield to him, I would just like to share some thoughts from the Columbus Dispatch because I think they are very relevant to our discussions here regarding Iraq.

The editorial is entitled, ''Remember Everything.'' It begins this way: ''Three years ago, 3,000 people were murdered in coordinated terrorist attacks in New York City, Washington, D.C., and Pennsylvania. Yet, the man who orchestrated those atrocities remains free. For what he did, Osama bin Laden should be dead or in U.S. custody. No evidence suggests that he is dead, and he is not in custody. Because he remains free, extraordinary security precautions surround today's Ohio State football game.'' And, as I said, this is an editorial that appeared last Saturday when Ohio State was playing Marshall University.

So the editorial says: ''These security precautions will surround today's Ohio State football game, considered a terrorist target because 100,000 spectators will be gathered in the heart of a State that is key to the Presidential election.''

The editorial continues: ''Because bin Laden is at liberty, election and law enforcement officials nationwide are busy planning extra security at polling places on November 2. Because bin Laden has not been captured, the Nation's Capital and national monuments, including the Statue of Liberty, have been militarized and fortified. The Bush administration can claim that bin Laden and his cohorts are on

the run, but bin Laden and his cohorts plausibly can claim the opposite. All bin Laden has to do is point to the armed men and surveillance helicopters around Ohio Stadium.''

□ 2200

How did the destruction of bin Laden slip so far down the Nation's to-do list, the Columbus Dispatch asks? Why are the bulk of U.S. military and intelligence assets tied up in Iraq, which pose only a hypothetical threat, while pursuit of the man who slaughtered thousands of Americans on their own soil is on the back burner? Where is the anger, asks the Columbus Dispatch? Where is the anger?

The September 11 victims were not killed by a natural disaster, such as a hurricane, which cannot be brought to justice and against which rage is futile. They were killed by a man. A man can be made to pay a price. Why has he not paid?

The Columbus Dispatch continues in their editorial. This is the question that President Bush should be answering today and tomorrow and every day until November 2. And the Columbus Dispatch asks, where is Senator JOHN KERRY, who loudly proclaims his determination to strike back at any attack on the United States? The attack has occurred. Where is his pledge to make apprehension of bin Laden dead or alive job number one?

The Dispatch continues. Would bin Laden's death eliminate terrorism? Well, of course not. Quick victory over this kind of nihilism and barbarism is impossible, but every day that bin Laden remains free is a defeat for justice and for civilization. His continued existence, his ability to poison a seemingly impotent world, incites and encourages his followers and imitators.

Now, this is what we have heard from the heartland of America, from Columbus, Ohio, from the Columbus Dispatch newspaper, and I would just point out that the President told us, Mr. Speaker, at one time soon after the September 11 attacks, when bin Laden had been identified as the person responsible for attacking our country, the President told us he can run but he cannot hide. But the fact is that he ran, and thus far he has hidden successfully, and somewhere on God's Earth tonight bin Laden is planning the next attack upon our country.

Tonight, now, I ask my colleagues in this Chamber, why did we divert our attention from Afghanistan and from Osama bin Laden and focus on Iraq? At the Republican National Convention in New York, they talked a lot about September 11. The President gave a 63-minute speech and never once did he mention Osama bin Laden. Never once did the President mention the man who is responsible for attacking our country and who today, tonight, is free planning the next attack. I think the American people deserve an answer to that.

Why, after all of the resources that we have spent, some $200 billion, the over 1,000 lives that have been lost, the nearly 7,000 soldiers that have been wounded, why do we not know where bin Laden is and why have we not captured him and why have we diverted our attention from the effort to find this man? He is the enemy of America. He is the one who attacked us, and yet, somehow, his name is not uttered by our President anymore, and there seems to be no real attention directed toward bringing him to justice.

Now, the fact is we heard a lot about Saddam Hussein.

Mr. DELAHUNT. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield.

Mr. STRICKLAND. I yield to the gentleman from Massachusetts.

Mr. DELAHUNT. If I can, because the reality is that long before September 11, this White House, this President, this Vice President, whose picture was on the November 2003 edition of Newsweek, had an obsession with Iraq, and I would submit that the best evidence of that obsession is revealed in a book by a noted journalist by the name of Ron Suskind, who sat down with the former Secretary of Treasury, Paul O'Neill, and did, if you will, an overview of Secretary O'Neill's experience in the Bush-Cheney White House.

As Secretary O'Neill indicated, he was taken aback by the first National Security Council meeting, and he attended those in his capacity as the Secretary of Treasury, that was held one week after the President was inaugurated, and it quickly turned to the issue of Iraq. There were no threats emanating from Iraq. There were no statements emanating from the brutal regime of Saddam Hussein relative to an attack on the United States or any of our allies. In fact, if you remember, the Secretary of State himself, Colin Powell, later on some time in February described the Iraqi military in terms that turned out to be absolutely accurate, they were forthright, they had been significantly degraded, but one week after the President was sworn in the dominating subject of the first National Security Council meeting was Iraq.

Then subsequently, on February 27, Secretary of the Treasury Paul O'Neill relates at another National Security Council meeting that the Vice President, this gentleman here, DICK CHENEY, had a map spread across a conference table where there were discussions about the divvying up of oil fields and concessions among private corporations and Nations, presumably our allies. That was February 27 of 2001. So right from the beginning it was this obsession about Iraq.

Now I do not know and I am not going to suggest what the motivations were, but it was about Iraq from the beginning. I have posed this question to individuals in the administration. No one has ever denied the accuracy of those anecdotes that were related by the former Secretary of Treasury, a person whose integrity is beyond reproach, who stated it clearly and unequivocally. So we had this proclivity, this propensity, this obsession with Iraq.

Then, of course, 9/11 came, and the terrorism czar at that time, Richard Clarke, made the statement that after listening to the Secretary of Defense Rumsfeld and Under Secretary Wolfowitz he was aghast because he interpreted their immediate response as an opportunity to intervene militarily in Iraq, as opposed to really deal with those who not only had visited probably the most horrific act in our lifetime upon the United States, and clearly, what we have seen is a diversion of attention from those who were the proximate cause of a national tragedy that occurred on September 11 of 2001. We diverted all of our attention, most of our resources to Iraq, rather than dealing with the genuine, accurate war on terror.

Mr. STRICKLAND. It is almost incomprehensible that the person who was responsible for attacking our country, who has claimed responsibility, who has boasted in claiming that responsibility is a person who is free tonight. He ran and he hid, and the President does not even utter his name. It is as though we have forgotten that the real enemy, the real architect of the attack upon our country was Osama bin Laden. He has been referred to as Osama bin Forgotten, and it is quite sad to me that we have not been able to bring to justice the leading terrorist in this world.

As we contemplate a possible terror attack on this country, there has been discussions that it may happen before the election, that it may happen around the inauguration of the next President. We are not afraid that that attack is going to be directed and masterminded by Saddam Hussein. He is in jail. We are concerned about al Qaeda. We are concerned about the terror network that was established by Osama bin Laden. We are concerned about Osama bin Laden and his effect.

Just this week we heard from our military leaders in Afghanistan that they believe Osama bin Laden is actively calling the shots, even today, and yet, as I repeat, during the Republican Convention in New York, with all of the discussion of September 11, it was as if the person responsible for September 11 was unknown. The President did not utter his name during a 63-minute speech.

This is the man that we should be going after. He is the one responsible for killing nearly 3,000 of our citizens. He is the one that is heading up the al Qaeda terror network. He is free tonight somewhere on this Earth. We do not know for sure, but I want to tell my colleague I think we would have had this man in custody if we had not diverted attention and resources and our intelligence apparatus away from the hunting of Osama bin Laden to Iraq.

Mr. DELAHUNT. Mr. Speaker, unfortunately, when we can focus on Osama

bin Laden and al Qaeda, but as the President has done, to suggest that the world is safer because of our intervention in Iraq is absolutely, to quote a very prominent Republican conservative pundit, absurd. It is just simply absurd.

Mr. STRICKLAND. Every day, sadly, tragically, we are losing soldiers in Iraq. It is almost as if it is no longer news when we lose one or two or three or seven at a time. It is almost as if we have become numb to that reality. We are up to well over 1,000 now. Senator MCCAIN has indicated that he thinks we could be in Iraq for 10 to 20 years.

Mr. DELAHUNT. Again, and that is a very dangerous scenario, not just the observation by Senator MCCAIN but the fact that as time moves on, it becomes part of the regular order. Yeah, we lost seven Marines just recently in Fallujah. It is on the front page. Over an extended period of time it will end up on page 2 and then page 5 and page 7, and because not many of us are sharing in the sacrifice tragically we become immune to the real costs of this debacle in Iraq.

It is simply not just costing us hundreds of billions of dollars, but it is costing us thousands of American lives and the impact on American families. I know that my colleague and I, as we visit our districts, meet constituents that have lost loved ones in Iraq, and that on a personal level is most painful, but the danger is that we as a people collectively put it in another place in our minds, in our experience.

□ 2215

You know, our policy in Iraq can only be described as a failure. We failed. We went to Iraq based on false claims. We failed to find weapons of mass destruction. We clearly demonstrated that there was no evidence of any operational relationship between al Qaeda and Saddam Hussein. That was confirmed by the 9/11 independent commission. The administration failed to create broad international support for the effort.

The truth is we are there alone now. Yes, the British are there, even though a majority of the British people are opposed to the policy and opposed to the war. But other than the British, yes, there are token forces there, but we are carrying the brunt.

Mr. STRICKLAND. If I can speak to that issue.

Mr. DELAHUNT. Of course.

Mr. STRICKLAND. The President frequently says we have this coalition; and it is true that there are a number of countries, for one reason or another, some of them maybe with very noble reasons, who support us in our policy there. But the fact is that we have somewhere around 135,000, 135,000 American troops there. The next country with the largest number of troops is Great Britain; and they have, I believe, less than 6,500. Most of the other countries have a few hundred troops.

It is the American troops that is the target. We are losing the lives. We are paying the bill. About $200 billion thus far.

Mr. DELAHUNT. By the way, Mr. Speaker, if the gentleman will continue to yield, I find it very interesting that the President and DICK CHENEY, who according to this headline in Newsweek sold the war to the President and within the administration, keep referring to the vote on the $87 billion as somehow demonstrating a lack of support by Senator KERRY for our troops.

Does the gentleman remember during the course of that debate that the President of the United States threatened to veto the $87 billion?

Mr. STRICKLAND. If we paid for it.

Mr. DELAHUNT. No, if we insisted that at some time in the future the Iraqi government paid back to the United States taxpayer a portion, a portion of that $87 billion. The White House insisted on a gift, a giveaway, if you will, of American tax dollars, never to be repaid to the American people.

Mr. STRICKLAND. If I could reclaim my time, Mr. Speaker, during that debate on the $87 billion, the vast majority of the people in this country, according to public opinion polls, felt that we should provide assistance in the form of a grant, a grant that would be paid back to our citizens once Iraq was stabilized. And the gentleman is right, the President said that if we did that that he would veto the bill.

Mr. DELAHUNT. The President did not want to make a loan; he wanted to make a gift.

Mr. STRICKLAND. That is right.

Mr. DELAHUNT. And the rest of the world, in terms of their dollars representing their taxpayers, insisted on a loan. It is only the United States of America that provided a gift, not a loan, but a gift, to the interim Iraqi government to begin the process of reconstruction.

Now, again, I think we all share the view that there is a responsibility on the part of the United States to assist. But why a gift? Why a giveaway? And the President said that if we made it a loan, he would veto it. So, clearly, the Republican majority here managed to secure enough votes, both here and in the Senate, to make a gift rather than insist on collateral.

Remember the Under Secretary of Defense, Paul Wolfowitz, when he promised the American people that the cost of the reconstruction of Iraq would be paid for with Iraqi resources based on their huge oil reserves? Does the gentleman remember that?

Mr. STRICKLAND. Oh, absolutely.

Mr. DELAHUNT. Yet, when the time came, that was a promise that this Vice President and this President reneged on.

It is the American people that are building roads in Iraq, it is the American people that are building affordable housing in Iraq, it is the American people that are building hospitals in Iraq, it is the American people that are building brand-new ports in Iraq, it is the American people that are providing practically universal health care coverage in Iraq, it is the American people that are funding jobs in Iraq; and they are never going to get paid back.

How about doing that for the American people, President Bush and Vice President CHENEY?

Mr. STRICKLAND. Well, as someone said, it does not make sense for us to be opening firehouses in Iraq while we are closing firehouses and laying off firefighters in this country.

But the fact is this $87 billion vote is being used in the most political way, and there have been accusations that somehow when Senator KERRY opposed that, that he was opposing body armor for our troops. I would just like to point out something that I have shared with my friends here in this Chamber before. The war started in March of 2003. We did not have that vote on the $87 billion until months after the war started. Our troops were initially sent into battle without body armor. And that was a decision made by Secretary Rumsfeld and ultimately the responsibility of the President as the Commander in Chief. We sent our troops into battle without body armor.

Now, that is a fact that cannot be disputed. And it took the Pentagon one full year, from March of 2003 to March of 2004, to provide me with a letter stating that finally, after a full year, our troops had been equipped with body armor.

I questioned how many of our troops were unnecessarily injured or wounded or how many lost their lives simply because this administration sent them into combat without body armor. That was not a money problem; it was a planning problem. And the letters that I received from Secretary Rumsfeld and Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, General Myers, verified that it was a supply problem. They did not order that equipment in a timely manner. Months passed leading up to this war when those orders could have been placed. That body armor could have been available at the time the war started, but it took 12 full months for this administration to make sure that our troops were fully protected with body armor.

And even tonight, now, Mr. Speaker, we have troops in Iraq driving around in Humvees that are not armored in a way that will provide them at least some protection from these roadside bombs that are maiming and killing so many of our soldiers on a daily basis.

Mr. DELAHUNT. It is interesting, and I think it is important that we remind ourselves and others that, yes, we are members of the minority party. We are Democrats. But this is, in many respects, and it is our concerns I am referring to, they are bipartisan in nature.

I read something just recently where, again going back to the cost of the war, that $87 billion that the President keeps referring to that he insisted on

being a giveaway as opposed to a loan, Bob Barr, who served in this House and who was probably one of the most conservative Members in this institution, in this branch during his service here, observed that in the midst of the war on terror and a $500 billion deficit, Bush proposes sending space ships to Mars.

This really underscores also the folly of what we are doing in terms of driving up our own deficits that will burden generations of Americans and that are structural in nature, which means that something catastrophic is waiting for us unless we address them. And, clearly, we have not seen any response from this White House about addressing them.

But in addition to that, a recent September 10, 2004, article by Doug Bandow, who is a senior Fellow at the Cato Institute and served as a special assistant to President Reagan and was a visiting Fellow at the Heritage Foundation, had this to say: ''Bush's foreign policy record is as bad as his domestic scorecard. The administration correctly targeted the Taliban in Afghanistan, but quickly neglected that nation, which is in danger of falling into chaos. The Taliban is resurgent, violence has flared, drug production has burgeoned, and elections have been postponed.

''Iraq, already in chaos, is no conservative triumph. The endeavor in social engineering on a grand scale, a war of choice launched on erroneous grounds, has turned into a disastrously expensive neocolonial burden. Saddam Hussein had no weapons of mass destruction, contrary to administration claims, and no operational relationship with al Qaeda, contrary to administration insinuations. U.S. officials bungled the operation, misjudging everything from the financial cost to the troop requirement. Sadly, the Iraq debacle has undercut the fight against terrorism.''

Let me repeat that: ''Sadly, the Iraq debacle has undercut the fight against terrorism.''

Just recently, by the way, the Institute for Strategic Studies, again a conservative think tank, in a recent study warned that the Iraq operation has spurred recruiting by smaller terrorist groups around the world.

Now, we talked earlier about Osama bin Laden and al Qaeda. Well, the reality is that it is like the parable in the New Testament about the fishes and the loaves: they are everywhere. The incidence of terrorism in this world has increased dramatically. We saw what happened recently and again tragically in Russia.

Mr. STRICKLAND. If the gentleman will allow me to reclaim my time, it seems, and I think this is verified by the September 11 Commission, that al Qaeda has gone from being an identifiable group to becoming a philosophy and an idea and a movement. And the fact is our policies have spread terror around the world. We now have Taliban/al Qaeda operatives in Iraq. There is no evidence that they were there before we invaded that country.

There are now huge cities in Iraq referred to as ''no-go zones,'' where our troops cannot enter those cities. They are under the control of al Qaeda and Taliban operatives. Huge geographic areas of Iraq that we liberated, supposedly, are now under the control of terrorists, terrorists that prior to our invasion of Iraq were not in that country. We have created a breeding ground for those who hate us.

□ 2230

We may be there 10 years, 20 years, no one knows. How many more deaths are going to result from these failed policies? We have already had over a thousand. Ohio lost two soldiers last week, a 19-year-old man and a 36-year-old man. How many more?

Now we stand here and talk about this. Some may wonder why go over history, why talk about past failings and past circumstances.

Mr. DELAHUNT. To learn from them.

Mr. STRICKLAND. Because the same people who have brought us to where we are tonight, who have created this debacle that we face in Iraq, the same people who have made the decisions which have led to this terrible tragedy and loss of life and horrible injuries, these same people want to remain in charge of the decisionmaking apparatus of this government. I think it is fair to ask: What will they do next? They have acted in the most naive manner. The Vice President and others indicated that we would be welcomed into Iraq.

Just yesterday we had helicopters that fired on a group of Iraqis that were celebrating around a dysfunctional piece of U.S. military equipment. Many of those people laughing and dancing around were children. They were children. You could see their pictures, they could not have been more than 10 or 12 years of age. What are we doing in Iraq, we are creating hatred toward our government. That hatred is spreading around the world. That does not make us safer.

I believe the President has an obligation to stand up and admit mistakes, but there is a difference between an irrational pursuit of an ideology that is failing. What we need are mature leaders that will act upon a rational basis to secure friends around this world and help us extricate ourselves from these terrible circumstances.

Mr. DELAHUNT. Mr. Speaker, we have been joined by the gentleman from Hawaii (Mr. ABERCROMBIE), and welcome back to Iraq watch. We noted the gentleman's absence last week. And I see the gentleman from Washington (Mr. INSLEE) has also joined us, but I want to get back to what I think is important, and that is the bipartisan nature of the criticism of this administration. It would be misleading to those watching us tonight to think this is a partisan diatribe. It is not that. It is a genuine concern about the direction of this country.

And it is echoed by others. Let me give three quotes. Crossfire host Tucker Carlson said recently, and I think many Americans have observed him on PBS and Crossfire. He said, ''I think it is a total nightmare and disaster. I am ashamed that I went against my own instincts in supporting it.''

William Buckley, an icon within the conservative movement said, ''With the benefit of minute hindsight, Saddam Hussein was not the kind of extraterritorial menace that was assumed by the administration 1 year ago. If I knew then what I know now about what kind of situation we would be in, I would have opposed the war.''

I think it is important, too, to quote what I thought was a very courageous statement by a friend of ours, a former colleague who is highly regarded on both sides of the aisle. He was the vice chairman of the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence and was a leading member of the House Committee on International Relations, and we know him well, is Doug Bereuter.

He sent a letter to his constituents announcing his retirement from Congress. He began by saying, it was a mistake to launch the invasion of Iraq. He said, ''As a result, our country's reputation around the world has never been lower and our alliances are weakened. Now we are immersed in a dangerous, costly mess, and there is no easy and quick way to end our responsibilities in Iraq without creating bigger future problems in the region and in general in the Islamic world.''

I respect that. More and more we know that our colleagues on both sides of the aisle are expressing their concern.

Mr. ABERCROMBIE. Mr. Speaker, one observes today the discussions taking place in the press by members of the Armed Services with respect to whether or not political considerations are involved in whether we can attack or not attack, whether we retreat or do not retreat, whether we engage in collaborative activity with insurgents with regard to the possible upcoming elections, or whether we regard them as criminals to be taken and prosecuted, perhaps even shot and killed.

Those issues do not know a Democratic or a Republican origin. Those young soldiers, and some not so young soldiers from the Guard and Reserve, are not making distinctions between Republican oratory and Democratic accusations with respect to this election. This issue has to be decided on November 2. The people of this Nation have to come to a conclusion electorally as to whether or not they want the present direction to go on or whether they want to move in a new direction.

I contend and I tell Members this as a member of the Committee on Armed Services, a committee on which we do our level best to subsumed and submerge our partisan differences, yes,

they come forward, I am not going to pretend otherwise or be so naive to think that can always happen, but the plain fact of the matter is when it comes to our votes, we try to figure out what is in the best interests of this Nation and what is in the best interests of the Armed Services. The question arises publicly now as to whether or not our armed forces have to pay first allegiance to political considerations.

Whether one is a Democrat or a Republican, Democrats and Republicans voted for the resolution that constantly comes up with respect to whether one supports the war or does not support the war. That is no longer an issue. The issue is the direction it has taken since the war commenced, and that is where I feel we have to make a break. This is what has to be decided November 2. We have to make a fundamental decision as to whether we are going to let the chaos and the destruction taking place today continue, the brunt of that chaos and destruction having to be borne by members of the Armed Services.

Mr. DELAHUNT. Mr. Speaker, what the gentleman said was summed up just recently by a senior American diplomat in Baghdad. Obviously he insisted on anonymity but this is what he said about actually what is happening in Baghdad and Iraq today. ''This idea of a functioning democracy here is crazy. We thought there would be a reprieve after sovereignty, but all hell is breaking loose.'' This is without doubt a debacle. This is the chaos the gentleman referred to. And the sad part of it is despite opposition to the invasion of Iraq, if there had been a coordinated plan, if there had been a relationship between the Department of State and Pentagon rather than just simply the domination of those within the Department of Defense and excluding those that had experience similarly elsewhere in the world, maybe we would not have this problem. But we had Wolfowitz, we had Doug Feith, we had Secretary Rumsfeld who, according to Richard Clarke and others, pushed out the Department of State, would not allow them in at the table to discuss the post major combat phase.

Mr. STRICKLAND. Mr. Speaker, I wanted to yield to the gentleman from Washington (Mr. INSLEE) but before I do, I would like to say the gentleman from Hawaii (Mr. ABERCROMBIE) absolutely spoke the truth when he said this Nation will make a decision on November 2 regarding whether or not they want to tolerate the continuation of our current policy or whether or not they think we should change course.

The President says we either have to stay the course or cut and run. Well, I think there is a third possibility and that is to change course. The fact is if there are mothers and dads listening to us tonight who may feel disconnected from this war, who may feel they have no part of it, they do not know anyone who is participating in it, they do not know anyone who has lost a life or been seriously injured, but if they have a child, they should listen because if this administration continues its current foreign policy, I believe it will be mandatory that we impose a military draft. We cannot maintain our personnel numbers with this current foreign policy without imposing a draft. We can no longer continue forever to keep our reservists and our national guardsmen on active status. We cannot withdraw soldiers from all over this world simply because of what is happening in Iraq. So every American should be engaged in the same kind of discussion we are having tonight.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Washington (Mr. INSLEE).

Mr. INSLEE. Mr. Speaker, I would like to talk tonight about three types of amnesia that I am afraid are infecting the executive branch's policy, and those three symptoms of amnesia are makings us less safe.

This weekend I went to the VFW Post in Redmond, Washington, where a group was holding a car wash to raise money to send incidentals, CDs and telephones and suntan lotion and the like, to our service personnel in Iraq. The thing that was interesting is the people who were there, including the wives and sisters and fathers of the people who are serving in Iraq, and one woman who lost her son in Iraq who came out to the car wash to help her fallen son's former colleagues in Iraq, and what was amazing to me, while these people are pulling together, there is this kind of amnesia developing to forget the loss and casualties we are suffering in Iraq. It is slipping from page 1 to page 3 to page 12 to outside of our consciousness. Frankly, I think the President could do a better job of reminding us of the loss we are suffering in Iraq rather than trying to belittle it or say it is a minimal thing.

I have heard people argue that a thousand people lost in America is not that many. I just challenge for them to say that if they had been to the car wash and talked to the mother that I did. One person who did not have to die in combat is too many.

Mr. STRICKLAND. Mr. Speaker, the first death was too many, and every death that has followed has been too many because for that individual and that individual's loved ones, it will absolutely be the most devastating experience they will ever endure.

□ 2245

I do not think we should develop that type of amnesia.

The second amnesia that I think is very dangerous to us is to some degree the executive branch is developing amnesia about who actually attacked us, which was al Qaeda. You have talked about this earlier, I believe. But we cannot have the Commander in Chief leading us in this war to preserve our security and not identify who the enemy was that actually attacked us and go a year now without identifying the name of the person who is Osama bin Laden that the President refuses to even say. That lack of leadership has infected to some degree our efforts to track down and cut off al Qaeda.

Let me give you an example in the real world how that is. I found out a week ago that we have more employees in the Department of Treasury tracking down American tourists who go to Cuba than we do Treasury officials trying to cut off the money going to Osama bin Laden. What kind of prioritization is that? Why have we developed amnesia about how deadly al Qaeda is?

Another piece of amnesia. We have loose nukes all over the former Soviet Union, all this fissionable material that we know al Qaeda wants to get. But we cannot get the cooperation of the executive branch to put money into the system we have for vacuuming up those loose nukes and keeping them out of the hands of al Qaeda.

Why has this amnesia happened? It is pretty clear. The executive branch took their eye off the ball of Osama bin Laden and put it on Iraq. And this amnesia is a more dangerous situation rather than a less dangerous one.

Let me just suggest why I think the President has been successful to some degree in conflating Iraq with what happened on September 11. That is, that we have all sort of, I think, gone down a little primrose path calling this the war on terror. I am not sure that is the right nomenclature for us to use for this reason. It is really important to realize who your enemy is. Our enemy is a person and a group, not a tactic. Terror is a tactic. It is not a country, it is not a group, it is not an individual. It is a tactic. Calling this a war on terror frankly is a little bit like calling our response to Pearl Harbor a war on torpedo planes. Torpedo planes were a tactic. They were not the enemy. We need to call this what it is, a war on al Qaeda and a war on some fundamentalist Islamic movements that are way out of the mainstream of Islamic belief in this world and have perverted that faith and taken advantage of it for their nihilistic ends, and that is an enemy we need to keep in our sights.

Mr. DELAHUNT. See, this Vice President has to link the war on terror and the war in Iraq. Even though there is no linkage. That has been confirmed not by partisans here on the floor but by the independent September 11 Commission. Because, if you cannot link the war on terror to the invasion of Iraq, then why did we go into Iraq? For political purposes, you have to create, you have to morph what occurs and what is occurring in Iraq into the overall war on terror, because this is the premise that was used by DICK CHENEY when he sold the war.

Mr. ABERCROMBIE. That is the issue that I raised with respect to November 2. Let us face it. No matter who you are in this country, a vote is going to take place on November 2. That man

has to answer and his boss, the President of the United States, has to answer for why in Afghanistan today there is no governmental entity at all other than that which exists under the direct protection of what amounts to a praetorian guard of the United States in Kabul. The rest of the country is under the sway of warlords and the Taliban is resurging, the Taliban is resurging and more opium is being grown, more dope is being sold, more financing for the Taliban is taking place than ever before.

Mr. DELAHUNT. But he is probably one of the most skillful political minds in the country and just recently he made the statement, if you vote for the other candidate you will die. That is basically what he said. A vote for KERRY is a vote for terrorists. Nobody accepts that. But that is the need to make the link, because he was wrong, he cannot admit he was wrong. Do you remember David Kay, who they sent out to learn and to find out where the weapons of mass destruction were, came in front of a Senate committee and said, we were all wrong. This individual, this Vice President, must have blanched because it did not suit his world view, his political agenda.

Mr. INSLEE. There was a very startling occurrence that happened yesterday in this regard. Secretary of State Powell said there was no link to 9/11 to Saddam Hussein. Yet the Vice President continues in this effort.

Mr. STRICKLAND. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank my friends for joining me for another hour of Iraq Watch. I look forward to continuing this next week.

THE FACE OF THE TERRORIST FOE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 7, 2003, the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. TANCREDO) is recognized for 60 minutes.

Mr. TANCREDO. Mr. Speaker, there are, of course, a wide variety of views and opinions on the situation that we now face in Iraq and around the world. I am compelled to come to the floor tonight to talk about one aspect of this, I suppose, not necessarily to take sides in this debate that has been going on for the last hour but to look into the nature of the foe that both we face and much of the civilized world faces. When you look into the face of the foe, of the enemy, what you see is pure, unadulterated evil. That evil manifested itself just a short time ago in a faraway place, in Russia, more specifically in a small community and even more specifically in a school in that community, where people devoted to a cause, to a set of ideas, decided that one way to advance that cause would be to enter this small town in Russia and to take hostage the children and the parents and the teachers in this small school. Because it was the first day of school and as is the custom in this area, parents and even grandparents will accompany their children to school for the first day of opening festivities. So they knew they would have a large congregation of people, all there to enjoy the day, parents there to encourage their children, children looking back at their parents and grandparents for that encouragement. Something that goes on, of course, an event, an activity that goes on throughout the world in many different countries and in many different ways but essentially that same expression of support and hope and love that we see throughout the world.

These people, acting under the guise of ideology, decided to go in and take these folks hostage, because it would be an act of terror almost unparalleled. In fact, I will say unparalleled in the annals of human history. They did so and hundreds of people died, most of them children. The most innocent among us died horrible deaths because terrorists decided to take an action that they believed would advance their cause. It has not advanced their cause. We know that. The civilized world has reacted in horror and disdain and has in every way imaginable sent the message to those who perpetrated this crime that your cause is not advanced. We see you for what you are. You are, in fact, evil incarnate. Evil does exist on this planet. It prowls. It looks. It strikes. It struck in Russia and hundreds of people today, thousands of people there, millions of people around the world, are in mourning and in grief for what happened.

There will be people who will try to suggest that even though this was a horrible event, the people who perpetrated this had just cause, that they had been ill treated in the past by the government of Russia going back to the czars. Certainly it may be true that there were injustices and that in fact horrible things have happened in the past. But nothing, Mr. Speaker, nothing, nothing that I can conceive of or I think for the most part anyone in the civilized world can conceive of could justify the acts that were taken in Beslan by these terrorists. Nothing can justify that. No amount of rationalization, no amount of historical injustice, nothing can justify the taking of the most innocent lives, not just the taking of their lives but the torture of these innocent human beings for days before the lives were taken. Nothing can justify the horror that was inflicted upon the community in Beslan. Nothing.

My community, the place in which I live, is Littleton, Colorado. Several years ago, we experienced an event of unimaginable horror in our little community. I know what that did when two individuals went into a school, Columbine High School, and killed their fellow students and teachers. I know what happened. I know the kind of trauma that existed and that everyone had to deal with, not just even the parents of the children involved but the entire community. I know how long it lasted. I know that to this day we have not found a salve that could, in fact, heal those wounds, even to this day. We still gather in April to pay our respects and to remember the dead and to express our condolences to the parents and families of those who survived.

So I know a little bit about the pain that I know exists in this community of Beslan and, of course, in surrounding areas. I know that there are no words, that no one, not Presidents or Premiers or no one can ever, ever, ever state what would be necessary in order to salve all the wounds that now exist. But we try, because we have nothing else. We have no other way. Today in my district, in Littleton, Colorado, in the Columbine school area, children are signing posters, preparing notes of sympathy that I will collect from them on Thursday and then I will take with me to Russia the next day. We hope to be visiting Beslan and we hope to be able to express the sympathy of the people in my district and they, of course, represent the bulk of the world who are heartsick at the events in Beslan. We need to talk about it more, although it is very difficult to do. It is extremely painful to even discuss these things, I know. But it is important for us to do so. It is important for us to try to think about what motivates people to do what they did, what the terrorists did there and what the rest of the world must do in response to it in order to not fall victim to the same kind of barbarism. It is an incredibly difficult challenge we all face, the world faces. How it is that we can respond? What do we do in the face of such evil?

□ 2300

What defenses do we prepare? What armies do we send into the field and where? What are the things that we tell the people in our own country that can make them feel more at ease and safer as they tuck their children into bed at night? Because these things we face, this evil that we face, really, is powerful. It feeds upon a number of emotions that are difficult to deal with.

Yet we must do so. We must think about what kind of defenses we can erect, how we can defend ourselves, what do we do around the world, and what do we do even in our own country. What are the principles and ideas that we live by that we can extol? How can we convince the rest of the world that there are ways to live in peace with each other regardless of the faith that one ascribes to? How can we exist on a planet if there are hundreds of millions of people who believe that if one does not believe in their God, if one does not accept their principles of religious ideology, that they do not deserve to exist and that they are, in fact, some sort of threat to them?

These ideas have to be fought with ideas. We have to talk about who we are in the United States and in Western Civilization. We have to talk about

what principles we believe in and espouse. We cannot just be against others. We have to talk about who we are and what is at stake. Everyone in the world, certainly Americans, when this happened, they felt some degree of angst and certainly horror, but also some fear, some basic kind of internalized fear about the possibility that it could happen there, here, in our community, in our school, with our children.

And it develops a sort of paranoia about the world, and people do not know what they can do about this. And I suggest that there are answers to this question, and I do not believe for a moment that I am the person that can give all of the answers to all of the questions, but I do feel it is incumbent upon us to talk about some of the things that are important and some of the things that could and should be done in order to both defend ourselves and advance the cause of liberty and freedom throughout the world.

We must talk about the value of Western Civilization and the principles embodied therein. We must begin to explore them in a way that perhaps has not happened in a century or more in this country or certainly even around the world, in the Western world anyway. Because, after all, if we are just simply people who exist in a particular place on the planet, that is all, we are just residents of an area with no particular philosophy, set of ideas or ideals that are worth our allegiance, then the opponents of Western Civilization, the terrorists who seek to kill us because we do not see the world in the same way they do, they will have an advantage because they know exactly who they are, Mr. Speaker. They know the world in which they exist and the world that they represent. They have been thoroughly indoctrinated and are convinced of the righteousness of their ways.

It is not just enough to simply juxtapose our civilization against theirs. We have to, again, as I say, talk about in America and the rest of the Western world, what it is that makes us different and why we deserve to defend ourselves, what is it about our society that is worth defending. Are there principles? Are there ideas and ideals that we should hold on to and defend at all costs?

I certainly think so. I certainly think the ideas of individual liberty, the rule of law, the concepts embodied in both the Declaration of Independence, the Constitution of the United States and even going back to the Magna Carta, I think these things are worthy of our allegiance. I wonder how many children in our schools learn them, know about them. I certainly do not want our schools to turn into madrasas where children are indoctrinated day in and day out with the propaganda of their civilization. I want our schools to be true places of learning where children are confronted with a series of ideas and facts and then asked to incorporate them into what they believe and think, to analyze them, become objective observers, and to come to a conclusion, which I think would be inescapable that what we have and what we have put forward on this Earth in terms of a method of living, a system of living together, regardless if we are Muslims or Christians or Jews or Buddhists or nothing at all in terms of a religious persuasion; but the fact that we can create a society in which all these people can live is, I think, a good thing. It is worthy of our talking about. It is worthy of our allegiance. That is talking about who we are and what we believe in and why it is worthy, and it is a good thing and we need to do that.

We need to do other things that encourage Islam to look internally and to reform itself. There are many people, I read comments by leaders in the Islamic faith, Muslim leaders, that suggested that they too had come to the conclusion that something was very, very wrong inside their religion. Some even called it a corrupted religion. They lamented the fact that in recent history, although terrorists had different kinds of nationalities and ethnicities, they had one thing in common: they were Muslims. And they lamented that fact, and they said there is something wrong with this religion. There is something wrong with a religion that, in fact, promotes a cult of death. So there is hope that reform can come to Islam.

The third thing we must do and to hope for is to construct a defense of our own civilization and of our own country against terrorist activities. And, believe me, this is a tough one. This gets us into, I guess, a little bit of the battle that went on there or at least the discussion that went on here the hour preceding this one about why are we in Iraq, was it the right thing to do, was the President motivated by all the right reasons or all the wrong reasons? Was Iraq the proper thing for us to do, the logical extension of our war against terror? Specifically, was it the right thing to do in our war against fundamentalist Islam? Because that is really what we are at war with.

I agree with some of the comments made earlier by some of the folks over here that said that terror is not the thing with which we are at war. It is simply a tactic. I have said this on this floor many times and now for several years, and I am glad to hear it being repeated by others because, of course, it is important for us to understand who the enemy really is.

□ 2310

I think our friends on the other side did not go as far as they needed to go to actually describe them. It is fundamentalist Islam with which we are at war, make no mistake about it. And whether that fervor, that Islamic fervor leads you to do things like press for a separation from Russia because you want to create an Islamic republic, it is still fundamentalist Islam with which the world is at war. Or whether it manifests itself as it did here by planes crashing into buildings and into the Pentagon and into fields in Pennsylvania, it is fundamentalist Islam with which we are at war. Around the world, incidents occur. There are motivating factors that combine to create them, but when you sort of get to the bottom line, what is the common element? It is fundamentalist Islam.

We are not used to saying things like that here in this body; we are certainly not used to saying things like that on the political stump, because this is America, and we do not talk about people's religion, certainly not in disparaging ways. Among other things, it will probably cost us votes. But seriously, it is uncomfortable and it is just not done. But we have to do it. It is uncomfortable. I certainly do not like having to say these things, but I see absolutely no alternative to saying them, because I believe these things are true, and I believe most of the world knows them to be true.

So we have to talk about who we are. We have to hope for reform of Islam, and we have to defend ourselves. I do not know of another set of alternatives. I do not know of another strategy that we can employ.

I do not know whether or not the President of the United States was thinking about one or all of these things when he led us into the war in Iraq. I hope that, in fact, it was part of his strategy. I hope with all of my heart that what we are doing in Iraq will advance our cause, will weaken our enemy, will somehow force that reformation, or at least a movement toward that reformation, and certainly I hope that it helps defend us against further attacks.

I hope the President is right when he says we are fighting them there because we do not want to be fighting them here. I hope he is right when he suggests that planting the seeds of a democracy in an area of the world in which it has never existed will bear fruit. I hope he is right. We have set a course. We have taken a vote in this House. We have sent men and women off to war. So I hope we were right.

There was an interesting thing today, my chief of staff called me and said, we have this questionnaire from one of the local papers in our community and it has to go in today and we want you to answer these things. I had not seen it before, so we had to go through them. One question I think toward the end was, would I have voted differently knowing what I know now. Would I have voted differently about going to war in Iraq.

This was a very interesting question, one that has certainly been in my mind many times since embarking upon the course of action that we have taken. And I finally, after a lot of discussion, and we had the staff come in and we talked about this, and we had sort of, it was really kind of an interesting and

neat discussion about this, everybody sort of venting their feelings and attitudes and ideas. Finally I said, the reality is it is too early to tell, because we just do not know yet. I mean, I want to believe that what we are doing is the right thing to do. I think it is too early to determine whether or not the course of action upon which we have set ourselves will lead to all of the things that we hope. I believe that it is certainly a noble endeavor. I believe that if the goals are accomplished; if, in fact, we can change the world because we changed the political environment in the Middle East, and there is some hope that that is exactly what has happened. I mean, after all, Libya did a complete about-face after we went into Iraq. It admitted to a nuclear program leading to nuclear weaponry being developed and said, we are not going to do that anymore. Although there may have been other reasons for them to do that, the fact is that Qadhafi did it and I think, to a large extent, it was as a result of what we did in Iraq and what he saw happening in his neighbor's land.

It does not mean that all the dominoes will fall. It certainly does not mean that in a month or 2 or a year or 2, we will be able to say the troops can come home, but there is that hope out there. It is a challenge to us all.

I wish I could say with an absolute and unequivocal sort of mindset that yes, it was the right vote to cast. I cast the vote because I believed what I was told: that we faced clear and present danger in the existence of Saddam Hussein and his regime. There is certainly a great deal of evidence to suggest that it is true; there is also evidence to suggest that perhaps it is not, it was not as great a threat to our immediate survival as we had anticipated or had been told or thought.

So, Mr. Speaker, it is not clear-cut. There is no easy way out of this. There is no absolute way in which we can, or at least I can make a decision here, except to say it is too early to tell. We hope and we pray that we have made the right decision. We make these decisions, certainly I know I and I am sure almost all of my colleagues here made the decision in how to vote after thought, a great deal of thought and, for most of us, a great deal of prayer, asking for guidance, looking at all of the information available, and then doing what we are asked to do here and what we are elected to do: cast a vote.

Now, I hope and I pray that this country will begin to do what I suggested earlier needs to be done in terms of extolling the virtues of the American creed, of western civilization, and why we all should be proud to be part of it. I hope and I pray that Islam will begin to reform itself, look internally, and see that the path it is on, if it is allowed to be dragged into this quagmire of extremist violence, terrorist activities, murdering women and children; if the religion is allowed to be dragged into that quagmire, it can never, ever survive in the long run. It can create a great deal of damage, but it could never survive in the long run, and I hope it will begin to look internally.

Finally, I hope that we will defend ourselves in every way necessary, including the defense of our own borders.

□ 2320

This is something that, of course, I have taken issue with in terms of our own administration and, of course, with the position of the other party. Because up to this point in time, neither of these two parties and neither of the two candidates for the presidency of the United States have indicated a willingness to defend the borders.

Today's Time magazine comes out with a story that is absolutely incredible. I really commend it to anyone and everyone who has an interest, and everyone should have an interest. It is called, Who Left the Door Open? It starts off talking about the fact that we all go through, and today I went through the process, of course, as millions of other Americans did, of getting on an airplane, going through the security screening system, putting all the luggage through, taking off my shoes, going through the system, having my belt checked to make sure I was not carrying anything, all the people behind me doing the same thing, in front of me doing the same thing, everybody being significantly inconvenienced because we want to be safe. We want to try to make sure that no one's going to get on a plane and do something really horrible, and so we all put up with this frustrating sort of experience and annoying, time-consuming process because we believe that it is making us more safe.

In fact, of course, while we are doing all of these things here and while at ports of entry throughout the United States people are lined up in cars, while we are doing a little better at trying to determine who they really are that are coming into this country, we are trying to figure out whether the documents are any better. We are providing technology to the ports of entry to allow them to do a better job at making sure of the people who are coming into the country, as to who they are, who they say they are.

Time magazine, Mr. Speaker, as my colleagues know, is certainly no conservative icon. Even Time magazine has now come to the conclusion that we have got a big problem with porous borders and with an immigration policy that is dangerous, to say the least, in a variety of different ways.

It is a lengthy article. I am astounded, as a matter of fact, at some of the things they say, again because it is Time magazine, because one just does not expect this kind of a thing from Time magazine.

U.S. borders, rather than becoming more secure since 9/11, have grown even more porous, they say, and the trend has accelerated in the past year. It is fair to estimate, based on a Time investigation, not Tom Tancredo's point of view here, based on a Time magazine investigation, that the number of illegal aliens flooding into the United States this year will total 3 million. That is enough to fill 22,000 Boeing 737–700 airliners or 60 flights every day for a year.

Washington's failure to control the Nation's borders has a painful impact on workers at the bottom of the ladder and increasingly those farther up the income scale. The system holds down the pay of American workers and rewards the illegals and the businesses that hire them. It breeds anger and resentment among citizens who cannot understand why illegal aliens often receive government-funded health care, education benefits and subsidized housing. In border communities, the masses of incoming illegals lay waste to the landscape, create a costly burden for agencies trying to keep public order. Moreover, the system makes a mockery of the U.S. tradition of encouraging legal immigration.

It is so true. Today, Mr. Speaker, I had a call from a member of the press in Colorado Springs, Colorado, Gazette Telegraph, and she said she was working with an individual who was trying to get to stay in the United States but was having a very difficult time and had spent a lot of money. I said, well, do you mean this person is here illegally? Well, it turns out, of course, she is. Of course, yes, that her daughter now needs medical treatment and she is afraid if she is returned home and this kid is sent to Mexico, she would not be able to get the medical treatment, but that the task of getting the papers she needs is now very time-consuming and expensive.

I suggested to her that, of course, the mistake that was made originally was coming into the country illegally and that that can only be rectified by going home to the country of origin and starting the process of coming into this country through the normal channels. The reporter for the Gazette Telegraph said to me, well, it is really too cumbersome, it is time-consuming, it costs a lot of money. I said, yes, of course, it does, that is absolutely true. It is hard to get in. It is hard to do it the right way.

Every Wednesday there is a service for the folks who are being sworn in as new citizens, and I tell them every time I go, I say, look, I have come to tell you two things: Welcome to the United States, number 1; number 2, thank you for doing it the right way because, in fact, millions of people choose not to do it this way. Every time we give them all the benefits that you now are going to get because you have done it the right way. It is a mockery of this process. It is an insult to everyone who has spent the time and the energy to actually become a citizen of this country.

So when we tell people, whether it is the President of the United States, or JOHN KERRY, who tell people that do

not worry if you are here illegally, we will, in fact, allow you to stay and give you amnesty, you are, in fact, spitting in the eye of every single person who has done it the right way and of the millions of the people around this world who are attempting to do it the right way.

So I want us to defend our borders, which is part of the defense of the Nation, a significant part of that defense. Of the 3 million people a year that even Time magazine says come in here illegally, we know that a significant percentage, perhaps 300,000 of the 3 million, come here from countries other than Mexico. Of the 300,000 who get in illegally from other countries, perhaps 100,000 are from countries that are identified, by the way, as countries of interest.

Thousands and thousands more are coming across those borders every single year from countries that we identify as being supporters of terrorism. They are coming in illegally. Some of them are paying huge, huge fees to come into this country illegally. Upwards of $50,000 is being paid by people who desire to come into this country under the radar, without our knowledge. People from the Middle East and from Asia are paying that much money, and you have to ask yourself, why would anybody do that? And where would they get the money if they do not have it themselves, who would be paying to get them in here? Some pretty frightening thoughts come to mind, because I do not think anybody is going to pay $50,000 to come into this country to work at the 7–Eleven down the street or to pick grapes. I think they have other reasons for coming in, and if somebody else pays for them to come in, what are the reasons anyone would have to put up such large sums of money to sneak people into this country?

Our borders are porous, and they are porous because we do not have the political will to close them. Neither party, neither candidate for President, will suggest this for fear of the political retribution that would come from interest groups inside their own party.

But I suggest that either candidate for President would be doing not just his country a favor and the right thing but would be doing his own candidacy and his own party a favor by talking about the need to secure our borders and by actually doing it, which we can do by the way. We absolutely can do.

□ 2330

We have the technology to do it tomorrow. We do not have the political will. It is amazing.

So one part of that three-legged stool they put out there is dependent upon our willingness to make hard, hard choices. Well, actually, I am sure in every way, to the extent that we have any ability to make decisions about any one of those three things, they are all tough choices. But in the area of our own national defense, this is not a hard choice. This is not a difficult sort of academic question to answer.

What would be the ramifications of closing the border to those people coming through without our permission? The ramifications would be we would shut down the flow of cheap labor. Hence, we would be confronted by a lot of interest groups that would raise hell about it. We would be confronted by the Democratic party infrastructure that would say, look, these people coming in would eventually become our voters. We cannot close down those borders.

But both of the reasons that are given by individual parties and individual candidates, even if they do not express them openly, those are the reasons why we do not do it, and those reasons pale in significance to the fact that we are ever more vulnerable to an attack because of our borders being porous.

Again, great article. I cannot believe that I am up here talking about a truly honest and definitive look at the issue of immigration coming out of TIME Magazine, but here it is. ''Who Left the Door Open?'' Great, great article. I suggest that everyone get a copy of it. And I suggest certainly that our colleagues in this Congress get a copy, read it, and take it to heart. Because although there are pressure groups that will attack us if we actually do something about immigration, the fact is that the citizens of this country, John Q. Citizen, and our own children and grandchildren will thank us, because it is the right thing to do.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. BERMAN (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for June 18 through June 25, 2004 on account of official business.

Mr. FROST (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today on account of personal reasons.

Ms. SLAUGHTER (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for the week of September 13 on account of official duties in the district.

Mr. GERLACH (at the request of Mr. DELAY) for today on account of a family commitment.

Ms. PRYCE of Ohio (at the request of Mr. DELAY) for today on account of a family emergency.

Mr. BOOZMAN (at the request of Mr. DELAY) for today on account of attending the funeral of a friend.

Mr. TAUZIN (at the request of Mr. DELAY) for today and the balance of the week on account of medical reasons.

SPECIAL ORDERS GRANTED

By unanimous consent, permission to address the House, following the legislative program and any special orders heretofore entered, was granted to:

(The following Members (at the request of Ms. WOOLSEY) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York, for 5 minutes, today.

Mrs. CAPPS, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. WOOLSEY, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. BROWN of Ohio, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. EMANUEL, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. MCDERMOTT, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. WATSON, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. RUSH, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas, for 5 minutes, today.

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. THORNBERRY) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. THORNBERRY, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. BURTON of Indiana, for 5 minutes, today and September 14 and 15.

Mr. SHUSTER, for 5 minutes, today and September 14.

Mr. JONES of North Carolina, for 5 minutes, September 15.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN, for 5 minutes, today.

SENATE BILL REFERRED

A bill of the Senate of the following title was taken from the Speaker's table and, under the rule, referred as follows:

S. 1368. An act to authorize the President to award a gold medal on behalf of the Congress to Reverend Doctor Martin Luther King, Jr. (posthumously) and his widow Coretta Scott King in recognition of their contributions to the Nation on behalf of the civil rights movement; to the Committee on Financial Services.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. TANCREDO. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 11 o'clock and 33 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Tuesday, September 14, 2004, at 9 a.m., for morning hour debates.

EXPENDITURE REPORTS CONCERNING OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL

Reports concerning the foreign currencies and U.S. dollars utilized for speaker-authorized official travel during the fourth quarter of 2003 and the second quarter of 2004, pursuant to Public Law 95–384 are as follows:

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, MS. ELIZABETH USSERY, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN JULY 11 AND JULY 13, 2004

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem [1]		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]
Elizabeth Ussery	7/11	7/13	Canada	718.08	544.00	[3] 132.00	100.00			850.08	644.00
							323.37				323.37
Committee total					544.00		423.37				967.37

[1] Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.
[2] If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.
[3] Cabs, parking.

ELIZABETH USSERY, July 20, 2004.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, DELEGATION TO CHILE, ARGENTINA AND PERU, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN DEC. 9 AND DEC. 14, 2004

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem [1]		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]
Hon. Roy Blunt	12/9	12/11	Chile		8,768		1,406.10		7,807.53		17,981.63
Hon. Dave Camp	12/11	12/12	Argentina		5,120		265.37		2,795		8,180.37
Hon. Eric Cantor	12/12	12/14	Peru		8,498.17		7,019.48		9,274.06		24,791.71
Hon. Lincoln Diaz-Balart											
Hon. Mario Diaz-Balart											
Hon. Katherine Harris											
Hon. Mike McIntyre											
Brian Diffell											
Richard Eddings											
Amy Field											
David Hebert											
Steven Stombres											
Susan Burson Taylor											
Scott Palmer											
John Ebold											
Hon. Deborah Pryce											
Commitee total					22,386.17		8,690.95		19,876.59		50,953.71

[1] Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.
[2] If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.

ROY BLUNT, Jan. 13, 2004.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, DELEGATION TO THE NATO PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY MEETING, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN MAY 22 AND JUNE 2, 2004

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem [1]		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]
Hon. Doug Bereuter	5/22	5/23	France		460.00		(3)				
	5/24	5/26	Ukraine		927.00		(3)				
	5/27	6/2	Slovakia		2,700.00		2,282.97				6,369.97
Hon. Michael Bilirakis	5/22	5/23	France		460.00		(3)				
	5/24	5/26	Ukraine		927.00		(3)				
	5/27	5/30	Slovakia		1,800.00		(3)				
	5/31	6/1	Ireland		327.00		(3)				3,514.00
Hon. Joel Hefley	5/22	5/23	France		460.00		(3)				
	5/24	5/26	Ukraine		927.00		(3)				
	5/27	5/30	Slovakia		1,800.00		(3)				
	5/31	6/1	Ireland		327.00		(3)				3,514.00
Hon. Paul Gillmor	5/22	5/23	France		460.00		(3)				
	5/24	5/26	Ukraine		927.00		(3)				
	5/27	5/30	Slovakia		1,800.00		(3)				
	5/31	6/1	Ireland		327.00		(3)				3,514.00
Hon. John Tanner	5/22	5/23	France		460.00		(3)				
	5/24	5/26	Ukraine		927.00		(3)				
	5/27	5/30	Slovakia		1,800		(3)				
	5/31	6/1	Ireland		327.00		(3)				3,514.00
Hon. John Boozman	5/22	5/23	France		460.00		(3)				
	5/24	5/26	Ukraine		927.00		(3)				
	5/27	5/30	Slovakia		1,800		(3)				
	5/31	6/1	Ireland		327.00		(3)				3,514.00
Hon. Tom Udall	5/22	5/23	France		460.00		(3)				
	5/24	5/26	Ukraine		927.00		(3)				
	5/27	5/30	Slovakia		1,800		(3)				
	5/31	6/1	Ireland		327.00		(3)				5,514.00
Hon. Dennis Moore	5/27	5/30	Slovakia		1,800		3,283.39				
	5/31	6/1	Ireland		327.00		(3)				3,410.39
Hon. Ellen Tauscher	5/27	5/30	Slovakia		1,800		3,121.89				
	5/31	6/1	Ireland		327.00		(3)				5,248.89
Michael Ennis	5/22	5/23	France		460.00						
	5/24	5/26	Ukraine		927.00		(3)				
	5/27	6/1	Slovakia		2,700.00		2,417.97				6,504.97
Hon. Kay King	5/22	5/23	France		460.00		(3)				
	5/24	5/26	Ukraine		927.00		(3)				
	5/27	6/2	Slovakia		2,700.00		2,417.97				6,504.97
John Lis	5/22	5/23	France		460.00		(3)				
	5/24	5/26	Ukraine		927.00		(3)				
	5/27	6/2	Slovakia		2,700.00		2,417.97				6,504.97
Susan Olson	5/22	5/23	France		460.00		(3)				
	5/24	5/26	Ukraine		927.00		(3)				
	5/27	6/2	Slovakia		2,700.00		2,282.97				6,369.97
Vincent Morelli	5/24	5/26	Ukraine		927.00		(3)				
	5/27	6/2	Slovakia		2,700.00		5,684.45				9,311.45
Carol Lawrence	5/27	6/2	Slovakia		2,700.00		5,418.46				8,118.46
Paul Gallis	5/27	6/2	Slovakia		2,250.00		5,406.14				7,656.14
Mark Wellman	5/28	6/2	Slovakia		2,250.00		5,406.14				7,656.14
L. Kathleen Becker	5/28	5/30	Slovakia		1,350.00		2,703.07				
	5/31	6/1	Ireland		327.00		(3)				4,380.07
Marilyn Owen	5/28	5/30	Slovakia		1,350.00		2,703.07				

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, DELEGATION TO THE NATO PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY MEETING, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN MAY 22 AND JUNE 2, 2004—Continued

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem [1]		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]
	5/31	6/1	Ireland		327.00		(3)				4,380.07
Delegation expenses:											
Representational functions									7,646.52		7,646.52
Miscellaneous									533.38		533.38
Committee total					59,954.00		45,546.46		8,179.90		113,680.36

[1] Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.
[2] If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.
[3] Military air transportation.

DOUG BEREUTER, July 27, 2004.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, DELEGATION TO IRELAND AND NORTHERN IRELAND, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN JUNE 26 AND JULY 2, 2004.

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem [1]		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]
Hon. James T. Walsh	6/26	6/30	Dublin		716.00						
	6/28	6/29	Belfast		176.00						
	7/1	7/2	Cork		168.00						1,060.00
Hon. Jerry Costello	6/26	6/30	Dublin		716.00						
	6/28	6/29	Belfast		176.00						
	7/1	7/2	Cork		168.00						1,060.00
Hon. John Duncan	6/26	6/30	Dublin		716.00						
	6/28	6/29	Belfast		176.00						
	7/1	7/2	Cork		168.00						1,060.00
Hon. Elliot Engel	6/26	6/30	Dublin		716.00						
	6/28	6/29	Belfast		176.00						
	7/1	7/2	Cork		168.00						
	7/2	7/2	Ennis		1,365.00						2,425.00
Hon. Tim Holden	6/26	6/30	Dublin		716.00						
	6/28	6/29	Belfast		176.00						
	7/1	7/2	Cork		168.00						1,060.00
Kristin Calabrese	6/26	6/30	Dublin		716.00						
	6/28	6/29	Belfast		176.00						
	7/1	7/2	Cork		168.00						1,060.00
John Feehery	6/26	6/30	Dublin		716.00						
	6/28	6/29	Belfast		176.00						
	7/1	7/2	Cork		168.00						1,060.00
William Tranghese	6/26	6/30	Dublin		716.00						
	6/28	6/29	Belfast		176.00						
	7/1	7/2	Cork		168.00						1,060.00
Committee total											9,845.00

[1] Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.
[2] If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.

JAMES T. WALSH, Aug. 9, 2004.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN APR. 1 AND JUNE 30, 2004

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem [1]		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]
HON. Cal Dooley	5/7	5/9	El Salvador		639.00		(3)				639.00
Committee total					639.00						639.00

[1] Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.
[2] If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.
[3] Military air transportation.

BOB GOODLATTE, Chairman, July 15, 2004.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN APR. 1 AND JUNE 30, 2004

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem [1]		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]
Hon. Harold Rogers	4/11	4/13	Spain		465.00						465.00
	4/14	4/16	Italy		462.00						462.00
	4/17	4/19	Croatia		435.00						435.00
	4/19	4/20	Ireland		157.00						157.00
							(3)				
Hon. Bud Cramer	4/11	4/13	Spain		465.00						465.00
	4/14	4/16	Italy		462.00						462.00
	4/17	4/19	Croatia		290.00						290.00
Part commercial airfare							4,103.31				4,103.31
Michelle Mrdeza	4/11	4/13	Spain		465.00						465.00
	4/14	4/16	Italy		462.00						462.00
	4/17	4/19	Croatia		435.00						435.00
	4/19	4/20	Ireland		157.00						157.00
							(3)				
Tom McLemore	4/11	4/13	Spain		465.00						465.00
	4/14	4/16	Italy		462.00						462.00
	4/17	4/19	Croatia		435.00						435.00
	4/19	4/20	Ireland		157.00						157.00
							(3)				
Stephanie Gupta	4/11	4/13	Spain		465.00						465.00
	4/14	4/16	Italy		462.00						462.00

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN APR. 1 AND JUNE 30, 2004—Continued

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem [1]		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]
Commercial airfare							3,246.63				3,246.63
Hon. David L. Hobson		4/3	USA		237.00						237.00
	4/4	4/11	People's Republic of China		1,949.00						1,949.00
	4/11	4/12	USA		237.00						237.00
Chinese departure tax							280.50				280.50
							(3)				
Hon. Michael K. Simpson		4/3	USA		237.00						237.00
	4/4	4/11	People's Republic of China		1,949.00						1,949.00
	4/11	4/12	USA		237.00						237.00
Chinese departure tax							280.50				280.50
							(3)				
Hon. Ed Pastor		4/3	USA		237.00						237.00
	4/4	4/11	People's Republic of China		1,949.00						1,949.00
	4/11	4/12	USA		237.00						237.00
Chinese departure tax							280.50				280.50
							(3)				
Kevin Cook		4/2	USA								
	4/4	4/11	People's Republic of China		1,949.00						1,949.00
Chinese departure tax							280.50				280.50
Commercial airfare							8,140.79				8,140.79
Dixon Butler		4/2	USA								
	4/4	4/11	People's Republic of China		1,949.00						1,949.00
Chinese departure tax							280.50				280.50
Commercial airfare							8,140.79				8,140.79
Richard E. Efford	4/10	4/15	Spain		1,612.00						1,612.00
Commercial airfare							6,842.54				6,842.54
Leigha Shaw	4/10	4/15	Spain		1,612.00						1,612.00
Commercial airfare							6,842.54				6,842.54
John Blazey	4/12	4/18	Spain		2,510.00						2,510.00
Commercial airfare							7,200.52				7,200.52
Mike Malone	4/11	4/15	Spain		1,612.00						1,612.00
Commercial airfare							6,915.00				6,915.00
Hon. Jim Moran	4/11	4/14	Jordan		714.00						714.00
	4/14	4/16	Israel		724.00						724.00
Commercial airfare							5,812.15				5,812.15
Hon. John Murtha	4/12	4/13	Austria		310.00						310.00
	4/13	4/13	Kosovo								
	4/13	4/14	Bosnia								
	4/14	4/14	Austria		310.00						310.00
	4/14	4/14	Belgium								
							(3)				
David Morrison	4/12	4/13	Austria		310.00						310.00
	4/13	4/13	Kosovo								
	4/13	4/14	Bosnia								
	4/14	4/14	Austria		310.00						310.00
	4/14	4/14	Belgium								
							(3)				
James W. Dyer	4/17	4/18	Jordan		238.00						238.00
	4/18	4/19	Iraq/Kuwait		204.00						204.00
	4/19	4/20	Bahrain/Qatar		321.00						321.00
	4/20	4/21	UAE/Saudi Arabia		258.00						258.00
	4/21	4/22	Germany		364.00						364.00
							(3)				
Hon. Joseph K. Knollenberg	5/26	5/31	Italy		696.38						696.38
							(3)				
Hon. Sam Farr	5/26	5/31	Italy		696.38						696.38
							(3)				
Carol Murphy	5/26	5/31	Italy		696.38						696.38
							(3)				
Walter Hearne	5/26	5/31	Italy		696.38						696.38
							(3)				
James W. Dyer	5/7	5/10	Italy		933.00						933.00
Commercial airfare							6,865.14				6,865.14
Therese McAuliffe	5/7	5/10	Italy		933.00						933.00
Commercial airfare							6,865.14				6,865.14
John Blazey	5/7	5/10	Italy		933.00						933.00
Commercial airfare							6,865.14				6,865.14
Susan Firth	5/20	5/25	Costa Rica		350.00						350.00
Commercial airfare							537.00				537.00
Hon. C.W. Bill Young	6/3	6/8	France		672.00						672.00
Misc. embassy costs									830.45		830.45
							(3)				
Misc. transportation costs									877.77		877.77
Hon. Jo Ann Emerson	6/3	6/8	France		672.00						672.00
Misc. embassy costs									830.45		830.45
							(3)				
Misc. transportation costs									877.77		877.77
Hon. Jack Kingston	6/3	6/8	France		558.00						558.00
Misc. embassy costs									830.45		830.45
							(3)				
Misc. transportation costs									877.77		877.77
Hon. Rodney Frelinghuysen	6/3	6/8	France		672.00						672.00
Misc. embassy costs									830.45		830.45
							(3)				
Misc. transportation costs									877.77		877.77
John Blazey	6/3	6/8	France		672.00						672.00
Misc. embassy costs									830.45		830.45
							(3)				
Misc. transportation costs									877.77		877.77
David Jolly	6/3	6/8	France		672.00						672.00
Misc. embassy costs									830.45		830.45
							(3)				
Misc. transportation costs									877.77		877.77
Douglas Gregory	6/3	6/8	France		672.00						672.00
Misc. embassy costs									830.45		830.45
							(3)				
Misc. transportation costs									877.77		877.77
Committee total					39,801.52		79,779.19		11,957.54		131,538.25

[1] Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.
[2] If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.
[3] Military air transportation.

BILL YOUNG, Chairman, July 20, 2004.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN APR. 1 AND JUNE 30, 2004

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem [1]		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]
Visit to Qatar, Iraq, Jordan and Hungary with Codel M. Rogers, Apr. 3–9, 2004:											
Hon. Joe Wilson	4/3	4/4	Qatar		244.15						244.15
	4/4	4/5	Iraq (day trips)								
	4/4	4/7	Jordan		714.00						714.00
	4/7	4/9	Hungary		508.00						508.00
Visit to Haiti, Apr. 13 and 15, 2004:											
Hon. Kendrick B. Meek	4/13	4/13	Haiti								
	4/15	4/15	Haiti								
Commercial airfare							456.00				456.00
Mark R. Lewis	4/13	4/13	Haiti								
	4/15	4/15	Haiti								
Commercial airfare							804.20				804.20
Visit to Russia and Azerbaijan May 23–27, 2004:											
Hon. Curt Weldon	5/23	5/26	Russia		1,092.00						1,092.00
	5/26	5/27	Azerbaijan		378.00						378.00
Commercial airfare							5,750.28				5,750.28
William C. Ostendorff	5/23	5/26	Russia		1,092.00						1,092.00
	5/26	5/27	Azerbaijan		378.00						378.00
Commercial airfare							5,913.82				5,913.82
Jeremiah J. Gertler	5/23	5/26	Russia		1,092.00						1,092.00
	5/26	5/27	Azerbaijan		378.00						378.00
Commercial airfare							5,913.82				5,913.82
Delegation expenses							2,742.00				2,742.00
Visit to Uzbekistan, Qatar and Germany with Codel Ney, May 23–28, 2004:											
Hon. Joe Wilson	5/23	5/25	Ubekistan		456.00						456.00
	5/26	5/27	Qatar		327.00						327.00
	5/27	5/28	Germany		253.00						253.00
Visit to Korea, May 26–28, 2004:											
Hon. Loretta Sanchez	5/26	5/28	Korea		658.00						658.00
Commercial airfare							2,578.37				2,578.37
Mark. R. Lewis	5/26	5/28	Korea		658.00						658.00
Commercial airfare							2,654.37				2,654.37
Visit to Cuba, May 25, 2004:											
Hon. Phil Gingrey	5/25	5/25	Cuba								
Hon. Kendrick B. Meek	5/25	5/25	Cuba								
Justin P. Bernier	5/25	5/25	Cuba		3.30						3.30
Hugh P. Brady	5/25	5/25	Cuba		3.30						3.30
Visit to Italy with Codel Knollenberg, May 26–31, 2004:											
Hon. Robin Hayes	5/26	5/31	Italy		3,336.00						3,336.00
Visit to France and Germany with Codel Young, June 4–8, 2004:											
Hon. Neil Abercrombie	6/4	6/6	France		1,892.37						1,892.37
	6/6	6/8	Germany		614.49						614.49
Visit to France, June 5–8, 2004:											
Hon. Joe Wilson	6/5	6/8	France		1,924.92						1,924.92
Commercial transportation							5,968.74				5,968.74
Hon. Tom Cole	6/5	6/8	France		1,924.92						1,924.92
Commercial transportation							5,968.74				5,968.74
Visit to Kuwait, Iraq and Germany, June 11–13, 2004:											
Hon. Jo Ann Davis	6/11	6/12	Kuwait		394.00						394.00
	6/11	6/11	Iraq (day trip)								
	6/12	6/13	Germany		195.00						195.00
Hon. Adam Smith	6/11	6/12	Kuwait		394.00						394.00
	6/11	6/11	Iraq (day trip)								
	6/12	6/13	Germany		195.00						195.00
Hon. Madeleine Z. Bordallo	6/11	6/12	Kuwait		394.00						394.00
	6/11	6/11	Iraq (day trip)								
	6/12	6/13	Germany		195.00						195.00
Justin P. Bernier	6/11	6/12	Kuwait		394.00						394.00
	6/11	6/11	Iraq (day trip)								
	6/12	6/13	Germany		195.00						195.00
Loren L. Dealy	6/11	6/12	Kuwait		394.00						394.00
	6/11	6/11	Iraq (day trip)								
	6/12	6/13	Germany		195.00						195.00
Visit to Jordan and Iraq with Codel Hoekstra, June 19–21, 2004:											
Hon. Joe Wilson	6/19	6/21	Kuwait		476.00						476.00
	6/20	6/21	Iraq (day trips)								
Visit to Kuwait, Iraq and Germany, June 27–30, 2004:											
Hon. Duncan Hunter	6/27	6/29	Kuwait		688.00						688.00
	6/27	6/28	Iraq (day trips)								
	6/29	6/30	Germany		303.00						303.00
Hon. Ken Calvert	6/27	6/29	Kuwait		688.00						688.00
	6/27	6/28	Iraq (day trips)								
	6/29	6/30	Germany		303.00						303.00
Hon. Silvestre Reyes	6/27	6/29	Kuwait		688.00						688.00
	6/27	6/28	Iraq (day trips)								
	6/29	6/30	Germany		303.00						303.00
Robert L. Simmons	6/27	6/29	Kuwait		688.00						688.00
	6/27	6/28	Iraq (day trips)								
	6/29	6/30	Germany		303.00						303.00
Erin C. Conaton	6/27	6/29	Kuwait		688.00						688.00
	6/27	6/28	Iraq (day trips)								
	6/29	6/30	Germany		303.00						303.00
Committee total				26,303.45		38,750.34					65,053.79

[1] Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.
[2] If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.

DUNCAN HUNTER, Chairman, July 31, 2004.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON THE BUDGET, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN APR. 1 AND JUNE 30, 2004

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem [1]		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]
HOUSE COMMITTEES											
Please Note: If there were no expenditures during the calendar quarter noted above, please check the box at right to so indicate and return. ☒											

[1] Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.
[2] If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.

JIM NUSSLE, Chairman, July 13, 2004.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON FINANCIAL SERVICES, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN APR. 1 AND JUNE 30, 2004

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem [1]		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]
Hon. Chris Bell	4/3	4/6	Ireland		1,377.00		(3)				1,377.00
	4/6	4/9	Hungary		762.00		(3)				762.00
Hon. Rubén Hinojosa	4/10	4/13	Italy		1,738.00		(3)				1,738.00
	4/13	4/15	Malta		652.00		(3)				652.00
	4/15	4/16	Greece		349.00		(3)				349.00
	4/16	4/18	Ireland		928.00		(3)				928.00
Hon. Maxine Waters	4/26	4/29	South Africa		577.00		3,512.00				4,089.00
Committee total					6,383.00		3,512.000				9,895.00

[1] Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.
[2] If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.
[3] Military air transportation.

———, July 30, 2004.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT REFORM, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN APR. 1 AND JUNE 30, 2004

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem [1]		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]
Tom Davis	4/11	4/14	Jordan		714.00		5,811.50				
	4/14	4/16	Israel		724.00						
John Cuaderes	4/11	4/14	Jordan		714.00		5,811.50				
	4/14	4/16	Israel		724.00						
Ashley Victoria Proctor	4/11	4/14	Jordan		714.00		5,811.50				
	4/14	4/16	Israel		724.00						
Candice Miller	4/3	4/6	Ireland		1,377.00						
	4/6	4/9	Hungary		762.00						
Christopher Shays	4/14	4/19	Jordan		970.00		5,169.05				
R.N. Palarino	4/14	4/19	Jordan		970.00		5,169.05				
Christopher Shays	5/15	5/17	Jordan		714.00		4,332.38				
Paul Kanjorski	5/24	5/25	Uzbekistan		456.00						
	5/26	5/27	Qatar		327.00						
	5/27	5/28	Germany		253.00						
Ron Lewis	5/26	5/30	Italy		696.38						
Adam Putnam	6/19	6/21	Jordan		476.00						
Lawrence Halloran	6/5	6/8	Bosnia		477.00		4,194.52				
Michael Turner	6/5	6/8	Bosnia		477.00		4,194.52				
Tom Costa	6/5	6/9	Bosnia		836.00		4,533.45				
	6/9	6/11	Croatia		540.00						
	6/11	6/13	Macedonia		130.00						
Marsha Blackburn	6/5	6/8	Paris		430.00		5,968.74				
Committee total					14,205.38		50,996.21				65,201.59

[1] Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.
[2] If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.
[3] Military air transportation.

TOM DAVIS, Chairman, July 30, 2004.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON HOUSE ADMINISTRATION, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN APR. 1 AND JUNE 30, 2004

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem [1]		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]
Bob Ney	5/23	5/25	Uzbekistan		456.00						456.00
	5/26	5/27	Qatar		327.00						327.00
	5/27	5/28	Germany		253.00						253.00
	6/3	6/5	United Kingdom		181.00						181.00
	6/5	6/8	France		784.00						784.00
William Heaton	5/23	5/25	Uzbekistan		456.00						456.00
	5/26	5/27	Qatar		327.00						327.00
	5/27	5/28	Germany		253.00						253.00
Chris Otillio	5/23	5/25	Uzbekistan		456.00						456.00
	5/26	5/27	Qatar		327.00						327.00
	5/27	5/28	Germany		253.00						253.00
Committee total					4,073.00						4,073.00

[1] Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.
[2] If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.

BOB NEY, Chairman, Aug. 4, 2004.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN APR. 1 AND JUNE 30, 2004

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem [1]		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]
Douglas Anderson	5/18	5/21	Taiwan		923.00						923.00
	5/21	5/22	Philippines		244.00						244.00
	5/22	5/24	Malaysia		358.00						358.00
	5/24	5/26	Indonesia		169.00						169.00
	5/26	5/27	Singapore		261.00						261.00
	5/18	5/27					[4] 6,216.42				6,216.42
Renee Austell	4/4	4/8	Switzerland		1,801.15		5,743.12				7,544.27
	5/24	5/28	France		1,768.00		5,968.30				7,736.30
Hon. Cass Ballenger	4/12	4/13	Honduras		137.00						137.00
	4/13	4/14	El Salvador		23.00						23.00
	4/14	4/16	Nicaragua		182.00						182.00
	4/12	4/16					[4] 2,670.00				2,670.00
Hon. Howard Berman	6/18	6/22	Israel		1,349.00						1,349.00
	6/22	6/25	Egypt		651.00						651.00
	6/18	6/22					6,167.00				6,167.00
Patrick Brennan	4/12	4/13	Honduras		137.00						137.00
	4/13	4/14	El Salvador		78.00						78.00
	4/14	4/16	Nicaragua		447.75						447.75
	4/12	4/16					[4] 2,006.50				2,006.50
	6/10	6/12	Dominican Republic		341.00		1,500.00				1,841.00
Hon. Steve Chabot	5/26	5/28	Taiwan		394.39		4,200.43				4,594.82
Malik Chaka	4/4	4/9	Tanzania		1,130.00						1,130.00
	4/9	4/13	Malawai		276.00						276.00
	4/13	4/17	Botswana		693.00						693.00
	4/4	4/17					[4] 10,649.43				10,649.43
Joan Condon	5/23	5/23	United Kingdom		135.00						135.00
	5/24	5/25	Uganda		188.60						188.60
	5/25	5/26	Sudan		216.80						216.80
	5/26	5/31	Uganda		809.60						809.60
	5/23	5/31					[4] 7,902.28				7,902.28
Hon. Joseph Crowley	4/3	4/6	Ireland		1,377.00		(3)				1,377.00
Hon. Jo Ann Davis	4/3	4/6	Ireland		1,377.00						1,377.00
	4/6	4/9	Hungary		762.00		(3)				762.00
Jim Farr	4/3	4/6	Ireland		1,377.00						1,377.00
	4/6	4/9	Hungary		762.00		(3)				762.00
Daniel Freeman	4/6	4/12	Thailand		1,092.00		5,885.50				6,977.50
Kirsti Garlock	4/3	4/6	Ireland		1,377.00						1,377.00
	4/6	4/9	Hungary		762.00		(3)				762.00
Dennis Halpin	4/4	4/8	Switzerland		1,416.00		5,743.12				7,159.12
Hon. Henry Hyde	4/3	4/6	Ireland		1,377.00						1,377.00
	4/6	4/9	Hungary		762.00		(3)				762.00
Jonathan Katz	4/28	4/29	Germany		331.30		6,493.28				6,824.58
	5/24	5/31	France		2,598.96		5,964.30				8,563.26
	6/9	6/11	Turkey		634.00		6,234.94				6,868.94
David Killion	4/4	4/9	Switzerland		1,770.00		5,762.96				7,532.96
	5/21	5/24	Jordan		564.00						564.00
	5/24	5/27	United Kingdom		1,371.00						1,371.00
	5/21	5/27					[4] 6,387.76				6,387.76
Kay King	4/3	4/6	Ireland		1,377.00						1,377.00
	4/6	4/12	Hungary		1,524.00		(3)				1,524.00
	4/12	4/15	Russia		537.00						537.00
	4/15	4/17	Czech Republic		303.00						303.00
	4/12	4/17					[4] 5,201.48				5,201.48
Robert King	4/3	4/6	Ireland		413.00						413.00
	4/6	4/12	Hungary		1,524.00						1,524.00
	4/12	4/15	Russia		1,092.00						1,092.00
	4/15	4/17	Czech Republic		636.00						636.00
	4/12	4/17					[4] 5,201.48				5,201.48
	5/22	5/25	Israel		1,086.00		[4] 5,201.48				1,086.00
	5/25	5/28	Latvia		783.00						783.00
	5/21	5/28					[4] 7,591.20				7,591.20
Sheila Klein	4/3	4/6	Ireland		1,377.00						1,377.00
	4/6	4/9	Hungary		762.00		(3)				762.00
Hon. Thomas Lantos	4/3	4/6	Hungary		1,377.00						1,377.00
	4/12	4/15	Russia		1,092.00						1,092.00
	4/15	4/16	Hungary		254.00						254.00
	4/3	4/16					[4] 5,830.04				5,830.04
	5/22	5/25	Israel		1,086.00						1,086.00
	5/25	5/28	Latvia		783.00						783.00
	5/22	5/28					[4] 8,294.67				8,294.67
Hon. James Leach	5/21	5/22	Philippines		194.00						194.00
	5/22	5/24	Malaysia		258.00						258.00
	5/24	5/26	Indonesia		168.00						168.00
	5/26	5/27	Singapore		261.00						261.00
	5/21	5/27					[4] 4,415.72				4,415.72
Jessica Lewis	6/10	6/12	Dominican Republic		326.00		1,500.40				1,826.40
James McCormick	5/18	5/21	Taiwan		905.00						905.00
	5/21	5/22	Philippines		194.00						194.00
	5/22	5/24	Malaysia		258.00						258.00
	5/24	5/26	Indonesia		168.00						168.00
	5/26	5/27	Singapore		261.00						261.00
	5/18	5/27					[4] 6,216.42				6,216.42
Hon. Thaddeus McCotter	4/3	4/6	Ireland		1,377.00						1,377.00
	4/6	4/9	Hungary		762.00		(3)				762.00
Caleb McCarry	5/7	5/9	El Salvador		219.00		(3)				219.00
John Mackey	3/30	4/7	Ireland		3,345.00		5,093.54				8,438.54
	5/23	5/29	Colombia		1,575.00		1,700.50				3,275.50
Alan Makovsky	5/21	5/26	Israel		1,086.00						1,086.00
	5/26	5/28	Cyprus		927.00						927.00
	5/26	5/28					[4] 5,391.43				5,391.43
	6/11	6/13	United Kingdom		400.00		7,216.26				7,616.26
Pearl-Alice Marsh	4/4	4/9	Tanzania		1,130.00						1,130.00
	4/9	4/13	Malawi		276.00						276.00
	4/13	4/17	Botswana		693.00						693.00
	4/4	4/17					[4] 9,927.67				9,927.67
Thomas Mooney	3/29	4/8	Ireland		3,804.00						3,804.00
Hon. Grace Napolitano	4/3	4/4	Italy		136.00						136.00
	4/4	4/5	Uzbekistan		456.00						456.00
	4/5	4/6	Pakistan		113.00						113.00
	4/6	4/10	India		868.00						868.00
	4/10	4/12	Sri Lanka		388.00						388.00
	4/12	4/14	Greece		289.00		(3)				289.00
Paul Oostburg-Sanz	5/26	5/30	Venezuela		587.00		2,557.54				3,144.54
	6/10	6/12	Dominican Republic		356.00		1,500.40				1,856.40
Brenda Ortman	4/3	4/6	Ireland		1,377.00						1,377.00

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN APR. 1 AND JUNE 30, 2004—Continued

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem [1]		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]
	4/6	4/9	Hungary		762.00		(3)				762.00
Yleem Poblete	4/4	4/9	Switzerland		1,770.00		6,267.04				8,037.04
Frank Record	4/3	4/6	Ireland		1,377.00						1,377.00
	4/6	4/9	Hungary		762.00		(3)				762.00
	5/21	5/24	Jordan		414.00						414.00
	5/24	5/27	United Kingdom		1,221.00						1,221.00
	5/21	5/27					[4] 6,388.00				6,388.00
Gregg Rickman	5/21	5/24	Jordan		564.00						564.00
	5/24	5/27	United Kingdom		1,371.00						1,371.00
	5/21	5/27					[4] 6,387.76				6,387.76
Walker Roberts	4/3	4/6	Ireland		1,377.00						1,377.00
	4/6	4/9	Hungary		762.00		(3)				762.00
Laura Rush	4/3	4/6	Ireland		1,377.00						1,377.00
	4/6	4/9	Hungary		762.00		(3)				762.00
Jonathan Scharfen	5/21	5/24	Jordan		564.00						564.00
	5/24	5/27	United Kingdom		1,371.00						1,371.00
	5/21	5/27					[4] 6,387.76				6,387.76
Sue Schiesser	4/3	4/6	Ireland		1,377.00						1,377.00
	4/6	4/9	Hungary		762.00		(3)				762.00
Sam Stratman	4/3	4/6	Ireland		1,307.00						1,307.00
	4/6	4/9	Hungary		712.00		(3)				712.00
	5/23	5/29	Colombia		1,575.00		1,840.50				3,415.50
Sarah Tillemann	4/8	4/10	Singapore		422.00						422.00
Lynne Weil	5/22	5/25	Israel		1,086.00						1,086.00
	5/25	5/28	Latvia		783.00						783.00
	5/21	5/28					[4] 8,877.60				8,877.60
Hillel Weinberg	4/3	4/6	Ireland		1,227.00						1,227.00
	4/6	4/9	Hungary		612.00		(3)				612.00
	4/9	4/13	Saudi Arabia		414.00						414.00
	4/13	4/17	Israel		1,710.00						1,710.00
	4/18	4/20	United Kingdom		914.00						914.00
	4/9	4/20					[4] 6,603.31				6,603.31
Hon. Gerald Weller	5/7	5/9	El Salvador		269.00		(3)				269.00
Hon. Robert Wexler	4/28	4/29	Germany		331.30		[4] 6,493.28				6,824.58
	5/24	5/31	France		2,598.96		5,964.30				8,563.26
	6/9	6/11	Turkey		634.00		6,234.94				6,868.94
Judy Wolverton	4/3	4/6	Ireland		1,377.00						1,377.00
	4/6	4/9	Hungary		762.00		(3)				762.00
Committee total					104,913.81		234,578.58				339,492.39

[1] Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.
[2] If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.
[3] Military air transportation.
[4] Round trip airfare.

HENRY HYDE, Chairman, July 28, 2004.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN APR. 1 AND JUNE 30, 2004

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem [1]		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]
Brian Zimmer	5/22	5/26	Belgium		1,777.30						1,777.30
	5/27	5/30	France		420.00		5,398.87				5,818.87
Bobby Vassar	5/22	5/26	Belgium		1,777.30						1,777.30
	5/27	5/30	France		420.00		5,398.87				5,818.87
Hon. Steve King	6/10	6/13	Iraq		650.00		(3)				650.00
Committee total					5,044.60		10,797.74				15,842.34

[1] Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.
[2] If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.
[3] Military air transportation.

F. JAMES SENSENBRENNER, Jr., Chairman, July 21, 2004.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON RESOURCES, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN APR. 1 AND JUNE 30, 2004

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem [1]		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]
Todd Willens	3/26	4/2	South Africa		1,368.00		7,538.35		40.00		8,946.35
Kurt Christensen	6/26	7/4	China		1,250.00		5,562.07				6,812.07
Frank Vitello	6/28	7/4	China		900.00		6,023.50				6,923.50
Committee total					3,518.00		19,123.92		40.00		22,681.92

[1] Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.
[2] If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.

RICHARD POMBO, Chairman, July 28, 2004.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON RULES, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN APR. 1 AND JUNE 30, 2004

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem [1]		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]
Hon. David Dreier	4/2	4/14					(3)		6,719.85		6,719.85
	4/3	4/4	Italy		136.00		(3)				136.00
	4/4	4/5	Uzbekistan		456.00		(3)				456.00
	4/5	4/6	Pakistan		113.00		(3)				113.00
	4/6	4/8	India				(3)				
	4/8	4/10	Nepal		476.00		(3)				476.00

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON RULES, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN APR. 1 AND JUNE 30, 2004—Continued

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem [1]		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]
	4/10	4/12	Sri Lanka		388.00		(3)				388.00
	4/12	4/14	Greece		698.00		(3)				698.00
Hon. Grace Napolitano	4/3	4/4	Italy		136.00		(3)				136.00
	4/4	4/5	Uzbekistan		456.00		(3)				456.00
	4/5	4/6	Pakistan		113.00		(3)				113.00
	4/6	4/8	India				(3)				
	4/8	4/10	Nepal		476.00		(3)				476.00
	4/10	4/12	Sri Lanka		388.00		(3)				388.00
	4/12	4/14	Greece		698.00		(3)				698.00
Hon. Karen McCarthy	4/3	4/4	Italy		136.00		(3)				136.00
	4/4	4/5	Uzbekistan		456.00		(3)				456.00
	4/5	4/6	Pakistan		113.00		(3)				113.00
	4/6	4/8	India				(3)				
	4/8	4/10	Nepal		476.00		(3)				476.00
	4/10	4/12	Sri Lanka		388.00		(3)				388.00
	4/12	4/14	Greece		698.00		(3)				698.00
Brad Smith	4/3	4/4	Italy		136.00		(3)				136.00
	4/4	4/5	Uzbekistan		456.00		(3)				456.00
	4/5	4/6	Pakistan		113.00		(3)				113.00
	4/6	4/8	India		392.00		(3)				392.00
	4/8	4/10	Nepal		476.00		(3)				476.00
	4/10	4/12	Sri Lanka		388.00		(3)				388.00
	4/12	4/14	Greece		698.00		(3)				698.00
William Pitts	4/3	4/4	Italy		136.00		(3)				136.00
	4/4	4/5	Uzbekistan		456.00		(3)				456.00
	4/5	4/6	Pakistan		113.00		(3)				113.00
	4/6	4/8	India		392.00		(3)				392.00
	4/8	4/10	Nepal		476.00		(3)				476.00
	4/10	4/12	Sri Lanka		388.00		(3)				388.00
	4/12	4/14	Greece		698.00		(3)				698.00
Hon. Alcee Hastings	4/17	4/30	England		1,371.00		3,475.00		135.60		4,981.60
Hon. Lincoln Diaz-Balart	4/12	4/14	Columbia		450.00		1,236.00				1,686.00
Stephen Vermillion	4/12	4/14	Columbia		450.00		1,236.00				1,686.00
Committee total					14,390.00		5,947.00		6,855.45		27,192.45

[1] Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.
[2] If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.
[3] Military air transportation.

DAVID DREIER, Chairman, July 27, 2004.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN APR. 1 AND JUNE 30, 2004

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem [1]		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]

HOUSE COMMITTEES
Please Note: If there were no expenditures during the calendar quarter noted above, please check the box at right to so indicate and return. ☒

[1] Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.
[2] If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.

SHERWOOD BOEHLERT, Chairman, July 6, 2004.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON STANDARDS OF OFFICIAL CONDUCT, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN APR. 1 AND JUNE 30, 2004

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem [1]		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]

HOUSE COMMITTEES
Please Note: If there were no expenditures during the calendar quarter noted above, please check the box at right to so indicate and return. ☒

[1] Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.
[2] If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.

JOEL HEFLEY, Chairman, July 12, 2004.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN APR. 1 AND JUNE 30, 2004

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem [1]		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]
Hon. John Mica	4/3	4/6	Ireland		1,377.00		(3)				1,377.00
	4/6	4/9	Hungary		762.00		(3)				762.00
Hon. James Oberstar	4/3	4/9	China		1,662.00		6,471.50				8,133.50
Adam Tsao	4/3	4/9	China		1,662.00		7,088.50				8,750.50
Anastasia Soumbeniotis	4/3	4/9	China		1,662.00		7,088.50				8,750.50
Hon. John Duncan	4/10	4/13	Spain		465.00		(3)				465.00
	4/13	4/16	Italy		462.00		(3)				462.00
	4/16	4/19	Croatia		435.00		(3)				435.00
	4/19	4/20	Ireland		157.00		(3)				157.00
Hon. Corrine Brown	5/23	5/26	Russia		1,092.00		6,929.80				8,021.80
	5/26	5/27	Azerbaijan		378.00		(4)				378.00
Hon. Eddie Bernice Johnson	5/23	5/26	Russia		1,092.00		7,080.82				8,172.82
	5/26	5/27	Azerbaijan		378.00		(4)				378.00
Hon. Dennis Rehberg	5/25	5/27	Ireland		654.00		(3)				654.00
	5/27	5/30	Kazakhstan		875.00		(3)				875.00
	5/30	5/31	Ireland		327.00		(3)				327.00
Hon. Lincoln Davis	6/5	6/8	France		1,924.92		5,968.74				7,893.66

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN APR. 1 AND JUNE 30, 2004—Continued

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem [1]		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]
Committee total					15,364.92		40,627.86				55,992.78

[1] Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.
[2] If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.
[3] Military air transportation.
[4] Included in above.

DON YOUNG, Chairman, July 22, 2004.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN APR. 2 AND MAY 9, 2004

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem [1]		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]
Hon. Phil English	4/3	4/6	Ireland		1,377.00		(3)				1,377.00
	4/6	4/9	Hungary		762.00		(3)				762.00
Hon. Wally Herger	4/10	4/13	Spain		1,203.00		(3)				1,203.00
	4/13	4/16	Italy		1,326.00		(3)				1,326.00
	4/16	4/19	Croatia		810.00		(3)				810.00
	4/19	4/20	Ireland		247.00		(3)				247.00
Hon. Sander Levin	5/7	5/9	El Salvador		269.00		[3] 416.39				685.39
Hon. Xavier Becerra	5/7	5/9	El Salvador		269.00		[3] 316.95				585.95
Committee total					6,263.00		733.34				6,996.34

[1] Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.
[2] If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.
[3] Military air transportation.

BILL THOMAS, Chairman, July 27, 2004.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN APR. 1 AND JUNE 30, 2004

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem [1]		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]
Hon. James A. Gibbons	4/3	4/4	Africa								
	4/4	4/5	Africa		185.00						
	4/5	4/6	Africa		474.00						
	4/6	4/8	Africa		432.00						
	4/8	4/10	Africa		464.00						
							[4] 3,173.48				
Brant Bassett	4/3	4/4	Africa								
	4/4	4/5	Africa		185.00						
	4/5	4/6	Africa		474.00						
	4/6	4/8	Africa		432.00						
	4/8	4/10	Africa		464.00						
							[4] 3,173.48				
Hon. Porter Goss	4/10	4/13	Europe		1,738.00						
	4/13	4/15	Europe		652.00						
	4/15	4/16	Europe		2,791.98						
	4/16	4/18	Europe		928.00						
							(3)				
Hon. Ray LaHood	4/10	4/13	Europe		1,738.00						
	4/13	4/15	Europe		652.00						
	4/15	4/16	Europe		2,791.98						
	4/16	4/18	Europe		928.00						
							(3)				
Patrick Kelly	4/10	4/13	Europe		1,738.00						
	4/13	4/15	Europe		652.00						
	4/15	4/16	Europe		2,791.98						
	4/16	4/18	Europe		928.00						
							(3)				
Joseph Jakub	4/10	4/13	Europe		1,738.00						
	4/13	4/15	Europe		652.00						
	4/15	4/16	Europe		2,791.98						
	4/16	4/18	Europe		928.00						
Commercial airfare							5,774.93				
Delores Jackson	4/10	4/13	Europe		1,738.00						
	4/13	4/15	Europe		652.00						
	4/15	4/16	Europe		2,791.98						
	4/16	4/18	Europe		928.00						
Commercial airfare							5,774.93				
Abigail Sullivan	4/10	4/13	Europe		1,738.00						
	4/13	4/15	Europe		652.00						
	4/15	4/16	Europe		2,791.98						
	4/16	4/18	Europe		928.00						
Commercial airfare							5,774.93				
Joseph Jakub	5/21	5/23	Europe		624.00						
	5/23	5/25	Europe		786.00						
	5/25	5/27	Europe		808.00						
Commercial airfare							6,564.00				
Brant Bassett	5/24	5/28	South America		900.00						
Commercial airfare							1,860.50				
Kevin Schmidt	5/24	5/28	South America		900.00						
Commercial airfare							1,860.50				
Hon. Peter Hoekstra	6/12	6/13	South America		225.00						
Commercial airfare							538.24				
John Stopher	6/12	6/13	South America		225.00						
Commercial airfare							538.24				
Hon. Peter Hoekstra	6/18	6/21	Middle East		476.00						
							(3)				
Michael Kostiw	6/18	6/21	Middle East		476.00						
							(3)				
John Stopher	6/18	6/21	Middle East		476.00						
							(3)				
Kathleen Reilly	6/18	6/21	Middle East		476.00						

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN APR. 1 AND JUNE 30, 2004—Continued

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem [1]		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]
							(3)				
Michael Kostiw	4/22	4/28	Europe		1,696.00						
Commercial airfare							2,140.12				
Michael Kostiw	4/4	4/8	Europe		1,420.00						
Commercial airfare							4,142.61				
Robert Myhill	4/4	4/8	Europe		1,420.00						
Commercial airfare							4,142.61				
Barbara Bennett	4/12	4/15	Europe		690.00						
Commercial airfare							5,349.03				
Robert Myhill	4/12	4/15	Europe		690.00						
Commercial airfare							5,349.03				
David Barth	4/4	4/19	Europe		2,198.00						
Commercial airfare							5,561.81				
Committee total											115,974.32

[1] Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.
[2] If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.
[3] Military air transportation.
[4] Part military air transportation and part commercial airfare.

PORTER GOSS, Chairman, Aug. 3, 2004.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, SELECT COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN APR. 1 AND JUNE 30, 2004

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem [1]		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]
Hon. Ben Chandler	6/4	6/8	France		$430.92		$5,968.74				$6,399.66
Hon. Bob Etheridge	6/4	6/8	France		430.92		5,968.74				6,399.66
	4/3	4/4	Qatar		654.00		(3)				654.00
	4/4	4/6	Jordan		714.00		(3)				714.00
	4/7	4/9	Hungary		762.00		(3)				762.00
Sue Ramanthon	5/21	5/29	France		2,400.00		6,269.55				8,669.55
Patricia DeMarco	5/21	5/29	France		2,400.00		6,269.55				8,669.55
Committee total					7,791.84		24,476.58				32,268.42

[1] Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.
[2] If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.
[3] Military air transportation.

CHRIS COX, Chairman, Aug. 4, 2004.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, JOINT COMMITTEE ON PRINTING, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN APR. 1 AND JUNE 30, 2004

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem [1]		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]

HOUSE COMMITTEES
Please Note: If there were no expenditures during the calendar quarter noted above, please check the box at right to so indicate and return. ☒

[1] Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.
[2] If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.

BOB NEY, Chairman, Aug. 2, 2004.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, JOINT COMMITTEE ON TAXATION, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN APR. 1 AND JUNE 30, 2004

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem [1]		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]

HOUSE COMMITTEES
Please Note: If there were no expenditures during the calendar quarter noted above, please check the box at right to so indicate and return. ☒

[1] Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.
[2] If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.

CHUCK GRASSLEY, July 12, 2004.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMISSION ON SECURITY AND COOPERATION IN EUROPE, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN APR. 1 AND JUNE 30, 2004

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem [1]		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]
Hon. Christopher Smith		4/4	USA				6,417.00				6,417.00
	4/5	4/7	Switzerland		1,416.00						1,416.00
Janice Helwig		4/11	USA				4,537.00				4,537.00
	4/12	6/30	Austria		21,109.00						21,109.00
Hon. Christopher Smith		4/23	USA				8,088.00				8,088.00
	4/24	4/27	Ireland		900.00						900.00
	4/27	4/29	Germany		686.00						686.00
Hon. Benjamin Cardin		4/22	USA				5,982.00				5,982.00
	4/23	4/24	Denmark		288.00						288.00
	4/24	4/26	Poland		502.00						502.00
	4/26	4/29	Germany		1,029.00						1,029.00

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMISSION ON SECURITY AND COOPERATION IN EUROPE, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN APR. 1 AND JUNE 30, 2004—Continued

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem [1]		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]
Hon. Alcee Hastings		4/21	England								
	4/21	4/25	Denmark		1,352.00						1,352.00
	4/25	4/27	Lithuania		370.00						370.00
	4/27	4/30	Germany		1,029.00						1,029.00
Dorothy Taft		4/24	USA				6,527.00				6,527.00
	4/25	4/27	Lithuania		389.00						389.00
	4/27	4/30	Germany		712.00						712.00
Knox Thames		4/24	USA				5,357.00				5,357.00
	4/25	4/26	Poland		239.00						239.00
	4/26	4/30	Germany		1,101.00						1,101.00
Maureen Kaufmann		4/20	USA				6,553.00				6,553.00
	4/21	4/24	Denmark		1,071.00						1,071.00
	4/24	4/25	Poland		266.00						266.00
Ronald McNamara		4/23	USA				5,626.00				5,626.00
	4/24	4/27	Ireland		815.00						815.00
Janice Helwig		4/26	Austria				786.00				786.00
	4/26	4/30	Germany		1,048.00						1,048.00
Hon. Alcee Hastings		5/23	USA				5,811.00				5,811.00
	5/24	5/26	Austria		744.00						744.00
Marlene Kaufmann		5/29	USA				4,648.00				4,648.00
	5/30	6/5	Czech Republic		1,550.00						1,550.00
Erika Schlager		6/13	USA				5,981.00				5,981.00
	6/14	6/18	France		1,623.00						1,623.00
Janice Helwig		6/15	Austria				1,192.00				1,192.00
	6/15	6/18	France		927.00						927.00
Elizabeth Pryor		6/21	USA				4,595.00				4,595.00
	6/22	6/26	Austria		1,006.00						1,006.00
Committee total					40,172		72,100				112,272

[1] Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.
[2] If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.

CHRIS SMITH, Chairman, July 29, 2004.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 8 of rule XII, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

9526. A letter from the Executive Director, Commodity Futures Trading Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — Exempt Commercial Markets — received July 30, 2004, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

9527. A letter from the Congressional Review Coordinator, APHIS, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule — Importation of Unmanufactured Wood Articles From Mexico [Docket No. 98-054-3] (RIN: 0579-AB02) received August 30, 2004, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

9528. A letter from the Congressional Review Coordinator, APHIS, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule — Brucellosis in Cattle; State and Area Classifications; Missouri [Docket No. 01-015-2] received August 30, 2004, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

9529. A letter from the Director, Legislative and Regulatory Activities Division, Office of the Comptroller of the Currency, Department of the Treasury, transmitting the Department's final rule — Community Reinvestment Act Regulations [Docket No. 04-17] (RIN: 1557-AC86); Federal Reserve System [Regulation BB; Docket No. R-1205]; Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (RIN: 3064-AC82); Department of the Treasury, Office of Thrift Supervision [No. 2004-28] (RIN: 1550-AB91) received July 7, 2004, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.

9530. A letter from the Senior Paralegal, Regulations, Office of Thrift Supervision, Department of the Treasury, transmitting the Department's final rule — Assessments and Fees [No. 2004-29] (RIN: 1550-AB47) received July 6, 2004, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.

9531. A letter from the Assist. General Counsel for Regulations, Office of the General Counsel, Department of Education, transmitting the Department's final rule — Safe Schools/Healthy Students (RIN: 1865-ZA02) received August 2, 2004, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

9532. A letter from the Assist. General Counsel for Regulations, Office of the General Counsel, Department of Education, transmitting the Department's final rule — Office of Safe and Drug-Free Schools; Notice of Final Priority and Other Application Requirements [CFDA 84.184E] received August 2, 2004, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

9533. A letter from the Assist. General Counsel for Regulations, Office of the General Counsel, Department of Education, transmitting the Department's final rule — Office of Safe and Drug-Free Schools — Mentoring Programs (RIN: 1865-ZA00) received August 2, 2004, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

9534. A letter from the Assistant General Counsel for Regulatory Services, Office of the CFO, Department of Education, transmitting the Department's final rule — Direct Grant Programs (RIN: 1890-AA09) received July 14, 2004, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

9535. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Education, transmitting the Department's final rule — Direct Grant Programs (RIN: 1890-AA09) received July 14, 2004, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

9536. A letter from the Deputy Assistant Secretary for Policy, Department of Labor, transmitting the Department's final rule — Electronic Registration Requirements for Investment Advisers To Be Investment Managers Under Title I of ERISA (RIN: 1210-AA94) received August 30, 2004, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

9537. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Administration and Management, Department of Labor, transmitting the Department's final rule — Revision for the Department of Labor Acquisition Regulations (RIN: 1291-AA34) received May 21, 2004, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

9538. A letter from the Director, Corporate Policy and Research Dept., Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation, transmitting the Corporation's final rule — Benefits Payable in Terminated Single-Employer Plans; Allocation of Assets in Single-Emloyer Plans; Interest Assumptions for Valuing and Paying Benefits — received July 12, 2004, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

9539. A letter from the FMCSA Regulatory Officer, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Parts and Accessories Necessary for Safe Operation; Fuel Systems [DOT Docket No. FMCSA-02-13589] (RIN: 2126-AA80) received June 16, 2004, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

9540. A letter from the Deputy Division Chief, Pricing Policy Division, Wireline Competition Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — Federal-State Joint Conference On Accounting Issues [WC Docket No. 02-269]; 2000 Biennial Regulatory Review—Comprehensive Review of the Accounting Requirements and ARMIS Reporting Requirements for Incumbent Local Exchange Carriers: Phase II [CC Docket No. 00-199]; Jurisdictional Separations Reform and Referral to the Federal-State Joint Board [CC Docket No. 80-286]; Local Competition and Broadband Reporting [CC Docket No. 99-301] received August 9, 2004, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

9541. A letter from the Assistant Administrator for Procurement, National Aeronautical and Space Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — NASA Grant and Cooperative Agreement Handbook—Property Reporting (RIN: 2700-AC79) received July 14, 2004, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Science.

9542. A communication from the President of the United States, transmitting notification to terminate the national emergency with respect to Iraq in Executive Order 12722 of August 2, 1990, modified in Executive Order 13290 of March 20, 2003, Executive Order 13303 of May 22, 2003, and Executive Order 13315 of August 28, 2003, pursuant to 50 U.S.C. 1622(a); (H. Doc. No. 108—213); to the Committee on International Relations and ordered to be printed.

9543. A letter from the Chief Counsel, Office of Foreign Assets Control, Department of the Treasury, transmitting the Department's final rule — Cuban Assets Control Regulations — received June 14, 2004, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on International Relations.

9544. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Export Administration, Bureau of Industy and Security, Department of Commerce, transmitting the Department's final rule — Clarification of Export Controls on Military Vehicles and Parts [Docket No. 040810235-4235-01] (RIN: 0694-AC91) received August 30, 2004, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on International Relations.

9545. A letter from the Acting Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting the Department's final rule — Schedule of Fees for Consular Services, Department of State and Overseas Embassies and Consulates; Proposed Rule (RIN: 1400-AB94) received July 16, 2004, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on International Relations.

9546. A letter from the Director, Division for Strategic Human Resources Policy, Office of Personnel Management, transmitting the Office's ''Major'' final rule — Voluntary Early Retirement Under the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (RIN: 3206-AJ82) received June 28, 2004, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Government Reform.

9547. A letter from the Director, Division for Strategic Human Resources Policy, Office of Personnel Management, transmitting the Office's final rule — Organization of the Government For Personnel Management, Overseas Employment, Temporary and Term Employment, Recruitment and Selection For Temporary and Term Appointments Outside the Register, Examining System, and Training (RIN: 3206-AJ99) received June 28, 2004, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Government Reform.

9548. A letter from the Director, Division for Strategic Human Resources Policy, Office of Personnel Management, transmitting the Office's ''Major'' final rule — Voluntary Early Retirement Under the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (RIN: 3206-AJ82) received June 28, 2004, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Government Reform.

9549. A letter from the Director, Division for Strategic Human Resources Policy, Office of Personnel Management, transmitting the Office's final rule — Organization of the Government For Personnel Management, Overseas Employment, Temporary and Term Employment, Recruitment and Selection For Temporary and Term Appointments Outisde the Register, Examining System, and Training (RIN: 3206-AJ99) received June 28, 2004, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Government Reform.

9550. A letter from the Under Secretary and Director, Patent and Trademark Office, Department of Commerce, transmitting the Department's final rule — Changes in the Requirements for Amendment and Correction of Trademark Registrations [Docket No. 2003-T-023] (RIN: 0651-AB67) received August 30, 2004, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on the Judiciary.

9551. A letter from the Director, Regulations and Forms Services, Bureau of Citizenship and Immigration Services, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Employment Authorization Documents [BCIS No. 2152-01] (RIN: 1615-AA63) Recieved July 30, 2004, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on the Judiciary.

9552. A letter from the Acting Director, National Institute of Standards and Technology, Department of Commerce, transmitting the Department's final rule — Procedures for Implementation of the National Construction Safety Team Act [Docket No. 030421094-4155-02] (RIN: 0693-AB53) received July 7, 2004, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Science.

9553. A letter from the Assistant Administrator for Procurement, National Aeronautics and Space Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Re-Issuance of NASA FAR Supplement Subchapter F (RIN: 2700-AC86) received July 7, 2004, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Science.

9554. A letter from the Director, Regulations Management, Office of Regulation Policy and Management, Veterans Benefits Administration, Department of Veterans transmitting the Department's final rule — Additional Disability or Death Due to Hospital Care, Medical or Surgical Treatment, Examination, Training and Rehaiblitation Services, or Compensated Work Therapy Program (RIN: 2900-AK77) received July 30, 2004, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

9555. A letter from the Director, Regulations Management, Office of Regulation Policy and Management, Veterans Health Administration, Department of Veterans Affairs, transmitting the Department's final rule — Copayments for Extended Care Services (RIN: 2900-AL49) received June 28, 2004, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

9556. A letter from the Director, Regulations Management, Office of Regulation Policy and Management, National Cemetery Administration, Department of Veterans transmitting the Department's final rule — Eligibility for Burial in a National Cemetery for Surviving Spouses Who Remarry and New Philippine Scouts (RIN: 2900-AM00) received June 28, 2004, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES ON PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XIII, reports of committees were delivered to the clerk for printing and reference to the proper calendar, as follows:

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska: Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure. H.R. 784. A bill to amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to Authorize appropriations for sewer overflow control grants; with an amendment (Rept. 108–675). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union.

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska: Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure. H.R. 4470. A bill to amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to extend the authorization of appropriations for the Lake Pontchartrain Basin Restoration Program from fiscal year 2005 to 2010 (Rept. 108–676). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union.

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska: Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, H.R 4688. A bill to amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to reauthorize the Chesapeake Bay Program (Rept. 108–677). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union.

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska: Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, H.R 4731. A bill to amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to reauthorize the National Estuary Program (Rept. 108–678). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union.

Mr. SENSENBRENNER: Committee on the Judiciary. H.R 1084. A bill to provide liability protection to nonprofit volunteer pilot organizations flying for public benefit and to the pilots and staff of such organizations: with an amendment (Rept. 108–679). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union.

Mr. SENSENBRENNER: Committee on the Judiciary. H.R. 3369. A bill to provide immunity for nonprofit athletic organizations in lawsuits arising from claims of ordinary negligence relating to the passage or adoption of rules for athletic competitions and practices (Rept. 108–681). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union.

Mr. SENSENBRENNER: Committee on the Judiciary. H.R. 4571. A bill to amend Rule 11 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure to improve attorney accountability, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 108–682). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey: Committee on Veterans' Affairs. H.R. 4658. A bill to amend the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act to make certain improvements and technical corrections to that Act; with amendments (Rept. 108–683). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union.

Mr. SESSIONS: Committee on Rules. House Resolution 766. Resolution providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 4571) to amend rule 11 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure to improve attorney accountability, and for other purposes (Rept. 108–684). Referred to the House Calendar.

PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XII, public bills and resolutions were introduced and severally referred, as follows:

By Mr. NORWOOD (for himself and Mr. ANDREWS):

H.R. 5063. A bill to amend the Federal Employees' Compensation Act to cover services provided to injured Federal workers by physician assistants and nurse practitioners, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. KENNEDY of Minnesota:

H.R. 5064. A bill to prohibit the giving or acceptance of payment for the placement of a child, or obtaining consent to adoption; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mrs. CHRISTENSEN:

H.R. 5065. A bill to repeal certain sections of the Act of May 26, 1936, pertaining to the Virgin Islands; to the Committee on Resources.

By Mr. SESSIONS:

H.R. 5066. A bill to strengthen and enhance the prevention and prosecution of crimes using weapons of mass destruction, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. SHAYS:

H.R. 5067. A bill to amend title 4 of the United States Code to prohibit the double

taxation of telecommuters and others who work at home; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. THORNBERRY (for himself and Ms. LOFGREN):

H.R. 5068. A bill to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to enhance cybersecurity, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security (Select).

By Mr. THORNBERRY (for himself and Ms. LOFGREN):

H.R. 5069. A bill to enhance homeland security science and technology, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Science.

By Mr. WEXLER:

H. Con. Res. 490. Concurrent resolution wishing William Jefferson Clinton a speedy recovery and acknowledging the importance of further research, funding, programs, and public education regarding heart disease; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. REYNOLDS (for himself, Mr. MATSUI, Mr. HASTERT, Mr. DELAY, Ms. PELOSI, Mr. BLUNT, Mr. HOYER, Ms. PRYCE of Ohio, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts, Mr. NEAL of Massachusetts, Mr. OLVER, Mr. MEEHAN, Mr. DELAHUNT, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. TIERNEY, Mr. CAPUANO, Mr. LYNCH, Mr. RANGEL, Mr. BOEHLERT, Mr. OWENS, Mr. TOWNS, Mr. ACKERMAN, Mr. HOUGHTON, Ms. SLAUGHTER, Mr. ENGEL, Mrs. LOWEY, Mr. MCNULTY, Mr. WALSH, Mr. SERRANO, Mr. NADLER, Mr. HINCHEY, Mr. KING of New York, Mrs. MALONEY, Mr. MCHUGH, Mr. QUINN, Ms. VELAZQUEZ, Mrs. KELLY, Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York, Mr. FOSSELLA, Mr. MEEKS of New York, Mr. CROWLEY, Mr. SWEENEY, Mr. WEINER, Mr. ISRAEL, and Mr. BISHOP of New York):

H. Res. 765. A resolution expressing gratitude to the cities of Boston, Massachusetts, and New York City, New York, for their extraordinary hospitality and successful planning and hosting of the 2004 national political conventions; to the Committee on House Administration. considered and agreed to.

By Mr. BURTON of Indiana (for himself and Mr. WEXLER):

H. Res. 767. A resolution condemning the terrorist attack in Jakarta, Indonesia, that occurred on September 9, 2004; to the Committee on International Relations.

By Mr. GALLEGLY (for himself, Mr. LANTOS, Mr. PITTS, Mr. ROHRABACHER, Mr. CROWLEY, Mr. SOUDER, Mr. BROWN of Ohio, Mr. PENCE, Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, Mr. WOLF, Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN, Mr. WEXLER, Mr. SHERMAN, Mr. TANCREDO, Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA, and Mr. GREEN of Wisconsin):

H. Res. 768. A resolution calling on the United Nations Security Council to immediately consider and take appropriate action to respond to the growing threat that the ruling State Peace and Development Council in Burma poses to the Southeast Asia region and to the people of Burma; to the Committee on International Relations.

By Mr. MEEHAN:

H. Res. 769. A resolution providing for the consideration of the bill (H.R. 2038) to reauthorize the assault weapons ban, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Rules.

PRIVATE BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 3 of rule XII,

Mr. MCKEON introduced a bill (H.R. 5070) for the relief of Ana Maria Moncayo-Gigax; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.

ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions as follows:

H.R. 175: Mr. COX.
H.R. 645: Mr. SMITH of Washington.
H.R. 792: Mr. WELLER.
H.R. 918: Mr. CRAMER, Mr. FILNER, Mr. MCHUGH, Mr. ANDREWS, Mr. REYES, Mr. MICHAUD, Ms. BERKLEY, Ms. MCCARTHY of Missouri, Mr. TOWNS, Mr. CUMMINGS, Mrs. KELLY, Mr. BELL, Mr. PLATTS, Mr. ALLEN, and Mr. KENNEDY of Rhode Island.
H.R. 1084: Mr. COBLE.
H.R. 1089: Mr. FROST, Mr. OWENS, Ms. LEE, Mr. GRIJALVA, and Mr. SANDERS.
H.R. 1160: Mr. HULSHOF and Mr. BURGESS.
H.R. 1322: Ms. ESHOO.
H.R. 1534: Mr. MCINTYRE.
H.R. 1873: Mr. FEENEY.
H.R. 2028: Mr. NEUGEBAUER.
H.R. 2333: Mr. RADANOVICH.
H.R. 2627: Mr. TERRY.
H.R. 2628: Mr. MCINTYRE.
H.R. 2724: Ms. SCHAKOWSKY.
H.R. 2868: Mr. BURR.
H.R. 3063: Mr. DELAHUNT.
H.R. 3242: Mr. HOLDEN and Ms. ESHOO.
H.R. 3352: Mr. SMITH of Washington.
H.R. 3436: Mr. MOORE.
H.R. 3455: Mr. ANDREWS and Mr. REYES.
H.R. 3484: Mr. SCHIFF.
H.R. 3579: Mr. ROHRABACHER and Mr. BURTON of Indiana.
H.R. 3767: Mr. PAYNE and Mr. SPRATT.
H.R. 3802: Mr. LOBIONDO.
H.R. 3805: Mr. STARK.
H.R. 4035: Mr. HOEFFEL.
H.R. 4052: Mr. MEEHAN.
H.R. 4110: Mr. WAXMAN and Ms. ESHOO.
H.R. 4111: Mr. LARSEN of Washington and Mr. CUMMINGS.
H.R. 4214: Mr. WEINER.
H.R. 4232: Mr. THORNBERRY.
H.R. 4256: Mr. CARDIN.
H.R. 4306: Mr. BOUCHER.
H.R. 4325: Mr. RAHALL.
H.R. 4343: Mr. GILLMOR.
H.R. 4354: Mrs. CHRISTENSEN.
H.R. 4366: Ms. SCHAKOWSKY.
H.R. 4571: Mr. SHAYS and Mr. BROWN of South Carolina.
H.R. 4597: Mr. ALLEN.
H.R. 4610: Mr. ISRAEL and Mr. GILCHREST.
H.R. 4634: Mr. BONNER and Ms. HARRIS.
H.R. 4658: Mr. FILNER, Mr. GUTIERREZ, Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida, Mr. RYAN of Ohio, Ms. HERSETH, and Ms. BORDALLO.
H.R. 4701: Mr. ANDREWS.
H.R. 4772: Mr. LEVIN, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. ETHERIDGE, and Mr. VAN HOLLEN.
H.R. 4849: Mr. PAUL and Mr. CANTOR.
H.R. 4875: Mr. SCOTT of Georgia and Mr. MCINTYRE.
H.R. 4881: Mr. LEWIS of Georgia and Ms. LEE.
H.R. 4902: Mr. MARSHALL, Mr. GOODE, and Mr. JOHN.
H.R. 4944: Mr. REHBERG.
H.R. 4956: Mr. GUTIERREZ, Mr. JEFFERSON, and Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania.
H.R. 4961: Mr. MCHUGH.
H.R. 4978: Mr. MCGOVERN.
H.R. 5024: Mr. SCOTT of Georgia.
H.R. 5027: Mr. DEUTSCH.
H.R. 5040: Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas.
H.R. 5061: Mr. PENCE.
H.J. Res. 98: Ms. ESHOO.
H. Con. Res. 213: Mr. KENNEDY of Rhode Island.
H. Con. Res. 306: Ms. CARSON of Indiana.
H. Con. Res. 321: Mr. KING of New York.
H. Con. Res. 392: Mr. BLUMENAUER.
H. Con. Res. 402: Mr. SENSENBRENNER.
H. Con. Res. 473: Mr. GILCHREST and Mr. WOLF.
H. Res. 103: Ms. DELAURO.
H. Res. 174: Mr. KENNEDY of Rhode Island.
H. Res. 556: Mr. LEWIS of California.
H. Res. 690: Mr. FARR, Mr. DICKS and Ms. LINDA T. SANCHEZ of California.
H. Res. 717: Ms. CARSON of Indiana.
H. Res. 744: Mr. MCDERMOTT.
H. Res. 755: Mr. FROST.
H. Res. 760: Mr. WEXLER.

AMENDMENTS

Under clause 8 of rule XVIII, proposed amendments were submitted as follows:

H.R. 5025

OFFERED BY: MR. HEFLEY

AMENDMENT NO. 1: At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

SEC. _____. Each amount appropriated or otherwise made available by this Act that is not required to be appropriated or otherwise made available by a provision of law is hereby reduced by 1 percent.

H.R. 5025

OFFERED BY: MR. DAVIS OF FLORIDA

AMENDMENT NO. 2: At the end of the bill, before the short title, insert the following:

SEC. ____. (a) None of the funds made available in this Act may be used to implement, administer, or enforce the amendments made to section 515.560 or 515.561 of title 31, Code of Federal Regulations (relating to travel-related transactions incident to travel to Cuba and visiting relatives in Cuba), as published in the Federal Register on June 16, 2004.

(b) The limitation in subsection (a) shall not apply to the implementation, administration, or enforcement of section 515.560(c)(3) of title 31, Code of Federal Regulations.

H.R. 5025

OFFERED BY: MR. OXLEY

AMENDMENT NO. 3: Strike section 216 (relating to identification accepted by financial institutions).

H.R. 5025

OFFERED BY: MR. KENNEDY OF MINNESOTA

AMENDMENT NO. 4: Page 33, line 24, insert after the dollar amount the following: ''(reduced by $300,000,000)''.

Page 89, line 24, insert after the dollar amount the following: ''(increased by $300,000,000)''.

H.R. 5025

OFFERED BY: MR. SANDERS

AMENDMENT NO. 5: At the end of the bill, insert after the last section (preceding the short title) the following new section:

SEC. _____. None of the funds appropriated by this Act may be used to assist in overturning the judicial ruling contained in the Memorandum and Order of the United States District Court for the Southern District of Illinois entered on July 31, 2003, in the action entitled Kathi Cooper, Beth Harrington, and Matthew Hillesheim, Individually and on Behalf of All Those Similarly Situated vs. IBM Personal Pension Plan and IBM Corporation (Civil No. 99–829–GPM).

H.R. 5025

OFFERED BY: MR. SANDERS

AMENDMENT NO. 6: At the end of the bill, insert after the last section (preceding the short title) the following new section:

SEC. _____. None of the funds appropriated by this Act may be used to assert or argue in a judicial proceeding that a particular defined benefit pension plan does not violate

section 411(b)(1)(H)(i) or section 411(d)(6) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, section 204(b)(1)(G) or 204(b)(1)(H)(i) of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974, or section 4(i)(1)(A) of the Age Discrimination in Employment Act of 1967.

H.R. 5025

OFFERED BY: MR. SANDERS

AMENDMENT NO. 7: At the end of the bill, insert after the last section (preceding the short title) the following new section:

SEC. _____. None of the funds appropriated by this Act may be used to assist in overturning any judicial ruling on section 411(b)(1)(H)(i) or section 411(d)(6) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, section 204(b)(1)(G) or 204(b)(1)(H)(i) of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974, or section 4(i)(1)(A) of the Age Discrimination in Employment Act of 1967.

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PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 108th CONGRESS, SECOND SESSION

Vol. 150 WASHINGTON, MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, 2004 No. 108

Senate

The Senate met at 2 p.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore (Mr. STEVENS).

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Gracious God of all, we have heard glorious things about Your goodness. Let Your glory be over all the Earth. Our hearts make melody to You because of Your exceeding greatness. Thank You for Your faithfulness that endures forever. Today, give us steadfast hearts that we may honor You with our lives.

Be near to our Senators, giving them a powerful awareness of Your presence. Empower them in their labors to heal broken hearts and to bind the wounds of the oppressed. Remind them of the importance of reverential awe, for You take pleasure in those who delight in doing Your will.

We lift to You again our Nation's military, asking that You will use it as an instrument of peace in our world. Lord, grant us wisdom and courage for the living of these days. We pray this in the Name of the Prince of Peace. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The PRESIDENT pro tempore led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

SCHEDULE

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, today we have a period of morning business until 3:30 this afternoon. At 3:30, the Senate will resume consideration of the Homeland Security appropriations bill. It is my understanding that several Members will be here to offer amendments to the legislation; therefore, we hope to make good progress on the bill over the course of the day.

Under the order from Friday, at 5:30 today, the Senate will vote in relation to the Schumer amendment related to HAZMAT trucks. It would be my hope that we would have an additional amendment ready to be voted on immediately after the 5:30 vote. Therefore, Senators should expect two votes beginning at 5:30 today.

I remind my colleagues that we need to finish this legislation either tomorrow evening or early Wednesday morning so that Senators may observe the Rosh Hashanah holiday, which begins Wednesday. Given that time constraint, I encourage Members to show restraint during the amendment process. We will need to have a full day and possibly a late evening tomorrow in order to complete the Homeland Security appropriations bill. I know my colleagues concur that this is an important piece of legislation that we should not, will not, delay.

I also inform Senators we are working on agreements with respect to other appropriations measures, and I will continue to consult with Democratic leadership in an effort to expedite those bills as well.

I thank everyone for their attention as we begin these busy days of the session.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, there will now be a period for the transaction of morning business for debate only until 3:30 p.m., with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

Who seeks recognition?

The Senator from Texas is recognized.

MEDICAL LIABILITY REFORM

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, it was 1 year ago today that the voters in my home State of Texas passed proposition 12, a referendum that paves the way for substantive medical liability reform and provides hope that quality health care will win out over the interests of a handful of politically powerful personal injury lawyers.

The people of Texas spoke, and the doctors across the State are reopening their doors. In fact, two obstetricians in the small town of Fredericksburg, TX, announced their return with an advertisement in the local newspaper that proclaimed: ''We're Back!''

One of these obstetricians, Dr. David Cantu, had been working for more than 10 years as an obstetrician with no claims, but he and his partner had to quit practicing obstetrics because of the cost of insurance. Dr. Cantu's overhead was hitting 100 percent, and he had a 3-month stretch with no pay.

As soon as they stopped delivering babies, the practice saw an immediate decrease in insurance costs, but their patients were forced to travel elsewhere to have their babies delivered. This was doubly difficult for them considering the fact that 70 percent of Dr. Cantu's patients are Medicaid patients, and 40 percent were Spanish speaking.

But with proposition 12, Dr. Cantu and his partner are now able to deliver babies again. Proposition 12 has placed a $250,000 cap on noneconomic damages in medical liability cases. When Dr. Cantu was asked, How has that helped you and your patients, he said:

Because now I come out ahead instead of paying to be an Obstetrician. Prop. 12 made the practice of Obstetrics affordable.

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

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When it comes to health care, I strongly believe the proper role of Government is to protect the freedom of all of us to improve our own health and to deal with our own health care needs. We must ensure that decisions about a patient's health are not made by the Government but by individuals and families; that is, between the patient and his or her doctor.

Patients and their doctors—not lawyers, not bureaucrats—should be trusted to decide what treatment is best for them. I strongly believe when people have good choices in health care, it ultimately translates into higher quality and better care.

Dr. Cantu's story shows us that our current medical liability system is the biggest challenge we face in this regard. Our current system is wasteful and dangerous, and it too often serves the interests of greed, not justice and common sense. The overall results of our current system are sky-high costs for liability insurance, costs that have created a crisis of enormous proportions—a crisis that is threatening quality of care, diminishing access to care, and exploding the cost of care.

But there is hope. Evidence is mounting that reforms such as proposition 12 in the State of Texas are working. We can see that in real terms and not just because of advertisements of doors to doctors' offices reopening. Even though these reforms have been in place for only 1 year in Texas, early results are encouraging.

After a decrease in Texas insurance carriers from 17 to 4—that is the number of medical liability insurance companies that would actually insure a physician or a health care provider against medical liability claims—proposition 12 has created an environment where 10 different carriers have now sought reentry into the Texas market to write physician policies. The largest insurer in the State, Texas Medical Liability Trust, reduced its premiums by 12 percent. A Texas hospital association survey shows, for hospitals in our State, a 17-percent reduction across the board.

Why this response? Lawsuits against hospitals are down 70 percent from last summer's race to the courthouse, when Texas courts were flooded by personal injury lawyers with more than 10,000 medical malpractice lawsuits, shortly before voters approved proposition 12.

Let me repeat that because it is important for everyone to understand. Knowing that proposition 12 was likely to pass, personal injury trial lawyers filed more than 10,000 medical liability lawsuits shortly before the reform was to take effect in order to beat the people's mandate that health care should be more widely available and, certainly, medical liability insurance available more readily to more physicians. Why? To help doctors, to help hospitals and the corporations that own those hospitals?

Everybody knows that corporations don't practice medicine, and the only way you can get your baby treated or yourself treated is to have a doctor who will see you. So what we are talking about is not a benefit directly to doctors or the hospitals; what we are talking about is a benefit to patients—in other words, to all of us—as a result of this commonsense reform.

The best news is that doctors such as David Cantu are responding. In Austin, 16 new obstetricians have started their practice in the last year, reversing a trend over the previous 2½ years when Austin lost 16 obstetricians due to the medical liability crisis. Driscoll Children's Hospital is recruiting close to a dozen new pediatric specialists, three neonatologists, two cardiologists, a hematologist, a general surgeon, and four other specialists, something they could not do under the earlier environment.

These successes are not limited to just the State of Texas. A recent study by the Rand Institute found that California's 1975 medical liability reform, known as MICRA, reduced defendants' liabilities by 30 percent and plaintiffs' attorneys fees by 60 percent. That was a means to an end because the result in California has been that insurance rates have actually risen at a rate of about two-thirds of what the rate has been in the rest of the Nation. These are signs that reforms such as proposition 12, or California's MICRA, have worked. Yet still we find that in the U.S. Senate today, we are unable to get a solution for families all across the Nation in States that have no such reforms in place. This is a national problem and it calls for a national solution.

I want to say a few words about our Nation's need for serious medical liability reform and the U.S. Senate's appalling refusal to address that problem with real solutions. Unfortunately, special interests continue to win out over mainstream America, and our health care system continues to bear the burden of costly and frivolous lawsuits. We see that medical care and medical liability insurance rates continue to grow unabated.

I couldn't help but notice this quote from Senator KERRY at the Democratic National Convention in his acceptance speech. He noted specifically:

> Since 2000, four million people have lost their health insurance. Millions more are struggling to afford it. You know what's happening. Your premiums, your co-payments, your deductibles have all gone through the roof.

I am actually very pleased to hear this acknowledgment by the Senator from Massachusetts, recognizing the seriousness of our situation. He is right about one thing: These are real problems, and they deserve real and immediate solutions.

With all due respect, he and some of our colleagues in the Senate continue to avoid the most obvious and primary cause of escalating health care costs and the decrease in availability of medical liability insurance and the consequential lack of access to real health care—that is, runaway lawsuits.

Three times in the 108th Congress alone Republican leadership has brought meaningful medical liability reform to the Senate which, if passed, President Bush would readily sign into law. This chart shows three different bills that have been brought to the Senate floor by the majority leader: S. 11, the Patients First Act of 2003; S. 2061, the Healthy Mothers and Healthy Babies Access to Care Act; and S. 2207, the Pregnancy and Trauma Care Access Protection Act.

Over a year ago, the majority leader brought forth a comprehensive reform proposal known as S. 11. Earlier we brought forth two additional proposals which dealt more with specialty practices such as obstetricians who deliver babies and emergency room physicians, hoping that even if we were not able to get broad medical liability reform, we might be able to achieve it for those specialties that are most acutely affected and where access to health care hits the hardest.

I do not begin to claim that the legislative proposals we have advanced were the only solution to the problems. Indeed, I applaud other reforms. But it is clear, as this chart indicates, that each time we have tried to come up with a solution, we have been denied an opportunity to go forward with the debate and to have amendments, if any Senator wished to offer amendments, and to try to get good, commonsense medical liability reform that would increase access to health care.

I don't believe medical liability reform is the only problem that confronts our health care system today. I applaud many other reforms that have been proposed by the President and others, including the innovation of health savings accounts, which were part of the Medicare bill we passed about a year ago, and the use of new technology to make the practice of medicine more efficient and to reduce the likelihood of medical errors. These and other reforms do represent commonsense proposals that hold great promise, not only for improved health care but to make sure the cost of health care remains affordable and thus more available to more people.

Above all, it is clear that any of these bills would offer much-needed relief to the health care system brought to a state of crisis by politically powerful personal injury lawyers in as many as 23 States across the country. I find it sad that any special interest group—and the Senators voting according to the wishes of those groups and not the American people, a list that includes the Democratic nominees for President and Vice President—has denied us the opportunity on each of these three occasions to begin the debate, begin the legislative process, and hopefully accomplish meaningful reform and improve access to health care. But we were denied even the chance to debate and vote on the issue, even when a bipartisan majority of this body agrees that we need reform and we have the

tools to effect that reform within our reach. Their choice to deny us that opportunity was not ours; it was theirs. To this day, those who obstruct meaningful medical liability reform leave the American people with the sad reality of the status quo, a broken civil justice system and little hope for a national solution.

While the problem persists in all aspects of our health care system, the crisis is particularly acute among specialty doctors—for example, neurosurgeons, brain and spinal surgeons, emergency room physicians, and, notably, obstetricians and gynecologists, the doctors who actually care for women who are pregnant and who deliver their babies. A handful of powerfully connected personal injury lawyers is seriously jeopardizing patient care for women and their newborns. I and others find that completely unacceptable.

Across the country liability insurance for obstetrician/gynecologists has become prohibitively expensive. Premiums have tripled and quadrupled, leaving OB/GYNs without the ability to get liability insurance at all as insurance companies fold or stop insuring doctors.

This last week, the Washington Post wrote an article on a malpractice insurer, known as NCRIC, right here in the District of Columbia, which is ''feeling the squeeze,'' losing over $4 million in 2003 alone.

This chart shows that 23 States are on red alert—in a medical liability crisis—while just 3, including Texas, are in crisis pending effect of reform. Others noted by the hash marks on the chart are those where the crisis is still brewing.

These skyrocketing medical malpractice premiums literally are driving physicians out of business and leaving Americans without access to quality health care. Between 2002 and 2003, rates rose as much as 40 percent in some States, with the impact hitting specialty doctors such as obstetricians/gynecologists the hardest.

When an OB/GYN cannot find or afford medical liability insurance, they are forced to stop delivering babies, forced to curtail surgical services, or close their doors altogether. Now more than one in seven across the Nation is simply leaving the profession and walking away.

For example, in my home State of Texas, the entire obstetrics unit at Spring Branch Medical Center in Houston was forced to close just prior to an expected 2003 increase of 67 percent in the hospital's medical liability premiums.

Today, because the effects of proposition 12 have not been fully realized, out of 254 counties in Texas—one of the States in crisis pending effect of the reforms—more than half of the counties in Texas simply do not have available a single doctor who specializes in delivering babies. In many cases, doctors simply chose to stop serving certain patients to avoid costly litigation; or even if they were not involved in litigation, they were still forced to pay ultra-high medical liability premiums, making it simply impossible to make ends meet.

One rural obstetrics/gynecologist who serves mostly Medicaid, or poor patients, was forced to stop seeing high-risk patients altogether because his insurance premiums had increased 300 percent.

The effects are felt almost entirely by the poorer members of our society who depend, of course, on Medicaid to help them with their health care premiums.

Perhaps most disconcerting of all, however, is the trend of doctors engaging in defensive medical practice. When we ask why is the cost of health care going up so dramatically and why are health care premiums paid by employers or by self-employed persons going up so dramatically, it is in part because of the effect of defensive medicine—physicians who provide tests and services, not because they think it is medically indicated but because they simply want to defend themselves against a potential lawsuit.

According to the Department of Health and Human Services, a majority of doctors say they recommend invasive procedures and painful tests they consider unnecessary in medical terms in hopes of avoiding litigation. That is the point we have reached.

The most basic principles of justice require that we embrace national reform as soon as possible, striving to protect access both to the courts and to our hospitals and to physicians. As a matter of principle, those who are wrongly injured deserve their day in court; there is no question about that. We all agree. If a doctor is responsible or negligent, he or she should be held fully accountable. But the sad fact is that the current system does not foster accountability. Instead, it has nearly destroyed any hope for quality and affordable health care in America. The time for that to change is now and we must change it.

It is time for Congress to act and to provide a national solution so all Americans can benefit from medical liability reform, so all Americans can open their newspapers and see an advertisement from their neighborhood doctor, who may have once been forced out of his practice now happily, proclaiming: We are back.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I wish to make some comments on intelligence reform, an issue that is a real focus for the Senate, with activities both on the floor as well as off the floor and most of it in committee and task forces right now.

Before doing so, I thank my colleague from Texas, who so carefully and deliberately and comprehensively laid out a huge problem that, as he said, affects access to health care now. As he described it, obstetricians and gynecologists are leaving the practice of delivering babies and getting out of taking care of women who need it because they simply cannot afford it any longer. Trauma surgeons and centers are stopping doing surgery, not because they want to, but they cannot afford to and still provide for their family.

The driver for those OB/GYNs, the trauma centers, neurosurgeons, and orthopedic surgeons is the liability system that is out of control. It used to be that people would talk about it and it didn't have much traction with the American people because they would say those doctors make so much money and they can take care of it. But when you have neurosurgeons paying $400,000 a year just for liability insurance, you simply cannot keep delivering care. If it is $100,000 or $200,000, you can pass it on to the patients. But remember, the skyrocketing premiums are costing the American people—you, the people listening to me, who are having to pay more for health care—because it drives the cost up.

I very much appreciate him coming to the floor and addressing that issue. Health care costs right now are increasing each and every year. We all know that and it is our obligation to address that. It is about 15 percent of our gross domestic product right now. Whether that is too much or too little, the point is, it is going up, and one of the big drivers of that is the medical liability cost.

Americans deserve affordable health care, reliable health care, accessible health care, and good quality health care. We are getting to a point where we simply cannot afford it; thus, as we look to the future, and whether it is in individual Senate races or the Presidential race, I encourage the American people to ask these questions: Who is addressing the root causes of these escalating costs in health care? Is it Democrats or Republicans? Is it the nominee or the incumbent? Is it President Bush or nominee Kerry? Who is addressing the root causes of driving these costs sky high and out of everybody's control, when ultimately the American taxpayer pays it, and your premium is going to go up, whether or not you are involved in a lawsuit, because that cost is passed on to you.

As my colleague pointed out on the floor, on three occasions, we have addressed the root cause—these frivolous lawsuits, the personal injury lawyers, who are putting money in their pockets instead of the pockets of the victims who may have been hurt; or the predatory personal injury lawyers—not all of them but the ones filing frivolous lawsuits, in order to hit that litigation lottery and line their pocketbooks. We have tried to do this three times unsuccessfully basically because of the Democrats—not all because one voted with us. They said they were not going to discuss it on the floor of the Senate. So I think it is an issue that we must

address, and I appreciate our distinguished colleague bringing it to the floor. It is an important issue that we have to address on this floor and I think will play out in races across the country. Who is for reasonable, commonsense medical liability reform which allows obstetricians to keep delivering babies, trauma centers to stay open, and allows doctors to do what they want to do, and that is to practice medicine and take care of patients, instead of driving them away. It is as simple as that.

We are going to try to get it before the Senate, probably not in the next 18 days we have left in our legislative session, but we will bring it back again and again until we are successful.

I should mention as an aside as well, in the Presidential race, it is important, as we look at who is addressing the root causes in terms of a vision for health care, we do need to take a look at the health care plans.

The American Enterprise Institute released today a very good paper—I am sure there will be other papers—that looked at the Kerry health care plan and said it is going to cost $1.5 trillion. That is twice what the Kerry campaign has said.

Mr. President, $1.5 trillion is huge. The only way it can be paid for, obviously, is by increasing taxes on everybody—everybody. I encourage people to look at that document.

INTELLIGENCE REFORM

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I do want to bring people up to date—and I will be brief—on where we are with the Senate intelligence reform initiatives in light of the 9/11 Commission. Over the next several days, we will have a very busy week. It is cut a little bit short by the Jewish holidays. I believe our central focus in this body, given the fact we have so few legislative days, must be on the security of the American people, and that means the bill that is currently on the floor that we are turning to and will be voting on one of the amendments at 5:30 p.m. today, the Homeland Security appropriations bill.

It says ''Homeland Security'' appropriations. We have had good debate. We all hope to pass that bill late tomorrow night or Wednesday morning for sure.

Second, we need to focus on reforming our intelligence community, something people do understand—broadly the American people understand—that is reflected in the 9/11 Commission recommendations, the update of that report, the discussion of that report, and we have responded aggressively in terms of hearings, recognizing that reform should be done now, not knee-jerk but deliberate reform, and begin it in a way that will have an impact to make our intelligence better, to make our intelligence sharing among our various entities better, that makes our oversight better.

Last week, the leadership on both sides of the aisle, on both sides of the Capitol, met with the President of the United States, who presented his plan for reorganizing the intelligence community. It was a good meeting. It was a productive meeting. There was a good discussion by the participants. The general consensus was we need to respond quickly but also very responsibly, and that really is our charge.

We are responding to the reform we all know needs to occur, but it was spelled out by the 9/11 Commission. It does not mean we should take every recommendation and do exactly what they said, but it means we need to look at those recommendations, study them, get new information, make them even more current, and then act on many of those recommendations.

The President mentioned that they in the administration have addressed 36 of the recommendations. There are really two recommendations that apply to reorganization of this body, 39 to the executive branch, and the administration has addressed 36 of those 39 recommendations.

Before we recessed in July, Senator DASCHLE and I announced that the Governmental Affairs Committee would be the vehicle, that they would have the responsibility for leading the reorganization of the executive branch, the branch outside the legislative branch.

For our internal reorganization, we announced a task force that is led by the leadership, represented by the majority whip, Senator MCCONNELL, and the minority whip, Senator REID, that would address the recommendations of Senate oversight.

The McConnell-Reid task force is meeting to discuss the whole range of options that have been put on the table, several of which were put on the table by the 9/11 Commission. Indeed, there are a lot more options that are available to be discussed and debated, and then to make a proposal as to what, based on all of this input, would be most appropriate, most responsible for this body to do, to accomplish that Senate oversight of intelligence and homeland security.

It is a bipartisan effort. When we talk about safety and security of the American people, politics falls aside pretty quickly. Senator DASCHLE and the Democratic leadership and the leadership on our side are working closely together to address the challenges before us. We have tapped into the expertise of the Congressional Research Service and other outside experts in a search for additional or other ways and means to improve Senate oversight.

The McConnell-Reid task force will meet several more times over the coming weeks. They will be assessing the 9/11 Commission's proposals, as well as other proposals. Our goal is to get a resolution to the floor before the Senate adjourns on October 8.

Meanwhile, the arm that I mentioned, the Governmental Affairs Committee arm, led by Senators COLLINS and LIEBERMAN, continues to make steady progress. Last week, the Governmental Affairs Committee held a briefing with Robert Mueller, who is Director of the FBI, and John McLaughlin, who is Acting Director of the CIA. This morning they held another hearing with Secretary of State Colin Powell and Secretary of Homeland Security Tom Ridge.

I mention all these hearings so my colleagues and the American people know we are aggressively addressing these issues. We can expect more hearings to be held this week and in the weeks ahead, culminating in a draft bill that will be marked up that week of September 20. The bill will address the 9/11 Commission's key recommendations dealing with the establishment of a national intelligence director—we are using that little acronym NID—as well as the creation of the National Counterterrorism Center, as well as the proposals of the reorganization of the executive branch.

The committee's bill will reflect the views and the input of a number of Senate committees and Members of Congress, as well as proposals that are put forth by the President and the White House.

I am confident that the Governmental Affairs Committee product will serve as a strong, comprehensive, and serious bill that will be the baseline for our deliberations on the floor of the Senate on September 27. There will be a continuation of hearings. The main action on the Senate floor will begin soon.

I do want to show my colleagues and the American people that the Senate is moving deliberately, quickly, and in this bipartisan manner to address these national security needs.

As I said at the outset, our highest responsibility is to the safety, the security of the American people. We are working hard to meet that responsibility to move America forward, and I am confident we will get that job done. Over the course of this week, we will continue with the appropriations bills and, as I mentioned in my opening statement a few minutes ago, we are working out an agreement to address the next appropriations bill. Hopefully, we will be able to announce that either later today or tomorrow.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. BURNS). The Senator from Florida.

EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE FOR FEMA

Mr. NELSON of Florida. Mr. President, before the majority leader leaves, I spoke with the chairman of the Appropriations Committee as he was leaving the floor and inquired as to what he is anticipating. He told me that he is anticipating there will be a House bill that would be sent sometime today on emergency assistance for FEMA and, I assume, other agencies as well.

If that is the case, then that is new information, and we can proceed on

that basis. That, in large part, is the commentary I am wanting to make, having just come back from Florida, visiting a number of the devastated areas. We will await the latest information on handling that information tonight.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I thank our distinguished colleague from Florida for his leadership. We were on the floor talking last Tuesday and Wednesday and will continue talking every day about the real tragedy that has gone on with the people of Florida and that whole part of the world as a result of the assault by Mother Nature again and again.

I pledge to him we will continue this dialog. He understands our commitment from the leadership—Democrats and Republicans—to address the issue of the flow of funds and that the resources necessary to respond in a responsible and quick way are first and foremost and that we will be right there and will continue to work over the course of today and will update each other as to the best, quickest, and most responsible way to address the issue.

Mr. NELSON of Florida. It does not look as though we are going to be spared the third one because the latest track, as of 11 this morning, now has it moving back east, hitting the Florida coast somewhere around Destin and Fort Walton, whereas this morning's track had it going into some place like Pensacola. The only good news is it is not coming back to that part of Florida where the two other hurricanes crisscrossed and hit the same area of central Florida. Of course, the last storm was so massive that it virtually covered up the entire State, not only with the deluge of rain but with whipping winds, so that its winds, albeit not a category 4 like Charley was, nevertheless did a great deal of damage.

As the majority leader exits, I am going to tick off a number of those particular estimates. It is rather extraordinary. I thank the majority leader for working with me on behalf of the people of Florida.

Mr. President, I have returned from Florida and I will tell my colleagues about some of the devastation I have seen over the course of this past weekend. Our folks are hurting and a number of their needs are unmet. As of this morning, some 8 to 9 days after the last hurricane, Frances—and, remember, we have been hit twice in a row, first with Charley and then with Frances—there are still about 350,000 people in Florida without power.

Now, if one is a young person, such as a lot of our pages, they can make do. But if one is a senior citizen and has special needs, particularly with lifesaving equipment, and does not have any electricity in the house, it is very difficult to be able to exist. Thus, we have to take special-needs folks and put them in shelters and then, if a shelter does not have electricity, provide by generators the electricity in order to run the particular machines that are lifesaving machines.

Of course, this is beginning to wear thin on a lot of our folks in Florida and yet they have such an optimistic, can-do spirit. They are going about the process of rehabilitating themselves and repairing all of the damage and cleaning up from all of the destruction, but they are looking forward to what the Federal Government does, one of its charter reasons for existing, and that is protecting its people in times of disaster.

My colleagues heard my exchange with the majority leader on the necessity for us to pass this special legislation because last week FEMA ran out of money. We had to pass a special $2 billion appropriation, but all of us knew that was not even going to take care of the expenses for FEMA for the first hurricane, which was Charley. So now we have to have an additional package of at least $2.5 billion that includes not only FEMA but also a host of other agencies, such as the Department of Agriculture; the Small Business Administration, which offers low-interest loans to businesses and individuals; the Department of Agriculture because we have extraordinary crop losses in Florida as a result of these two hurricanes, the Department of Transportation for the damage that has been done particularly to airports in Florida; for the military, the damage that was done to Patrick Air Force Base, and NASA at the Kennedy Space Center, as well as the American Red Cross, and economic development funding.

There are news accounts going around right now about the President sending a disaster package requesting $2.5 billion, and that it may include FEMA, the Small Business Administration, and NASA. But what about all the other agencies? Conspicuously absent is the Department of Agriculture. That is why I sent a letter to the President on Friday and pointed out the Florida Department of Agriculture has estimated that Florida agriculture itself suffered to the tune of $2 billion in losses due to those two hurricanes.

For example, most people do not realize we have a huge nursery industry in Florida. We have one of the biggest fern industries in the world. Nurseries have suffered a half a billion dollars in damages. Citrus growers, a half a billion dollars in damages; sod producers, $300 million from the standing water.

You will have to excuse my raspy throat because, in and out of all of the elements, the gremlins grabbed hold of my throat. But I am going to croak it through so that people understand we really have some losses. Cattlemen, $100 million; dairy producers, about $12 million; timber, $150 million. The need is great. It is in an industry, agriculture, that is huge in Florida. It is a $62 billion-a-year industry in Florida.

I mentioned the Federal Aviation Administration under the Department of Transportation. It estimates $64 million in losses, and that includes about $50 million in losses to the Orlando International Airport. There is $12 million in losses, almost total, to the little Charlotte County Municipal Airport where it was ground zero and where the Charlotte County Emergency Operations Center had the roof ripped off when Charley hit with 145-mile-an-hour winds.

Last week, I participated in a hearing with the NASA Administrator. The highest winds, interestingly, were recorded in a gust at the Kennedy Space Center, 120 miles an hour. This is from Frances, the second storm. They are estimating $100 million in damage. That took 900 panels off the big vehicle assembly building. Those panels are huge, 10 feet high and about 4 feet wide. They are out, and there are 900 open windows now into the vehicle assembly building where we assemble the stack of the space shuttle vertically. So that is another $100 million.

If you look back to Hurricane Andrew, its supplemental—which ended up costing over $6 billion for the Federal Government, and that was 12 years ago; that was the monster hurricane—that even included $75 million for the Economic Development Administration, which had a lot of projects, including dislocation caused by the hurricane and replacement of such things as sewer and water treatment facilities and the construction of a drainage system to deal with the flooding.

I mentioned Patrick Air Force Base, the military. It suffered. Also the National Guard, the Navy, the Air Force, the Coast Guard—they all report funding needs into the millions because of those storms.

I wanted to lay the predicate for this request when it comes over. When the White House sends their request, if it is $2.5 billion, it is not going to start to cover all the things that are needed. If that is what comes to us with the House originating this legislation tonight, then this Senator is not going to have any choice but to accept this so we can go ahead and get something over to the White House to be signed into law because of the many needs we have. Yet there is going to be more to come in the future, and we will have to identify those. I want to make sure, in these requests that are made by the White House and then in whatever the House passes tonight, that we do not forget these additional needs such as Florida agriculture where the damage has been so significant.

That is my story. I am going to continue to tell this story like a broken record. As I go home and I come back and I go home and I come back, I will continue to help out these folks who are suffering, these folks who are so courageous in the midst of the utter devastation around them.

If two storms were not enough, we have another one coming. I was thinking over the course of the last 24 hours that we might be spared this, that it

might inch on out there in its track to the west. It is now, as we speak, starting to round the western end of Cuba, between the west end of Cuba and the Yucatan Peninsula of Mexico. But now the track, instead of sending it further west out of Florida, has it coming back.

I see my colleague from Florida, my distinguished senior Senator, is here. Just to share with him the latest 11 o'clock advisory from this morning, instead of coming in at Pensacola, it has now moved back east in the area of Destin, WaterColor, San Destin, that area. It doesn't look like we are going to get spared the third hurricane.

My family has been in Florida 175 years. I know there have been times in that span of time where we have had back-to-back hurricanes, but not hurricanes of the magnitude of a category 4 and then a category 2, a category 2 that had gusts up to 120 miles an hour, which is category 3. But never have I heard where we have had three major hurricanes in a row all hitting the same State. Mind you, as Hurricane Ivan is rounding the tip of western Cuba tonight, it is a category 5, and as it comes around Cuba, what does it hit? It hits the warm waters of the Gulf of Mexico. Unless there is some shearing action at the top of the hurricane, it is even going to intensify more from the 160-mile-an-hour winds it has right now. No State should have to suffer three big ones in a row, yet this is what we are facing.

I ask, I implore, I plead with my colleagues, don't hesitate a moment to help our people in Florida.

ASSAULT WEAPONS BAN

Mr. NELSON of Florida. Mr. President, before I get into this hurricane discussion, my eye caught an Associated Press newswire out early this morning. A Miami-Dade County police officer was shot several times after a driver she stopped fired nearly two dozen bullets at her with an AK–47 assault rifle.

The assault rifle ban has been in effect for over a decade. According to the Department of Justice, it expired this past weekend and now AK–47s are allowed to be purchased under U.S. law.

My family has been in Florida 175 years. I grew up in the country. I grew up on a ranch. I have hunted all my life. I have a son who is an avid hunter. We enjoy the outdoors, but we do not hunt with AK–47s. AK–47s and assault rifles are for killing, not for hunting.

Why is it that law enforcement, at every level of government—Federal, State and local—is against terminating this law that prohibited the sale of assault rifles? Why is law enforcement opposed to the termination of this law? For exactly this reason: A Miami-Dade County police officer was shot two dozen times by an AK–47. I rest my case, and I think it is a sad day that we could not reenact an extension of the law on the abolition of assault weapons, primarily for the sake of law enforcement.

I am a defender of the constitutional right to bear arms. I am a defender of the right to have guns of all kinds except when getting to the common sense that it is not worth it in our society to be able to purchase AK–47s.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Florida.

Mr. GRAHAM of Florida. Mr. President, as he leaves, I would like to commend Senator NELSON, my good friend and colleague, who has given an enormous amount of attention to two disastrous hurricanes that have already hit our State, both before and in the aftermath. He is now continuing that as we face yet another hurricane in our State.

I extend my appreciation, admiration, and, as a Floridian, my thanks.

INTELLIGENCE REFORM, III

Mr. GRAHAM of Florida. Mr. President, on Saturday the Nation paused to observe the third anniversary of the horrible tragedy of September 11, 2001. In the first hours and weeks after the attack on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon, the Nation was shocked by what had been the unthinkable—a terrorist plot carried out on the soil of the United States of America.

We have seen grisly images of terrorism on our television screens from the Middle East, from Africa, from the Baltics, even from Great Britain. But now we have been hit here at home seemingly without warning, without the chance to have prevented the loss of over 3,000 innocent lives.

We now know that the terrorist attack of September 11 was the result of a sophisticated plot, a plot that developed over many months, a plot that required the coordination among a number of individuals and we know that had our national intelligence agencies been better organized and more focused on the problem of international terrorism this tragedy would have been avoided.

Incredibly, it is now more than 3 years after that tragic event and the basic problems in our national intelligence community that contributed to our vulnerability on September 11, 2001, are now for the first time being seriously considered. Let me be clear.

These problems were not a mystery before September 11. Before September 11, there had been a series of reviews of our national intelligence, reviews of our national intelligence in the context of terrorism and a series of very similar conforming recommendations. These weaknesses that contributed to September 11 were well known. They were well known by the administration and a majority in this Congress. What had occurred is that they had been essentially dismissed.

I am delighted that the good work of the 9/11 Commission has finally shaken the administration and my colleagues out of their lethargy.

In my last statement I identified five major problems and challenges of the U.S. intelligence community. Today I would like to suggest the direction the reforms should take in response to each of these problems and challenges.

First, the failure to adapt to a changing adversary and a changing global environment.

In the final report of the congressional joint inquiry, we optimistically stated:

> The cataclysmic events of September 11, 2001 provided a unique and compelling mandate for strong leadership and constructive changes throughout the intelligence community.

However, the record is that since September 11 the intelligence community has been slow to accept the concept that a non-nation state can challenge the United States of America. We are all familiar with those scenes immediately after September 11 when the finger of responsibility was pointed not at al-Qaida, not at the Taliban, not at the place in which the terrorist plot had emerged but, rather, to Iraq because only a nation state could carry out a plot as complex and as devastating as September 11. We have taken only first steps to understand the real enemy, international terror.

Satellites will not give us the understanding, the capability, nor the intentions of Osama bin Laden. Yet the allocation of our intelligence resources continues to be dominated by the maintenance of the cold war satellite architecture and the development of yet a new generation of satellite technology. The recruitment and training of human intelligence agents has accelerated but remains inadequate. A sense of urgency is required to dramatically increase the number of men and women in the intelligence agencies with the command of the languages and the cultures of the Middle East, Central Asia, and China. In none of our intelligence agencies is this failure to transition to new threats and to new demand more evident than in the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

The FBI is, first and foremost, a law enforcement agency and it deserves its reputation as the best in the world. In that important responsibility, the priorities and professional rewards are for investigating a crime after it has occurred, arresting the culprit, providing the court admissible evidence to secure a conviction, and sending the criminal to jail. That is not the orientation of an intelligence agency. There the objective is to understand the threat before the act has occurred so the plot can be interdicted.

So what should we do? The United States can begin by learning a lesson from our foe.

Since our unfinished war in Afghanistan, al-Qaida has regrouped and decentralized. It has established alliances with terrorist groups in over 60 countries. This may seem counterintuitive, but in public administration there is

an admonition that in order to decentralize, an organization must first centralize.

Since their inception, the intelligence agencies have focused on their specific assignments, such as the collection of communications or the analysis of visual images.

As an example, the National Reconnaissance Office is paid to think about the capabilities of the next generation of satellites, not whether the relative importance of satellites in relation to human intelligence is declining. The larger realities—such as the changed nature of our enemies—go underattended. That is why the joint inquiry recommended that we centralize greater control over the intelligence agencies in a director of national intelligence to ''make certain the entire U.S. intelligence community operates as a coherent whole.''

Once the agencies are retrieved into a coherent whole, I would then recommend that they, as the combined military commands of Goldwater-Nichols, be then decentralized around specific missions such as countering global proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and terror.

This new architecture would itself be subject to constant change as old threats decline and go away and new ones emerge to replace them. Such a structure would require constant attention to these questions: Who is the enemy today? Who is the enemy likely to be tomorrow? And what do we need to know in order to successfully confront this enemy?

A second reform designed to keep the intelligence community focused on both today and tomorrow is to increase the linkages between the intelligence communities and other sources of information and analysis. There have been some successful attempts to reach out to, for instance, academic programs and private sector think tanks. These initiatives should be expanded and integrated as a permanent component of the intelligence agency rather than an occasional effort.

I also believe the intelligence communities need to reach out to the consumer. Just as in a commercial venture, where the needs and desires of the consumer drive the success of the provider, the intelligence community should do likewise. What a difference it might have made if before September 11 someone had worked with the administrators of our most vulnerable systems—airlines, seaports, power, and industrial plants—to understand their vulnerabilities and assess whether current intelligence would indicate the need for change in their traditional means of operation in order to harden them from terrorist attacks.

It was no mystery that terrorists were considering using commercial airlines as weapons of mass destruction. That had been discussed for the better part of a decade. The problem was we did not connect that information with those who had a responsibility for the safety of commercial airlines.

Finally, if we are to recentralize our intelligence agency so we can then decentralize based on specific tasks, we need to change the position of the Director of Central Intelligence. Since 1947, when the intelligence community of the United States was first established, the Director of Central Intelligence has also been the head of the CIA. Given the divergent responsibilities of both jobs, that needs to be changed.

To give an analogy, we do not ask the Secretary of Defense to also be the Secretary of the Army. Each job has its own special perspectives and responsibilities. Yet that is essentially what we are doing with a merger of one of the intelligence operative agencies—the CIA—with the head of the individual who is supposed to have a view across the entire intelligence community. The head of the central intelligence function is designed to be one who can make strategic decisions regardless of how they affect the CIA or any other specific functional agency. It is time, today, to apply the same rule we have applied since immediately after World War II to our military, to our intelligence community.

A second failure of intelligence is the repeated instances in which the intelligence community has failed to provide strategic intelligence. Our late colleague, Pat Moynihan, as the Presiding Officer knows, used to have his seat in the back row, middle section of the Chamber of the Senate. From there he often complained that while the United States intelligence services can provide us with information on how many telephones there were in the Kremlin and information on how many sailors man the latest class of Soviet warships, the intelligence community had not been able to figure out that the Soviet Union was on the verge of collapse due to its weakening economy. Sometimes that kind of information gleaned both from publicly available sources and a knowledge of the country, rather than wiretaps and satellites, is the most important information there is.

Senator Moynihan had a solution. He wanted to abolish the American intelligence agency. I believe the need to collect, analyze, integrate, and disseminate intelligence is too great. Instead, rather than abolition, we need a series of reforms designed to enhance the gathering of strategic intelligence. For starters, the President should direct the next Director of Central Intelligence, whatever title he or she might have, to expand the number and orientation of voices that contribute to the intelligence process. The Bush administration has been accused—correctly, in my opinion—of practicing incestuous amplification.

In other words, the only people who were at the table are people who have the same point of view. Their views are then vetted through people who again share the same beliefs. As a result, the original conclusion is not only validated, it is amplified. After the attacks of September 11, the intelligence community was accused of failing to connect the dots. Incestuous amplification is unlikely to either connect the dots or expand the number of dots which are visible.

Two places to start this report would be the State Department and openly available sources of information. Unfortunately, the State Department has been the orphan of this administration. This is a particular shame, given the fact that the State Department has gotten it right more often than any other security agency.

From the beginning, the Secretary of State was skeptical of the stories coming out of Africa and Damascus about the status of Saddam Hussein's restoration of his nuclear capabilities. Using information from our own sources as well as European allies, the State Department had the best assessment of conditions in postwar Iraq. The intelligence community needs to be more amenable to the use of open source information.

The percentage of information which we contributed to a wise ultimate judgment derived from open sources—such as journalists, regional television and the Internet—is increasing. The duty of reading and assessing the significance of events reported openly in a foreign post is too often assigned to the newest, the least experienced intelligence officer or Foreign Service officer. There are indicators, for example, that press and television reports in the Middle East should have raised concerns before September 11 that a tragedy in the homeland of the United States was in the making.

It is for that reason that the joint inquiry recommended that ''Congress and the administration should ensure the full development within the Department of Homeland Security of an effective all-source terrorism information fusion center that will dramatically improve the focus and quality of counter terrorism analysis and facilitate the timely dissemination of relevant intelligence information both within and beyond the boundaries of the Intelligence Community.''

I wish to pause to give particular credit to those words and that wise policy to our colleague, Senator RICHARD SHELBY. He served for an extended period of time as both chairman and vice chairman of the Intelligence Committee and throughout that period was particularly adamant in his support for integrating intelligence collection sources so that all could be taken into account with the wisest analysis and use of intelligence.

This idea—the fusion center—was signed into law within the Department of Homeland Security. But what has happened since? What has happened since is this very good idea has languished. The goal of the fusion center was not only to perform analysis that would fill the gap between foreign and domestic intelligence, but it also was

to share information with State and local law enforcement and to access their capability. This is not happening.

The third failure is the failure to establish within the intelligence community priorities and then deploy behind them. Rather than set up intelligence systems to validate convenient political notions, we need a system that pursues mutually agreed upon intelligence priorities. To that end, the President must assure that clear, consistent, and current policies are established and enforced through the intelligence agency. The President needs to charge the National Security Council with the preparation of a government-wide strategy for combating terrorism at home and abroad. It is an outrage that we are now more than 3 years from September 11 and we do not have a clear national strategy of how we are going to eradicate international terrorists.

The restructuring of the intelligence community suggested above can significantly contribute to a more coherent set of intelligence initiatives, but without leadership and commitment from the President, little progress will be made.

Fourth, the intelligence community has not implemented the policies necessary to recruit, train, reward or sanction, maintain the talents, or diversify its human intelligence capabilities. The intelligence community's current recruitment and training regime has been inadequate to overcome this handicap.

Of particular concern to me is the difficulty of receiving a security clearance for a first-generation American of Arabic ancestry. These young Americans, who have a heritage in the countries of the Middle East and Central Asia, are most likely to have absorbed colloquial Arabic, Farsi or Pashtun, at home, and could have the personal skills that will increase their value as a case agent. Of course, they are likely to have something else; that is, they are likely to have a family.

An intelligence security background check—an important part of assuring the patriotism of our intelligence community—includes interviews with family members. And if those family members live in Syria, for example, it may be difficult or impossible to get a clearance. If one of the family members, even a distant one, has been in the service of that foreign government, the recruit is likely to be rejected, even though he or she may meet every standard of being a patriotic American. By failing to find ways to overcome this bias, we are denying ourselves the benefit of one of our Nation's greatest assets, our diversity.

Another frequently cited reason for difficulty of recruitment of intelligence officers is the mid-1950s culture of the intelligence community. While most other aspects of our society have become accustomed to frequent turnover in careers—in fact, the average American can anticipate working at seven or more distinctly different jobs or places of employment throughout his or her worklife—intelligence agencies continue to seek to employ people who are prepared to make a lifetime commitment.

Our Joint Inquiry recommended a series of reforms to bring the human talent in the community, which is in line with the current challenges, to the intelligence community. Those included a focus on bringing midcareer professionals into the intelligence community, allowing for more time-limited service for college graduates, finding ways to bring more native language speakers into the intelligence agencies, and other efforts at diversification.

At this point, I commend the former Director of Central Intelligence, Mr. George Tenet, for the work he has done to initiate these policies. I am pleased that the recently enacted Defense appropriations bill for fiscal year 2005 includes seed money for the development of a reserve officers training corps style program for the intelligence community at several universities, a recruitment and training program which will provide financial aid in exchange for a commitment of service within the intelligence community.

This could be a significant response to the need for proficiency in some of the world's most difficult languages and least known cultures and histories. Having these students under supervision during their college careers would also facilitate the clearance of first-generation Americans of Arab background into the intelligence services. And it would have, as does the military reserve officers training corps, the further attribute of facilitating jointness; that is, the willingness of people to see the mission rather than stop their vision at the particular agency at which they serve. Once these young people enter their respective intelligence agencies, many of them will have known each other during their shared preparatory experience and, therefore, will be more likely to work effectively together.

The fifth failure is the failure to realize that many of the most important decisions made by the intelligence community that were previously described as tactical have now become strategic.

There have been too many instances, most of which we cannot talk about in open session, when mid-level bureaucrats in the intelligence community have made decisions at a tactical level without a more strategic view as to the implications of those decisions. These can be seemingly as simple as the rotation of surveillance aircraft or other means of surveillance which, when discovered, set off a diplomatic firestorm with one of our friends or with one of our enemies.

The leadership of the intelligence community has a special responsibility to determine if there is a full understanding of the implications, rewards, and risks of an action. Review and ultimate judgment on tactical measures must be made by someone with the requisite strategic vision and authority.

For that reason, and because of the significant confusion that the FISA process—the process by which a warrant was obtained to either place a wiretap or review the effects of a foreign person—caused for the FBI in seeking to investigate suspects prior to 9/11, it is important we reform the way the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act is now taught and applied.

For example, the officials of our Government who are charged with making the ultimate decision on these warrants, the Attorney General and the Secretary of State or their delegates, must place the individual application of such a warrant into the context of U.S. strategic global interests.

There are areas where the Congress, through oversight, can and must play a significant role. In a subsequent statement, I will review in more detail the role of Congress in the oversight and direction of the intelligence community and some of the reforms that I suggest should be made in order to more effectively carry out that responsibility.

America lost more than 3,000 of our people on September 11. But we lost something else. We lost our innocence. We can never bring back those people we lost, nor will we ever restore America's innocence. What we can do is honor their memories. What we can do is learn from their loss by embarking on the road from innocence to wisdom.

Government must lead when the people hesitate. And the people must lead when our Government, as it has under our current President, falters. Our safety and our future are too important to be left to change. Luck may spare us. It will never protect us.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Minnesota.

Mr. DAYTON. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that notwithstanding the previous order I be allowed up to 10 minutes to speak as in morning business.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

FAILED POLICY IN IRAQ

Mr. DAYTON. Mr. President, 3 days ago, a picture appeared in the Minneapolis-based Star Tribune newspaper, accompanying a Los Angeles Times article whose headline read: ''U.S. Makes Show of Strength in Fallujah.''

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the article be printed in the RECORD following my remarks.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

(See exhibit 1.)

Mr. DAYTON. The picture, for the record, showed about 30 Iraqi civilians standing amidst the rubble of bombed buildings in the Iraqi town of Fallujah. In the forefront of the picture were five Iraqi children, and the caption beneath the picture read:

An Iraqi boy weeps, as people survey the destruction in a neighborhood, following a U.S. airstrike overnight. Twelve Iraqis were killed, including several women and children. . . .

President Bush makes a show of strength, and an Iraqi boy weeps. I say ''President Bush'' because this is not the U.S. military. They are carrying out the orders of their Commander in Chief. This is not the American people because the American people do not kill innocent women and children in another country. This is the result of and the responsibility of a failed policy in Iraq by the President and his administration.

There were at least two other aerial bombings that day in two other Iraqi cities, according to that one story—more destruction, more civilian casualties, more children weeping; children who lost brothers, sisters, mothers, fathers, grandparents, and friends; children who will have the United States of America, for the rest of their lives, seared into their memories; children who will, horribly, possibly cheer if terrorists can cause that kind of terrible destruction to Americans in American cities; children who might even be willing to do something like that themselves in revenge.

President Bush, Vice President CHENEY, and other apologists for this continuing war in Iraq claim that they are fighting terrorists there so we won't have to fight them here. By these actions, I maintain they are creating terrorists in Iraq whom we will have to fight here, whom we will have to defend against, fend off, and protect ourselves from for years, even decades to come. How would we feel if our children or our friends or our parents or wives or husbands were buried beneath the rubble that used to be our homes, our stores, and our neighborhoods?

I do not fault the courageous Americans in our Armed Forces who have borne the brunt of this administration's failed policy. To the contrary, I salute them for their heroism and their patriotism. It has been over a year and a half since they won the initial military victory in Iraq. They went from the Iraqi border to Baghdad in 3 weeks. They routed Saddam Hussein's army. They toppled his evil regime. And since then, they have stood guard until someone began to run that country.

They are still standing guard, 138,000 brave Americans. They are fighting, they are bleeding, and they are dying because this administration and their Iraqi allies have not figured out how to run that country.

We need a policy, a plan, and a timetable to get out of Iraq—not to lose Iraq but to leave Iraq, not tomorrow or next week, unfortunately—because the Bush administration has failed. They have failed to prepare for that. But not in 10 or 20 years, as my colleague, the senior Senator from Arizona, Mr. MCCAIN, has predicted. He is not recommending that course of action; he is just telling us and the American people the truth. Thank goodness someone is telling us the truth, the truth about what the Bush administration has gotten us into and where their present policies will leave us.

What he can't tell us, because no one can, is how many more Americans will die in Iraq during those 10 or 20 years; how many more Americans will die elsewhere around the world or, God forbid, right in this very country because of the failures of those policies today.

Today I am asking the esteemed chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee to hold oversight hearings this week on the current policy in Iraq, on the military situation there, on the plans of this administration, on the timetable for our continuing involvement there, and on the costs in dollars and lives and international esteem to the United States of America, because the American people deserve the truth. This Congress deserves the facts. Our soldiers, our 138,000 courageous Americans serving in Iraq today, deserve to come home with their military victory secured.

And I say to those who want to support our troops, if you want to support our troops, bring them home alive, bring them home alive now or as soon as possible hereafter, but not in 4 years or 10 years or 20 years. Make the administration in Iraq and the people of Iraq responsible for their own country. That is what democracy is about. It is about self-determination and self-responsibility. It is time the people of Iraq become responsible for Iraq. It is time the 206,000 militia and military that we claim to have trained in Iraq become responsible for Fallujah and Baghdad and everywhere else in Iraq.

The article I referred to earlier states: U.S. and Iraqi authorities lost control of Fallujah last April after they turned the city over to a U.S.-sanctioned force, the Fallujah brigade, which has now all but disappeared.

Where did they disappear to? I supported that action back then. I thought that was the right course of action, that we make Iraqis responsible for the defense of their own country, for the security of their own cities. Now I learn, not through this administration's disclosures but through an article appearing in an investigative story—thank goodness for the free and vigilant press because we wouldn't learn those things here in Congress if we were waiting to be told—that the Fallujah brigade has ''all but disappeared.''

That is a fundamental failure of this administration and the Iraqi administration to train, equip, and motivate the Iraqi forces in Iraq to stand up for and defend their own country from whomever it is over there—insurgents, terrorists, and citizens who want an end to the violence, understandably so, in their own homes and neighborhoods.

It is time to put Iraq in charge of Iraq, make them stand up and fight for their own country, for their own cities, for their own security, and stop forcing Americans on the ground or in the air to cause this kind of destruction that that picture capsulizes which is going to wreak future destruction on our own cities and our own people.

This is a failed policy. It is a disastrous policy. It is one for which this administration should take responsibility.

Again, I call upon the Armed Services Committee of the Senate to hold oversight hearings and tell the American people the truth about what is going on there and what the future holds—in the near future, not the future future.

EXHIBIT 1

[From the Los Angeles Times, Sept. 10, 2004]

U.S. MAKES SHOW OF STRENGTH IN FALLUJAH

(By Patrick J. McDonnell)

BAGHDAD.—U.S. forces rolled into the rebel bastion of Samarra on Thursday and sought to reestablish Iraqi government control as aircraft pounded suspected guerrilla positions in two other insurgent strongholds: the flashpoint city of Fallujah in the west and the trouble spot of Tal Afar in the north.

The show of strength—along with the stated U.S. resolve to crush a Shiite Muslim militia in Baghdad—underscored the military's determination to exert control over the country in the months leading up to elections scheduled for January.

The U.S. move against the three insurgent centers came after a spike in attacks this week that pushed American military fatalities from all causes to more than 1,000. The actions appeared designed to dispel the perception that swaths of Iraq had become a ''no-go'' zone for U.S. troops.

American warplanes struck Fallujah, the third attack in as many days against suspected insurgent positions in the city 30 miles west of Baghdad. U.S. and Iraqi authorities lost control of Fallujah after U.S. Marines ended a three-week siege last April and turned the city over to a U.S.-sanctioned force, the Fallujah Brigade, which has now all but disappeared.

Nine people, including two children, were reported killed in a Fallujah house that the U.S. command suspected of being used by allies of the Jordanian-born terror mastermind Abu Musab al-Zarqawi.

FOREIGN FIGHTERS

On Thursday evening, a U.S. spokesman, Maj. Jay Antonelli, revised the earlier description of events in Fallujah. ''In spite of the great care taken to spare the lives of noncombatants, an unknown number of Iraqi civilians were unfortunately among those killed and wounded in the strike,'' Antonelli said in an e-mail statement.

''The foreign fighters who hide among the people of Fallujah place them at significant risk,'' Antonelli said.

He added: ''Foreign fighters will not enjoy safe haven anywhere in the city.''

In a separate statement, the U.S. command said military operations around Tal Afar were designed to rid the city of ''a large terrorist element that has displaced local Iraqi security forces throughout the recent weeks.''

The U.S. military said 57 insurgents were killed in the attack on Tal Afar, a northern city near the border with Syria that lies on smuggling routes for weapons and foreign fighters. The provincial health director, Dr. Rabie Yassin, said 27 civilians were killed and 70 wounded. It was unclear whether those reported by the Iraqis as civilians were counted as insurgents by the Americans.

Meanwhile, relative calm held in much of the Shiite Muslim heartland after an agreement negotiated last month by Iraq's leading

Shiite cleric, Grand Ayatollah Ali al-Husseini al-Sistani. The agreement brought an end to weeks of fighting between U.S. troops and Shiite militiamen loyal to radical cleric Muqtada al-Sadr.

Scattered clashes continued between Al-Sadr's loyalists and American forces in the radical cleric's Baghdad stronghold, Sadr City.

Iraqi officials want to prevent Al-Sadr from rebuilding his forces in Najaf. Toward that end, dozens of Iraqi soldiers and police raided Al-Sadr's Najaf office to search for weapons. Al-Sadr was not there at the time, and no weapons were found, although Iraqi officials said ammunition and mortars were confiscated from nearby houses.

U.S. and Iraqi government troops are not in full control of several cities and areas in Iraq, including Samarra in the north, Fallujah and Ramadi in the west, and the largely Shiite neighborhood known as Sadr City in eastern Baghdad, where a militia holds sway. Other cities and towns, such as Tal, have become guerrilla bastions where the U.S.-backed Iraqi government exerts only limited control.

In Samarra, U.S. commanders said their forces, accompanied by members of the Iraqi police and by national guard soldiers, drove into the city Thursday morning after gaining assurances from local Iraqi leaders that they would not be fired on. The local leaders said they sensed divisions within the insurgents' ranks between those who favored some accommodation with the Americans and those who rejected it, and felt secure enough to issue the temporary guarantee.

U.S. soldiers and the Iraqi police then convened a meeting of the U.S.-backed council, which chose a new mayor and police chief. After a few uneventful hours, the U.S. soldiers and the Iraqi police left.

However, commanders acknowledge that as many as 500 insurgents remain in Samarra. The guerrillas' preference is to strike at smaller U.S. or Iraqi units. In classic guerrilla style, they tend to hide their arms and blend in among city residents when faced with larger forces.

The U.S. troops pulled out at the end of the day for lack of a secure base to spend the night.

Maj. Neal O'Brien of the 1st Infantry Division, which patrols four provinces north of Baghdad that includes Samarra, said, ''We will never give up our right to maneuver in any of our areas.''

The U.S. approach in Samarra since spring had been to allow local leaders to work out a way to disarm or otherwise neutralize a stubborn insurgent force that had disrupted government and police activities in the ancient city of 200,000.

The largely Sunni Muslim population has long posed a major challenge for U.S. forces. The city was the site of a large-scale U.S. offensive last winter designed to flush out a guerrilla force thought to be composed of religious militants, anti-American nationalists and loyalists of Saddam Hussein's former Baath Party. During that offensive, a U.S. force of more than 3,000 soldiers also met little resistance as the guerrillas apparently melted into the populace.

But in recent months, residents say, Samarra had fallen back under insurgent control.

Mr. DAYTON. I yield the floor.

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2005

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the time having arrived, the Senate will resume consideration of H.R. 4567, which the clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 4567) making appropriations for the Department of Homeland Security for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2005, and for other purposes.

Pending:

Nelson (FL) Amendment No. 3607, to provide funds for the American Red Cross.

Schumer Amendment No. 3615, to appropriate $100,000,000 to establish an identification and tracking system for HAZMAT trucks and a background check system for commercial driver licenses.

Reid (for Lautenberg) Amendment No. 3617, to ensure that the Coast guard has sufficient resources for its traditional core missions.

Corzine Amendment No. 3619, to appropriate an additional $100,000,000 to enhance the security of chemical plants.

AMENDMENT NO. 3624

(Purpose: To increase the amount appropriated for firefighter assistance grants.)

Ms. MIKULSKI. Mr. President, I send an amendment to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, the pending amendment is laid aside. The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Maryland [Ms. MIKULSKI], for herself, Mrs. BOXER, Mrs. CLINTON, Mr. HARKIN, Mr. JEFFORDS, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. SARBANES, and Mr. SCHUMER, proposes an amendment numbered 3624.

On page 39, after line 5, insert the following:

SEC. 515. The amount appropriated by title III for the Office of State and Local Government Coordination and Preparedness under the heading ''FIREFIGHTER ASSISTANCE GRANTS'' is hereby increased to $900,000,000.

Ms. MIKULSKI. Mr. President, I am going to speak about the compelling needs that our local fire departments have.

All of us, over the weekend, went to events commemorating September 11, 2001. We all spoke about how much we admired those men and women who stood up to defend the Nation, including those very brave first responders at the World Trade Center who dashed up over 75 floors in burning buildings to try to rescue people. They put themselves on the line, and many of them, as we know, perished on that horrible day.

Here in the Washington, DC area, as we know, the Pentagon was hit. We in Maryland had 60 Marylanders die that day. We had some die at the World Trade Center, but the majority were at the Pentagon. Some died on the airplanes. We had people die on those airlines, including a flight attendant who gave her life and was one of the people who tried to deal with the situation. We had others who died on those planes, such as a family who was leaving on a sabbatical—a husband and wife who were academics, with their two children. Again, we had people die at the Pentagon, such as one young man from Baltimore who was a financial analyst over at the Pentagon. Of those from Maryland who died at the Pentagon, 24 came from one county, Prince George's County. They were primarily African-Americans who worked in this financial services area of the Pentagon. Imagine, 24 people, such as Odessa Morris who had just celebrated her 25th anniversary; or Max Bielke, who had been in the military and when he retired, he went back to work as a civilian employee because he loved it. He was the last man to leave Vietnam. He stamped all the papers at our embassy there. He was the last soldier out of Vietnam. So we mourn that day.

At the same time, we were proud of the Maryland response. I was particularly proud of the Chevy Chase rescue team. This is a volunteer fire department in Montgomery County that dashed across the Potomac under the doctrine of mutual aid to provide firefighting assistance on that horrible day, joining with our local fire departments from Northern Virginia and Rescue One from Chevy Chase, and stayed on the scene in order to be able to quell the fires that continued to burn. They were part of a FEMA search and rescue unit and they provided help. They were the ones who brought in the dogs to look for survivors. They were there night and day for several days and weeks.

I was very proud of the Chevy Chase fire fighters and of all our fire departments in Maryland who went up to the World Trade Center to dig in the wreckage to see if they could find any survivors. We know the story about what happened at the World Trade Center. Again, the Chevy Chase Fire Department is a volunteer fire department. They serve their community and country on their own time and their own dime. It cost the Chevy Chase Fire Department over $300,000 to be able to be on the job. They did it willingly, unstintingly. Yet at the same time, we know those local fire departments cannot continue to function when we go on Orange Alert, and they continue on their own time and on their own dime.

One of the great things we created was the Fire Grant Program. The Fire Grant Program was an invention before 9/11 of Senator KIT BOND and me as part of a FEMA reform package, along with Congressmen HOYER and WELDON in the House. We did it in a bipartisan effort to make sure our fire departments—particularly our volunteer fire departments—had the right equipment they needed to protect the protector, and also the updated technology to be able to protect us.

When we created that program as part of FEMA, well before September 11, 2001, it was authorized at $300 million. At the same time, what we know is that when we did that—after 9/11, the need was so compelling, working, again, on a bipartisan, bicameral basis, we authorized a fire grant program at $900 million. What else do we know? We know there is compelling need. We know the fire administration, just in 2003, received almost 20,000 applications totaling $2.5 billion in funding requests for local fire departments.

Imagine that. The fire administration received requests for $2.5 billion.

Yet because of funding at around the $700 million level, they could only fund 8,900 of those 20,000 requests. So we know the need is in the billions. We know we are authorized at the $900 million level.

What my amendment will do, when I have the opportunity to offer it, is raise funding for fire grants to the authorized level of $900 million. Why do we want to do that? We are facing new threats every day. Just over a month ago, when the administration raised the terror alert to Orange for the communities of Washington, New York, and New Jersey, we knew what the needs really were.

The bill we are considering today actually has funding at $700 million. I know on Friday an amendment offered by the Republican leader, the majority leader, Senator FRIST, actually increased it by $50 million. I will be offering an amendment at an appropriate time to raise it $150 million so that we can bring it up to the authorized level of $900 million.

What would this additional $150 million mean? It would mean protective gear for 150,000 firefighters. It means local fire departments could buy 500 new fire trucks. It means they could buy 300 new rescue vehicles. But this is not about protective gear and fire trucks; it is about the tools our firefighters need.

First of all, they need the equipment to protect themselves, such as breathing equipment and fire retardation gear. We need to protect the protectors so they can protect us. Then, at the same time, they need other technology. What we also know is that this program gives us double value. If our first responders have the right equipment, they are ready to respond against not only a terrorist attack, but anything else that may happen to a community.

During those hurricanes that have been whipping Florida, we have had our first responders there, and they have the right equipment, as well as the radio equipment, to respond.

It also means the kind of equipment that we need not only when the Chevy Chase Fire and Rescue Department dashes across the Potomac but what they need if something happens on the beltway.

We in Baltimore had a terrible tanker explosion on I–95. Because our firefighters were prepared, they could deal with the hazmat situation. I could give a number of examples.

This is not just BARBARA MIKULSKI speaking. The Council on Foreign Relations, chaired by our former colleague, Senator Rudman—and we know the independence he has—issued an independent report last year. We also know he was the author of many balanced budget amendments. So we know he approaches it with Yankee common sense and the frugality for which he is very well known. So we have Senator Rudman, an independent personality, one who has always been frugal from a budget standpoint, and yet he is recommending more money.

What did the report show? That the United States remains ill prepared for a catastrophic attack; that fire departments across the country have only enough radios to equip half the firefighters on a shift; breathing apparatus for just one-third of our firefighters; and that only 10 percent of fire departments have the equipment to respond to a building collapse. That is the Rudman report.

Then Federal Emergency Management Agency and the National Fire Protection Association also did a study called ''A Needs Assessment of the U.S. Fire Service.'' They found that 57,000 firefighters lacked the protective clothing they needed to protect themselves to protect us.

In Maryland alone, it would take $52 million to replace protective gear for all of our firefighters. This is what we are talking about.

We do not want to just throw money at problems. We believe the fire grant is a model program because we refuse to earmark the grants. They are subject to peer review, so they are given on the basis of priority and merit. We know what our shortcomings are, and these various reports document them.

We talked about how last year there were 20,000 applicants and $2.5 billion worth of requests. That speaks for itself. We have double value for this spending, not only for response to terrorist attacks but against all hazards, whether it is hurricanes, tornadoes, or the wildfires that hit the West. We need to be able to protect the local fire departments.

Mr. President, you know how expensive this equipment can be. You cannot do this on bingos and fish fries. They need the U.S. Government to stand behind them to do that.

There are over a million firefighters in the United States, of which there are 750,000 volunteers. Isn't that terrific? They really do save lives; they save homes; they save communities. We need to save them and to help them. They do not know what they are going to face when they enter a house to save a child trapped on the second floor. They may put out the flames in a factory that contains toxic chemicals. They are the first on the scene at any disaster. Firefighters are our protectors. Many are volunteers who work three shifts: one on a regular job, one with their families, and then another shift at the fire department. As I said, they cannot also then be expected to raise the money through charity, tip jars, and bingo. Of course they can do that because we always want local community support, but the equipment and gear they need is very expensive. A new fire engine costs $300,000. A new rescue vehicle costs $500,000. Self-contained breathing apparatus costs $6,000.

Mr. President, you know how expensive it is. The Fire Grant Program is working. In my own community, the Forestville fire department, located in Prince George's County, was awarded funds for a new hydrant tanker. Why is that so important? The last one contained just a couple of hundred gallons, where this one is over 2,500. This is right next door to Andrews Air Force Base. Any attack on the United States would mean they would have to respond under doctrine of mutual aid.

It is the same with the Kensington volunteer fire department in Montgomery County. We replaced a pumper truck that is dated to 1979. I could go all around the State of Maryland.

The amendment speaks for itself. Senator COCHRAN still is not here. I am sure the Senator is tied up. We have worked together on many occasions.

First, I really have enjoyed working with him on appropriations, on national security issues. As the chairman of the Subcommittee on Homeland Security, it has been a delight to work with him.

My amendment is very straightforward. What it does is raise the Fire Grant program to its fully authorized level of $900 million.

As I have stated, the amendment speaks for itself. It increases the money to $900 million, the authorized level. We believe the amendment is warranted because, as I have said, the Fire Administration received requests totaling $2.5 billion, and since we cannot fund it at $2.5 billion, I believe we need to take this important step and fund it at the $900 million level.

The amendment speaks for itself. I now turn to the Democratic whip and ask him how should we proceed? I would like to offer my amendment. I would like to get a vote on my amendment. Should I ask for the yeas and nays now?

Mr. REID. Mr. President, through the Chair to the distinguished Senator from Maryland, we have a number of votes we are going to try to get lined up for later this evening. It is my suggestion that the Senator ask for the yeas and nays, and then at a subsequent time, we will figure out when we are going to vote on it.

Ms. MIKULSKI. Mr. President, I say to the Presiding Officer, to Senator COCHRAN, and to the whip, I would like to work with them in a way that would create the orderly disposition of my amendment.

I will withhold any rights to seek the yeas and nays. Is that an appropriate request?

Mr. REID. That is appropriate

Ms. MIKULSKI. I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Massachusetts.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, through the Chair to the Senator from Massachusetts, I am wondering if the Senator from Massachusetts would withhold his recognition, following a very brief statement by the Senator from Nebraska who wishes to offer an amendment and then speak. It should take just a few minutes.

I ask unanimous consent that following the statement of the Senator from Nebraska, the Senator from Massachusetts regain the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there an objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

The Senator from Nebraska.

AMENDMENT NO. 3625

Mr. NELSON of Nebraska. I send an amendment to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. THOMAS). Without objection, the pending amendment is laid aside.

The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Nebraska [Mr. NELSON] proposes an amendment numbered 3625.

Mr. NELSON of Nebraska. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the reading of the amendment be dispensed with.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The amendment is as follows:

(Purpose: To maintain the State Homeland Security Grant Program at the fiscal year 2004 funding level)

On page 19, line 17, strike ''$2,845,081,000'' and all that follows through line 22, and insert the following: ''$3,605,081,000, which shall be allocated as follows:

''(1) $1,700,000,000 for formula-based grants, $400,000,000 for law enforcement terrorism prevention grants, and $30,000,000 for Citizen Corps grants pursuant to section 1014 of the USA PATRIOT ACT (42 U.S.C. 3714): *Provided*, That''.

Mr. NELSON of Nebraska. I thank the minority assistant leader and my friend from Massachusetts for this courtesy to have this opportunity to speak for a few minutes about the first responder issue, as it relates to legislation before us today.

Since September 11, States and communities of all sizes have made great strides in preparing for another possible terrorist attack. Based on the National Strategy for Homeland Security's principle of shared responsibility, Federal, State, and local governments, together with the private sector and the American people, have worked in partnership to ensure that our first responders are well equipped and well trained. States and local governments are responsible for preparing and implementing multi-year plans to ensure our Nation's first responders receive the equipment and training they require so that we are not only securing our homeland, but we are actually secure in each of our hometowns.

The Senate's Homeland Security appropriations bill, S. 2537, slashes the primary first responder program by 45 percent, or $760 million. My amendment would restore this funding back to the fiscal year 2004 total of $1.7 billion. Called the State Homeland Security Grant Program, this is the primary source of coordinated funding for first responders. SHSGP, as it is referred to, allows States and local governments to build and maintain a base capacity by funding essential prevention, preparedness, response, and recovery capabilities within the State and across regional boundaries. Eligible uses include equipment, training, and exercises necessary to ensure our first responders are prepared and that both urban and rural critical infrastructure is protected, something I am sure the Presiding Officer is interested in, coming from the neighboring State of Wyoming.

At least 80 percent of SHSGP is passed through to those who protect our hometowns: firefighters, police, EMTs, and other local emergency managers across the country. Nearly every State, even those that get additional money from the Urban Areas Security Initiative, UASI, will suffer a net loss in fiscal year 2004 under the Senate bill. Nearly half of all those States will see their efforts cut almost in half.

Funding cuts of this magnitude will mean that private/public partnerships will have to be dismantled, and countless hours of planning, training, and exercise will have to be retooled. Regional alliances will fall dormant. Training classes and exercises will be cancelled, and equipment purchases will be put on hold. In short, hometown security will suffer immeasurably.

The citizens of America expect that everything possible is being done to prevent another terrorist attack, and they expect that if another tragedy were to occur, the response and recovery will be immediate, well coordinated, and well trained. This vital work takes dedicated professionals executing well-rehearsed plans.

I have watched the vote counts on other amendments to this bill, and unfortunately it is clear that this amendment will not pass. This is extremely disappointing. It is disappointing to me and should be to all rural areas. Because I realize this will fall short of the required 60 votes, for the sake of time I will not force a vote on my amendment, but I do hope that as debate on funding for this important program proceeds, that everyone will come to the same conclusion I have: These funding cuts will undermine regional efforts and harm every State's ability to protect both its urban and rural critical infrastructure. Whether it is the protection of an urban shopping mall or the prevention of a rural bioterrorism incident that affects our food and water supply, critical infrastructures in every State must be protected.

If our goal is to make sure our homeland and hometown security is as strong as the weakest link, we must ensure that every link is strong and that there is no weak link in our protection. That includes food and local areas, as well as urban and populated areas. All must be protected.

I will make one further point on this subject. It is my understanding that an amendment may be offered that affects the funding formula for the State homeland security grant program. Currently, 38 percent of SHSGP funds are dispersed based upon a minimum funding formula, and the remaining 62 percent are dispersed to states based upon population. As I understand it, the amendment that may be offered would require the Department of Homeland Security to change the 62 percent portion of the funds from a population based formula into a high threat and population density formula.

As someone who comes from a rural State, I plan to oppose this amendment and hope that my colleagues from smaller States and rural areas will do the same.

The proposed funding formula would have the effect of shifting a lot of the current funding from the smaller states and sending it to our largest States that meet loosely defined criteria such as threat, vulnerability, and the presence of critical infrastructure.

I wholeheartedly support funding for the first responder efforts in our major metropolitan areas, which is why I strongly support the current Urban Area Security Initiative program, which sends extra funding to these large areas. But I do not support paying for these programs by shifting funds away from our rural, less-populated states.

Nebraska would lose $8 million under this proposed formula. I can't tell you how critical that is to a state like Nebraska and to all the communities in Nebraska that are trying to follow through on the preparedness plans the Department of Homeland Security asked them to implement. And a shift in formula like this one would pull the rug out from under them.

One needs to only look at the most recent terrorist attack in Russia and see that this attack was in a school in a rural area, and it is easy to understand that we must not be lulled into thinking that the rural areas are not going to be affected by any kind of terrorist activity.

Our country is only as safe as our weakest vulnerability. The State Homeland Security Grant Program has already been cut by 45 percent in this bill. Shifting funds away from our less populated states will further exacerbate the problem. We need to make sure every part of the country is prepared, regardless of location.

I thank my friend from Massachusetts for his courtesy, and I yield the floor.

AMENDMENT NO. 3625, WITHDRAWN

I ask unanimous consent to withdraw the amendment at this time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered. The amendment is withdrawn.

The Senator from Massachusetts.

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the pending amendment be temporarily set aside.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection? Without objection, it is so ordered.

AMENDMENT NO. 3626

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, I send an amendment to the desk and ask that it be counted under the agreement toward one of Senator MURRAY's amendments.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered. The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Massachusetts [Mr. KENNEDY] proposes an amendment numbered 3626.

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the reading of the amendment be dispensed with.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The amendment is as follows:

(Purpose: To require the President to provide to Congress a copy of the Scowcroft Commission report on improving the capabilities of the United States intelligence community)

On page 39, between lines 5 and 6, insert the following:

SEC. 515. (a) Not later than 15 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the President shall submit a copy of the Scowcroft Commission report to Congress.

(b) The report required under subsection (a) shall be submitted in unclassified form, but may include a classified annex.

(c) In this section, the term ''Scowcroft Commission report'' means the report on improving the capabilities of the United States intelligence community that was prepared by the presidential commission appointed pursuant to National Security Presidential Directive 5 (May 9, 2001) and chaired by General Brent Scowcroft and that was submitted to the President in or around December 2001.

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, I acknowledge and thank the leadership of the other side for their cooperation in working through this particular situation.

This amendment will require the President to give Congress a copy of the December 2001 Scowcroft Commission report on intelligence reform. A classified annex could be provided is necessary, although some of those who have seen the report say that it contains very little that would be harmful to National security. What is harmful to our security is the continuing refusal by the Bush administration to make the report public.

As my colleagues know, General Brent Scowcroft had a distinguished military career and served as the National Security Adviser to the first President Bush. Because of his broad experience with intelligence and his widely respected intellect and insights, the current President Bush appointed him as chairman of the President's Foreign Intelligence Advisory Board.

In National Security Presidential Directive 5, in May 2001, President Bush ordered a review of U.S. intelligence to ensure that U.S. intelligence capabilities are well designed to deal with that wide range of critical challenges facing the Nation. General Scowcroft was named to lead a commission to provide recommendations on intelligence reform as a result of that directive.

However, the report of the Scowcroft Commission, which was submitted 3 months after 9/11, continues to be classified, despite repeated requests from the Congress to release it.

On July 21 this year an article by Shaun Waterman of United Press International, discussing the Scowcroft recommendations was published. As the article stated:

Scowcroft's report, which remains classified, proposed giving the existing CIA Director budget, administrative and hire/fire control over the three largest and most expensive agencies, according to former Office of Management and Budget National Security Chief Richard Stubbings. The National Security Agency, which intercepts phone calls, faxes, emails and the like; the National Reconnaissance Office, which designs, builds and maintains spy satellites; and the National Geo-Spatial Intelligence Agency, which analyzes spy satellite photos, would all be taken out of the Pentagon's control and transferred—along with parts of the FBI—to the control of a modified director post.

That is the end of that report.

Obviously these reformed submitted in December 2001, are very similar to the reforms proposed by the 9/11 Commission in the summer of 2004. In fact, similar proposals on intelligence reform have been made for almost 50 years.

In 1955, a commission led by Herbert Hoover recommended splitting off CIA management duties so that the Director of Central Intelligence could focus on coordinating the entire intelligence community.

In 1976, the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence led by Frank Church recommended giving the Director control over intelligence budgets and relieving him of day-to-day CIA management responsibilities.

in 1976, former Secretary of Defense Clark Clifford recommended establishing a National intelligence director.

In 1985, Admiral Stansfield Turner recommended establishing a National intelligence director to oversee the entire intelligence community, with the CIA Director managing only the CIA.

Despite these and other recommendations, needed intelligence reforms were never enacted.

The 9/11 Commissioners were given a copy of the Scowcroft recommendations as background for their work, and the final report from the Commission drew significantly from his recommendations.

Governor Thomas Kean, Chairman of the 9/11 Commission, made this point clearly at a Senate Select Intelligence Committee hearing last Tuesday. He said:

And a number of the recommendations we've made have synthesized things from people like Scowcroft and a number of others who have made similar recommendations. And those recommendations have not been implemented.

Clearly, before we act on intelligence reform later this month, Congress should have benefit of General Scowcroft's recommendations as well. Congress faces a major task in reorganizing the intelligence community, at this time when the threats against our Nation are new and different. We must have the best information, advice and wisdom on this challenge, including a copy of the Scowcroft Commission report.

General Scowcroft, I am told, will be talking to Members of the Senate Intelligence Committee this week in closed session about the report. But the meeting is for committee members only, is classified, and is off-the-record. I understand that none of the committee members will be permitted to read the report.

Frankly, that is ridiculous. Every Member of Congress has an interest in being well-informed before voting on intelligence reform. Every American has an interest too. The 9/11 Commission's report and its 41 recommendations are not classified, and General Scowcroft's should not be classified either.

Congress should not be forced to rely on sketchy press reports for information on an issue with such important consequences for our National security and our ability too fight the al-Qaida terrorists. It is irresponsible for the administration to keep Congress in the dark.

We hope to complete action on legislation to implement the 9/11 Commission recommendations before we adjourn. Given the enormous stakes for our Nation, it is unconscionable that the President has not already made an unclassified copy of the Scowcroft report available to us.

There is bipartisan support for release of the Scowcroft Commission report and recommendations. In July, the Democratic leader asked the President to declassify the report. During an August 16 Senate Armed Services Committees hearing on the 9/11 Commission recommendations, Senator WARNER, our distinguished Chairman, indicated that the Congress should have the report. He said:

For the record, the Scowcroft Commission report has not been released by the White House. So there has been some public discussion of its major points, so we're going to look into seeing whether or not we can have greater access to it.

Senator ROBERTS, the Chairman of the Intelligence Committee, also seeks the Scowcroft Commission report. At the same hearing, he said:

I just had a talk with Brent Scowcroft last Thursday, and even at my age, I begged him on hands and knee to release the report to the Intelligence Committee and to the Armed Services Committee.

At our August 17 hearing, Senator ROBERTS said he agreed that ''it would be very helpful'' if the Scowcroft recommendations were released.

Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld has also indicated that he can't see any reason why the Scowcroft Report should not be declassified. When he testified in the Senate Armed Services Committee last month, he said:

I've been briefed on the Scowcroft Commission report. I don't see any reason why there shouldn't be a process going through and see what portion of it can be declassified. I don't know who classified it in the first place. It wasn't the Department of Defense, to my knowledge. . . .

Why does the administration refuse to declassify the report and make it available to Congress? Why would the

administration knowingly put the Congress in the position of acting on an intelligence reform proposal with enormous consequences for our National security, without having an unclassified copy of this crucial report?

The obvious reason is that the administration is desperate to avoid embarrassment about the President's mishandling of intelligence reform.

The Scowcroft report and recommendations are nearly 3 years old. They were submitted to President Bush in December 2001—just 3 months after the devastating attacks on September 11. Now, finally, we are about to enact long-overdue reforms to enable our intelligence community to deal more effectively with terrorist threats and other threats to our security.

The President needs to come clean. He should release a declassified copy of the report to the Congress so we can act responsibly on intelligence reform. The American people can decide for themselves whether the President has dragged his feet on intelligence reform for nearly 3 years, despite his current rhetoric about the need for change.

I urge the President to declassify the Scowcroft Commission report immediately, and that is what my amendment would do.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Mississippi.

Mr. COCHRAN. Mr. President, we appreciate very much the Senator's amendment and discussion of the Scowcroft Commission report and whether the contents of that report should be declassified. That is, as I understand it, the purpose of the amendment, to make that information public.

What I hope we can do in the consideration of this appropriations bill is to keep our attention focused on the funding of the Department of Homeland Security activities. That is the purpose of this appropriations bill. We have worked very hard with colleagues on the Appropriations Committee to identify priorities. We fully considered the President's budget request on issues surrounding funding levels. We know we do not have unlimited budget authority. We are limited by an allocation from the full Committee on Appropriations in the Senate.

I hope we defer this issue to the consideration of the authorizing committee. The Intelligence Committee has this issue under review. As a matter of fact, this issue has already been raised, as I understand it, in hearings that are being held in consideration of the so-called 9/11 Commission recommendations. We have had that report before the Senate. There are a number of other committees looking into these issues.

But the Appropriations Committee is trying to get funds approved by the Congress to fund the Department of Homeland Security needs for this next fiscal year beginning October 1.

I don't know whether the Senator wants a vote on his amendment, or maybe at the appropriate time after other Senators have had an opportunity to discuss their views, if they so choose, we could move to table the amendment. That would be my suggestion, that we remove that amendment from this bill and let it be handled by some other committee.

I am sympathetic with the concerns the Senator has expressed, but I really do not think we ought to convert the consideration of an appropriations bill into consideration of whether to declassify or not the Scowcroft Commission report. That is my reaction to the amendment. I hope the Senate will consider our views.

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, will the Senator allow me to respond?

Mr. COCHRAN. I am happy to yield to the Senator.

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, I think the Senator is quite correct in terms of understanding that with an appropriations bill there are rules about whether we have legislation, et cetera, on appropriations, and that is done for good reason. The Senator has outlined some thoughts. The authorization, as the Senator knows, has already been passed and is now in conference.

Let me mention this point, because we looked very carefully at this issue.

The Scowcroft Commission deals with the amendment. There is the requirement that all amendments be related to the text of homeland security. The Scowcroft Commission report deals with collection, analysis, and dissemination of intelligence. The Department of Homeland Security plays an important role in these matters, and the Office of the Under Secretary for Information, Analysis and Infrastructure Protection is funded in this bill. On page 74, it says it is responsible for collecting and disseminating terrorist threat information, fusing and integrating data with foreign intelligence to produce a comprehensive picture of threat, and developing and implementing an action plan to mitigate terrorist threats and national vulnerabilities. The Scowcroft report addresses issues that would have a substantial impact on the way this office and all intelligence officials at the Department of Homeland Security conduct their work, and the quality of intelligence to a large extent determines whether the Department of Homeland Security is able to perform its mission and protect the public from future terrorists.

On page 29 of the bill, $157 million is provided for intelligence functions in the Office of Director of Information, Analysis and Infrastructure in the Department of Homeland Security.

Then section 504 of the bill specifically provides funds made available by this act for intelligence activities are determined to be specifically authorized by the Congress.

This is legislative language authorizing the operation of a portion of the intelligence community.

I want to say to the Senator that we thought long and hard about the appropriateness of this amendment. Reading through the legislation itself, it appeared these matters were directly in line with a number of at least some portions of the Scowcroft Commission report. Particularly since we have such a sense of urgency in ensuring that we are going to try to get it right with the recommendations of the 9/11 Commission and the Scowcroft report, given the fact, as I mentioned earlier, that Secretary Rumsfeld, Chairman WARNER, Chairman ROBERTS all indicated they thought it would be of use and value, it seemed to me this could be something we can all get behind and support.

I thank the Chair.

Mr. COCHRAN. Mr. President, I thank the Senator for his further comments to the Senate.

I also at this time would like to propound a unanimous consent request which I understand has been cleared on both sides of the aisle. The distinguished leader from Nevada is here on the floor.

I ask unanimous consent that immediately following the vote in relation to the Schumer amendment this evening, the Senate proceed to a vote in relation to the Lautenberg amendment No. 3617; provided further that no amendment be in order to the amendment prior to the vote. Finally, I ask unanimous consent that there be 2 minutes equally divided for debate prior to each vote.

Mr. REID. Reserving the right to object, it is my understanding the first vote will occur at 5:30 or 5:15.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. At 5:30.

Mr. REID. And it is my further understanding there has been consent entered that Senator SCHUMER could modify his amendment; is that true?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator may modify his amendment.

AMENDMENT NO. 3615, AS MODIFIED

Mr. REID. That modification is at the desk and I ask it be brought forward in compliance with the unanimous consent request made by the Senator from Mississippi.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The amendment is so modified.

The amendment (No. 3615), as modified, is as follows:

On page 13, between lines 18 and 19, insert the following:

GROUND TRANSPORTATION

For necessary expenses of the Transportation Security Administration to establish an identification and tracking system for HAZMAT trucks and a background check system for commercial driver licenses, $70,000,000.

On page 2, line 17, strike $245,579,000 and insert ''$175,579,000''.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection to the request of the Senator from Mississippi?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

The Senator from North Dakota.

Mr. CONRAD. Mr. President, thank you.

(The remarks of Mr. CONRAD pertaining to the submission of S. Con.

Res. 136 are located in today's RECORD under ''Submission of Concurrent and Senate Resolutions.'')

Mr. CONRAD. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. CORNYN). Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I have been here with Senator BYRD and Senator COCHRAN trying to move this most important bill along. We learned over the weekend that developments had occurred and that we would not even ask for a filing deadline for tonight. That was the original plan. Senators who wished to offer amendments would have had to file, say, at 5 o'clock tonight. That being the case, we would have probably had maybe a dozen amendments, and we could finish those tomorrow. It may have taken a while, but we could have finished them with a good hard day's work tomorrow.

We have been told now we have another supplemental for Florida coming along, and some people on the majority side want to include that in this bill. I think that is a real mistake. I want to do everything that I can to help the people of Florida; they have been through a lot. That has not ended yet, as you know, with Hurricane Ivan approaching, which may hit Florida again.

We can finish this Homeland Security appropriations bill. I think that would be a real important thing to do before we leave for the Jewish holiday. I think if we try to include the supplemental appropriations bill as part of this, it is going to make it difficult, if not impossible, to finish because we have been told by Senator NELSON of Florida and by other Senators who are interested in what is going on in the farm country around the United States that on the next bill that comes, there is going to be an amendment on that, and there will be significant amendments that will require debate and a lot of money.

I am not a visionary, by any means, but having been on the Senate floor a lot, I believe it will be difficult, if not impossible, to finish the bill—certainly not tomorrow night. It will spill over into Wednesday. We will not finish by 11 o'clock, or whatever time the leader wants to finish to allow people to go west for the holiday.

So I ask respectfully that the majority take another look at this, and let's have a filing deadline quickly and finish this bill tomorrow. I know the majority wants to get as much work done as possible, and I respect that. We have been really good on these bills. We have been sticking to what we believe is the important work of the country, this Homeland Security bill. We entered into an agreement that we would only offer related amendments, and we stuck by that. We have so little time to do so much.

I think if we went ahead and did this emergency supplemental, it would be much easier to do that as a standalone vehicle, not tie it into this because it will wind up hurting both vehicles. That is a real mistake. I am willing to work with the body to determine what is best for the country, but I suggest it is not going to be a different country to have this Homeland Security appropriations bill not completed.

Senators COCHRAN and BYRD are two of the most experienced and wise people we have in the entire Senate. I think it complicates their job significantly to try to change the context of this bill from a homeland security bill to one that deals with a hurricane that occurred in Florida, and another hurricane that occurred in Florida, and maybe another one that will occur in Florida. I don't think the two matters are related. Again, I respectfully suggest that the majority take another look at this and see what we can do to separate the issues.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

AMENDMENT NO. 3615, AS FURTHER MODIFIED

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the amendment I have at the desk be modified by language that is at the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The amendment, as further modified, is as follows:

On page 13, between lines 18 and 19, insert the following:

GROUND TRANSPORTATION

For necessary expenses of the Transportation Security Administration to support efforts for identification and tracking for shipments of hazardous materials and continue and expand upon the background check system for commercial driver licenses with a HAZMAT endorsement, $70,000,000: *Provided*, That the amount appropriated under title I for the Human Resources Account of the Office of the Under Secretary for Management shall be reduced by $70,000,000.

Mr. SCHUMER. I thank the Chair. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. COCHRAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. COCHRAN. Mr. President, at 5:30, we are going to be voting in the Senate on a motion to table the Schumer amendment. The Senator described his amendment recently and talked about the fact that the Department of Homeland Security has not done anything, essentially, to protect against the explosives or other dangers occurring when trucks with hazardous material are driven throughout the country, and that an additional $70 million, I think, is the total amount of new money to be added to this bill for this purpose.

It is described in the Senator's amendment as a tracking system for hazardous material trucks, hazmat trucks, and a background check system for commercial drivers' licenses.

I am suggesting to the Senate that this is an additional $70 million that cannot be efficiently used for this purpose in 1 fiscal year, and I am going to tell you why.

The Appropriations Committee has already provided funding for a number of different programs designed to accomplish the goals that the Senator has described in his comments about and his description of his amendment when he previously offered it.

Last year, in fiscal year 2004, Congress appropriated $9.4 million for an effort to develop a high-explosive countermeasure system in the Science and Technology Directorate. Research is being undertaken and a program that will follow on is funded at $33.590 million to provide technologies and programs that would interdict explosive attacks against buildings from all modes of transportation, including trucking. It is also designed to protect critical infrastructure and the Nation's civilian population. This is an increase of $23.89 million from the budget request submitted by the administration.

We have tried to communicate with the Transportation Security Administration and other agencies of the Department of Homeland Security to see what funds could be utilized to help make this the most sophisticated and effective system available to the American public in protecting buildings, protecting civilian populations, protecting the trucking systems and the infrastructure of our country against problems of vehicle bombs, problems of hazardous materials being confiscated and converted into explosives to damage infrastructure: highways, tunnels, bridges, buildings, and the like.

So the Homeland Security Advanced Research Project Agency is issuing a broad agency announcement for systems for vehicle bomb detection using optical and nuclear thermal neutron analysis. The Science and Technology Directorate is piloting several sites using different means for detecting vehicle bombs at checkpoints. There are other initiatives to deny terrorists the use of commercial explosives and materials for making such bombs.

So across the board, what I am saying, there is a broad indepth, comprehensive effort underway and using a variety of technologies and programs that seek to achieve, and will achieve, the goal suggested by the Senator from New York.

We do not need to adopt this amendment to accomplish the goal he talks about that we need to pursue. We are doing what the Senator has suggested should be done.

There is a Hazardous Material Shipper Training Program in place for drivers and others who are involved as employees in that industry, providing information about security requirements and responsibilities of those engaged in the trucking industry. It is promoting security awareness for each mode of transportation, not just truckers but other shippers as well.

Funds have been provided in the 2004 appropriations bill to test certain technologies, new technologies to track high-risk trucks on the Nation's highways. The Senator said there is no program such as that in place. Programs are being tested to be implemented. We want to be sure the Transportation Security Administration has the ability to track vehicles throughout the entire country, in Alaska and Hawaii as well, to identify the best practices and the standards and regulations that ought to be implemented and enforced by Federal, State, local, and industry stakeholders as well.

Congress has provided over $42 million for the Highway Watch Program to promote security awareness among all segments of the commercial motor carrier industry and the transportation community at large. For this fiscal year, in this bill that is before the Senate, $15 million is provided for this program.

For the previous 2 fiscal years, $12 million has been provided for the Transportation Security Administration and the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration to test and evaluate a variety of technologies, such as global positioning systems, wireless communications, use of global positioning satellites, alarm systems, biometric identification, and radio frequency identification devices to ensure that dangerous or potentially dangerous vehicles are identified.

Field testing has just been completed, and the evaluation phase in this program has begun. These are steps toward the goal that we all share, and that is identified by the Senator from New York as a very imminent and urgent need. It is an urgent need, and we are treating it as such over the prior appropriations bill's approval and provisions, as well as this year's appropriations bill.

There was a mandate in the PATRIOT Act that the Transportation Security Administration has implemented, in partnership with the departments in the State motor vehicle area, to ensure that all drivers who are licensed to transport hazardous materials are subjected to Federal background checks to be sure the people who are operating these vehicles ought to be operating them; that they are not high-risk people; that they do not have something in their background that raises alarms about their dependability.

The Transportation Security Administration has undertaken background checks on 2.7 million drivers who have hazardous materials endorsements on their commercial driver's licenses. These background checks have identified approximately 36 individuals who are no longer allowed to transport hazardous materials. TSA will complete this background check, and when it is completed they will have conducted name-based background checks on all 3.5 million drivers this year. There will be an FBI fingerprint-based criminal history check undertaken as well.

The offset would affect the Office of Under Secretary of Management's Human Resources Division.

In terms of research, what I am suggesting is that every effort possible is being made, through grants provided by the Department of Homeland Security, technology development, and deployment in the department, to develop a more efficient system for identifying drivers to be sure they are trustworthy and are not threats to the Nation's security through the operation of vehicles carrying hazardous materials, the confiscation of vehicles that are carrying hazardous materials or that could be converted into bombmaking vehicles. All of this is being done in an aggressive and comprehensive way by the Department of Homeland Security, in cooperation with State and local authorities throughout the country.

Private sector groups, shippers who are undertaking to safeguard the content of packages that go into vehicles, are also very actively involved in helping ensure that the public is not going to be put in danger through the use of our transportation system in this way.

We think the provisions of the bill are adequate. To provide funding that the Senator is suggesting is needed will be wasteful and cannot be efficiently used for the purposes he seeks. The goals are notable and laudable. We share them and we are doing everything we can to ensure that we have in place the programs, training, research, and technologies that we need to protect ourselves from these kinds of attacks and attacks against the Nation's critical infrastructure and population centers.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New York.

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I thank my colleague from Mississippi for his graciousness in allowing this amendment to be modified. I agree with him that we have the same goals, but our analysis of how well we are progressing toward those goals is woefully inadequate.

I want to make clear what the amendment seeks to do because there have been some concerns raised by the American Trucking Association and some truck firms. To address those concerns, which I did not think were real, I modified the amendment to make that clear. Here is what the amendment does not do: It does not require that members of the trucking industry purchase GPS systems for their truck fleets. It does not require trucking companies to present plans to TSA of current truck routes throughout the country.

My amendment simply provides the TSA with the resources to begin looking into how we go about monitoring what has been shown to us as a vulnerability within our existing plan to secure our country from terrorist threats. I know the ATA, which has resisted any regulation of the trucking industry, has raised some concerns, but their concerns are either incorrect or shortsighted.

My amendment provides the TSA with flexibility and much needed funds to address truck security and has none of the mandates or high costs that have been talked about. Both the TSA and DOT, I will agree with my friend from Mississippi, are currently working on improving and expanding truck-tracking systems and background checks for commercial driver's licenses with the HAZMAT endorsement. But let me suggest something. Here is the plan. First, they were doing nothing, and a year, a year and a half ago, I prodded and prodded. So now the plan is that any new application for a HAZMAT license will be checked out, a background check will be given. The problem is, all existing licenses will not be checked until they are renewed.

Since most States have 5-year renewal periods, we are not going to check many of these licenses until 2007, 2008, 2009, even 2010.

When one asks the TSA why they are not doing it more quickly, they say one word: Money. We do not have the money.

It is hardly believable that $10 million here or $9.4 million there, which is spread across a whole lot of programs and research, will be enough. So the bottom line is, we agree that we have to do this, but I would rather err on the side of making sure we get it done quickly, given that the terrorists have said—at least with al-Qaida—that truck bombs are a preferred weapon. Every one of us knows what has happened. We have not provided the money we need in homeland security, whether it is truck security or anything else. We slow-walk these programs.

To say that somebody could have a hazardous material license and be on a terrorist watch list and we will not catch up to them until 2010 makes no sense. When TSA says they have not done this or not done it quickly because they do not have the money, what we do is provide them the money. There is an offset, an offset from a pot of money that simply says let us outsource some structural personnel reorganizing.

It amazes me that we could spend $70 million for that but only $15 million for the whole program of truck security.

As for the GPS system, it is needed. We do not mandate it because we, like our friend from Mississippi, are not

sure exactly the best way to go. But we sure want TSA to come up with a plan quickly and figure out how to do it and not impose the costs on the trucking industry if need be.

Here in America, a lot of companies put in a GPS system on their own, not to deal with terrorism but to deal with stolen trucks.

I remind my colleagues that a truck carrying hazardous material is missing, gone, from Pennsauken, NJ, not far from my city, and we still do not know where it is. We do not know what has been done with it. In all likelihood, it was stolen for mercenary purposes. But can we afford the risk that the next truck is stolen for terrorist purposes?

Simply training with the ATA program, which trains truck drivers on safety in terms of terrorism, does not deal with the fact that a terrorist might wish to steal a truck, hijack a truck, use a truck. All the training programs of good drivers, legitimate drivers in the world will not deal with that, and that is why we believe these other steps are so needed.

The bottom line is this is not a whole lot of money. This is a serious threat. It is offset. There are no mandates. Again, I say to my colleagues, we do not wish to wake up one morning and say: What if—God forbid there was a terrible incident—we had done more and allocated the money needed?

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The hour of 5:30 having arrived, there will be 2 minutes equally divided.

Mr. COCHRAN. Mr. President, I move to table the Schumer amendment. I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There is a sufficient second.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

Mr. COCHRAN. Mr. President, I thought there were 2 minutes remaining.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator would have to withhold his motion to table.

Mr. REID. I ask unanimous consent that in spite of the motion by the Senator from Mississippi, there be 2 minutes equally divided on this amendment.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. COCHRAN. Mr. President, the American Trucking Association has delivered a letter to me. It is signed by 34 organizations or industries that are concerned that the passage of the Schumer amendment would result in an enormous burden on our national economic recovery, that it would impose enormous costs on many industries, that it would force haulers to undertake expensive new activities that have not been approved or suggested by the Transportation Security Administration as necessary or as improvements to the security systems now in place. This is a three-page letter. Rather than have it read into the RECORD, I ask unanimous consent the letter, dated September 13, addressed to me, be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

AMERICAN TRUCKING ASSOCIATIONS,
Washington, DC, September 13, 2004.

Hon. THAD COCHRAN,
U.S. Senate,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: We urge you to vote no on the Schumer Amendment to the Department of Homeland Security Appropriations for FY 2005.

The Schumer Amendment would (1) mandate background checks for drivers transporting hazardous materials; (2) require trucks transporting hazardous materials to be equipped with global positioning satellite (GPS) tracking devices; and (3) require written route plans to be prepared and filed with the Department prior to transporting hazardous materials. For the reasons set forth below, these initiatives are not necessary, will not ensure the secure transportation of hazardous materials, and will cause most trucking companies to embargo these vital commodities.

BACKGROIUND CHECKS

Pursuant to the mandate contained in the USA PATRIOT Act, the Transportation Security Administration (TSA) has implemented a program to ensure that all drivers licensed to transport hazardous materials are subjected to a federal background check. to date, TSA has run background checks on the 2.7 million drivers that have hazardous materials endorsements to their commercial drivers' licenses. These background checks have identified approximately three dozen individuals who may no longer be able to transport hazardous materials. Background checks are continuing under this TSA program and this portion of the amendment mandating background checks is duplicative and not necessary.

HAZARDOUS MATERIALS ARE CRITICAL TO THE U.S. ECONOMY

There are more than 800,000 shipments of hazardous materials each day. Regulated hazardous materials include such items as pharmaceuticals, paint, hairspray, pesticides, airbags, cigarette lighters and other consumer commodities. In fact, the vast majority of hazardous materials transported do not pose a plausible risk of use in a terrorist attack. Nevertheless, the amendment would require transporters to equip literally hundreds of thousands of trucks with expensive tracking technology. The prenotification of route plans referenced by the Senator in his floor statement would frustrate the ability of hospitals to provide prompt or immediate medical treatments to their patients, hamper agricultural distributors' ability to provide farmers with the fertilizers and pesticides they depend upon and greatly increase the cost of many consumer commodities, such as home heating oil.

GLOBAL POSITIONING SATELLITE MANDATE

The pending amendment would require any truck carrying hazardous materials to be equipped with GPS technology that would enable the government to determine its location at all times. GPS systems, however, are easily defeated by cutting power to the transponder, otherwise disabling the transponder, shielding the transponder, parking the truck in an area that does not have ''line of sight'' to the satellite, offloading the cargo to another truck or simply decoupling the trailer and hooking it up to an alternative power unit leaving the original power unit with its transponder on the side of the road.

Moreover, GPS systems are expensive. Senator Schumer's estimate of $200 for the cost of GPS is not accurate in the context of real-time 2-way communication GPS technology. The purchase and installation of ''hardened'' GPS transponders costs more than $1,500 per vehicle. In addition, the annual communication costs may exceed $1,000 per vehicle depending upon how often the truck is ''pinged'' by the satellite. Because hazardous materials comprise only a small percentage of the freight transported by the trucking industry, the trucking industry does not dedicate specific trucks to transport hazardous materials. As a result, the pending amendment would require the industry to equip virtually the entire fleet. Faced with these enormous costs most companies would simply refuse to haul hazardous materials, which could cripple the U.S. manufacturing industries and deal a severe blow to our economic recovery.

WRITTEN ROUTE PLAN REQUIREMENT

The pending amendment would require motor carriers to file written route plans with the government for purposes of route verification. This proposal could actually comprise security as a terrorist could exploit the carrier's or government's communication systems used to transmit route plans, which would provide the terrorist with a virtual shopping list of certain desirable hazardous materials.

This proposal would require the expenditure of enormous administrative resources necessary to devise, transmit and verify the route plans. Moreover, written route plans are not practicable to implement in many trucking operations. While written route plans may be implemented in a truckload environment where a carrier picks up a load of materials at one location and delivers it to its final destination, a significant amount of freight is moved in the less-than-truckload or package & delivery environment, where written route plans are not feasible because the freight may be transloaded several times before delivery. For these carriers, the costs associated with providing this service would far outweigh the revenue opportunities from such low volume freight. As a result, many of the safest and most responsible carriers will no longer carry hazardous materials. The removal of competitive forces from this segment of the hazardous materials transportation market will result in significant price increases in the cost of transporting this freight. Moreover, the administrative burden to the federal, state and local governments of real time tracking of several hundred thousand daily shipments is enormous. Finally, the transportation of radioactive materials and certain explosives are already subject to additional stringent safety and security requirements of the Department of Transportation.

FMCSA STUDY PENDING

(THE AMENDMENT IS PREMATURE)

In his floor statement introducing his amendment, Senator Schumer argued for the implementation of ''global positioning satellite (GPS)'' technology to track all truck shipments of hazardous materials. Respectfully, the Senator's proposal is premature and may frustrate the development of more effective and less costly alternatives.

It is important that the Senator be aware of a current research project, which began almost a year ago, under the auspices of the Department of Transportation's Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration. That project, referred to as the ''Field Operations Test'' (FOT), involves the testing and evaluation of a variety of technologies including

GPS, wireless communications, global positioning satellites, ''panic buttons and alarms'', ''geo-fencing'', biometric identification and radio frequency identification devices.

The field testing has just been completed, and, the evaluation phase has already begun. Already, SAIC and Batelle have produced a multi-volume draft report which has been circulated (on a limited basis) to security specialists within both government and industry.

The Senate should pause until the evaluation and reports are complete, and final recommendations have been submitted to both the Department of Transportation and the Department of Homeland Security.

We urge you to defeat the Schumer amendment.

Respectfully submitted,

Agricultural Retailers Association
American Chemistry Council
American Farm Bureau Federation
American Petroleum Institute
American Pyrotechnics Association
American Trucking Associations
Chlorine Chemistry Council
Commercial Vehicle Safety Alliance
Compressed Gas Association
Council on Safe Transportation of Hazardous Articles
The Chlorine Institute
Dangerous Goods Advisory Council
The Fertilizer Institute
Institute of Makers of Explosives
Industrial Packaging Alliance of North America
International Vessel Operators Hazardous Materials Association
International Warehouse Logistics Association
National Association of Chemical Distributors
National Association of Convenience Stores
National Association of Manufacturers
National Association of Truck Stop Operators
National Paint & Coatings Association
National Private Truck Council
National Propane Gas Association
National Tank Truck Carriers
Nuclear Energy Institute
Petroleum Marketers Association of America
Radiopharmaceuticals Shippers & Carriers Conference
Reusable Industrial Packaging Association
Steel Shipping Container Institute
Society of Independent Gasoline Marketers of America
Truckload Carriers Association
U.S. Chamber of Commerce
Utility Solid Waste Activities Group.

Mr. COCHRAN. Mr. President, I think the Senate has heard as much discussion as they probably need to form an opinion about this amendment. We urge Senators to vote yes on the motion to table and permit the committee to continue to work with the Department and industries that are involved to bring the best possible technologies into play to protect the security of our country and the transportation industries.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New York.

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, let me make a couple of quick points.

First, the ATA letter says there are mandates. It was written before we modified the amendment. If there were any, there was no intention to have mandates, but now the amendment as modified makes it clear, so I think their letter is outdated.

Of course, no industry wants any regulation. We are in a brave new world. The airline industry didn't want anything done after 9/11 unless the Federal Government paid for the whole thing. We are not outlining what ought to be done and what mandates should be, but we ought to move forward and find out how to make our trucks, particularly the trucks carrying hazardous materials, safer.

It is a small amount of money. It says take $70 million out of a pot of money to outsource, to make TSA more efficient, and put it into truck security to do two things: First, to check on who can get a driver's license for hazardous materials, to avoid a situation like the one when hijackers were able to go fly planes, and, second, to study how to set up a GPS system so we can track trucks in case they are stolen.

I urge support of the amendment. I think we would be foolhardy not to do so.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The yeas and nays have been ordered. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. REID. I announce that the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. AKAKA), the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. CORZINE), the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. EDWARDS), the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. KERRY). and the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. REED) are necessarily absent.

Mr. MCCONNELL. I announce that the Senator from Kansas (Mr. BROWNBACK), the Senator from Colorado (Mr. CAMPBELL), the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. CHAFEE), the Senator from New Hampshire (Mr. GREGG), the Senator from Arizona (Mr. KYL), and the Senator from Ohio (Mr. VOINOVICH) are necessarily absent.

I further announce that if present and voting the Senator from Kansas (Mr. BROWNBACK) would vote ''yea.''

The result was announced—yeas 55, nays 34, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 173 Leg.]

YEAS—55

Alexander	Daschle	McCain
Allard	DeWine	McConnell
Allen	Dole	Miller
Baucus	Domenici	Murkowski
Bayh	Dorgan	Nelson (NE)
Bennett	Enzi	Nickles
Bond	Fitzgerald	Pryor
Breaux	Frist	Roberts
Bunning	Graham (SC)	Santorum
Burns	Grassley	Sessions
Carper	Hagel	Shelby
Chambliss	Harkin	Smith
Cochran	Hatch	Stevens
Coleman	Hutchison	Sununu
Collins	Inhofe	Talent
Conrad	Jeffords	Thomas
Cornyn	Lincoln	Warner
Craig	Lott	
Crapo	Lugar	

NAYS—34

Biden	Cantwell	Durbin
Bingaman	Clinton	Ensign
Boxer	Dayton	Feingold
Byrd	Dodd	Feinstein
Graham (FL)	Leahy	Sarbanes
Hollings	Levin	Schumer
Inouye	Lieberman	Snowe
Johnson	Mikulski	Specter
Kennedy	Murray	Stabenow
Kohl	Nelson (FL)	Wyden
Landrieu	Reid	
Lautenberg	Rockefeller	

NOT VOTING—11

Akaka	Corzine	Kyl
Brownback	Edwards	Reed
Campbell	Gregg	Voinovich
Chafee	Kerry	

The motion was agreed to.

Mr. COCHRAN. Mr. President, I move to reconsider the vote by which the motion to table was agreed to.

Mr. BAUCUS. I move to lay that motion on the table.

The motion to lay on the table was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 3617

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. FITZGERALD). Under the previous order, there will now be 2 minutes of debate equally divided on the Lautenberg amendment.

The Senator from New Jersey.

Mr. LAUTENBERG. Mr. President, this amendment is cosponsored by Senator CORZINE and me. The amendment simply adds $100 million to ensure that the Coast Guard is going to have adequate funding for its nonhomeland security measures.

It is interesting; we fund Iraq's coast guard, and now the Iraqi Coastal Defense Force is receiving U.S. tax dollars for Chinese-built boats and crew training. If we can find money for Iraq's coast guard, then surely we can adequately fund our own Coast Guard. They perform services that are essential.

We need to add this funding because GAO found that the Coast Guard has to dip into its nonhomeland budget during times of elevated security alert. That means missions such as search and rescue, protecting our fisheries, ice-breaking operations, marine pollution, migrants, drug interdiction, and other law enforcement issues as well.

The amendment is still $150 million less than the amount authorized in the Coast Guard bill signed into law just last month by the President. I urge my colleagues to look at their coastline and decide whether they ought to support the amendment.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Mississippi.

Mr. COCHRAN. Mr. President, this amendment offers to add a substantial amount of money to the operational budget of the U.S. Coast Guard. I remind Senators that the Coast Guard's total appropriation in this next fiscal year is $705 million above last year's appropriation. It is about $134 million above the President's request for overall U.S. Coast Guard activity. We urge the Senate to vote no against the Lautenberg amendment.

I make a point of order under section 302(f) of the Congressional Budget Act that the amendment provides spending in excess of the subcommittee's 302(b) allocation.

Mr. LAUTENBERG. Mr. President, I move to waive the applicable sections of the Congressional Budget Act.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Does the Senator seek the yeas and nays?

Mr. LAUTENBERG. Yes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be.

The question is on agreeing to the motion. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. MCCONNELL. I announce that the Senator from Kansas (Mr. BROWNBACK), the Senator from Colorado (Mr. CAMPBELL), the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. CHAFEE), the Senator from New Hampshire (Mr. GREGG), the Senator from Arizona (Mr. KYL), the Senator from Ohio (Mr. VOINOVICH), and the Senator from Montana (Mr. BURNS) are necessarily absent.

Mr. REID. I announce that the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. AKAKA), the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. CORZINE), the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. EDWARDS), the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. KERRY), and the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. REED) are necessarily absent.

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 38, nays 50, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 174 Leg.]

YEAS—38

Baucus	Feinstein	Lieberman
Biden	Graham (FL)	Lincoln
Boxer	Harkin	Mikulski
Breaux	Hollings	Murray
Byrd	Inouye	Nelson (FL)
Cantwell	Jeffords	Pryor
Clinton	Johnson	Reid
Collins	Kennedy	Rockefeller
Daschle	Kohl	Sarbanes
Dayton	Landrieu	Schumer
Dodd	Lautenberg	Stabenow
Durbin	Leahy	Wyden
Feingold	Levin	

NAYS—50

Alexander	Dole	Miller
Allard	Domenici	Murkowski
Allen	Dorgan	Nelson (NE)
Bayh	Ensign	Nickles
Bennett	Enzi	Roberts
Bingaman	Fitzgerald	Santorum
Bond	Frist	Sessions
Bunning	Graham (SC)	Shelby
Carper	Grassley	Smith
Chambliss	Hagel	Snowe
Cochran	Hatch	Specter
Coleman	Hutchison	Stevens
Conrad	Inhofe	Sununu
Cornyn	Lott	Talent
Craig	Lugar	Thomas
Crapo	McCain	Warner
DeWine	McConnell	

NOT VOTING—12

Akaka	Chafee	Kerry
Brownback	Corzine	Kyl
Burns	Edwards	Reed
Campbell	Gregg	Voinovich

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote, the yeas are 38, the nays are 50. Three-fifths of the Senators duly chosen and sworn not having voted in the affirmative, the motion is rejected. The point of order is sustained, and the amendment falls.

Mr. COCHRAN. Mr. President, I move to reconsider the vote, and I move to lay that motion on the table.

The motion to lay on the table was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Washington.

AMENDMENT NO. 3621

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, I call up amendment No. 3621 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Washington [Mrs. MURRAY] proposes an amendment numbered 3621.

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the reading of the amendment be dispensed with.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The amendment is as follows:

(Purpose: To set aside an amount for a pilot project to test interoperable communications between the first Northern Border Air Wing, Bellingham, Washington, and local law enforcement personnel)

On page 39, between lines 5 and 6, insert the following:

SEC. 515. Of the amount appropriated by title II for the Office of the Under Secretary for Border and Transportation Security under the heading ''AIR AND MARINE INTERDICTION, OPERATIONS, MAINTENANCE, AND PROCUREMENT'', $5,000,000 may be used for a pilot project to test interoperable communications between the first Northern Border Air Wing, Bellingham, Washington, and local law enforcement personnel.

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, the amendment I just called up has been agreed to on both sides. It simply allows our northern Air Guard to be able to communicate with those on the ground and use available funds.

I have talked with the managers on both sides, and I believe the amendment is agreed to. I urge its adoption.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Mississippi.

Mr. COCHRAN. Mr. President, we reviewed the amendment offered by the Senator from Washington. We agree to support it, and we ask the Senate to adopt it.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. If there is no further debate, without objection, the amendment is agreed to.

The amendment (No. 3621) was agreed to.

Mr. COCHRAN. I move to reconsider the vote.

Mrs. MURRAY. I move to lay that motion on the table.

The motion to lay on the table was agreed to.

Mr. COCHRAN. Mr. President, we are at a point in the deliberations that I think we can be pleased with the progress we have made so far last week as well as today. We hope to be able to push ahead and complete action on this bill tomorrow evening. That is the expectation of the leadership. But I know we have a number of amendments that Senators are preparing to offer tomorrow. There are also four amendments that we have had discussion on which have not yet been disposed of. But in view of the fact we have made such good progress and there are other activities that are important to Senators off the floor at this point in the evening, it is my hope that we will go into morning business and let the leadership decide how long that will be.

I thank my friend from Nevada, who has been very helpful in handling the bill on the floor, along with our other leaders on our side of the aisle as well, particularly Senator FRIST, the majority leader.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Nevada.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, we have tonight a couple of amendments, maybe even three, that people could offer. I talked with Senator DAYTON, and he said he wants to offer one which will take 5 minutes. It is up to the manager whether he wants to do that tonight or tomorrow. We also have two Feingold amendments that should be accepted, we understand, and a Levin amendment. It is up to the manager.

Mr. COCHRAN. Mr. President, we are happy to stay here as long as there is business to be transacted.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Nevada.

Mr. REID. I say to my friend, since I last spoke on the Senate floor about how we should proceed on this bill, or made suggestions, I have learned that the House leadership has said they are going to spend all week looking at the next supplemental dealing with Florida.

Whether that is the case or not, I do not know. All I know is that is what they have said. I again ask the majority to take a close look at what we are doing. Let us finish Homeland Security appropriations and worry about Florida—and I realize it takes a lot of worrying because they have had calamities that are untoward in our history, but let us get rid of this Homeland Security bill. I say that in a positive sense.

We have made good progress. I think the amendments have been listed. We can get rid of these, and again I hate to use a term like that—we can dispose of these amendments. We can adopt and accept some of them. I think we could do it even maybe tomorrow evening. But if we are going to complicate this matter with the supplemental appropriations, it is going to make things real tough to finish this bill.

I am here only to serve the body and do whatever I can to move things along. I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Minnesota.

AMENDMENT NO. 3629

Mr. DAYTON. Mr. President, I send an amendment to the desk and ask for its immediate consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Minnesota [Mr. DAYTON] proposes an amendment numbered 3629.

Mr. DAYTON. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the reading of the amendment be dispensed with.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The amendment is as follows:

(Purpose: To ensure the continuation of benefits for certain individuals providing security services for Federal buildings)

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. ____. Amounts appropriated under this Act for expenses related to the protection of federally owned and leased buildings and for the operations of the Federal Protective Service shall not be made available unless the Service implements procedures to ensure that, with respect to contracts (including subcontracts) entered into on or after May 30, 2004 with private security firms to provide protective services for federally owned or leased buildings, the terms of such contracts are not modified in a manner that results in a change in benefits for the employees involved unless the employees involved consent to such changes.

Mr. DAYTON. I thank the manager of this bill for the opportunity to present my amendment tonight.

Unfortunately, this amendment is unfortunately necessary to protect the security of the men and women who protect our security day and night in States such as Minnesota. As my colleagues will recall, when the Department of Homeland Security was created in 2002, the Congress granted the Secretary of the new Department of Homeland Security the unprecedented power to override longstanding employee contracts. He or she was given the power to hire, fire, promote, demote, or do anything to the employees of that new agency.

Some of us opposed that unprecedented, unwarranted, and unnecessary power. A couple of my colleagues were vilified, demonized, and defeated for opposing that unilateral power. The majority in this body, at the insistence of the Bush administration, voted for it. Well, they got it.

So of the security guards in the Federal building where I have my office in Minnesota and elsewhere, I am told a private contractor took over their contract this July, and without consultation, without negotiation, or without consent altered their health benefit payments. It saves this big company taxes.

Of course, they could underbid the existing contractor and take that out of the benefits of those security guards in Minnesota to the detriment of them and their families.

The result has been that since July 1, 15 to 20 percent of that local guard force has had to quit, look for a new job, or take a second job. Others have not been able to meet their house and car payments. They are having a harder time concentrating on work, their work being to protect the people who work in my office, my constituents.

One guard had a heart problem and had to be taken from work to the hospital in an ambulance because of the stress that was imposed. He received medical services that now, as a result of this contract change, he does not have the money to pay for.

It takes 70 to 80 hours to train a new security guard. For a full-timer, that is about 10 full-time days. For part-timers, that can take up to a month depending on their part-time schedule. So this is not saving the taxpayers money. This is saving the private contractor money. It is providing greater profits for that company at the expense of the health and economic security of the people who are providing that security day and night in Minnesota and other States because their protections were stripped out and eliminated when this new Department of Homeland Security was created.

I say, respectfully, to the chairman of the Appropriations Committee, as well as to the chairman of the subcommittee and the distinguished ranking member, I know they have expressed in the past their reluctance to adopt policy changes in appropriations measures, but the health, security and protections of the people in Minnesota, unfortunately, cannot wait for some other measure to come forward. So I believe it is essential that I bring forward this amendment, and I ask my colleagues to consider it.

It very simply says—and I would be quite happy to go back further in time, but for the sake of this particular situation and others like it—for contracts that have been taken over through lowball bidding since May 30, 2004, alterations in health protection and health coverage have to be negotiated with the employees or with their bargaining unit. To me, this is the minimal measure of protection that should be granted to every employee in the Federal Government, in this agency, or any other.

At 5:25 p.m., I received stated objections from someone at the Federal Protective Service purporting to represent the official response of the Department of Homeland Security. Once again, the existing Federal agency at the last minute has objections to the legislation that could have been presented to me today, last week, whenever. My staff has been in discussion with the majority and the minority staff on the committee for the last few days. Less than 2 hours ago, to receive from the agency involved their stated objections that they will use, I assume to try to defeat this amendment, I find to be offensive.

They, once again, presume that because they have this authorizing legislation that grants the Secretary unilateral, complete, absolute power to make these changes in people's contracts that affect their lives, that affect their families, they do not even need to bother to respond to proposed legislation, which is exactly the reason this should not have been passed to begin with; exactly the reason employees should have due process; exactly the reason this ought to be in contract bargaining procedures so that those changes that are going to be made have to go through a negotiation or discussion with the elected representatives of those affected employees.

We have gone too far in creating this department and giving that unilateral authority to any single individual. This is a step back in the proper direction that is not in any way going to affect the national security of this country. In fact, I take that back. It will only enhance the national security of this country, of the Federal employees in the Federal buildings such as in Minnesota and the citizens who go to those buildings to meet with their elected representatives because they will be better qualified, better trained, more capable people, including those who now hold those jobs, except for those who have been forced to leave those jobs. So there will be better national security at a lower cost to the taxpayer when the retraining and other ancillary costs are included.

The only one that will be adversely affected by this will be the private employer who is underbid and is trying to extract additional profits out of the economic security of those employees and the public security of those they protect.

I urge my colleagues to support this amendment.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. COCHRAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. COCHRAN. Mr. President, I thank the Senator for his suggestion of this change. As I understand the amendment, it would limit the appropriation provided in this bill by restricting the opportunities for the Federal Protective Service to enter into certain contracts. It imposes conditions under which they can engage in contract activities for protective services at Federal building sites.

I am advised by the Federal Protective Service, which is under the Department of Homeland Security, that this is an amendment not supported by the administration. There are those who are involved in helping to safeguard the security of Federal buildings and other facilities. They have limited resources which they say would be significantly diverted from the primary mission of providing the professional, qualified, and capable security guard service according to contracts and the needs of individual locations. The restrictive language of the amendment is counterproductive to the progress the Federal Protective Service has made.

So the argument that I have to make and that I am happy to make is that this amendment should not be included in this legislation, and we would be forced to resist it. I will urge my colleagues to vote against it at the appropriate time.

The leadership has indicated, I think, either formally or informally, that there will be no further rollcall votes this evening, so this is an issue that would have to go over until tomorrow,

and we will be happy to discuss the details more fully tomorrow so that all Senators are aware of the impact this amendment would have on the Federal Protective Service and its ability to do its job.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that this amendment be set aside so that other matters may be brought up.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. COCHRAN. Mr. President, there is a matter I can bring to the attention of the Senate, a modification of an amendment that has already been adopted.

AMENDMENT NO. 3618, AS MODIFIED

On behalf of Senator BYRD and myself, I offer a modification to amendment No. 3618 which was adopted by voice vote on Friday, September 10, 2004.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, the amendment will be so modified.

The amendment (No. 3618), as modified, is as follows:

On page 39, between lines 5 and 6, insert the following new section:

''SEC. ____. (a) The total amount appropriated under the heading ''CUSTOMS AND BORDER PROTECTION, SALARIES AND EXPENSES'' is hereby increased by $150,000,000. Of such total amount, as so increased, $50,000,000 is provided for radiation detection devices, $50,000,000 is provided for additional border inspectors, and $50,000,000 is provided for additional border patrol agents.

''(b) The total amount appropriated under the heading ''IMMIGRATION AND CUSTOMS ENFORCEMENT, SALARIES AND EXPENSES'' is hereby increased by $100,000,000. Of such total amount, as so increased, $50,000,000 is provided for additional investigator personnel, and $50,000,000 is provided for detention and removal bedspace and removal operations.

''(c) The total amount appropriated under the heading ''OFFICE OF STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT COORDINATION AND PREPAREDNESS, STATE AND LOCAL PROGRAMS'' is hereby increased by $128,000,000. The total amount provided in the aforementioned heading for discretionary grants is increased by $128,000,000. Of that total amount as so increased, the amount for rail and transit security grants is increased by $128,000,000.

''(d) The total amount appropriated under the heading ''OFFICE OF STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT COORDINATION AND PREPAREDNESS, EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT PERFORMANCE GRANTS'' is hereby increased by $36,000,000. Of such total amount, as so increased, $36,000,000 is provided for emergency management performance grants.

''(e) Section 13031(j)(3) of the Consolidated Omnibus Budget Reconcillation Act of 1985 as amended by this bill, strike ''June 1, 2005'' and insert ''September 30, 2005.''

AMENDMENTS NOS. 3585, 3602 AND 3620, EN BLOC

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Nevada.

Mr. REID. First of all, I move to set aside any pending amendment.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the Senate proceed en bloc to the consideration of amendments Nos. 3585, 3602, and 3620, the first two offered by Senator FEINGOLD, the third by Senator LEVIN. It is my understanding they have been cleared on both sides.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Mr. COCHRAN. There is no objection to consideration of the amendments. They have been cleared on this side of the aisle.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, the amendments are considered en bloc and agreed to en bloc.

The amendments were considered and agreed to en bloc, as follows:

AMENDMENT NO. 3585

(Purpose: To require the development of a transportation security plan, and for other purposes)

On page 39, between lines 5 and 6, insert the following:

SEC. 515. (a) The Secretary of Homeland Security, in consultation with the Secretary of Transportation, shall—

(1) develop and maintain an integrated strategic transportation security plan; and

(2) base future budget requests on the plan.

(b) The integrated strategic transportation security plan shall—

(1) identify and evaluate the United States transportation assets that need to be protected;

(2) set risk-based priorities for defending the assets identified;

(3) select the most practical and cost-effective ways of defending the assets identified; and

(4) assign transportation security roles and missions to the relevant Federal, State, regional, and local authorities and to the private sector.

(c) The Secretary of Homeland Security shall submit the integrated strategic transportation security plan to Congress not later than February 1, 2005 and shall submit updated plans, including assessments of the progress made on implementation of the plan, on the first day of February each year thereafter. Any part of the plan that involves information that is properly classified under criteria established by Executive order shall be submitted to Congress separately in classified form.

AMENDMENT NO. 3602

(Purpose: To require the Secretary of Homeland Security to report to Congress on goods purchased by the Department of Homeland Security that were manufactured outside of the United States)

On page 3, between lines 13 and 14, insert the following:

SEC. 101. (a) Not later than 180 days after the end of fiscal year 2005, the Secretary of Homeland Security shall submit a report to Congress that describes the articles, materials, and supplies acquired by the Department of Homeland Security during fiscal year 2005 that were manufactured outside of the United States.

(b) The report submitted under subsection (a) shall separately indicate—

(1) the dollar value of each of the articles, materials, and supplies acquired by the Department of Homeland Security that were manufactured outside of the United States;

(2) an itemized list of all waivers granted with respect to such articles, materials, or supplies under the Buy American Act (41 U.S.C. 10a et seq.); and

(3) a summary of the total funds spent by the Department of Homeland Security on goods manufactured within the United States compared with funds spent by the Department of Homeland Security on goods manufactured outside of the United States.

(c) The Secretary of Homeland Security shall make the report submitted under this section publicly available to the maximum extent practicable.

AMENDMENT NO. 3620

(Purpose: To clarify the prohibition on contracting with foreign incorporated entities)

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. ____. Section 835 of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (Public Law 107-296; 6 U.S.C. 395) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a), by inserting before the period '', or any subsidiary of such an entity'';

(2) in subsection (b)(1), by inserting ''before, on, or'' after the ''completes'';

(3) in subsection (c)(1)(B), by striking ''which is after the date of enactment of this Act and''; and

(4) in subsection (d), by striking ''homeland'' and inserting ''national''.

AMENDMENT NO. 3602

Mr. FEINGOLD. Mr. President, the amendment that I am offering today would require the Secretary of Homeland Security to submit to Congress a report on the amount of goods acquired by the Department during fiscal year 2005 that were made overseas.

I want to thank the chairman and the ranking member of the subcommittee for working with me to include this important provision in the bill.

My amendment would extend for another year with respect to the Department of Homeland Security a provision that was enacted as part of the fiscal year 2004 omnibus spending bill requiring all Federal departments and agencies to submit to Congress a report about goods that they purchase that are made outside of the United States. These reports will improve the disclosure of the amount of foreign-made goods purchased by the federal government.

My amendment, like current law, requires that this report include the following information: (a) the dollar value of any articles, materials, or supplies purchased that are manufactured outside of the United States; (b) an itemized list of all waivers of the Buy American Act granted with respect to such articles, materials, or supplies, and (c) a summary of total procurement funds spent on goods manufactured in the United States versus funds spent on goods manufactured outside of the United States.

The amendment also requires that the report be made publicly available to the maximum extent practicable.

Prior to the enactment earlier this year of the Government-wide Buy American reporting requirement that I authored, only the Department of Defense was required to report annually on its use of waivers of domestic procurement laws. Last year, I introduced legislation to strengthen the Buy American Act of 1933, the statute that governs procurement by the Federal Government. The name of the Act accurately and succinctly describes its purpose: to ensure that the Federal Government supports domestic companies and domestic workers by buying

American-made goods. One part of my bill would require that all Federal departments and agencies submit annual reports on their purchases. The amendment that I am offering today is based on that provision in my bill.

The Buy American Act requires that the Federal Government support domestic businesses and domestic workers by buying American-made goods. I am pleased to note that the underlying bill includes language that states that none of the funds appropriated to the Department of Homeland Security may be used in contravention of the applicable provisions of the Buy American Act.

It only makes sense that Federal departments and agencies be required to report to Congress on their compliance with Federal law and with congressional intent regarding this important matter.

The American people deserve to know how their tax dollars are being spent, and to what extent these dollars are being used to support foreign jobs. I look forward to reviewing the fiscal year 2004 versions of these reports, and I am pleased that the managers have worked with me to extend the requirement for the Department of Homeland Security for fiscal year 2005. I will continue my efforts to ensure that this simple reporting requirement is made permanent for all Federal departments and agencies.

Again, I thank the chairman and ranking member of the subcommittee for agreeing to accept my amendment, and I yield the floor.

AMENDMENT NO. 3620

CONTRACTS

Mr. ALLEN. Mr. President, I ask the Senator, does the amendment apply to any existing contract at the Department of Homeland Security?

Mr. LEVIN. No, the amendment would only apply to new contracts signed after the date of enactment.

Mr. ALLEN. I thank the Senator. Does that mean that the Senator's amendment will not prohibit any task order, change order or extension issued in connection with an existing contract awarded prior to the ate of enactment?

Mr. LEVIN. The Senator is correct. The intent of the amendment is to only capture new contracts.

Mr. ALLEN. I thank the Senator. So this amendment will not impact task orders issued under the US VISIT contract awarded to Accenture and the Smart Border Alliance?

Mr. LEVIN. The Senator is correct, the amendment is not intended to impact that contract or any task orders issued under the US VISIT contract.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I move to reconsider the vote.

Mr. COCHRAN. I move to lay that motion on the table.

The motion to lay on the table was agreed to.

Mr. REID. I suggest the absence of a quorum, unless the manager has more.

Mr. COCHRAN. Mr. President, I do not know of any other Senator who is planning to speak or offer an amendment at this time, so I think it is appropriate to put in a quorum call, unless we go to morning business.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. REID. I ask unanimous consent we go now to morning business.

Mr. COCHRAN. We have no objection to going into morning business.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, the Senate will now proceed to a period for morning business.

JOHN KERRY'S HEALTH CARE PLAN

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, I would like to speak briefly on another matter. It came to my attention that the President, today, spoke in Muskegon, MI, about health care. The President derided JOHN KERRY's plan for reforming health care as a bureaucratic nightmare and contended it would cost $1.5 trillion.

I want to mention for the record, when this President became President we were spending $1.3 trillion on health care. Now we are spending $1.8 trillion on health care. Do you hear me? That is a half a trillion dollars. That is a half-trillion-dollar increase that Americans are now spending on health care. What do we have to show for results? We have to show, as a result, that an average family would have to pay $10,000 for a family policy for comprehensive health care.

The results will show we have had the greatest decline in coverage of insurance for American workers during the last 3 years in the history of our health insurance debate. Drug prices are skyrocketing right up through the roof. Ask any senior citizen about the cost increase in prescription drugs. At the same time, you will find some of the greatest profits in the history of the drug companies and the HMOs.

I suggest that the tactics of fear and smear no longer be used when it comes to health care debates. Let us get rid of fear and smear. The facts do not add up to the recommendations and the suggestions we heard this afternoon. We know health insurance coverage is a crisis in this country in terms of cost and the increased numbers of uninsured and that prices are going up through the roof. Yet this administration absolutely opposed any opportunity for negotiated prices in terms of prescription drugs in the Medicare legislation last year.

Distortion and misrepresentation is a great concern to me. We have seen this administration distort and misrepresent intelligence about getting us into Iraq. We have seen them distort and misrepresent intelligence when they talk about our economy. It has been true with regard to education and leaving 4.5 million children out of the No Child Left Behind Program.

As I have said at other times, when this Nation made a commitment that we were going to cover Medicare, we covered all of our seniors. When we said we were going to cover voting rights, we covered all of our Americans who should have been eligible for voting rights. When we said we were going to cover all children in this country—and 4.5 million of them being left out and behind—I compared it to the fact that when President Kennedy said we were going to the Moon, Congress gave us half the money to get us up to $150 million and not do anything else but get our astronauts to the Moon and not bring them home. Those are the facts.

That is why these representations and debate in terms of health care, in terms of education, in terms of our economy, and in terms of Iraq—this is an administration that has failed in terms of its responsibilities. It is misleading the American people on issue after issue. That is what this debate is about. We will have a chance to see its outcome on election day.

I yield the floor.

HONORING DR. CATHERINE SNELSON

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I today congratulate Dr. Catherine Snelson, assistant professor of geoscience at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas, for receiving the 2003 Presidential Early Career Award for Scientists and Engineers, PECASE.

This award is the highest honor bestowed by the U.S. Government on young scientists at the outset of their careers. In addition, Cathy has also received the Early Career Scientist and Engineer Award from the National Nuclear Security Administration's Office of Defense Programs.

I commend Dr. Snelson for her hard work and commitment to academic excellence in the public interest.

Dr. Snelson received her B.S. from California State University at Hayward in 1995, and her M.S. and her Ph.D. in geophysics from the University of Texas at El Paso. While completing these degrees, she performed fieldwork in the western United States, Ireland, and central Europe.

Since joining the faculty of UNLV as an assistant professor in January 2002, Dr. Snelson has continued to do important research that will protect the people of Nevada. Specifically she has identified areas that would be most affected by seismic events occurring in and around the Las Vegas Valley, and she has been involved in setting up motion recording stations to monitor earthquakes throughout the valley.

Please join me in congratulating Dr. Catherine Snelson for her academic excellence, and in wishing her well in her promising career as a geoscientist.

LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT ACT OF 2003

Mr. SMITH. Mr. President, I rise today to speak about the need for hate crimes legislation. On May 1, 2003, Senator KENNEDY and I introduced the

Local Law Enforcement Enhancement Act, a bill that would add new categories to current hate crimes law, sending a signal that violence of any kind is unacceptable in our society.

In Baltimore, MD, in 1999, a group of six people went on a crime spree that included over a dozen armed robberies and four car-jackings. While most of the victims were threatened at gunpoint and otherwise not injured, one man was hit in the head with a baseball bat and Tacy Ranta, a prominent transgender activist, was fatally shot in the chest. When one of the assailants asked the shooter why he had shot ''that lady,'' the shooter replied ''that was no lady—that was a faggot.'' Some transgender activists believe that since Ranta was the only one killed, the murder was a hate crime based on her status as a transsexual.

I believe that the Government's first duty is to defend its citizens, to defend them against the harms that come out of hate. The Local Law Enforcement Enhancement Act is a symbol that can become substance. I believe that by passing this legislation and changing current law, we can change hearts and minds as well.

10TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE VIOLENT CRIME CONTROL AND LAW ENFORCEMENT ACT OF 1994

Mr. BIDEN. Mr. President, today marks the 10-year anniversary of the Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act of 1994. The bill, which was the product of bi-partisan compromise, took a balanced position to criminal justice policy, strengthening many Federal penalties, providing funding to build prisons and promoting truth-in-sentencing. Most importantly, the act made important investments in programs designed to prevent crime in the first place, including putting 100,000 community policing officers on the street and reducing violence against women and children.

To ensure this bill's passage, I worked harder than I ever had in the U.S. Senate. Prior to the final vote, in August of 1994, I stated that ''I will vote for this bill, because, as much as anything I have ever voted on in 22 years in the U.S. Senate, I truly believe that passage of this legislation will make a difference in the lives of the American people. I believe with every fiber in my being that if this bill passes, fewer people will be murdered, fewer people will be victims, fewer women will be senselessly beaten, fewer people will continue on the drug path, and fewer children will become criminals.''

Fortunately, this turned out to be right. With the passage of the Biden crime bill we were able to form a partnership amongst Federal, State, and local law enforcement and create programs that helped drive down crime rates for 8 consecutive years. In 1994 we had historically high rates of violent crimes, such as murders, forcible rapes, and aggravated assaults. We were able to reduce these to the lowest levels in a generation. We reduced the murder rate by 37.8 percent; we reduced forcible rapes by 19.1 percent; and we reduced aggravated assaults by 25.5 percent. Property crimes, including auto thefts, also were reduced from historical highs to the lowest levels in decades.

How were we able to achieve such great results? Well, we all know it was a combination of factors, but most law enforcement officials credit the Office of Community Oriented Policing with a pivotal role. Indeed, in the words of Attorney General Ashcroft, the Community Oriented Policing program has been ''a miraculous success.'' COPS has funded over 118,000 local officers to patrol our neighborhoods and towns and help drive down crime rates. Because of COPS, the concept of community policing has spread to cities and towns across the country.

A testament to the success of the program is the fact that it has been endorsed by every major law enforcement group in the country, including the International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP), the National Association of Police Organizations, the National Sheriff's Association, the International Brotherhood of Police Organizations, the National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Officials, the International Union of Police Associations, the Fraternal Order of Police, and others.

Completely disregarding the overwhelming success of COPS, the Bush administration and Republican leadership have set their sights on eliminating this program. President Bush has proposed cuts each year he has been in office, and while we have fought to maintain funding for COPS, we are fighting an uphill battle. Funding for 5 State and local law enforcement programs run out of the Department of Justice is down 75.6 percent since fiscal year 2002. To me, this approach is inexplicable, particularly because the need for Federal assistance remains pressing.

Recent articles from USA Today and the New York Times highlighted the fact that many cities are being forced to eliminate officers because of their woeful local budgets. In fact, New York City has lot 3,000 officers in the last few years. Other cities, such as Cleveland, OH, Milwaukee, MN, and Houston, TX, are facing similar shortages. As a result, local police chiefs are reluctantly pulling officers from the proactive policing activities that were so successful in the nineties. This has not been a choice taken lightly. Police chiefs understand the value of proactive policing; however, they simply don't have the manpower to do it all. Basically, we have been asking them to do more with less, and responding to emergency calls must take precedence over proactive programs. However, I fear that we are starting to see the results. Local chiefs are reporting increased gang activity. Murder rates and auto thefts—two very accurate indicators of crime trends—have gone up for 3 consecutive years.

The Bush administration's response to these criticisms is that funding for first responders is way up. Undoubtedly, these are critical, necessary expenditures, and I believe that the administration has not invested enough for our first responders. However, this argument misses the point entirely. We have an obligation to do both. We must fund our first responders and invest in the programs that help reduce traditional crime and prevent terrorism. As the President has stated on many occasions, it is the solemn duty of the Federal Government to keep Americans safe. We simply can't achieve this goal without investing in our State and local law enforcement partners. The COPS office has been a critical lynchpin in the Federal, State, and local partnership that has been effective since the passage of the 1994 Biden crime bill, and I hope that the Bush administration and this Congress will reverse its current course and provide critical funding for this program.

Another component of the 1994 Biden crime bill was the Violence Against Women Act. With the passage of the Violence Against Women Act we started talking about that dirty little secret that no one wanted to say out loud, and as a result women and children have become safer. Instead of suffering alone, a rape victim or battered wife can now turn to a trained police officer, an emergency room nurse, or a 1–800 telephone operator. We've transformed so-called ''family matters'' into public crimes that hold the offender accountable and provide the victim with meaningful services.

Since fiscal year 1995, nearly $3.8 billion has been appropriated for the programs created by the Violence Against Women Act. In Delaware alone, the Office on Violence Against Women has overseen 21 grant awards totaling $9.5 million. These investments have paid off. Domestic violence has dropped nearly 50 percent. Incidents of rape are down by 60 percent. The number of women killed by an abusive husband or boyfriend is down 22 percent. Today, more than half of all rape victims are stepping forward to report the crime, and over a million women have found justice in our courtrooms and obtained domestic violence protection orders.

Of course, we need to do more. As more and more brave women step forward to report a rape or seek a restraining order, more demands are placed on women's shelters, State prosecutors, victim advocates, and other resources. As we encourage victim reporting and swift responses by our criminal justice system, we must continue to create and support services for families in distress. We cannot let the Violence Against Women Act become a victim of its own success.

To ensure that VAWA is passed on to the next generation, we have begun

working on the next version of the act. This is a collaborative effort. We are listening closely to those on the front lines—police, trial judges, emergency room nurses and many others—and making targeted improvements to existing grant programs and tightening up criminal laws. We are learning about the new challenges and the persistent problems of old. Frankly, there are still far too many women and their children vulnerable to cowardly abusers. As such, the new act may include heightened penalties for repeat Federal domestic violence offenders, and update the Federal stalking statute to incorporate new technologies that can terrorize women.

This past spring, I was in my home State at an event honoring the winners of our high school poster contest. To enter this first-ever ''Teens Against Sexual Assault'' contest, any Delaware high school student could submit a poster that somehow visually depicted the message ''no means no.'' The two young winners were quite shy, but they both joined me at the podium in front of 200 people. They stunned the audience, admitting that they both had been victims of rape and hoped that through their efforts they could help other young women find the courage to report their attacker and seek help. As I listened to these courageous young women, I was reminded of the essential purpose of the Violence Against Women Act. We simply can't stop now.

Prior to the enactment of the 1994 crime bill, many doubted that the Federal Government could have a measurable impact on crime in the United States. Programs such as COPS and VAWA proved the critics wrong. COPS and VAWA have made Americans safer and changed fundamental societal attitudes about domestic violence and sexual assault.

In this new age of terrorism, we simply cannot lose site of traditional crimes in our neighborhoods and homes. While the threat of terrorism is very real, the likelihood of becoming a victim of a ''traditional'' crime is exponentially far greater than becoming a victim of a terrorist attack. Last year, there were over one million incidents of violent crime and over 16,000 murders reported to the police. If we are going to continue to progress and make this country safer, we must continue to invest in the programs that have proven successful, and during the last few weeks of this legislative session, I hope Congress and President Bush will do just that.

HONORING OUR ARMED FORCES

SPECIALIST DUSTIN S. COLBY

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to SP Dustin S. Colby, a fellow Iowan from the Mason City/Clear Lake area. The Iowa National Guard regretfully announced the death of Specialist Colby when he was killed on August 27, 2004, along with fellow soldier SSG Bruce J. Pollema, when their military motor vehicle rolled over into a ditch near Camp Dodge. Specialist Dustin Colby was a member of the 2168th Transportation Company based in Sheldon, IA. SP Colby is survived by his mother, Misty L. Thoe, and his father, Jerry L. Colby, as well as numerous siblings. This brave young soldier was only 20 years old.

The family of Dustin Colby issued the following statement in response to the news of their son's death:

> Dustin was a dedicated son, grandson, brother, cousin, nephew, boyfriend, friend and Soldier. He loved life, his family, and being a soldier.

My deepest sympathy goes out to his family and friends. Specialist Colby brought happiness to many people, and his memory will never die because of the impact he had on the people he knew. It is fitting that we pay tribute to his life and his service to his country.

SGT. JAMES DANIEL FAULKNER

Mr. BAYH. Mr. President, with a heavy heart and deep sense of gratitude I honor the life of a brave young man who grew up in Clarksville, IN. Sgt. James Daniel Faulkner, 23 years old, died on September 8 when the armored personnel carrier he was driving at the head of a convoy was struck by enemy fire in Baghdad. With his entire life before him, James chose to risk everything to fight for the values Americans hold close to our hearts, in a land halfway around the world.

James graduated from Clarksville High School in 1999. He attended Indiana University Southeast for 1 year before deciding that he wanted to seek different opportunities. Shortly thereafter James, along with a longtime friend from high school, joined the Army in November of 2000. James was a combat engineer who served his country with pride. He was assigned to the 1st Cavalry's 20th Engineer Battalion, based in Fort Hood, TX. Just a few weeks ago, James visited with his family for the last time while on leave before returning to Iraq to fulfill his tour of duty, which started in March of this year.

James was the 34th Hoosier soldier to be killed while serving his country in Operation Iraqi Freedom. This brave young soldier leaves behind his fiancée, Lisa Moreno, whom he was set to marry in July; his mother, Pam Gilkey; his father, James Faulkner; his stepfather; his three sisters; and his two brothers.

Today, I join James' family, his friends and all Americans in mourning his death. While we struggle to bear our sorrow over this tremendous loss, we can also take pride in the example he set, bravely fighting to make the world a safer place. It is his courage and strength of character that people will remember when they think of James, a memory that will burn brightly during these continuing days of conflict and grief.

According to Clarksville High School's director of counseling Pat Hunt, James had enjoyed athletics and was a strong student. James starred on the track and cross-country teams and was a member of the National Honor Society. He was known by all for his dedicated spirit and his love of country. His mother, Pam, recounted a conversation she had with her son to the Louisville Courier-Journal, remembering when she questioned her son's reasons for his recent re-enlistment. She said James replied by simply saying he was ''proud to serve his country.''

As I search for words to do justice in honoring James' sacrifice, I am reminded of President Lincoln's remarks as he addressed the families of the fallen soldiers in Gettysburg: ''We cannot dedicate, we cannot consecrate, we cannot hallow this ground. The brave men, living and dead, who struggled here, have consecrated it, far above our poor power to add or detract. The world will little note nor long remember what we say here, but it can never forget what they did here.'' This statement is just as true today as it was nearly 150 years ago, as I am certain that the impact of James' actions will live on far longer than any record of these words.

It is my sad duty to enter the name of James Daniel Faulkner in the official record of the United States Senate for his service to this country and for his profound commitment to freedom, democracy and peace. When I think about this just cause in which we are engaged, and the unfortunate pain that comes with the loss of our heroes, I hope that families like James' can find comfort in the words of the prophet Isaiah who said, ''He will swallow up death in victory; and the Lord God will wipe away tears from off all faces.''

May God grant strength and peace to those who mourn, and may God be with all of you, as I know He is with James.

OUT OF TIME

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, in a matter of hours, the assault weapons ban will expire. That moment will mark a turning point—to the wrong direction—in our effort to reduce gun violence. Criminals, and potentially terrorists, will once again have easy access to 19 of the highest powered and most lethal firearms produced. I am disappointed that, despite broad bipartisan support for the ban, the Republican congressional leadership opposes it and President Bush has done little or nothing to support this important legislation.

At midnight tonight, 19 currently banned assault weapons will become legal once again, as well as firearms that can accept detachable magazines and have more than one of several specific military features, such as a folding/telescoping stock, protruding pistol grip, bayonet mount, threaded muzzle or flash suppressor, barrel shroud or grenade launcher. Common sense tells us that there is no reason for civilians

to have easy access to guns with these features.

Over the past year, I have repeatedly urged the Congress to act. I believe that allowing gun manufacturers to restart production of these dangerous weapons will increase their number and availability on our streets and lead to a rise in gun crimes committed with assault weapons.

Many in the law enforcement community have called the currently banned assault weapons ''the weapons of choice for criminals.'' This is what the Michigan Association of Chiefs of Police has said about the expiration of the assault weapons ban:

> We are disappointed in the lack of political will to extend a ban that has apparently worked. In the ten years of the ban's life, there has been a 66% reduction in assault weapons traced to crime.

The MACP has informed me that 14 police officers have been killed in the U.S. by assault weapons already this year. Unfortunately, that the number will likely rise as the assault weapons ban is allowed to expire.

Last week, Police Chief Ervin Portis of Jackson, MI, came to Washington, DC in support of reauthorizing the assault weapons ban. Accompanying him on this trip was David Harvey, retired chief of police of Garden City, MI. Chief Harvey was chief of police on December 31, 2002, when an armed assailant set out to execute a police officer from Garden City. His intended victim was Officer Rodney Donald. Officer Donald was shot 7 times with a semiautomatic rifle that contained a magazine with a capacity of 100 rounds. Officer Donald is now permanently disabled and unable to perform duties as a police officer. The clip used in this attack is currently banned, but, like many of the assault weapons it was designed for, the clip will again become legal at midnight.

As many of my colleagues know, law enforcement support for the assault weapons ban is broad. Supporters include the International Association of Chiefs of Police, the Major Cities Chiefs Association, the Police Foundation, the Police Executive Research Forum, the International Brotherhood of Police Officers, the National Association of School Resource Officers, the National Fraternal Order of Police, the National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Executives, the Hispanic American Police Command Officers Association, and the National Black Police Association.

On the other side are lobbyists of the National Rifle Association and their allies in Congress and the White House. The NRA has said that the ban is ineffective and unnecessary. But this assertion is not supported by the facts. According to statistics reported by the Brady Campaign to Prevent Gun Violence, from 1990 to 1994, assault weapons named in the ban constituted 4.82 percent of guns traced in criminal investigations. However, since the ban's enactment, these assault weapons have made up only 1.61 percent of the crime-related guns traced. It is disturbing that the President has sat back rather than standing up with our Nation's law enforcement community in support of this critical piece of gun safety legislation.

The Senate majority leader was quoted in a New York Times article on September 9 as saying, ''I think the will of the American people is consistent with letting it expire, so it will expire.'' I am aware of no facts to support that statement. In fact, numerous polls have found that large majorities of adults support a reauthorization of the ban. In the very same New York Times article, the House majority leader is quoted referring to the Assault weapons ban as ''a feel-good piece of legislation.''

On March 2 of this year, I joined with the majority of my colleagues in passing an amendment to reauthorize the assault weapons ban for another 10 years. The bill to which it was attached, however, was later derailed.

Despite the overwhelming support of the law enforcement community, the ongoing threat of terrorism, bipartisan support in the Senate, and the pleas of Americans who have already lost loved ones to assault weapons tragedies, it appears the ban will expire at midnight tonight, as neither the President nor the Republican congressional leadership is willing to act. Unfortunately, tomorrow morning Americans will wake up less secure than they are today.

I ask unanimous consent that the New York Times article titled ''Effort to Renew Weapons Ban Falters on Hill'' be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the following material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

[From the New York Times, Sept. 9, 2004]

EFFORT TO RENEW WEAPONS BAN FALTERS ON HILL

(By Sheryl Gay Stolberg)

WASHINGTON, Sept. 8—Despite widespread popular support, the federal law banning the sale of 19 kinds of semiautomatic assault weapons is almost certain to expire on Monday, the result of intense lobbying by the National Rifle Association and the complicated election-year politics of Washington.

While President Bush has expressed support for legislation extending the ban and has said he would sign it into law, he has not pressured lawmakers to act, leading critics to accuse him of trying to have it both ways.

Efforts to renew the ban, which polls show is supported by at least two-thirds of Americans, have faltered this year on Capitol Hill. Democrats are well aware that they lost control of the House of Representatives in 1994, the year President Bill Clinton signed the original legislation, and have shied away from the issue of gun control, while Republican leaders have opposed the ban.

''I think the will of the American people is consistent with letting it expire, so it will expire,'' Senator Bill Frist of Tennessee, the majority leader, said on Wednesday.

The House majority leader, Representative Tom DeLay of Texas, dismissed the ban as ''a feel-good piece of legislation'' and said flatly that it would expire Monday, even if Mr. Bush made an effort to renew it.

''If the president asked me, it would still be no,'' Mr. DeLay said. ''He knows, because we don't have the votes to pass the assault weapons ban. It will expire Monday, and that's that.''

Democrats decried the influence of the rifle association and said the ban could be renewed if the president wanted it to.

''If you support something, you have a responsibility to advocate for it,'' said Senator Dianne Feinstein, the California Democrat and chief sponsor of the ban's renewal. Senator Charles E. Schumer, Democrat of New York, who was a lead sponsor of the ban 10 years ago when he was in the House, blamed ''a dysfunction of our politics'' for what he called ''this Alice in Wonderland situation of repealing a law that everyone agrees has been overwhelmingly successful.''

The act prohibits, by name, the sale of 19 specific weapons that have the features of guns used by the military, and also outlaws magazines that can hold more than 10 rounds of ammunition. While backers acknowledge that the law is riddled with loopholes, they cite federal statistics showing crimes traceable to assault weapons have declined by two-thirds since the law went into effect.

But the N.R.A., which has made overturning the ban its top legislative priority, says the law bans only ''cosmetic accessories'' on guns, and does little other than place a burden on gun manufacturers. ''We felt from the very start it was bogus legislation,'' Wayne LaPierre, the association's chief executive, said.

On Wednesday, in a last-ditch effort to persuade lawmakers to renew the law, supporters of the ban—including police chiefs from around the country and victims of gun violence and their relatives—converged on Washington for a news conference.

Tom Mauser, whose 15-year-old son, Daniel, was killed in the 1999 massacre at Columbine High School in Colorado, arrived wearing his son's sneakers and took them off while addressing reporters, a pointed physical reminder of his loss.

James S. Brady, the former White House press secretary who suffered brain damage after being shot in the head by a handgun during the 1981 assassination attempt on President Ronald Reagan, sat, mostly silent, in a wheelchair.

''The assault weapons are coming, they're coming next week,'' warned Mr. Brady's wife, Sarah, who has been a vocal advocate for restrictions on gun ownership for the past two decades.

Noting that Mr. Reagan had supported the weapons ban in 1994, Mrs. Brady said she felt deserted by the party she and her husband had worked so hard for. ''I am angry,'' she said. ''I am angry at our president. I'm so disappointed.''

The White House press secretary, Scott McClellan, repeated on Wednesday that ''the president supports the reauthorization of the current law.'' But when asked by reporters what, if anything, Mr. Bush was doing to make that happen, Mr. McClellan replied: ''The president doesn't set the Congressional timetable. Congress sets the timetable. And the president's views are very clear.''

Democrats hit hard at Mr. Bush. ''We cry out for leadership,'' said Senator Schumer, adding that, ''The president talks about flip-flops. Well, flip: I'm for it. Flop: House, don't do anything, don't pass it.''

The Democratic presidential nominee, Senator John Kerry of Massachusetts, supports renewing the ban, and took a break from campaigning earlier this year to return to the Senate when it came up for a vote as part of a broader piece of gun legislation. Fifty-two senators voted in favor of renewing the ban, but the underlying measure was defeated.

On Wednesday, a senior adviser to Mr. Kerry, Joe Lockhart, signaled that the ban would become a campaign issue. He said that Mr. Kerry planned to discuss the ban Monday, at an event timed to coincide with its expiration. Mr. Kerry, he said, ''believes the cynical deal between the president and the House Republican leadership, hiding behind procedure, is completely unacceptable.''

A poll released this week by the Annenberg Public Policy Center of the University of Pennsylvania found that 68 percent of Americans—and 32 percent of N.R.A. members—support renewing the ban. The findings, drawn from interviews with 4,959 adults, had a margin of sampling error of plus or minus one percentage point.

A separate national survey, conducted by Doug Schoen, a Democratic pollster, on behalf of the Brady Campaign to Prevent Gun Violence, found that 74 percent of voters support renewing the ban, but that support is highest—79 percent—among independent voters who are being courted by President Bush and Mr. Kerry. That survey of 800 voters had a margin of error of three percentage points.

Mr. Schoen, who is not advising the Kerry campaign, also surveyed voters in the swing states of Ohio, Florida and Pennsylvania and concluded that support for the ban was high enough to make it a significant issue. ''If Kerry wants to distinguish his position from Bush, this provides a very convenient vehicle,'' he said.

But over all, Democrats have not talked much about the weapons ban. Senator Patty Murray, the Washington Democrat who is in a tough re-election fight, said voters, unaware that the ban was set to expire, had not made it an issue, and that neither had she.

''There are so many issues, education and health care and jobs and the economy in my state right now,'' Ms. Murray said. ''People are really focused on that.''

And over the years the ban has been a losing issue for Democrats. After Republicans took control of the House in 1994, President Clinton remarked that the ban might have cost Democrats 20 seats. Some believe that former Vice President Al Gore lost crucial states, including his home state, Tennessee, in the 2000 election because he came out too strongly for gun control.

Even the ban's chief Democratic backers in Congress, Senator Feinstein and Representative Carolyn McCarthy of New York, acknowledged that Democrats were afraid to be too vocal in their support. ''In the small states in particular, and the rural states, the control of the N.R.A. is much greater,'' said Ms. Feinstein, adding, They will specifically target a member, including a House member, and go after them.''

The N.R.A. has also said it will not endorse a candidate for president until after Congress recesses for the fall election, a pronouncement that the ban's backers say is tantamount to a threat not to endorse Mr. Bush until the ban expires. Mr. LaPierre said the claim was ''100 percent untrue.'' But he blamed Democrats for the bill's undoing, saying they had tried, unwisely, to use it to gain political advantage when Mr. Clinton was president.

''I guess you could say politics is what enacted it in the first place,'' he said. ''Politics is going to be the undoing of it.''

On Wednesday, as the police chiefs and victims' relatives fanned out across Capitol Hill to lobby lawmakers, a chief target was the House speaker, Representative J. Dennis Hastert of Illinois. In recent weeks, advocates for the ban have been approaching Mr. Hastert at bookstores around the country, where he has been signing copies of his new autobiography, ''Speaker.''

Several, including Mr. Mauser, said that Mr. Hastert seemed supportive. ''He said yes, I support that,'' said Penny Okamoto, who said she saw Mr. Hastert on Aug. 16 at a Barnes & Noble store in Beaverton, Ore. ''I was so surprised, I actually asked him twice.''

But on Wednesday, the speaker was noncommittal, saying that if the Senate was to adopt the bill, ''then we'll take a look at it.''

Mr. Mauser said he was not satisfied with that, and would knock on Mr. Hastert's door on Thursday. He said that he had already spoken with an aide to his own congressman, Representative Tom Tancredo, a Republican who opposes the ban, and that the meeting did not go well.

''It ended on a pretty bad note,'' Mr. Mauser said. ''Not even a shake of the hand.''

BUDGET SCOREKEEPING REPORT

Mr. NICKLES. Mr. President, I hereby submit to the Senate the budget scorekeeping report prepared by the Congressional Budget Office under Section 308(b) and in aid of section 311 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974, as amended. This report meets the requirements for Senate scorekeeping of section 5 of S. Con. Res. 32, the first concurrent resolution on the budget for 1986.

This report shows the effects of congressional action on the 2004 budget through September 8, 2004. The estimates of budget authority, outlays, and revenues are consistent with the technical and economic assumptions of the 2004 concurrent resolution on the budget, H. Con. Res. 95, as adjusted.

The estimates show that current level spending is above the budget resolution by $8.0 billion in budget authority and by $31 million in outlays in 2004. Current level for revenues is $3.1 billion above the budget resolution in 2004.

Since my last report dated July 12, 2004, the Congress has cleared and the President has signed the following acts which changed budget authority, outlays, or revenues for 2004: the Surface Transportation Extension Act of 2004, Part IV (P.L. 108–280); the Department of Defense Appropriations Act, 2005 (P.L. 108–287); and, the Emergency Supplemental Appropriations for Disaster Relief Act, 2004 (P.L. 108–303).

I ask unanimous consent that the report and accompanying letter be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

U.S. CONGRESS,
CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE,
Washington, DC, September 9, 2004.

Hon. DON NICKLES,
Chairman, Committee on the Budget, U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: The enclosed tables show the effects of Congressional action on the 2004 budget and are current through September 8, 2004. This report is submitted under section 308(b) and in aid of section 311 of the Congressional Budget Act, as amended.

The estimates of budget authority, outlays, and revenues are consistent with the technical and economic assumptions of H. Con. Res. 95, the Concurrent Resolution on the Budget for Fiscal Year 2004, as adjusted. Pursuant to section 502 of H. Con. Res. 95, provisions designated as emergency requirements are exempt from enforcement of the budget resolution. As a result, the enclosed current level report excludes budget authority of $2 billion from funds provided in the Emergency Supplemental Appropriations for Disaster Relief Act of 2004 (Public Law 108–303).

Since my last letter, dated July 12, 2004, the Congress has cleared and the President has signed the following acts, which changed budget authority, outlays, or revenues for 2004:

The Surface Transportation Extension Act of 2004, Part IV (Public Law 108–280);

The Department of Defense Appropriations Act, 2005 (Public Law 108–287); and

The Emergency Supplemental Appropriations for Disaster Relief Act, 2004 (Public Law 108–303).

The effects of these actions are detailed in Table 2.

Sincerely,

DOUGLAS HOLTZ-EAKIN,
Director.

Enclosures.

TABLE 1.—SENATE CURRENT-LEVEL REPORT FOR SPENDING AND REVENUES FOR FISCAL YEAR 2004, AS OF SEPTEMBER 8, 2004

[In billions of dollars]

	Budget resolution	Current level [1]	Current level over/under (-) resolution
On-budget:			
Budget authority	1,873.5	1,881.4	8.0
Outlays	1,897.0	1,897.0	*
Revenues	1,331.0	1,334.1	3.1
Off-budget:			
Social Security outlays	380.4	380.4	0
Social Security revenues	557.8	557.8	*

[1] Current level is the estimated effect on revenue and spending of all legislation that the Congress has enacted or sent to the President for his approval. In addition, full-year funding estimates under current law are included for entitlement and mandatory programs requiring annual appropriations even if the appropriations have not been made.

Note.—* = less than $50 million.

Source: Congressional Budget Office.

TABLE 2.—SUPPORTING DETAIL FOR THE SENATE CURRENT-LEVEL REPORT FOR ON-BUDGET SPENDING AND REVENUES FOR FISCAL YEAR 2004, AS OF SEPTEMBER 8, 2004

(In millions of dollars)

	Budget authority	Outlays	Revenues
Enacted in previous sessions:			
Revenues	n.a.	n.a.	1,330,756
Permanents and other spending legislation [1]	1,117,131	1,077,938	n.a.
Appropriation legislation	1,148,942	1,179,843	n.a.
Offsetting receipts	−365,798	−365,798	n.a.
Total, enacted in previous sessions:	1,900,275	1,891,983	1,330,756

TABLE 2.—SUPPORTING DETAIL FOR THE SENATE CURRENT-LEVEL REPORT FOR ON-BUDGET SPENDING AND REVENUES FOR FISCAL YEAR 2004, AS OF SEPTEMBER 8, 2004—Continued

(In millions of dollars)

	Budget authority	Outlays	Revenues
Enacted this session:			
Surface Transportation Extension Act of 2004 (P.L. 108–202)	1,328	0	0
Social Security Protection Act of 2004 (P.L. 108–203)	685	685	0
Welfare Reform Extension Act of 2004 (P.L. 108–210)	107	58	0
Act act to reauthorize certain school lunch and child nutrition programs through June 30, 2004 (P.L. 108–211)	6	6	0
Pension Funding Equity Act of 2004 (P.L. 108–218)	0	0	3,363
An act to require the Secretary of Defense to reimburse members of the United States Armed Forces for certain transportation expenses (P.L. 108–220)	13	7	0
Surface Transportation Extension Act of 2004, Part II (P.L. 108–224)	482	0	0
TANF and Related Programs Continuation Act of 2004 (P.L. 108–262)	80	35	0
Surface Transportation Extension Act of 2004, Part III (P.L. 108–263)	422	0	0
Child Nutrition and WIC Reauthorization Act of 2004 (P.L. 108–265)	7	6	0
Act act approving the renewal of import restrictions contained in the Burmese Freedom and Democracy Act of 2003 (P.L. 108–272)	0	0	−2
Surface Transportation Extension Act of 2004, Part IV (P.L. 108–280)	−646	−7	0
AGOA Acceleration Act of 2004 (H.R. 4103)	0	0	−2
Department of Defense Appropriations Act, 2005 (P.L. 108–287)	0	10	0
Total, enacted this session:	2,484	800	3,359
Entitlements and mandatories: Difference between enacted levels and budget resolution estimates for appropriated entitlements and other mandatory programs	−21,334	4,221	n.a.
Total Current Level [1, 2]	1,881,425	1,897,004	1,334,115
Total Budget Resolution	1,873,459	1,896,973	1,331,000
Current Level Over Budget Resolution	7,966	31	3,115
Current Level Under Budget Resolution	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.

[1] Pursuant to section 502 of H. Con. Res. 95, the Concurrent Resolution on the Budget for Fiscal Year 2004, provisions designated as emergency requirements are exempt from enforcement of the budget resolution. As a result, the current level excludes $82,460 million in budget authority and $36,644 million in outlays from previously enacted bills. From the current session, the current level excludes $27,656 million in budget authority and $154 million in outlays from the Department of Defense Appropriations Act, 2005 (P.L. 108–287) and $2,000 million in budget authority from the Emergency Supplemental Appropriations for Disaster Relief Act, 2004 (P.L. 108–303). In addition, pursuant to section 312(c)(3)(A) of S. Con. Res. 95, the Concurrent Resolution on the Budget for Fiscal Year 2005, up to $500 million in budget authority and $330 million in outlays for wildland fire suppression accounts are exempt from the enforcement of the budget resolution for the current fiscal year. In this current level report, these amounts are excluded from the total for the Department of Defense Appropriations Act, 2005 (P.L. 108–287).

[2] Excludes administrative expenses of the Social Security Administration, which are off-budget.

Notes: n.a. = not applicable; P.L. = Public Law.

Source: Congressional Budget Office.

NURSE-MANAGED CLINICS VITAL TO VA

Mr. GRAHAM of Florida. Mr. President, nurses are an invaluable resource for the VA health care system, as well as for health care systems the world over. As such, VA has established nurse-managed primary care clinics at many of its medical centers. These clinics are run by nurse practitioners who serve as independent practitioners with prescriptive authority and a focus on delivering cost-effective, efficient, high quality care. I am pleased to say that on July 6, 2004, the Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs, of which I am ranking member, received VA's favorable report on these clinics, entitled, ''Nurse-Managed Primary Care Clinics Evaluation.''

To complete this report, VA identified three clinics in three VISNs: Fergus Falls, MN; Denver, CO; and Madison, WI. VA then evaluated patient satisfaction, access to care, provider experiences, functional status of patients receiving care, cost of care, and waiting times. Overall, the report concluded that veterans seem immensely satisfied with the care they receive at the clinics and that the costs associated with them are reasonable. I am very proud of the success of these clinics, though not at all surprised by the quality of care provided by VA's nurse practitioners.

The patients surveyed at the three clinics stated that they were highly satisfied with the services received there, especially in terms of length of time spent waiting at the office, time spent with the veteran, explanation of what was done for the patient, technical skills and personal manner of staff, as well as the overall visit. In addition, 67 percent of the veterans served by these clinics rated them good on wait times, convenience of the office location, and the ability to get through to the office by telephone.

The Nurse-Managed Primary Care Clinics Evaluation resulted from a June 14, 2001, hearing conducted by the Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs. At this hearing, in-depth discussion about innovations at a nurse-managed clinic took place. Subsequently, nurse recruitment and retention provisions were included in Public Law 107–135, which included an evaluation of nurse-managed health care clinics in VA. I am pleased that the committee was able to effect the survey that resulted in this extremely encouraging report.

Currently, VA employs 36,000 registered nurses, approximately 6 percent of which are nurse practitioners. Nurses have long been recognized by VA, as well as those of us who oversee it, as indispensable to the delivery of health care. In fact, according to a 1999 article by M.O. Mundinger in Nursing Economics, nurse practitioners are able to effectively provide 90 percent of the services primary care physicians do. In recognizing the great value nurses hold, VA has done all it can to foster and fully utilize these essential members of the health care community. Its nurse-managed primary care clinics are one important, and successful, facet of this effort.

NAMING OF THE USS ''SOMERSET''

Mr. SANTORUM. Mr. President, I speak today on the naming of the USS *Somerset*. On Thursday, September 9, 2004, the United States Navy named the ninth ship of the San Antonio-class of amphibious transport dock ships as Somerset.

The naming of the USS *Somerset* honors Somerset County, the county in Pennsylvania where United Airlines Flight 93 crashed after fearless passengers stormed the cockpit preventing the airplane from hitting its intended target. The USS *Somerset* stands as a reminder of the 40 passengers and crew who exhibited courage and sacrifice in the most dangerous of situations.

The USS *Somerset* also symbolizes the renewed hope, compassion, and cooperation that citizens across our country have shared with one another since that horrific day. September 11, 2001, the day that changed our history and our lives was intended to unravel America's strength, but it has only made us stronger.

When I returned from my first visit to the crash site in Shanksville, PA, I was inspired by the strength of the Flight 93 family members who, being able to keep a better world in sight, now carry the torch of their loves ones. As the USS *Somerset* carries out its mission by providing transport to Marines embarking on expeditionary warfare missions and special operations, let us not forget the compassion of those who provided aid and support to the family and friends of those who lost their lives on September 11, 2001, as well as the courage and responsibility displayed by the heroes aboard Flight 93.

As we reflect on the passing of the third anniversary of the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks, let us not forget the resolve our Nation faced in light of our tragedy. By honoring the memories of all those lost to the terrorist attacks, through the naming of the USS *Somerset*, we are reminded of what the American spirit is capable of. I will never forget the bravery and sacrifice witnessed on that tragic day 3 years ago. May God continue to bless our country as each of us continues to find our own way to exhibit this renewed American spirit.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

IN RECOGNITION OF MARIE SWAJESKI, FOUNDER OF THE DELAWARE CHILDREN'S THEATRE

• Mr. CARPER. Mr. President, I wish to rise today to recognize Marie Swajeski, founder of the Children's Repertory Theatre, now known as the Delaware Children's Theatre. Marie has dedicated her life to children and the theater. She literally has touched the lives of thousands.

Marie was born in Philadelphia, PA to the late David and Helen Mondillo. Growing up in Philadelphia, she met her husband John at a dance hall shortly before World War II. They married a few years later in 1949. The couple moved to Delaware in 1951 when John took a job at Dupont.

Marie's passion for the theater and to make people happy began at an early age. She carried this kindred spirit through adulthood and began direction of theatrical productions in the 1960s for the Ardensingers Candlelight Dinner Theatre and the Catholic Youth Organization. She became involved in both adult and children's activities, and in 1969 became chairwoman of the opera society's Junior Division, today known as the Family Opera Theatre. Marie's community theater experience involvement spans a wide variety of activities, including actor, director, choreographer, producer, and theater arts instructor.

But Marie had a dream and a desire to do more. She wanted to leave a legacy for generations to come. In 1973, she founded and became the artistic director of the Children's Repertory Theatre, now known as the Delaware Children's Theatre, DCT. Rehearsing in various basements and garages, a touring company of children and adults was formed to bring professional quality theater to schools, parks, retirement and nursing homes, hospitals, and colleges throughout Delaware.

Marie set her goals and standards high. At the time, many people thought that there would be little interest in children's theater. Marie proved them wrong. She was a true pioneer. Her strong belief that children would benefit from watching and participating in live theater carried her through this challenging period of time.

She assembled an army of enthusiasts and volunteers who shared her vision. For the next 10 years, they conducted educational workshops for children. DCT received grant money from the Delaware Arts Council in the early years to perform and tour schools throughout the State. In its first decade, DCT presented to critical acclaim over 700 performances to more than 90,000 children.

Over the years, the demand for more children's theater began to grow. The Delaware Children's Theatre needed a home. In 1984, the DCT bought the New Century Club Building on Delaware Avenue in Wilmington. It became more than just a theater to house productions; it has become a magical second home to thousands of children.

DCT has served others as well since its inception. In the early years, the DCT offered free summer workshops for underprivileged children. DCT's outreach group, The Rainbow Players, often performs at the Ronald McDonald House, River Fest—benefiting The Boys & Girls Club—Ministry of Caring, and nursing homes.

It is through Marie's hard work and perseverance that the lives of hundreds of thousands of children have been changed. She has helped shape and enrich the lives of thousands on the stage of the theater, and in the hearts of those who have been lucky enough to call her their friend. I rise today to honor and thank Marie for her selfless dedication to the betterment of others. She truly is a remarkable woman and a testament to the community she represents.•

IN MEMORIUM OF THE REVEREND DR. BROOKS E. REYNOLDS, SR.

• Mr. CARPER. Mr. President, I would like to set aside a few moments today to reflect on the life of a remarkable Delawarean, Rev. Dr. Brooks Reynolds, upon his passing at the age of 88. Dr. Reynolds was among the most remarkable men I have been privileged to know in all of the years I have lived in Delaware. Throughout his life, he demonstrated tremendous courage and integrity. He was a man with a kind heart, great abilities, and boundless energy. Unlike most people who are looking for ways to slow down when they turn 80 years old, Brooks Reynolds kept picking up the pace. In the way he lived his own life, Dr. Reynolds reminded each of us how good we can be.

The Rev. Dr. Brooks E. Reynolds, Sr., was born in Shortly, DE, on November 2, 1915, to the late John and Lida Rickards Reynolds. Upon completing high school in Georgetown in 1933, he attended Goldey College, now known as Goldey Beacom College, in Wilmington and Washington College in Chestertown, MD, before earning a bachelor's degree in education and a master's degree in sacred theology from Temple University in Philadelphia, PA. His doctorate of divinity degree was earned at Howard University in Washington, DC.

Dr. Reynolds was lucky enough to have found love twice in his life. He married Grace Collins Reynolds in 1939 and together they served a number of churches beginning in Hooper's Island, MD, in 1938, a part of the former Wilmington Conference of the Methodist Church. Grace passed away in 1993.

His dear friend, Beatrice Simonds, was an important part of his latest ministries and they spent many happy years together before his passing. She describes him as having ''personality plus.'' In Bea's words, ''If there ever was a God on earth, he was.''

In 1945, Dr. Reynolds was called to start a new church in Wilmington Manor just south of Wilmington, DE. Beginning with meetings in a private home, the church grew through two building programs and the renaming to Asbury United Methodist Church. It had a membership of 2300 when Dr. Reynolds was reassigned to Bethesda United Methodist Church in Salisbury, MD, in 1974.

Dr. Reynolds first retired in 1986 but returned to active ministry to serve three additional pastorates, most recently Christ United Methodist Church in Laurel from 1999 to 2001, where I was once privileged to speak as a lay person while Governor of Delaware. In 1954, he became the first chaplain of the Delaware State Police and in 2003 was awarded the first Delaware State Police emeritus status with promotion to major. Dr. Reynolds also served as the chaplain for the Delaware State Hospital.

Other significant past affiliations included the chaplaincy of Governor Bacon Health Center in Delaware City, secretary of the board of evangelism and president of the board of trustees of the Peninsula Conference Board of Hospital and Homes, and president of the trustees of the Manor House in Seaford. He was a 32nd degree Mason and Past Grand Chaplain of the Masonic Lodge of Delaware.

Dr. Reynolds will always be remembered by me and by the tens of thousands of people whose lives he touched and enriched as a kind and compassionate man who loved all people. He saw no distinction between color, gender, race, or creed. He was a visionary in every sense of the word. Life was about growth, and he was always trying to find new ways to reach out to people. When the church had no money, Dr. Reynolds bought a bus to transport people to church who otherwise had no way of coming to church. The bus transported parishioners, children to Sunday school, and to day care. Some 300 children rode his buses. The church's fleet of buses expanded to include 27 buses.

Dr. Reynolds had a great sense of humor and was known for telling fabulous stories. One of my favorite all-time quotations came from him, too. ''The main thing is to keep the main thing the main thing.'' He often injected humor into his sermons and had a quick wit. He was a genuine person, and was not just comfortable to be around; he was a joy to be around.

Dr. Reynolds is survived by his sons, Brooks E. Reynolds, Jr., of Topeka, KS, and State Representative Bruce C. Reynolds and his wife, Kathleen, of Bear, DE, as well as by seven grandchildren, Ty, Lyda, Blair, Bret and Chad Reynolds, Mary Bock, and Brian Seals, and one great-granddaughter, Tara Leek.

I rise today to commemorate Dr. Reynolds, to celebrate his life, and to offer his family my support. Dr. Reynolds embodied the best of Delaware, and he will be sorely missed by us all.•

IN HONOR OF DONALD R. DOSER ON THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT FROM OPERATING ENGINEERS, LOCAL 3

• Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, recognize Donald R. Doser, business manager emeritus of Operating Engineers, Local 3, as he prepares to retire.

Donald Doser has been a man committed to excellence. He has been a major force in the construction trades since 1958. A graduate of Harvard University's trade union school, he dedicated his career to improving the lives of working men and women in the construction trades. Donald has served as Local 3's district representative and business manager. He also served as general vice president for the International Union of Operating Engineers.

During his tenure with Operating Engineers Local 3, Donald organized, trained staff and diligently worked to keep business operations on a sound financial footing. The list of his achievements and accomplishments during his leadership over the years is long. He increased the membership of Local 3 and focused on organizing new workers, creating equalized health benefits for members and improved vision-care coverage.

Donald Doser, in addition to his more obvious accomplishments, established and maintained a higher standard of integrity in his organization. He undertook his many tasks with great determination and dedication. I am pleased to congratulate and pay tribute to him, and I encourage m colleagues to join me in wishing Donald Doser and his family the very best as he embarks on the next chapter in his life.•

SOLDIERS AND NASCAR

• Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. President, I will make a few remarks concerning NASCAR and our soldiers at Walter Reed.

On June 3, I attended a Memorial Day dinner at the Walter Reed Army Hospital honoring our country's wounded soldiers. I occasionally visit the hospital to pay my respects to our country's wounded heroes. On this occasion, however, I had the opportunity to meet two of NASCAR's greatest drivers, Rusty Wallace and Jimmie Johnson, who were also participating in this event. Many of the soldiers at the hospital follow NASCAR, and the racers' appearance at the hospital lifted the spirits of both wounded soldiers and dedicated hospital staff members. I am sure Rusty and Jimmie would agree with me when I say that nothing is more humbling or gratifying than meeting these real-life heroes, the men and women who have served our country in such a noble manner. I want to personally thank Rusty Wallace and Jimmie Johnson for taking the time to share in this rewarding experience. They too are great patriots giving of their time to recognize these heroes.

Walter Reed Army Hospital is an amazing place. I have seen firsthand why it is the Nation's most effective military health care facility. Our soldiers and those who represent all the other military services are the reason that America is the paramount military force in the world today.

The caregivers at Walter Reed, Bethesda and military hospitals overseas are some of America's great unsung heroes. They are the doctors and nurses who are responsible for helping our soldiers get well and back to their families or in uniform as soon as possible. Their needs and concerns are equally important to me and my colleagues. With the help of these doctors and nurses, our military services are improving the quality of care provided to soldiers, their family members, our veterans and retirees. Most of these soldiers were doing well although most had received serious wounds. Their loyalty to their brothers at arms and to America is inspiring. We sent them there in our place so we would be safer at home. And they have performed superbly. Jimmie and Rusty understand that all of us, whether racer, politician, critic, or protestor, enjoy the good life in this country because of the courage of the soldier, their willingness to serve for us.

NASCAR and its fans love America. Their skills and their cars reflect our freedom and the technological skills that make us world leaders. It was a great thing, that these super stars found time in their hectic and intense schedule to provide comfort, sympathy, and inspiration to these who have sacrificed for us. I thank them for it.•

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Ms. Evans, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations, a withdrawal and a treaty which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The nominations received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, and were referred as indicated:

EC–9055. A communication from the Congressional Review Coordinator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Importation of Unmanufactured Wood Articles From Mexico'' (Doc. No. 98–054–3) received on September 6, 2004; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC–9056. A communication from the Congressional Review Coordinator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Brucellosis in Cattle; State and Area Classifications; Missouri'' (Doc. No. 01–015–2) received on September 6, 2004; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC–9057. A communication from the Deputy Associate Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Forchlorfenuron; N–(2–chloro–4–pyridinyl)–N'–phenylurea; Time–Limited Pesticide Tolerance'' (FRL#7362–1) received on September 6, 2004; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC–9058. A communication from the Secretary of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the 2003 Status Report to Congress for the Herger–Feinstein Quincy Library Group Forest Recovery Act of 1998; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC–9059. A communication from the Deputy Associate Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Pyrimethanil Pesticide Tolerances'' (FRL#7371–2) received on September 6, 2004; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC–9060. A communication from the Administrator, Risk Management Agency, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Common Crop Insurance Regulations; Blueberry Crop Insurance Provisions'' (RIN0563–AB76) received on September 6, 2004; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC–9061. A communication from the Administrator, Risk Management Agency, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Common Crop Insurance Regulations: Apple Crop Insurance Provisions'' (RIN0563–AB92) received on September 6, 2004; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC–9062. A communication from the Administrator, Risk Management Agency, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Common Crop Insurance Regulations; Pecan Crop Insurance Provisions'' (RIN0563–AB91) received on September 6, 2004; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC–9063. A communication from the Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Kiwifruit Grown in California; Relaxation of Pack and Container Requirements'' (Doc. No. FV04–920–1) received on September 9, 2004; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC–9064. A communication from the Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Fresh Prunes Grown in Designated Counties in Washington and in Umatilla County, Oregon; Increased Assessment Rate'' (Doc. No. FV04–924–1) received on September 9, 2004; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC–9065. A communication from the Acting Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition, Technology, and Logistics, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, 14 quarterly Selected Acquisition Reports (SARs) for the quarter ending June 30, 2004; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC–9066. A communication from the Deputy Chief of Naval Operations for Manpower

and Personnel, Department of the Navy, transmitting, pursuant to law, the notification of a decision to implement performance by the Most Efficient Organization (MEO) for Retail Supply Mid–Atlantic and Retail Supply, Installation, and Bulk Liquid Storage in Tidewater, VA; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC–9067. A communication from the Deputy Chief of Naval Operations for Manpower and Personnel, Department of the Navy, transmitting, pursuant to law, the notification of a decision to implement performance by the Most Efficient Organization (MEO) for the Public Works Center in Great Lakes, IL; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC–9068. A communication from the Employee Benefits Program Manager, Human Resources Support Branch, Department of the Navy, transmitting, pursuant to law, the annual report for 2004 of the Retirement Plan for Civilian Employees of the United States Marine Corps; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC–9069. A communication from the Director, Pentagon Renovation and Construction Program Office, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, the annual report on the Pentagon Renovation Program; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC–9070. A communication from the Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition, Technology, and Logistics, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the consolidation of the storage of National Defense Stockpile (NDS) mercury; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC–9071. A communication from the Deputy Secretary, Division of Market Regulation, Securities and Exchange Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Rule 15c3–3 Reserve Requirements for Margin Related to Security Futures Products'' (RIN3235–AI61) received on September 6, 2004; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC–9072. A communication from the White House Liaison, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a nomination confirmed for the position of Under Secretary for Enforcement, Department of the Treasury, received on September 6, 2004; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC–9073. A communication from the White House Liaison, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a nomination confirmed for the position of Assistant Secretary for Terrorist Financing, Department of the Treasury, received on September 6, 2004; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC–9074. A communication from the White House Liaison, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a nomination for the position of Assistant Secretary for Tax Policy, Department of the Treasury, received on September 6, 2004; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC–9075. A communication from the White House Liaison, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a vacancy, designation of acting officer, and nomination for the position of Assistant Secretary for Financial Markets, Department of the Treasury, received on September 6, 2004; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC–9076. A communication from the White House Liaison, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a nomination for the position of Treasurer of the United States, Department of the Treasury, received on September 6, 2004; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC–9077. A communication from the White House Liaison, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a nomination confirmed for the position of Member, IRS Oversight Board, Department of the Treasury, received on September 6, 2004; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC–9078. A communication from the Chairman and President, Export Import Bank of the United States, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a transaction involving U.S. exports to Mexico; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC–9079. A communication from the Chairman and President, Export Import Bank of the United States, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a transaction involving U.S. exports to India; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC–9080. A communication from the Chairman and President, Export Import Bank of the United States, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a transaction involving U.S. exports to Romania; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC–9081. A communication from the Acting General Counsel, National Credit Union Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''12 C.F.R. Parts 721 and 724—Health Savings Accounts'' received on September 6, 2004; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC–9082. A communication from the Director, Federal Emergency Management Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to funding for the State of New Jersey as a result of September 11, 2001; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC–9083. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Office of Regulatory Policy, Securities and Exchange Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Prohibition on the Use of Brokerage Commissions to Finance Distribution'' (RIN3235–AJ07) received on September 6, 2004; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC–9084. A communication from the Acting General Counsel, Federal Emergency Management Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Changes in Flood Elevation Determinations; 69 FR 47780'' (Doc. No. FEMA–P–7636) received on September 8, 2004; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC–9085. A communication from the Acting General Counsel, Federal Emergency Management Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Changes in Flood Elevation Determinations; 69 FR 47786'' (44 CFR 65) received on September 8, 2004; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC–9086. A communication from the Assistant Secretary for Housing, Federal Housing Commissioner, Department of Housing and Urban Development, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the receipt of mortgage insurance by federally qualified health centers; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC–9087. A communication from the Acting General Counsel, Federal Emergency Management Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''National Flood Insurance Program; Assistance to Private Sector Insurers'' (RIN1660–AA28) received on September 8, 2004; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC–9088. A communication from the Acting General Counsel, Federal Emergency Management Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Final Flood Elevation Determination; 69 FR 46436'' (44 CFR Part 67) received on September 8, 2004; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC–9089. A communication from the Acting General Counsel, Federal Emergency Management Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Suspension of Community Eligibility; 69 FR 46435'' (Doc. No. FEMA–7839) received on September 8, 2004; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC–9090. A communication from the Acting General Counsel, Federal Emergency Management Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Final Flood Elevation Determination; 69 FR 46437'' (44 CFR Part 67) received on September 8, 2004; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC–9091. A communication from the Chief Counsel, Bureau of the Public Debt, Treasury Department, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Sale and Issue of Marketable Treasury Bills, Notes, and Bonds: Six–Decimal Pricing, Negative–Yield Bidding, Zero–Filing, and Noncompetitive Bidding and Award Limit Increase'' received on September 6, 2004; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC–9092. A communication from the Deputy Secretary of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on the national emergency blocking property of persons undermining the democratic processes or institutions in Zimbabwe that was declared in Executive Order 13288 of March 6, 2003; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC–9093. A communication from the Director, Office of Legislative Affairs, Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Risk–Based Capital Guidelines; Consolidation of Asset Backed Commercial Paper Programs and Other Related Issues'' (RIn3064–AC75) received on September 9, 2004; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC–9094. A communication from the Chairman, Securities and Exchange Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Commission's Government Performance and Results Act Strategic Plan for 2004–2009; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC–9095. A communication from the Chairman, Federal Trade Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the premerger notification program; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–9096. A communication from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Closure of Arrowtooth Flounder in the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Management Area'' received on September 6, 2004; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–9097. A communication from the Deputy Assistant Administrator, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Effectiveness of Collection of Information Requirements'' (RIN0648–AQ98) received on September 6, 2004; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–9098. A communication from the Assistant Administrator, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Magnuson Act Provisions; Fisheries Off West Coast States and in the Western Pacific; Pacific Coast Groundfish Fishery; Pacific Whiting; Routine Management Measure; Closure Authority''

(RIN0648–AS48) received on September 6, 2004; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–9099. A communication from the Assistant Administrator, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Fisheries of the Northeastern United States; Final 2004 Specifications for the Atlantic Bluefish Fishery'' (RIN0648–AQ85) received on September 6, 2004; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–9100. A communication from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Closing 'Other Flatfish' in the BSAI'' received on September 6, 2004; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–9101. A communication from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Closing Rock Sole in the BSAI'' received on September 6, 2004; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–9102. A communication from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Fisheries Off West Coast States and in the Western Pacific; Pacific Coast Groundfish Fishery; End of the Pacific Whiting Primary Season for the Shore-Based Sector and the Resumption of Trip Limits'' (ID811041) received on September 6, 2004; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–9103. A communication from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Notification of the Vessel Assignments for the B Season Atka Mackerel Fishery in the Harvest Limit Area 542 and/or 543 in the Aleutian Islands Subarea of the BSAI'' received on September 6, 2004; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–9104. A communication from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Implementation of the Yellowtail Flounder Landing Limit for Western and Eastern U.S./Canada Areas'' received on September 6, 2004; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–9105. A communication from the Under Secretary and Director, Patent and Trademark Office, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Revision of Patent Fees for Fiscal Year 2005'' (RIN0651–AB70) received on September 9, 2004; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–9106. A communication from the Under Secretary and Director, Patent and Trademark Office, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Changes in the Requirements for Amendment and Correction of Trademark Registrations'' (RIN0561–AB67) received on September 9, 2004; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–9107. A communication from the Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Prohibition Against Certain Flights Within the Territory and Airspace of Iraq; Approval Process for Requests for Authorization to Operate in Airspace; Doc. No. FAA–2003–14766'' (RIN2120–ZZ51) received on July 27, 2004; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–9108. A communication from the Secretary of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the Telecommunications Development Report; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–9109. A communication from the Secretary, Bureau of Consumer Protection, Federal Trade Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Rule Concerning Disclosures Regarding Energy Consumption and Water Use of Certain Home Appliances and Other Products Required Under the Energy Policy and Conservation Act (Dishwasher Ranges)'' (RIN3084–AA74) received on September 8, 2004; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–9110. A communication from the Secretary, Bureau of Consumer Protection, Federal Trade Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Contact Lens Rule'' (RIN3084–AA95) received on September 8, 2004; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–9111. A communication from the Secretary, Bureau of Consumer Protection, Federal Trade Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Telemarketing Sales Rule Fees'' (RIN3084–AA86) received on September 8, 2004; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–9112. A communication from the Administrator, Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to federal agency use of voluntary consensus standards and conformity assessment; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–9113. A communication from the Director, Office of Human Resources Management, Department of Energy, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of the designation of acting officer and nomination for the position of Assistant Secretary for Environment, Safety, and Health, Department of Energy, received on September 6, 2004; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC–9114. A communication from the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Policy, Management and Budget, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the impacts of the Compacts of Free Association with the Republic of Palau, the Federated States of Micronesia, and the Republic of the Marshall Islands; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC–9115. A communication from the Assistant Secretary for Fish, Wildlife, and Parks, Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Migratory Bird Hunting: Early Seasons and Bag and Possession Limits for Certain Migratory Game Birds in the Contiguous United States, Alaska, Hawaii, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands'' (RIN1018–AT93) received on September 6, 2004; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC–9116. A communication from the Acting Assistant for Fish, Wildlife, and Parks, Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Migratory Bird Hunting: Final Frameworks for Early Season Migratory Bird Hunting Regulations'' (RIN1018–AT53) received on September 8, 2004; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC–9117. A communication from the Deputy Associate Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; District of Columbia; Update to Materials Incorporated By Reference'' (FRL#7791–9) received on September 9, 2004; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–9118. A communication from the Deputy Associate Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; Georgia; Approval of Revisions to the State Implementation Plan; Correction'' (FRL#7798–7) received on September 9, 2004; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–9119. A communication from the Deputy Associate Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; South Carolina: Source Testing'' (FRL#7799–5) received on September 9, 2004; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–9120. A communication from the Deputy Associate Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Virginia; Revised Major Stationary Source Applicability for Reasonably Available Control Technology in the Northern Virginia Ozone Nonattainment Area'' (FRL#7798–6) received on September 9, 2004; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–9121. A communication from the Deputy Associate Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Oil Pollution and Response; Non-Transportation-Related Onshore and Offshore Facilities'' (FRL#7800–2) received on September 9, 2004; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–9122. A communication from the Deputy Associate Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Finding of Failure to Attain and Reclassification to Serious Nonattainment; Imperial Valley Planning Area; California; Particulate Matter of 10 Microns or Less'' (FRL#7800–5) received on September 9, 2004; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–9123. A communication from the Chairman, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, a report relative to the Commission's licensing and regulatory duties; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–9124. A communication from the Deputy Associate Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Revisions to the California State Implementation Plan, Antelope Valley Air Quality Management District'' (FRL#7804–2) received on September 9, 2004; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–9125. A communication from the Deputy Associate Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; State of Colorado; Colorado Springs Revised Carbon Monoxide Maintenance Plan and Approval of Related Revisions'' (FRL#7809–2) received on September 9, 2004; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–9126. A communication from the Deputy Associate Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Virginia; Update to Materials Incorporated by Reference'' (FRL#7808–8) received on September 9, 2004;

to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–9127. A communication from the Deputy Associate Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans for California-San Joaquin Valley PM–10'' (FRL#7807–2) received on September 9, 2004; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–9128. A communication from the Deputy Associate Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; New Source Review; State of Nevada, Clark County Department of Air Quality and Environmental Management'' (FRL#7808–7) received on September 9, 2004; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–9129. A communication from the Deputy Associate Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants for Secondary Aluminum Production'' (FRL#7808–2) received on September 9, 2004; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–9130. A communication from the Deputy Associate Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Pesticide Worker Protection Standard; Glove Liners, and Chemical-Resistant Glove Requirements for Agricultural Pilots'' (FRL#7352–3) received on September 9, 2004; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–9131. A communication from the Deputy Associate Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Changing the Ozone Monitoring Season in Idaho from April Through October to May Through September'' (FRL#7801–6) received on September 9, 2004 ; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–9132. A communication from the Deputy Associate Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Pennsylvania; Federally Enforceable State Operating Permit Program for Allegheny County'' (FRL#7807–3) received on September 9, 2004; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–9133. A communication from the Deputy Associate Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Washington'' (FRL#7807–1) received on September 9, 2004; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–9134. A communication from the Deputy Associate Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; New Jersey; Revised Motor Vehicle Transportation Conformity Budgets'' (FRL#7807–6) received on September 9, 2004; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–9135. A communication from the Deputy Associate Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants: Solvent Extraction for Vegetable Oil Production'' (FRL#7808–4) received on September 9, 2004; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–9136. A communication from the Deputy Associate Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Revisions to the California State Implementation Plan, Antelope Valley Air Quality Management District and Mojave Desert Air Quality Management District'' (FRL#7804–1) received on September 9, 2004; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–9137. A communication from the Chairman, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Commission's latest monthly report on the status of its licensing and regulatory duties; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–9138. A communication from the Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks, Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Migratory Bird Hunting: Migratory Bird Hunting Regulations on Certain Federal Indian Reservations and Ceded Lands for the 2004–05 Early Season'' (RIN1018–AT53) received on September 8, 2004; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Ms. COLLINS:

S. 2792. A bill to permit athletes to receive nonimmigrant status under certain conditions, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. SANTORUM:

S. 2793. A bill to remove civil liability barriers that discourage the donation of fire equipment to volunteer fire companies; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. KENNEDY (for himself, Mr. DODD, Mr. HARKIN, Ms. MIKULSKI, Mr. BINGAMAN, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. REED, and Mrs. CLINTON):

S. 2794. A bill to improve elementary and secondary education; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. ENZI (for himself, Mr. BAUCUS, Mr. ALEXANDER, Mrs. DOLE, and Mr. LIEBERMAN):

S. 2795. A bill to provide for higher education affordability, access, and opportunity; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. CRAIG (for himself and Mr. DURBIN):

S. 2796. A bill to clarify that service marks, collective marks, and certification marks are entitled to the same protections, rights, and privileges of trademarks; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Mr. CONRAD (for himself and Mr. JEFFORDS):

S. Con. Res. 136. A concurrent resolution honoring and memorializing the passengers and crew of United Airlines Flight 93; to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 352

At the request of Mr. LEAHY, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. LAUTENBERG) was added as a cosponsor of S. 352, a bill to ensure that commercial insurers cannot engage in price fixing, bid rigging, or market allocations to the detriment of competition and consumers.

S. 1379

At the request of Mr. JOHNSON, the names of the Senator from Montana (Mr. BURNS), the Senator from Utah (Mr. BENNETT) and the Senator from Texas (Mrs. HUTCHISON) were added as cosponsors of S. 1379, a bill to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in commemoration of veterans who became disabled for life while serving in the Armed Forces of the United States.

S. 1704

At the request of Ms. COLLINS, the name of the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. INOUYE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1704, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to establish a State family support grant program to end the practice of parents giving legal custody of their seriously emotionally disturbed children to State agencies for the purpose of obtaining mental health services for those children.

S. 2313

At the request of Ms. MIKULSKI, her name was added as a cosponsor of S. 2313, a bill to amend the Help America Vote Act of 2002 to require a voter-verified permanent record or hardcopy under title III of such Act, and for other purposes.

S. 2426

At the request of Mr. NELSON of Nebraska, the names of the Senator from Nebraska (Mr. HAGEL) and the Senator from Washington (Mrs. MURRAY) were added as cosponsors of S. 2426, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to clarify the treatment of payment under the medicare program for clinical laboratory tests furnished by critical access hospitals.

S. 2431

At the request of Mr. NELSON of Nebraska, the names of the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. COCHRAN) and the Senator from Indiana (Mr. BAYH) were added as cosponsors of S. 2431, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to improve access to diabetes self-management training by designating certified diabetes educators recognized by the National Certification Board of Diabetes Educators as certified providers for purposes of outpatient diabetes education services under part B of the medicare program.

S. 2526

At the request of Mr. BOND, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. DODD) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2526, a bill to reauthorize the Children's Hospitals Graduate Medical Education Program.

S. 2539

At the request of Mr. CAMPBELL, the name of the Senator from Utah (Mr. HATCH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2539, a bill to amend the Tribally Controlled Colleges or University Assistance Act and the Higher Education Act

to improve Tribal Colleges and Universities, and for other purposes.

S. 2568

At the request of Mr. BIDEN, the name of the Senator from Indiana (Mr. LUGAR) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2568, a bill to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in commemoration of the tercentenary of the birth of Benjamin Franklin, and for other purposes.

S. 2587

At the request of Ms. STABENOW, the names of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. KENNEDY) and the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. LAUTENBERG) were added as cosponsors of S. 2587, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to adjust the amount of payment under the physician fee schedule for drug administration services furnished to medicare beneficiaries.

S. 2613

At the request of Mr. HAGEL, the name of the Senator from Washington (Mrs. MURRAY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2613, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to establish a scholarship and loan repayment program for public health preparedness workforce development to eliminate critical public health preparedness workforce shortages in Federal, State, and local public health agencies.

S. 2659

At the request of Ms. COLLINS, the name of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. DASCHLE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2659, a bill to extend the temporary increase in payments under the medicare program for home health services furnished in a rural area.

S. 2671

At the request of Mr. ROCKEFELLER, the names of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) and the Senator from Washington (Mrs. MURRAY) were added as cosponsors of S. 2671, a bill to extend temporary State fiscal relief, and for other purposes.

S. 2718

At the request of Mr. DEWINE, the names of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. LIEBERMAN), the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) and the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. LAUTENBERG) were added as cosponsors of S. 2718, a bill to provide for programs and activities with respect to the prevention of underage drinking.

S. 2734

At the request of Mr. CAMPBELL, the name of the Senator from Arizona (Mr. MCCAIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2734, a bill to implement the recommendations of the Inspector General of the Department of the Interior regarding Indian Tribal detention facilities.

S. 2741

At the request of Mr. DASCHLE, the name of the Senator from Washington (Mrs. MURRAY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2741, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to reauthorize and extend the Fetal Alcohol Syndrome prevention and services program, and for other purposes.

S. 2754

At the request of Mr. DASCHLE, the name of the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. INOUYE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2754, a bill to amend the Social Security Act to protect social security cost-of-living adjustments (COLA).

S. 2759

At the request of Mr. ROCKEFELLER, the names of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. LAUTENBERG) and the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) were added as cosponsors of S. 2759, a bill to amend title XXI of the Social Security Act to modify the rules relating to the availability and method of redistribution of unexpended SCHIP allotments, and for other purposes.

S. 2762

At the request of Mr. GRASSLEY, the name of the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. DORGAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2762, a bill to encourage the use of indigenous feedstock from the Caribbean Basin region with respect to ethyl alcohol for fuel use.

S. 2780

At the request of Ms. STABENOW, the name of the Senator from New York (Mrs. CLINTON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2780, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to stabilize the amount of the medicare part B premium.

S. 2781

At the request of Mr. LUGAR, the names of the Senator from North Carolina (Mrs. DOLE) and the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. DODD) were added as cosponsors of S. 2781, a bill to express the sense of Congress regarding the conflict in Darfur, Sudan, to provide assistance for the crisis in Darfur and for comprehensive peace in Sudan, and for other purposes.

S. CON. RES. 111

At the request of Mr. LUGAR, the name of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. BIDEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. Con. Res. 111, a concurrent resolution expressing the sense of the Congress that a commemorative stamp should be issued in honor of the centennial anniversary of Rotary International and its work to eradicate polio.

S. RES. 419

At the request of Mr. CORNYN, the name of the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 419, a resolution expressing the sense of the Senate with respect to the continuity of Government and the smooth transition of executive power.

S. RES. 422

At the request of Mr. GRAHAM of South Carolina, the name of the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. PRYOR) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 422, a resolution expressing the sense of the Senate that the President should designate the week beginning September 12, 2004, as ''National Historically Black Colleges and Universities Week''.

AMENDMENT NO. 3615

At the request of Mr. KENNEDY, his name was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 3615 proposed to H.R. 4567, a bill making appropriations for the Department of Homeland Security for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2005, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 3617

At the request of Mr. LAUTENBERG, the names of the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. AKAKA) and the Senator from Washington (Ms. CANTWELL) were added as cosponsors of amendment No. 3617 proposed to H.R. 4567, a bill making appropriations for the Department of Homeland Security for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2005, and for other purposes.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Ms. COLLINS:

S. 2792. A bill to permit athletes to receive nonimmigrant status under certain conditions, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, I rise today to introduce legislation to address the inability of promising, talented young athletes from other countries to play for sports teams in the United States, such as the MAINEiacs, a junior league hockey team in Lewiston, ME. This year's shortage of H–2B nonimmigrant visas for temporary or seasonal nonagricultural foreign workers is a matter of great concern to me and to many in my home State of Maine. In early March, the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services announced that the congressionally mandated cap of 66,000 H–2B visas would soon be met. It immediately stopped accepting applications for these visas. This meant that thousands of employers in Maine and across the United States who rely on the H–2B program have been in a very difficult position this summer.

For example, Maine's tourism and hospitality industry, as well as its forest products industry, have been particularly hard-pressed to find enough American workers to keep their businesses running at normal levels during what is their busiest time of year. What many people do not know, however, is that the H–2B visa shortage has also meant that hundreds of promising athletes have been unable to come to the United States to play for minor league and amateur sports teams across the Nation.

Those affected by the H–2B problem are not confined to just one industry or one State. That is why I cosponsored two pieces of legislation that would immediately address this problem: S. 2252, the Save the Summer Act, introduced by Senator KENNEDY, and S. 2258, the Summer Operations and Services (SOS) Relief and Reform Act, introduced by Senators HATCH and CHAMBLISS. The former would increase the H–2B visa cap by 40,000 this fiscal year, while the

latter would exclude from the cap returning foreign workers who were counted against the cap within the past 2 years. It has become clear, however, that until this legislation comes before the full Senate for a vote, we must continue to actively seek alternative solutions to this problem.

One issue we must address is the problem facing the many minor league professional teams, as well as junior league hockey teams, that rely on H–2B visas. Without these visas, sports teams in Maine and across the Nation have been unable to bring some of their most talented prospects to the United States. Major League sports have also lost a traditional source of talent for their teams.

In my home State of Maine, for example, the Lewiston MAINEiacs, a Canadian junior hockey league team, has been unable to obtain the H–2b visas necessary for the majority of its players to remain in the United States to play in the team's first home games this September. Although these players range in age from 16 to 20, the majority of them are between 16 and 18 years old and are required during the hockey season to balance the demands of athletics and academics. These scholar-athletes are among Canada's most talented junior players, but due to the shortage of H–2B visas, they are in danger of missing out on a tremendous opportunity to improve their skills and, possibly, graduate to a career in professional hockey. In addition, for each home game that the team must cancel or reschedule, the economic impact on the city of Lewiston, and nearby Auburn, in terms of lost hotel and restaurant revenue will be considerable.

The Portland Sea Dogs, a Double-A level baseball team affiliated with the Boston Red Sox, also relies on H–2B visas to bring several of its most skilled players to the United States. Thousands of fans come out each year to see this team, and others like it across the country, play what is arguably one of America's favorite sports. This year, however, approximately 300 talented young, foreign baseball players have been prevented from coming to the U.S. to play for minor league teams, a proving ground for athletes hoping to make it to the Major Leagues.

The P–1 nonimmigrant visa is used by athletes who are deemed by the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services as performing at an ''internationally recognized level of performance.'' Unfortunately, USCIS has interpreted this visa category to exclude these talented minor and amateur league athletes. This visa is typically reserved for only those athletes who have already been promoted to Major League sports. However, none of these promising athletes is likely to earn a Major League contract if the players are not first permitted to hone their skills, and to prove themselves, in the minor leagues. This problem can easily be solved by expanding the P–1 visa category to include minor league athletes, as well as those amateur-level athletes, like the Lewiston MAINEiacs, who have demonstrated a significant likelihood of graduating to the major leagues.

I have received a letter from officials from Major League Baseball, which strongly supports the expansion of the P–1 visa category to include professional minor league baseball players. I ask unanimous consent to print this letter in the RECORD. As the League points out, by making P–1 visas available to this group of athletes, teams would be able to make player development decisions based on the talent of its players, without being constrained by visa quotas. The P–1 category, the League argues, is appropriate for minor league players because these are the players that the Major League Clubs have selected as some of the best baseball prospects in the world.

There is no question that Americans are passionate about sports. We have high expectations for our teams, and demand only the best from our athletes. By expanding the P–1 visa category, we will make it possible for athletes to be selected based on talent and skill, rather than nationality. I ask that we act quickly to amend the law to make this possible.

There being no objection, the letter was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

MAJOR LEAGUE BASEBALL,
OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER,
July 22, 2004.

Re Legislation for Nonimmigrant Alien Status for Certain Athletes.

Hon. SUSAN M. COLLINS,
U.S. Senator from Maine, Russell Senate Office Building, Washington, DC.

DEAR SENATOR COLLINS: I write to express Major League Baseball's support for your efforts on behalf of Minor League professional baseball players. We understand that you are considering sponsoring legislation that will enable Minor League players to obtain P–1 work visas to perform in the United States.

Currently, foreign players under Minor League contracts are required to obtain H–2B (temporary worker) work visas to perform in the United States. The United States Citizenship and Immigration Services stopped accepting H–2B visa applications in March this year, citing the nationwide cap in the number of such visas that can be issued. That action has prevented approximately 300 young baseball players from performing in the Minor Leagues in the United States this season and developing their skills in the hopes of becoming Major League players.

Minor League experience is crucial in developing the best possible Major League players. Unlike other professional athletes, baseball players almost invariably cannot go directly from high school or college to the Major Leagues. Almost all need substantial experience in the Minor Leagues to develop their talents and skills to Major League quality. To get that necessary experience, young players are signed by Major League Clubs and assigned to play for Minor League affiliates throughout the United States, such as the Eastern League's Portland Sea Dogs in your state.

The Major League Clubs are currently able to use only 81% of the H–2B visas the Department of Labor allowed them for this season, because current laws prevented them from making decisions in the late spring and throughout the summer to promote foreign prospects to United States affiliates. Major League Clubs sign players from the Dominican Republic and Venezuela and assign them at first to affiliates in those countries, then seek to promote them to affiliates in the United States as players' skills progress. Typically, a Club would seek to promote 3–5 players per season to Minor League affiliates in the United States, but the visa restrictions this year have made those promotions impossible. We have learned that at least several Clubs shied away from drafting foreign (mostly Canadian) players whom they otherwise might have selected in the annual First-Year Player Draft in June, because those Clubs knew there would be no opportunity for those players to begin their professional careers in the United States this season. For the Canadian players who were drafted this past June, signings have declined 80% from 2003. These results of the current visa laws have deprived Minor League fans across America from seeing the best young players possible perform for affiliates of the Major League Baseball Clubs and have affected the quality and attractiveness of those affiliates.

Under your leadership, congressional legislation could, by sensibly making available P–1 visas to professional Minor League athletes, ensure that the best baseball prospects from around the world will get the opportunity to develop here in the United States, without the constraint that the H–2B visa cap imposes. The National Association of Professional Baseball Leagues, Inc., also known as Minor League Baseball, shares our support of your legislation. The Major League Baseball Players Association also supports allowing the best young players to develop here in the United States.

Major League Baseball hopes that your Senate colleagues will follow your leadership and pursue a legislative remedy to a problem that is threatening to weaken Baseball's Minor League system.

Sincerely,

RICHARD L. ALDERSON,
Executive Vice President,
Baseball Operations.

By Mr. SANTORUM:

S. 2793. A bill to remove civil liability barriers that discourage the donation of fire equipment to volunteer fire companies; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

Mr. SANTORUM. Mr. President, I rise today to introduce the ''Good Samaritan Volunteer Firefighter Assistance Act of 2004.'' On September 11, 2001, the Nation witnessed the tragic loss of hundreds of heroic firefighters. Amazingly, every year quality firefighting equipment worth millions of dollars is wasted. In order to avoid civil liability lawsuits, heavy industry and wealthier fire departments destroy surplus equipment, including hoses, fire trucks, protective gear and breathing apparatus, instead of donating it to volunteer fire departments.

The basic purpose of this legislation is to induce donations of surplus firefighting equipment by reducing the threat of civil liability for organizations, most commonly heavy industry, and individuals who wish to make these donations. The bill eliminates civil liability barriers to donations of surplus firefighting equipment by raising the liability standard for donors from ''negligence'' to ''gross negligence.''

The ''Good Samaritan Volunteer Firefighter Assistance Act of 2004'' is modeled after a bill passed by the Texas State legislature in 1997 and signed into law by then-Governor George W. Bush which has resulted in more than $6 million in additional equipment donations from companies and other fire departments for volunteer departments which may not be as well equipped. Now companies in Texas can donate surplus equipment to the Texas Forest Service, which then certifies the equipment and passes it on to volunteer fire departments that are in need. The donated equipment must meet all original specifications before it can be sent to volunteer departments. Arizona, Missouri, Indiana, and South Carolina have passed similar legislation at the state level.

The legislation saves taxpayer dollars by encouraging donations, thereby reducing the taxpayers' burden of purchasing expensive equipment for volunteer fire departments. in the 107th Congress, Representative CASTLE introduced the Good Samaritan Volunteer Firefighter Assistance Act which had 104 bipartisan cosponsors in the House of Representatives. It is also supported by the National Volunteer Fire Council, the Firemen's Association of the State of New York, and a former director of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), James Lee Witt. The bill has been reintroduced as H.R. 1787 in the 108th Congress.

This bill does not cost taxpayer dollars nor does it create additional bureaucracies to inspect equipment. The bill eliminates unnecessary inspection bureaucracies. This is for three reasons. First, bureaucracies are not necessary for inspections because the fire chiefs make the inspections themselves. Second, some of the State bureaucracies control who gets the equipment. These donations are private property transactions, not a good that is donated to the State, allowing the State to pick who will get the equipment. Third, there is no desire to create the temptation for waste, fraud, and abuse in a State bureaucracy in charge of picking winners and losers.

The bill reflects the purpose of the Texas State law. Federally, precedent for similar measures includes the Bill Emerson Good Samaritan Food Act (Public Law 104–210), named for the late Representative Bill Emerson, which encourages restaurants, hotels and businesses to donate millions of dollars worth of food. The Volunteer Protection Act of 1997 (Public Law 105–101) also immunizes individuals who do volunteer work for non-profit organizations or governmental entities from liability for ordinary negligence in the course of their volunteer work. I have also previously introduced three Good Samaritan measures in the 106th Congress, S. 843, S. 844 and S. 845. These provisions were also included in a broader charitable package in S. 997, the Charity Empowerment Act, to provide additional incentives for corporate in-kind charitable contributions for motor vehicle, aircraft, and facility use. The same provision passed the House of Representatives in the 107th Congress as part of H.R. 7, the Community Solutions Act, in July of 2001, but was not signed into law.

Volunteers comprise approximately 73 percent of firefighters in the United States. Of the total estimated 1,078,300 firefighters across the country, 784,700 are volunteer. Of the more than 30,000 fire departments in the country, approximately 22,600 are all volunteer; 4,800 are mostly volunteer; 1,600 are mostly career; and 2,000 are all career. In 2000, 58 of the 103 firefighters who died in the line of duty were volunteers.

This legislation provides a commonsense incentive for additional contributions to volunteer fire departments around the country and would make it more attractive for corporations to give equipment to fire departments in other states. All of America has witnessed the heroic acts of selflessness and sacrifice of firefighters in New York City and in the Washington, D.C. area. I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this incentive for the provision of additional safety equipment for volunteer firefighters who put their lives on the line every day throughout this great nation.

By Mr. KENNEDY (for himself, Mr. DODD, Mr. HARKIN, Ms. MIKULSKI, Mr. BINGAMAN, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. REED, AND Mrs. CLINTON):

S. 2794. A bill to improve elementary and secondary education; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, I'm pleased to join my colleagues to introduce the No Child Left Behind Improvement Act. Our goal is to chart a better course for bringing the reforms under the law to all students across the country.

I was proud to stand with President Bush in January 2002 as he signed the No Child Left Behind Act into law. At that time, Republicans and Democrats came together to recognize the need to create a strong education system where every child attends a good school with a good teacher. Together, we recognized the importance of achieving that goal for the future of our democracy, economy, and national defense.

In drafting the No Child Left Behind Act in a bipartisan manner, we made great progress from the days when Democrats and Republicans were light years apart on school reform, with some trying to abolish the U.S. Department of Education and privatize our public schools.

No Child Left Behind made improving our public schools a national priority. It laid the cornerstone for a solid accountability system in every State. It called for high academic standards in reading, math, and science, and high-quality tests to measure progress toward those standards. For the first time, it placed our low-income children, children with disabilities, minority children, and English language learners at the top of the school reform agenda. No longer would their needs be hidden, overlooked, or ignored.

It also provided the building blocks for quality in all schools. A fully-qualified teacher in every classroom and better teacher training to make it happen. More after-school tutoring and supplemental services to help students with the greatest needs. Special programs for English language learners. Expanded support for reading in early grades. School report cards to provide information to parents and motivate them to be part of their children's education.

No Child Left Behind promised a great deal to our students and to their families. It's still the right promise. But it hasn't been kept.

Since the law passed, the country has seen the promise of funding No Child Left Behind flagrantly broken by the Bush administration, time and time again. President Bush proposed to cut funding for the law by $90 million just 1 month after signing the bill. His next education budget cut funding by far more—$1.2 billion.

Today, he's leaving 4.6 million children behind, and he's underfunding the law by $9.4 billion. At the same time, President Bush proposes to give tax breaks for the top 1 percent of Americans that total five times the funds promised but never delivered under the No Child Left Behind Act.

Despite these broken promises, our schools are trying to do their part. They've been asked to help all students reach proficiency, and they are responding. Teachers and other school professionals are beginning the hard work of tackling disparities in student achievement, and putting into place the curriculum needed to turn-around thousands of schools that have been identified as needing improvement.

School leaders are struggling to respond to the challenges of providing more highly qualified teachers, supplemental services, and after-school programs in school districts. They're laboring hard in their work to implement the No Child Left Behind Act and bring the promise of true reform to more children and their parents.

The work of school reform is not easy, and schools are struggling to succeed under No Child Left Behind. But on top of the broken promise to provide schools the resources they need to get the job done right, the administration has undermined the efforts of schools to comply with the law, and crippled reforms through its ineffective implementation effort.

Since No Child Left Behind passed, the Department of Education's track record in issuing basic guidance under the law been mired in delay. Final accountability guidelines for children with special needs and limited English

proficient children were announced 2 years after the law was enacted, and long after the law's accountability requirements were already in place for schools.

The administration has abandoned requirements to measure adequately the progress of English language learners in a valid and reliable way. They've suggested to States that they don't have to bother to develop native language assessments, and they've done nothing to help improve assessments for children with disabilities.

They've ignored standards for supplemental service providers, and failed to enforce the civil rights protections that are so essential to providing all children fair access to such services. Families are relying on tutoring and extra support to help their children. But the administration's guidance actually prohibits States from requiring high standards for that supplemental support. A highly qualified teacher in every classroom is good policy. Why shouldn't the same apply for supplemental services?

The administration's ham-handed implementation of public school choice has ignored questions of capacity in school districts with overcrowded classrooms.

And their weakened regulations undermine protections against high dropout rates—especially for low-income and minority students. Without information and reporting of those rates for each subgroup of children, the public won't have a complete picture of how children are succeeding.

It's time for the administration to correct these problems and do their part to improve implementation of the No Child Left Behind Act.

The bill that I'm introducing today gets these reforms on track. It will help keep the promise of public school choice, promote quality and access in supplemental services, provide for better assessments for children, and ensure better reporting by schools and states of graduation and dropout rates so that children don't fall through the cracks.

It's important to acknowledge what this bill does not do. It does not make fundamental changes to the requirements under No Child Left Behind. Those reforms are essential to improving our public schools. Every child deserves a chance to learn in a good school, and that chance depends on whether we succeed in implementing the law.

The No Child Left Behind Improvement Act will ensure that school districts consider health and safety codes as they draw up their plans for providing public school choice to students, consistent with the law. In order to ensure that public school choice actually helps children succeed educationally, we must provide an environment that is safe and conducive to their learning—not overcrowded.

It will provide better access to quality supplemental services for eligible students, and ensure full enforcement of civil rights protections under those provisions. The administration's policy of relaxed enforcement in this area allows some private providers off-the-hook from serving children that need the most help. That's wrong.

All students should have a fair chance to choose a supplemental service provider that meets their needs. Limited English proficient children and children with disabilities are often those students that need the most extra help and assistance in our public schools, and this bill would ensure that each State select some providers with the skills to serve those populations.

This bill will also better enable teachers and para-professionals to meet the required standards for teacher quality under the law. A highly qualified teacher is the single most important factor in improving student achievement, and the No Child Left Behind Act requires that every classroom have a qualified teacher by 2006.

We must provide for a system that ensures all teachers have the opportunity to meet that goal. The No Child Left Behind Act includes an alternate standard for veteran teachers to demonstrate their competence and be counted as highly qualified in the subject matter that they teach. This bill ensures that every State develop and implement that standard under the law, and that every state provide para-professionals with the opportunities provided under No Child Left Behind to demonstrate their competence.

Fifteen States have not yet developed or applied standards for veteran teachers. We must do better especially for the 67 percent of all public school teachers that have been teaching for more than 5 years.

And finally, for No Child Left Behind's accountability provisions to be useful, they must be accurate. We need accurate determinations of whether schools are making progress.

The Department's delay in issuing adequate accountability rules for counting children with disabilities and limited English proficient children has created unnecessary confusion, caused a potential mislabeling of schools, and misdirected resources from the schools and students who actually need them. The Department should apply those regulations retroactively, so that schools may be judged on the same standards for the past year as they will be in the future, not by different criteria for different years. In June, I introduced a bill—The No Child Left Behind Fairness Act—to accomplish that goal. The bill that I'm introducing today also includes those requirements.

We're at an important crossroads in reforming our public schools. Schools are hurting, crippled by shrinking budgets and a broken promise of funding under the law. The ineffective track record of this administration in implementing No Child Left Behind largely has contributed to their problems and frustrations.

We must do better. Turning our back on the reforms in the No Child Left Behind Act is no solution. Neither is turning our back on public education. I urge my colleagues to act to ensure that the promise of the essential reforms under No Child Left Behind are realized. Our students and families deserve no less.

I ask unanimous consent that the text of this bill be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the bill was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 2794

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the ''No Child Left Behind Improvement Act of 2004''.

TITLE I—PUBLIC SCHOOL CHOICE, SUPPLEMENTAL EDUCATIONAL SERVICES, AND TEACHER QUALITY

SEC. 101. PUBLIC SCHOOL CHOICE CAPACITY.

(a) SCHOOL CAPACITY.—Section 1116(b)(1)(E) of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 6316(b)) is amended—

(1) in clause (i), by striking ''In the case'' and inserting ''Subject to clauses (ii) and (iii), in the case'';

(2) by redesignating clause (ii) as clause (iii);

(3) by inserting after clause (i) the following:

''(ii) SCHOOL CAPACITY.—The obligation of a local educational agency to provide the option to transfer to students under clause (i) is subject to all applicable State and local health and safety code requirements regarding facility capacity.''; and

(4) in clause (iii) (as redesignated by paragraph (2)), by inserting ''and subject to clause (ii),'' after ''public school,''.

(b) GRANTS FOR SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION AND RENOVATION.—Subpart 1 of part A of title I of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 6311 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''SEC. 1120C. GRANTS FOR SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION AND RENOVATION.

''(a) PROGRAM AUTHORIZED.—From funds appropriated under subsection (g), the Secretary is authorized to award grants to local educational agencies experiencing overcrowding in the schools served by the local educational agencies, for the construction and renovation of safe, healthy, high-performance school buildings.

''(b) APPLICATION.—Each local educational agency desiring a grant under this section shall submit an application to the Secretary at such time, in such manner, and accompanied by such additional information as the Secretary may require.

''(c) PRIORITY.—In awarding grants under this section, the Secretary shall give priority to local educational agencies—

''(1) who have documented difficulties in meeting the public school choice requirements of paragraph (1)(E), (5)(A), (7)(C)(i), or (8)(A)(i) of section 1116(b), or section 1116(c)(10)(C)(vii); and

''(2) with the highest number of schools at or above capacity.

''(d) AWARD BASIS.—From funds remaining after awarding grants under subsection (c), the Secretary shall award grants to local educational agencies that are experiencing overcrowding in the schools served by the local educational agencies.

''(e) PREVAILING WAGES.—Any laborer or mechanic employed by any contractor or

subcontractor in the performance of work on any construction funded by a grant awarded under this section will be paid wages at rates not less than those prevailing on similar construction in the locality as determined by the Secretary of Labor under subchapter IV of chapter 31 of title 40, United States Code (commonly referred to as the Davis-Bacon Act).

''(f) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

''(1) AT OR ABOVE CAPACITY.—The term 'at or above capacity', in reference to a school, means a school in which 1 additional student would increase the average class size of the school above the average class size of all schools in the State in which the school is located.

''(2) HEALTHY, HIGH-PERFORMANCE SCHOOL BUILDING.—The term 'healthy, high-performance school building' has the meaning given such term in section 5586.

''(g) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section $250,000,000 for fiscal year 2005, and such sums as may be necessary for each of the 2 succeeding fiscal years.''.

SEC. 102. SUPPLEMENTAL EDUCATIONAL SERVICES.

Section 1116(e) of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 6316(e)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (4)—

(A) in subparagraph (B), by striking the semicolon and inserting '', including criteria that—

''(i) ensure that personnel delivering supplemental educational services to students have adequate qualifications; and

''(ii) may, at the State's discretion, ensure that personnel delivering supplemental educational services to students are teachers that are highly qualified, as such term is defined in section 9101;'';

(B) in subparagraph (D), by striking ''and'' after the semicolon;

(C) in subparagraph (E), by striking the period and inserting ''; and''; and

(D) by adding at the end the following:

''(F) ensure that the list of approved providers of supplemental educational services described in subparagraph (C) includes a choice of providers that have sufficient capacity to provide effective services for children who are limited English proficient and children with disabilities.'';

(2) in paragraph (5)(C)—

(A) by striking ''applicable''; and

(B) by inserting before the period '', and acknowledge in writing that, as an approved provider in the relevant State educational agency program of providing supplemental educational services, the provider is deemed to be a recipient of Federal financial assistance'';

(3) by redesignating paragraphs (6), (7), (8), (9), (10), (11), and (12) as paragraphs (7), (8), (9), (10), (11), (12), and (13), respectively;

(4) by inserting after paragraph (5) the following:

''(6) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this section shall be construed to prohibit a local educational agency from being considered by a State educational agency as a potential provider of supplemental educational services under this subsection, if such local educational agency meets the criteria adopted by the State educational agency in accordance with paragraph (5).'';

(5) in paragraph (13) (as redesignated by paragraph (3))—

(A) in subparagraph (B)—

(i) in clause (ii), by striking ''and'' after the semicolon;

(ii) in clause (iii), by striking ''and'' after the semicolon; and

(iii) by adding at the end the following:

''(iv) may employ teachers who are highly qualified as such term is defined in section 9101; and

''(v) pursuant to its inclusion on the relevant State educational agency's list described in paragraph (4)(C), is deemed to be a recipient of Federal financial assistance; and''; and

(B) in subparagraph (C)—

(i) in the matter preceding subclause (i), by striking ''are'';

(ii) in subclause (i)—

(I) by inserting ''are'' before ''in addition''; and

(II) by striking ''and'' after the semicolon;

(iii) in subclause (ii), by striking the period and inserting ''; and''; and

(iv) by adding at the end the following:

''(iii) if provided by providers that are included on the relevant State educational agency's list described in paragraph (4)(C), shall be deemed to be programs or activities of the relevant State educational agency.''; and

(6) by adding at the end the following:

''(14) CIVIL RIGHTS.—In providing supplemental educational services under this subsection, no State educational agency or local educational agency may, directly or through contractual, licensing, or other arrangements with a provider of supplemental educational services, engage in any form of discrimination prohibited by—

''(A) title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964;

''(B) title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972;

''(C) section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973;

''(D) titles II and III of the Americans with Disabilities Act;

''(E) the Age Discrimination Act of 1975;

''(F) regulations promulgated under the authority of the laws listed in subparagraphs (A) through (E); or

''(G) other Federal civil rights laws.''.

SEC. 103. QUALIFICATIONS FOR TEACHERS AND PARAPROFESSIONALS.

(a) HIGH OBJECTIVE UNIFORM STATE STANDARD OF EVALUATION.—Section 1119 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 6319) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)(2)—

(A) by redesignating subparagraphs (A) through (C) as clauses (i) through (iii), respectively, and indenting as appropriate;

(B) by striking ''(2) STATE PLAN.—As part'' and inserting the following:

''(2) STATE PLAN.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—As part''; and

(C) by adding at the end the following:

''(B) AVAILABILITY OF STATE STANDARDS.—Each State educational agency shall make available to teachers in the State the high objective uniform State standard of evaluation, as described in section 9101(23)(C)(ii), for the purpose of meeting the teacher qualification requirements established under this section.'';

(2) by redesignating subsections (e), (f), (g), (h), (i), (j), (k), and (l) as subsections (f), (g), (h), (i), (j), (k), (l), and (m), respectively;

(3) by inserting after subsection (d) the following:

''(e) STATE RESPONSIBILITIES.—Each State educational agency shall ensure that local educational agencies in the State make available all options described in subparagraphs (A) through (C) of subsection (c)(1) to each new or existing paraprofessional for the purpose of demonstrating the qualifications of the paraprofessional, consistent with the requirements of this section.''; and

(4) in subsection (l) (as redesignated in paragraph (2)), by striking ''subsection (l)'' and inserting ''subsection (m)''.

(b) DEFINITION OF HIGHLY QUALIFIED TEACHERS.—Section 9101(23)(B)(ii) is amended—

(1) in subclause (I), by striking ''or'' after the semicolon;

(2) in subclause (II), by striking ''and'' after the semicolon; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

''(III) in the case of a middle school teacher, passing a State-approved middle school generalist exam when the teacher receives a license to teach middle school in the State;

''(IV) obtaining a State middle school or secondary school social studies certificate that qualifies the teacher to teach history, geography, economics, civics, and government in middle schools or in secondary schools, respectively, in the State; or

''(V) obtaining a State middle school or secondary school science certificate that qualifies the teacher to teach earth science, biology, chemistry, and physics in middle schools or secondary schools, respectively, in the State; and''.

TITLE II—ADEQUATE YEARLY PROGRESS DETERMINATIONS

SEC. 201. REVIEW OF ADEQUATE YEARLY PROGRESS DETERMINATIONS FOR SCHOOLS FOR THE 2002–2003 SCHOOL YEAR.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall require each local educational agency to provide each school served by the agency with an opportunity to request a review of a determination by the agency that the school did not make adequate yearly progress for the 2002–2003 school year.

(b) FINAL DETERMINATION.—Not later than 30 days after receipt of a request by a school for a review under this section, a local educational agency shall issue and make publicly available a final determination on whether the school made adequate yearly progress for the 2002–2003 school year.

(c) EVIDENCE.—In conducting a review under this section, a local educational agency shall—

(1) allow the principal of the school involved to submit evidence on whether the school made adequate yearly progress for the 2002–2003 school year; and

(2) consider that evidence before making a final determination under subsection (b).

(d) STANDARD OF REVIEW.—In conducting a review under this section, a local educational agency shall revise, consistent with the applicable State plan under section 1111 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 6311), the local educational agency's original determination that a school did not make adequate yearly progress for the 2002–2003 school year if the agency finds that the school made such progress, taking into consideration—

(1) the amendments made to part 200 of title 34, Code of Federal Regulations (68 Fed. Reg. 68698) (relating to accountability for the academic achievement of students with the most significant cognitive disabilities); or

(2) any regulation or guidance that, subsequent to the date of such original determination, was issued by the Secretary relating to—

(A) the assessment of limited English proficient children;

(B) the inclusion of limited English proficient children as part of the subgroup described in section 1111(b)(2)(C)(v)(II)(dd) of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 6311(b)(2)(C)(v)(II)(dd)) after such children have obtained English proficiency; or

(C) any requirement under section 1111(b)(2)(I)(ii) of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 6311(b)(2)(I)(ii)).

(e) EFFECT OF REVISED DETERMINATION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—If pursuant to a review under this section a local educational agency determines that a school made adequate

yearly progress for the 2002–2003 school year, upon such determination—

(A) any action by the Secretary, the State educational agency, or the local educational agency that was taken because of a prior determination that the school did not make such progress shall be terminated; and

(B) any obligations or actions required of the local educational agency or the school because of the prior determination shall cease to be required.

(2) EXCEPTIONS.—Notwithstanding paragraph (1), a determination under this section shall not affect any obligation or action required of a local educational agency or school under the following:

(A) Section 1116(b)(13) of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 6316(b)(13)) (requiring a local educational agency to continue to permit a child who transferred to another school under such section to remain in that school until completion of the highest grade in the school).

(B) Section 1116(e)(9) of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (as redesignated by section 102(3)) (20 U.S.C. 6316(e)(9)) (requiring a local educational agency to continue to provide supplemental educational services under such section until the end of the school year).

(3) SUBSEQUENT DETERMINATIONS.—In determining whether a school is subject to school improvement, corrective action, or restructuring as a result of not making adequate yearly progress, the Secretary, a State educational agency, or a local educational agency may not take into account a determination that the school did not make adequate yearly progress for the 2002–2003 school year if such determination was revised under this section and the school received a final determination of having made adequate yearly progress for the 2002–2003 school year.

(f) NOTIFICATION.—The Secretary—

(1) shall require each State educational agency to notify each school served by the agency of the school's ability to request a review under this section; and

(2) not later than 30 days after the date of the enactment of this section, shall notify the public by means of the Department of Education's website of the review process established under this section.

SEC. 202. REVIEW OF ADEQUATE YEARLY PROGRESS DETERMINATIONS FOR LOCAL EDUCATIONAL AGENCIES FOR THE 2002–2003 SCHOOL YEAR.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall require each State educational agency to provide each local educational agency in the State with an opportunity to request a review of a determination by the State educational agency that the local educational agency did not make adequate yearly progress for the 2002–2003 school year.

(b) APPLICATION OF CERTAIN PROVISIONS.—Except as inconsistent with, or inapplicable to, this section, the provisions of section 201 shall apply to review by a State educational agency of a determination described in subsection (a) in the same manner and to the same extent as such provisions apply to review by a local educational agency of a determination described in section 201(a).

SEC. 203. DEFINITIONS.

In this title:

(1) The term ''adequate yearly progress'' has the meaning given to that term in section 1111(b)(2)(C) of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 6311(b)(2)(C)).

(2) The term ''local educational agency'' means a local educational agency (as that term is defined in section 9101 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 7801)) receiving funds under part A of title I of such Act (20 U.S.C. 6311 et seq.).

(3) The term ''Secretary'' means the Secretary of Education.

(4) The term ''school'' means an elementary school or a secondary school (as those terms are defined in section 9101 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 7801)) served under part A of title I of such Act (20 U.S.C. 6311 et seq.).

(5) The term ''State educational agency'' means a State educational agency (as that term is defined in section 9101 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 7801)) receiving funds under part A of title I of such Act (20 U.S.C. 6311 et seq.).

TITLE III—IMPROVING ASSESSMENT AND ACCOUNTABILITY

SEC. 301. GRANTS FOR INCREASING DATA CAPACITY FOR PURPOSES OF ASSESSMENT AND ACCOUNTABILITY.

(a) PROGRAM AUTHORIZED.—From funds appropriated under subsection (g) for a fiscal year, the Secretary may award grants, on a competitive basis, to State educational agencies—

(1) to enable the State educational agencies to develop or increase the capacity of data systems for assessment and accountability purposes, including the collection of graduation rates; and

(2) to award subgrants to increase the capacity of local educational agencies to upgrade, create, or manage longitudinal data systems for the purpose of measuring student academic progress and achievement.

(b) STATE APPLICATION.—Each State educational agency desiring a grant under this section shall submit an application to the Secretary at such time, in such manner, and containing such information as the Secretary may require.

(c) STATE USE OF FUNDS.—Each State educational agency that receives a grant under this section shall use—

(1) not more than 20 percent of the grant funds for the purpose of—

(A) increasing the capacity of, or creating, State databases to collect, disaggregate, and report information related to student achievement, enrollment, and graduation rates for assessment and accountability purposes; and

(B) reporting, on an annual basis, for the elementary schools and secondary schools within the State, on—

(i) the enrollment data from the beginning of the academic year;

(ii) the enrollment data from the end of the academic year; and

(iii) the twelfth grade graduation rates; and

(2) not less than 80 percent of the grant funds to award subgrants to local educational agencies within the State to enable the local educational agencies to carry out the authorized activities described in subsection (e).

(d) LOCAL APPLICATION.—Each local educational agency desiring a subgrant under this section shall submit an application to the State educational agency at such time, in such manner, and containing such information as the State educational agency may require. Each such application shall include, at a minimum, a demonstration of the local educational agency's ability to put a longitudinal data system in place.

(e) LOCAL AUTHORIZED ACTIVITIES.—Each local educational agency that receives a subgrant under this section shall use the subgrant funds to increase the capacity of the local educational agency to upgrade or manage longitudinal data systems consistent with the uses in subsection (c)(1), by—

(1) purchasing database software or hardware;

(2) hiring additional staff for the purpose of managing such data;

(3) providing professional development or additional training for such staff; and

(4) providing professional development or training for principals and teachers on how to effectively use such data to implement instructional strategies to improve student achievement and graduation rates.

(f) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) The term ''graduation rate'' means the percentage that—

(A) the total number of students who—

(i) graduate from a secondary school with a regular diploma (which shall not include the recognized equivalent of a secondary school diploma or an alternative degree) in an academic year; and

(ii) graduated on time by progressing 1 grade per academic year; represents of

(B) the total number of students who entered the secondary school in the entry level academic year applicable to the graduating students.

(2) The terms ''State educational agency'' and ''local educational agency'' have the meanings given such terms in section 9101 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 7801).

(3) The term ''Secretary'' means the Secretary of Education.

(g) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section $100,000,000 for fiscal year 2005, and such sums as may be necessary for each of the 2 succeeding fiscal years.

SEC. 302. GRANTS FOR ASSESSMENT OF CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES AND CHILDREN WHO ARE LIMITED ENGLISH PROFICIENT.

Part E of title I of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 6491 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''SEC. 1505. GRANTS FOR ASSESSMENT OF CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES AND CHILDREN WHO ARE LIMITED ENGLISH PROFICIENT.

''(a) GRANTS AUTHORIZED.—From amounts authorized under subsection (e) for a fiscal year, the Secretary shall award grants, on a competitive basis, to State educational agencies, or to consortia of State educational agencies, to enable the State educational agencies or consortia to collaborate with institutions of higher education, research institutions, or other organizations—

''(1) to design and improve State academic assessments for students who are limited English proficient and students with disabilities; and

''(2) to ensure the most accurate, valid, and reliable means to assess academic content standards and student academic achievement standards for students who are limited English proficient and students with disabilities.

''(b) AUTHORIZED ACTIVITIES.—A State educational agency or consortium that receives a grant under this section shall use the grant funds to carry out 1 or more of the following activities:

''(1) Developing alternate assessments for students with disabilities, consistent with section 1111 and the amendments made on December 9, 2003, to part 200 of title 34, Code of Federal Regulations (68 Fed. Reg. 68698) (relating to accountability for the academic achievement of students with the most significant cognitive disabilities), including—

''(A) the alignment of such assessments, as appropriate and consistent with such amendments, with—

''(i) State academic achievement standards and State academic content standards for all students; or

''(ii) alternate State academic achievement standards that reflect the intended instructional construct for students with disabilities;

''(B) activities to ensure that such assessments do not reflect the disabilities, or associated characteristics, of the students that are extraneous to the intent of the measurement;

''(C) the development of an implementation plan for pilot tests for such assessments, in order to determine the level of appropriateness and feasibility of full-scale administration; and

''(D) activities that provide for the retention of all feasible standardized features in the alternate assessments.

''(2) Developing alternate assessments that meet the requirements of section 1111 for students who are limited English proficient, including—

''(A) the alignment of such assessments with State academic achievement standards and State academic content standards for all students;

''(B) the development of parallel native language assessments or linguistically modified assessments for limited English proficient students that meet the requirements of section 1111(b)(3)(C)(ix)(III);

''(C) the development of an implementation plan for pilot tests for such assessments, in order to determine the level of appropriateness and feasibility of full-scale administration; and

''(D) activities that provide for the retention of all feasible standardized features in the alternate assessments.

''(3) Developing, modifying, or revising State policies and criteria for appropriate accommodations to ensure the full participation of students who are limited English proficient and students with disabilities in State academic assessments, including—

''(A) developing a plan to ensure that assessments provided with accommodations are fully included and integrated into the accountability system, for the purpose of making the determinations of adequate yearly progress required under section 1116;

''(B) ensuring the validity, reliability, and appropriateness of such accommodations, such as—

''(i) a modification to the presentation or format of the assessment;

''(ii) the use of assistive devices;

''(iii) an extension of the time allowed for testing;

''(iv) an alteration of the test setting or procedures;

''(v) the administration of portions of the test in a method appropriate for the level of language proficiency of the test taker;

''(vi) the use of a glossary or dictionary; and

''(vii) the use of a linguistically modified assessment;

''(C) ensuring that State policies and criteria for appropriate accommodations take into account the form or program of instruction provided to students, including the level of difficulty, reliability, cultural difference, and content equivalence of such form or program;

''(D) ensuring that such policies are consistent with the standards prepared by the Joint Committee on Standards for Educational and Psychological Testing of the American Educational Research Association, the American Psychological Association, and the National Council on Measurement in Education; and

''(E) developing a plan for providing training on the use of accommodations to school instructional staff, families, students, and other appropriate parties.

''(4) Developing universally designed assessments that can be accessible to all students, including—

''(A) examining test item or test performance for students with disabilities and students who are limited English proficient, to determine the extent to which the test item or test is universally designed;

''(B) using think aloud and cognitive laboratory procedures, as well as item statistics, to identify test items that may pose particular problems for students with disabilities or students who are limited English proficient;

''(C) developing and implementing a plan to ensure that developers and reviewers of test items are trained in the principles of universal design; and

''(D) developing computer-based applications of universal design principles.

''(c) APPLICATION.—Each State educational agency, or consortium of State educational agencies, desiring to apply for a grant under this section shall submit an application to the Secretary at such time, in such manner, and containing such information as the Secretary may require, including—

''(1) information regarding the institutions of higher education, research institutions, or other organizations that are collaborating with the State educational agency or consortium, in accordance with subsection (a);

''(2) in the case of a consortium of State educational agencies, the designation of 1 State educational agency as the fiscal agent for the receipt of grant funds;

''(3) a description of the process and criteria by which the State educational agency will identify students that are unable to participate in general State content assessments and are eligible to take alternate assessments, consistent with the amendments made to part 200 of title 34, Code of Federal Regulations (68 Fed. Reg. 68698);

''(4) in the case of a State educational agency or consortium carrying out the activity described in subsection (b)(1)(A), a description of how the State educational agency plans to fulfill the requirement of subsection (b)(1)(A);

''(5) in the case of a State educational agency or consortium carrying out the activities described in paragraphs (1), (2), and (4) of subsection (b), information regarding the proposed techniques for the development of alternate assessments, including a description of the technical adequacy of, technical aspects of, and scoring for, such assessments;

''(6) a plan for providing training for school instructional staff, families, students, and other appropriate parties on the use of alternate assessments; and

''(7) information on how the scores of students participating in alternate assessments will be reported to the public and to parents.

''(d) EVALUATION AND REPORTING REQUIREMENTS.—Each State educational agency receiving a grant under this section shall submit an annual report to the Secretary describing the activities carried out under the grant and the result of such activities, including—

''(1) details on the effectiveness of the activities supported under this section in helping students with disabilities, or students who are limited English proficient, better participate in State assessment programs; and

''(2) information on the change in achievement, if any, of students with disabilities and students who are limited English proficient, as a result of a more accurate assessment of such students.

''(e) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section $50,000,000 for fiscal year 2005, and such sums as may be necessary for each of the 2 succeeding fiscal years.''.

SEC. 303. REPORTS ON STUDENT ENROLLMENT AND GRADUATION RATES.

Part E of title I of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (as amended by section 302) (20 U.S.C. 6491 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''SEC. 1506. REPORTS ON STUDENT ENROLLMENT AND GRADUATION RATES.

''(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Education shall collect from each State educational agency, local educational agency, and school, on an annual basis, the following data:

''(1) The number of students enrolled in each of grades 7 through 12 at the beginning of the most recent school year.

''(2) The number of students enrolled in each of grades 7 through 12 at the end of the most recent school year.

''(3) The graduation rate for the most recent school year.

''(4) The data described in paragraphs (1) through (3), disaggregated by the groups of students described in section 1111(b)(2)(C)(v)(II).

''(b) ANNUAL REPORT.—The Secretary shall report the information collected under subsection (a) on an annual basis.''.

TITLE IV—CIVIL RIGHTS

SEC. 401. CIVIL RIGHTS.

Section 9534 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 7914) is amended—

(1) by redesignating subsections (a) and (b) as subsections (b) and (c), respectively; and

(2) by inserting before subsection (b) (as redesignated by paragraph (1)) the following:

''(a) PROHIBITION OF DISCRIMINATION.—Discrimination on the basis of race, color, religion, sex (except as otherwise permitted under Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972), national origin, or disability in any program funded under this Act is prohibited.''.

TITLE V—TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

SEC. 501. TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.

Part F of title IX of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 7941) is amended—

(1) in the part heading, by inserting ''**AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE**'' after ''**EVALUATIONS**''; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

''SEC. 9602. TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.

''The Secretary shall ensure that the technical assistance provided by, and the research developed and disseminated through, the Institute of Education Sciences and other offices or agencies of the Department provide educators and parents with the needed information and support for identifying and using educational strategies, programs, and practices, including strategies, programs, and practices available through the clearinghouses supported under the Education Sciences Reform Act of 2002 (20 U.S.C. 9501 et seq.) and other Federally-supported clearinghouses, that have been successful in improving educational opportunities and achievement for all students.''.

By Mr. ENZI (for himself, Mr. BAUCUS, Mr. ALEXANDER, Mrs. DOLE, and Mr. LIEBERMAN):

S. 2795. A bill to provide for higher education affordability, access, and opportunity; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

Mr. ENZI. Mr. President, I rise today to introduce the Higher Education Affordability, Access and Opportunity Act of 2004 with my colleagues Senators BAUCUS, ALEXANDER, DOLE and LIEBERMAN.

We are introducing this bipartisan legislation because we are aware that the American workforce is in the midst

of its most significant changes since the 1940s. In the past year, this economy has created nearly 1.7 million new jobs, yet the complaint from employers continues to be that they cannot find skilled workers to fill the jobs that are being created. Our educational systems must recognize this changing reality and be ready to provide the support for a new group of students that represents a workforce revolution.

This skills gap promises to get worse unless Congress acts now to provide the assistance necessary to train a generation of workers that will fill the jobs of tomorrow. The Department of Labor has estimated that as many as 80 percent of the jobs being created over the next 10 years will require some postsecondary education. This will include many adult learners who will return to college for additional training. This also includes new students attending college for the first time later in life to obtain new skills or to improve their current skills.

Congress needs to ensure that we have a comprehensive system of workforce education and training established, one that includes the Workforce Investment Act, the Higher Education Act, and career and technical education, as well as elementary and secondary education. The needs of the new workforce will require a lifelong commitment to learning, where workers are able to return to school and reenter the workforce seamlessly.

Many workers in my home State are leaving to find better jobs elsewhere. To create the kind of good jobs with good futures that will keep people in Wyoming, we need workers with the skills that the new, global economy demands. Whether a company decides to open a plant in Casper or China, they depend on a qualified local workforce.

This legislation would help meet the needs of businesses today and into the future. It would help postsecondary institutions develop and implement curriculum related to high skilled or high-wage occupations. It would also provide support for institutions to increase their capacity to serve adult learners and students pursuing high-growth occupations.

This legislation would provide additional assistance for first-time college students who are attending school to receive advanced skill training or are looking to improve their skill set to enter high-wage or high-skilled occupations.

This legislation also provides support for small business owners, operators, and their employees to receive skill training at institutions of higher education so our small businesses can continue to lead the economic growth of our Nation.

This legislation also provides support for rural communities to recruit and retrain elementary and secondary education, so these areas can prepare their students for college and entry into the workforce with the skills they need to succeed, not only in postsecondary education, but in life.

This legislation also helps students better understand the cost of attending college by making the information collected by the Department of Education more accessible. Helping prospective students understand how to obtain aid and help pay for college is just as important as making sure students have access to the financial aid to support them through college.

I look forward to working with Chairman GREGG to advance these ideas to ensure that the American workforce is prepared with the skills necessary to successfully compete in the global economy.

I ask unanimous consent that the bill be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the bill was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 2795

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the ''Higher Education Affordability, Access, and Opportunity Act of 2004''.

SEC. 2. IMPROVEMENTS IN MARKET INFORMATION AND PUBLIC ACCOUNTABILITY.

(a) DATA DISSEMINATION.—Section 131(b) of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1015(b)) is amended to read as follows:

''(b) COMPARATIVE DATA.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—Each year the Secretary shall make available to the public the information described in paragraph (2), disaggregated by institution of higher education, in a form that enables the public to compare the information among institutions.

''(2) INFORMATION.—The information referred to in paragraph (1) is the following:

''(A) Tuition and fees for a full-time undergraduate student.

''(B) Cost of attendance for a full-time undergraduate student.

''(C) The average annual cost of attendance for a full-time undergraduate student for the 10 preceding academic years, or if data are not available for the 10 preceding academic years, data for as many of the 10 preceding academic years as is available.

''(D) The percentage of full-time undergraduate students receiving financial assistance, including—

''(i) Federal grants;

''(ii) State and local grants;

''(iii) institutional grants; and

''(iv) loans to students.

''(E) The average percentage of credit hours accepted from students transferring to an institution of higher education from another institution of higher education, and the policy of the accepting institution of higher education for the transfer of credit.

''(F) The percentage of students who have completed an undergraduate program who are placed in unsubsidized employment not later than 12 months after the date of completion of the program.

''(G) A ranking of the dollar and percentage increases in tuition for all institutions of higher education for which data are available, disaggregated by quartile.

''(3) STANDARD DEFINITIONS.—In carrying out this section, the Secretary shall use the standard definitions developed under subsection (a)(3).''.

(b) STUDY AND ANNUAL REPORT.—Section 131(c) of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1015(c)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1)—

(A) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by inserting ''and costs'' after ''expenditures'';

(B) in subparagraph (F), by striking ''and'' after the semicolon;

(C) in subparagraph (G), by striking the period and inserting ''; and''; and

(D) by adding at the end the following:

''(H) the information and costs described in subparagraphs (D) through (G) of paragraph (2).'';

(2) in paragraph (2)—

(A) in subparagraph (B), by striking ''and'' after the semicolon;

(B) in subparagraph (C), by striking the period and inserting a semicolon; and

(C) by adding at the end the following:

''(D) national trends in the cost of attending an institution of higher education;

''(E) the mean cost of attending an institution of higher education, disaggregated by type of institution of higher education;

''(F) the mean annual cost of attending an institution of higher education for the 10 preceding academic years (if available), disaggregated by type of institution of higher education; and

''(G) the assistance provided to institutions of higher education by each State, which information the Secretary shall make available to the public.''; and

(3) in paragraph (3)—

(A) in the subsection heading, by striking ''FINAL'' and inserting ''ANNUAL'';

(B) by striking ''a report'' and inserting ''an annual report'';

(C) by inserting ''and the evaluation required by paragraph (2)'' after ''paragraph (1)''; and

(D) by striking ''not later than September 30, 2002''.

SEC. 3. TEACHER QUALITY ENHANCEMENT GRANTS.

(a) DEFINITION OF HIGH NEED LOCAL EDUCATIONAL AGENCY.—Section 201(b)(2) of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1021(b)(2)) is amended—

(1) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by striking ''that serves an elementary school or secondary school located in an area in which there is'';

(2) in each of subparagraphs (A), (B), and (C), by inserting ''that serves an elementary school or secondary school located in an area in which there is'' before ''a high'';

(3) in subparagraph (B) (as so amended), by striking ''or'' after the semicolon;

(4) in subparagraph (C) (as so amended), by striking the period and inserting ''; or''; and

(5) by adding at the end the following:

''(D) with a total of less than 600 students in average daily attendance at the schools that are served by the local educational agency and all of those schools are designated with a school locale code of 7 or 8, as determined by the Secretary.''.

(b) DEFINITION OF ELIGIBLE PARTNERSHIPS.—Section 203(b)(1)(B) of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1023(b)(1)(B)) is amended by inserting ''educational service agency (as defined in section 9101 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965),'' after ''State educational agency,''.

SEC. 4. GRANTS FOR JOB SKILL TRAINING.

Title III of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1051 et seq.) is amended—

(1) by redesignating part F as part G; and

(2) by inserting after part E the following:

''PART F—JOB SKILL TRAINING

''Subpart 1—Job Skill Training in High-Growth Occupations or Industries

''SEC. 371. JOB SKILL TRAINING IN HIGH-GROWTH OCCUPATIONS OR INDUSTRIES.

''(a) GRANTS AUTHORIZED.—The Secretary is authorized to award grants, on a competitive basis, to eligible partnerships to enable the eligible partnerships to provide relevant

job skill training in high-growth industries or occupations.

''(b) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

''(1) ELIGIBLE PARTNERSHIP.—The term 'eligible partnership' means a partnership—

''(A) between an institution of higher education and a local board (as such term is defined in section 101 of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998); or

''(B) if an institution of higher education is located within a State that does not operate local boards, between the institution of higher education and a State board (as such term is defined in section 101 of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998).

''(2) NONTRADITIONAL STUDENT.—The term 'nontraditional student' means a student who—

''(A) is independent, as defined in section 480(d);

''(B) attends an institution of higher education—

''(i) on less than a full-time basis;

''(ii) via evening, weekend, modular, or compressed courses; or

''(iii) via distance learning methods; or

''(C) has delayed enrollment at an institution of higher education.

''(3) INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION.—The term 'institution of higher education' means an institution of higher education, as defined in section 101(b), that offers a 1- or 2-year program of study leading to a degree or certificate.

''(c) APPLICATION.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—Each eligible partnership that desires a grant under this section shall submit an application to the Secretary at such time, in such manner, and accompanied by such additional information as the Secretary may require.

''(2) CONTENTS.—Each application submitted under paragraph (1) shall include a description of—

''(A) how the eligible partnership, through the institution of higher education, will provide relevant job skill training for students to enter high-growth occupations or industries;

''(B) local high-growth occupations or industries; and

''(C) the need for qualified workers to meet the local demand of high-growth occupations or industries.

''(d) AWARD BASIS.—In awarding grants under this section, the Secretary shall—

''(1) ensure an equitable distribution of grant funds under this section among urban and rural areas of the United States; and

''(2) take into consideration the capability of the institution of higher education—

''(A) to offer relevant, high quality instruction and job skill training for students entering a high-growth occupation or industry;

''(B) to involve the local business community and to place graduates in the community in employment in high-growth occupations or industries;

''(C) to assist students in obtaining loans under section 428L, if appropriate, or other forms of student financial assistance;

''(D) to serve nontraditional or low-income students, or adult or displaced workers; and

''(E) to serve students from rural or remote communities.

''(e) USE OF FUNDS.—Grant funds provided under this section may be used—

''(1) to expand or create academic programs or programs of training that provide relevant job skill training for high-growth occupations or industries;

''(2) to purchase equipment which will facilitate the development of academic programs or programs of training that provide training for high-growth occupations or industries;

''(3) to support outreach efforts that enable students to attend institutions of higher education with academic programs or programs of training focused on high-growth occupations or industries;

''(4) to expand or create programs for distance, evening, weekend, modular, or compressed learning opportunities that provide relevant job skill training in high-growth occupations or industries;

''(5) to build partnerships with local businesses in high-growth occupations or industries; and

''(6) for other uses that the Secretary determines to be consistent with the intent of this section.

''(f) REQUIREMENTS.—

''(1) FISCAL AGENT.—For the purpose of this section, the institution of higher education in an eligible partnership shall serve as the fiscal agent and grant recipient for the eligible partnership.

''(2) DURATION.—The Secretary shall award grants under this section for a 1-year period.

''(3) AVAILABILITY OF GRANT FUNDS.—Grant funds awarded under this section shall be available for not more than 18 months unless, at the Secretary's discretion, the Secretary extends the availability of the grant funds.

''(4) SUPPLEMENT, NOT SUPPLANT.—Funds made available under this section shall be used to supplement and not supplant other Federal, State, and local funds available to the eligible partnership for carrying out the activities described in subsection (e).

"Subpart 2—Small Business Innovation Partnership Grants

"SEC. 375. SMALL BUSINESS INNOVATION PARTNERSHIP GRANTS.

''(a) GRANTS AUTHORIZED.—The Secretary is authorized to award grants to eligible partnerships to enable the eligible partnerships to provide training and relevant job skills to small business owners or operators for the purpose of facilitating small business development in the communities served by the eligible partnerships.

''(b) DEFINITION OF ELIGIBLE PARTNERSHIP.—In this section the term 'eligible partnership' means a partnership between or among an institution of higher education and 1 or more entities that the Secretary, in consultation with the Administrator of the Small Business Administration, identifies as facilitating small business development, which may include—

''(1) a community development financial institution;

''(2) a small business development center; or

''(3) a microenterprise lending institution.

''(c) AWARD BASIS.—The Secretary shall award grants under this section on the basis of—

''(1) the ability of an eligible partnership to facilitate small business development; and

''(2)(A) the ability of an eligible partnership to serve a rural community;

''(B) the ability of an eligible partnership to serve a low-income population; or

''(C) other criteria developed by the Secretary in consultation with the Administrator of the Small Business Administration.

''(d) LIMITATION.—Of the funds appropriated under section 378 for this part for a fiscal year, the Secretary is authorized to use not more than $15,000,000 of such funds to carry out this section.

"Subpart 3—Administrative Provisions

"SEC. 378. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

''There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this part $65,000,000 for fiscal year 2005 and such sums as may be necessary for each of the 4 succeeding fiscal years.''.

SEC. 5. LEAP APPLICATIONS.

Section 415C of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1070c–2) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a), by inserting after the first sentence the following: ''A State agency may submit an application under this section in partnership with a philanthropic organization within the State, a public or private degree granting institution of higher education within the State, or a combination of such organizations or institutions.''; and

(2) in subsection (b)(10), by inserting '', from philanthropic, institutional, or private funds, or from a combination of such sources'' before the period.

SEC. 6. WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT LOAN PROGRAM.

Part B of title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1071 et seq.) is amended by inserting after section 428K (20 U.S.C. 1078–11) the following:

"SEC. 428L. HIGH-GROWTH OCCUPATION OR INDUSTRY WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT STUDENT LOANS.

''(a) LOAN PROGRAM AUTHORIZED.—The Secretary shall carry out a loan program under which eligible students may receive a loan of not more than $2,000 for each of the first 2 years of the eligible students' undergraduate program of study in the same manner as the eligible students receive loans under this part and part D.

''(b) DEFINITIONS.—

''(1) ELIGIBLE INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION.—The term 'eligible institution of higher education' means an institution of higher education that offers undergraduate academic programs or undergraduate programs of training in a subject identified under subsection (d)(1) by the State board of the State where the institution of higher education is located.

''(2) ELIGIBLE STUDENT.—The term 'eligible student' means an undergraduate student who—

''(A) is otherwise eligible for a loan under this part or part D;

''(B) enters into an agreement with the eligible institution of higher education where the student is or will be in attendance, under which the student agrees to pursue an undergraduate academic program or undergraduate program of training that trains the student for employment in a high-growth occupation or industry identified under subsection (d)(1);

''(C) is age 18 or older; and

''(D) has an expected family contribution (calculated under part F) equal to or less than zero.

''(3) STATE BOARD; LOCAL BOARD.—The terms 'State board' and 'local board' have the meanings given such terms in section 101 of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998.

''(c) LIMITS ON LOAN AMOUNTS.—

''(1) ANNUAL LOAN LIMITS.—The total aggregate amount of loans made to an eligible student under this part (including this section) and part D for each of the first and second years of the eligible student's program of study at an eligible institution of higher education, or their equivalent (as determined by the Secretary), that may be covered by Federal loan insurance may not exceed $4,625 for each such year, notwithstanding sections 425 and 428.

''(2) AGGREGATE LIMITS.—The Secretary shall include the amount of any loans received by an eligible student under this section in calculating the eligible student's aggregate loan limits under sections 425(a)(2) and 428(b)(1)(B).

''(3) AVAILABILITY OF OTHER FUNDS.—An eligible student who receives the maximum loan amount allowed under this section remains eligible for any other program for which the eligible student qualifies under this Act.

''(d) IDENTIFICATION OF HIGH-GROWTH OCCUPATIONS OR INDUSTRIES.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—The State board, in consultation with the local boards and the State entity or agency responsible for licensing institutions of higher education, shall identify high growth occupations or industries in accordance with paragraph (2).

''(2) TIMING.—The State board shall review and update the identification required under paragraph (1) each time the State board is required to submit or resubmit a State plan under section 112 of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998.

''(3) SPECIAL RULE.—A student who has completed 1 year of a 2-year undergraduate academic program or undergraduate program of training in a subject which was previously identified as preparation for a high-growth occupation or industry but, after the review under paragraph (2), is no longer so identified, shall be eligible to receive a loan under this section for the student's second year of such program of study if the student—

''(A) qualified as an eligible student, as defined in subsection (b)(2), and received a loan under this section, for the first year of such program of study; and

''(B) meets the qualifications of subparagraphs (A), (C), and (D) of subsection (b)(2).

''(e) FUNDS FOR ADMINISTRATION.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—From funds appropriated under subsection (f), the Secretary shall make available to each eligible institution of higher education serving an eligible student with a loan made under this section not more than the amount determined under paragraph (2).

''(2) AMOUNT.—The amount referred to in paragraph (1) for each eligible institution of higher education serving an eligible student with a loan made under this section is 2 percent of the total amount of all loans made under this section to eligible students at the eligible institution of higher education, or $100,000, whichever is less.

''(3) USES.—The funds made available under paragraph (1) may be used for the following purposes:

''(A) OFFICE.—To create an office of business and workforce partnerships at the eligible institution of higher education to provide staff support for building relationships between the eligible institution of higher education and local businesses.

''(B) ANNUAL REPORT.—To provide an annual report to the Secretary regarding the number of eligible students receiving loans made under this section who—

''(i) remain in their academic program or program of training;

''(ii) graduate from their academic program or program of training;

''(iii) transfer to another institution of higher education; or

''(iv) are placed in unsubsidized employment not later than 12 months after graduation.

''(f) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section such sums as may be necessary for fiscal year 2005 and each of the 4 succeeding fiscal years.''.

SEC. 7. REQUIREMENT RELATING TO CREDIT TRANSFER.

(a) PROGRAM PARTICIPATION AGREEMENTS.—Section 487(a) of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1094(a)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(24) The institution will not exclude the transfer of credits earned by a student completing courses or programs at other eligible institutions of higher education solely on the basis of the agency or association that accredited such other eligible institution if that agency or association is recognized by the Secretary pursuant to section 496 to be a reliable authority as to the quality of the education or training offered and is currently listed by the Secretary pursuant to section 101(c).''.

(b) ACCREDITING AGENCY AND ASSOCIATION REQUIREMENTS.—Section 496(a) (20 U.S.C. 1099b(a)) is amended—

(1) by striking ''and'' at the end of paragraph (7);

(2) by striking the period at the end of paragraph (8) and inserting ''; and''; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

''(9) such agency or association not adopt or apply standards, policies, or practices that restrict or deny the transfer of credits earned by a student completing courses or programs at other eligible institutions of higher education solely on the basis of the agency or association that accredited such other eligible institution if that agency or association is recognized by the Secretary pursuant to this section to be a reliable authority as to the quality of the education or training offered and is currently listed by the Secretary pursuant to section 101(c).''.

(c) ACCREDITING AGENCY STANDARDS.—Section 496(a)(5) of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1099b(a)(5)) is amended—

(1) by striking ''and'' at the end of subparagraph (I);

(2) by inserting ''and'' after the semicolon at the end of subparagraph (J); and

(3) by inserting after subparagraph (J) the following new subparagraph:

''(K) policies for the transfer of credit and the notification of the public of such policies;''.

Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. President, it is my pleasure to co-sponsor, the Higher Education Access, Affordability and Opportunity Act being introduced today by Senator ENZI. This legislation is an issue of great concern to Senators and our constituents: job loss. There is really nothing new about job loss in America. Our strength as an economy is not measured by how many jobs we lose; it is measured by how many good new jobs we create to replace those jobs and how well we train those people to fill those jobs. We don't want to lose any jobs. We want to recognize the pain that goes with moving from one job to another. But, the best thing we can do about job loss is to create an environment in which good new jobs can grow and to offer the training resources necessary to hold those jobs.

Senator ENZI believes, as do I, that a comprehensive approach to creating jobs and training workers is necessary to adapt to the changing demands of the modern economy. The Higher Education Act was enacted to give more students a change to attend college. It was not intended to be a job training bill, nor should it become one. There is, however, a need to create a stronger partnership between institutions of higher education and the 21st century workforce. The goal of access to higher education and the goal of training a highly skilled workforce are not mutually exclusive.

Community colleges are our secret weapons in workforce development. This bill used our secret weapon to create a competitive grant program to help community colleges develop academic programs focusing on areas of high-growth employment. Among other things, it provides additional subsidized loans for high-growth job sector training programs such as technology and health care.

In higher education we focus really on two principles: The first is autonomy and the second is choice. We allow generous amounts of government money to follow students to the schools of their choice. These principles provide students with flexibility to choose among fast moving institutions, and facilitate contracts with businesses. These competitive grants and additional subsidized loans will give local governments both the resources necessary and autonomy to work with their local community colleges to develop programs that will train workers for the jobs that are available within their communities.

I will continue to work with Senator ENZI on these important legislative initiatives and make them a part of the reauthorization of the Higher Education Act.

By Mr. CRAIG (for himself and Mr. DURBIN):

S. 2796. A bill to clarify that service marks, collective marks, and certification marks are entitled to the same protections, rights, and privileges of trademarks; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

Mr. CRAIG. Mr. President, today Senator DURBIN and I are introducing legislation strengthening current law concerning certification marks, collective marks, and service marks.

While some of our colleagues may not recognize these terms, I doubt there is any Senator who has not come into contact with one of these marks. For example, if you bought the best baking potatoes in the world, you are familiar with the ''Grown in Idaho®'' or ''Idaho Potatoes®'' certification mark. Perhaps you know the certification mark ''UL,'' which stands for Underwriters Laboratory and signifies that an electrical product meets certain safety standards. If you watch network television and have seen the CBS ''eye,'' you have seen a service mark. The union labels on many products are collective marks.

To explain the differences among these marks: service marks are words, names, symbols, or characters that distinguish the mark holder's services, while trademarks distinguish the mark holder's goods. Collective marks are trademarks that are used by organization or association to identify goods or services produced by members of a group. The certification mark is a trade or service mark used to certify characteristics about a product or service; it may indicate that the product or service originates in a specific geographic region, or meets certain standards of quality or mode of manufacture, or the work that went into it was performed by members of an organization.

While they are somewhat different, these marks all serve the same purpose—that is, they enable the public to distinguish among products and services and prevent consumers from being deceived by similar brands. Congress

determined that marks would serve the public interest by enhancing product quality and safety, and provided legal protection to these marks under the Lanham Act. The federal law protects all four kinds of marks equally; specifically, 15 U.S.C. §1503 and 15 U.S.C. §1504 provide that service marks, collective marks, and certification marks ''shall be entitled to the protection provided'' to trademarks, except where Congress provides otherwise by statute.

The principle of equal treatment also applies to ''no challenge'' provisions in license agreements for the use of a trademark, service mark, collective mark, or certification mark. It is common for such agreements to include provisions under which licensees acknowledge the validity of and agree not to challenge the marks. By protecting the validity of the marks, these provisions reduce potential litigation costs for mark owners and protect the investment made by licensees. A long line of cases has upheld ''no challenge'' provisions in trademark licenses and dismissed validity challenges.

Unfortunately, the clarity of the Lanham Act on these points has been confused by a recent decision of the Second Circuit Court of Appeals in the case of Idaho Potato Commission v. M&M Produce Farm and Sales. That decision interpreted the Lanham Act as requiring that certification marks should be treated differently from trademarks with respect to ''no challenge'' provisions. The court mistakenly likened the public policy considerations surrounding certification marks to those surrounding patents.

This decision has raised great consternation among the holders of certification marks and their licenses throughout the United States—more than two dozen of whom joined in an amicus brief challenging the court's reasoning. Congress should be equally concerned, because this decision has the potential to undermine the Lanham Act and the certification mark system itself.

The legislation we are introducing today would not change current law, but would only underscore the policy that Congress clearly intended in the first place. We propose to add the words ''rights an privileges'' to the two sections of the law that I quoted above, which would clarify that registered service marks, collective marks, and certification marks are ''entitled to the protections, rights, and privileges'' provided to trademarks. While I have learned never to call legislation ''simple,'' I would stress that at least our intention is simple: to reinstate the original intent of Congress and indicate our support of the view that these marks are to be given equal legal treatment.

I invite all my colleagues to review this legislation and consider the important public policy interests it would protect. It is not only the mark holders and licensees in your State, but all consumers across the nation who have a stake in this bill, and I hope the Senate will act swiftly to approve it.

I ask unanimous consent the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the bill was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 2796

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

SECTION 1. PROTECTIONS, RIGHTS, AND PRIVILEGES OF SERVICE MARKS, COLLECTIVE MARKS, AND CERTIFICATION MARKS.

The Act entitled ''An Act to provide for the registration and protection of trademarks used in commerce, to carry out the provisions of certain international conventions, and for other purposes'', approved July 5, 1946 (commonly referred to as the Trademark Act of 1946) is amended—

(1) in section 3 (15 U.S.C. 1053) in the first sentence, by striking ''protection'' and inserting ''protections, rights, and privileges''; and

(2) in section 4 (15 U.S.C. 1054) in the first sentence, by striking ''protection'' and inserting ''protections, rights, and privileges''.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 136—HONORING AND MEMORIALIZING THE PASSENGERS AND CREW OF UNITED AIRLINES FLIGHT 93

Mr. CONRAD (for himself and Mr. JEFFORDS) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Rules and Administration:

S. CON. RES. 136

Whereas on September 11, 2001, acts of war involving the hijacking of commercial airplanes were committed against the United States, killing and injuring thousands of innocent people;

Whereas 1 of the hijacked planes, United Airlines Flight 93, crashed in a field in Pennsylvania;

Whereas while Flight 93 was still in the air, the passengers and crew, through cellular phone conversations with loved ones on the ground, learned that other hijacked airplanes had been used to attack the United States;

Whereas during those phone conversations, several of the passengers indicated that there was an agreement among the passengers and crew to try to overpower the hijackers who had taken over Flight 93;

Whereas Congress established the National Commission on Terrorist Attacks Upon the United States (commonly referred to as ''the 9–11 Commission'') to study the September 11, 2001, attacks and how they occurred;

Whereas the 9–11 Commission concluded that ''the nation owes a debt to the passengers of Flight 93. Their actions saved the lives of countless others, and may have saved either the U.S. Capitol or the White House from destruction.''; and

Whereas the crash of Flight 93 resulted in the death of everyone on board: Now, therefore, be it

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

(1) the United States owes the passengers and crew of United Airlines Flight 93 deep respect and gratitude for their decisive actions and efforts of bravery;

(2) the United States extends its condolences to the families and friends of the passengers and crew of Flight 93;

(3) not later than January 1, 2006, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, the minority leader of the House of Representatives, the majority leader of the Senate, and the minority leader of the Senate shall determine a location in the United States Capitol Building (including the Capitol Visitor Center) that shall be named in honor of the passengers and crew of Flight 93, who saved the United States Capitol Building from destruction; and

(4) a memorial plaque shall be placed at the site of the determined location that states the purpose of the honor and the names of the passengers and crew of Flight 93 on whom the honor is bestowed.

Mr. CONRAD. Mr. President, I rise today to submit a concurrent resolution to honor the memory of the passengers on flight 93. This past weekend marked the third anniversary of the vicious and merciless attacks that took place on American soil on September 11, 2001.

As we reflect on those events and mourn the great loss we suffered, we remember the innocent who perished and we are reminded of the valiant efforts of those who saved lives, including the passengers and crew of flight 93. Those brave people gave up their lives in order to save others that fateful day.

In the last several months, the 9/11 Commission released its report about the series of events that took place on September 11, 2001. The Senate has subsequently undertaken an evaluation of the Commission's findings through a series of hearings. As the story continues to unfold, it becomes more clear how important the actions of the passengers and crew of flight 93 were. We now know that flight 93 was almost certainly headed to the U.S. Capitol or the White House. We also know the passengers of flight 93 learned through a series of phone calls to loved ones that hijackers on three other flights had turned airplanes into flying bombs that morning, crashing them into the World Trade Center and the Pentagon.

Armed only with that knowledge and their own courage and resolve, those brave passengers attacked the hijackers and forced them to crash flight 93 into rural Pennsylvania far short of its intended target.

The 9/11 Commission concluded that the Nation owes a debt to the passengers of flight 93. Their actions saved the lives of countless others and may have saved either the U.S. Capitol or the White House from destruction.

Those of us who work here in the Capitol owe a special debt of gratitude to those heroes. Their actions saved one of the greatest symbols of our democracy. Had flight 93 reached its intended target, the dreadful day might have been even worse.

Today I am submitting a resolution honoring and memorializing the passengers and crew of United Airline flight 93. This legislation expresses our deepest respect and gratitude to them, as well as condolences to their families

and friends. This bill also calls for a location in the Capitol to be named in their memory and a commemorative plaque to be placed at that location.

Today I bow my head in memory of those who died at the World Trade Center and the Pentagon. I also pay respect to our first responders, volunteers, and average citizens who risked their lives to save others on that day.

Finally, I pay homage to the passengers and crew of flight 93 for taking on those who wished to harm our country and Nation's Capital. I believe it is appropriate at this time to acknowledge the actions of the passengers of flight 93 for showing such remarkable heroism and to commemorate them in the very walls that might have crumbled had they not made that ultimate sacrifice. We are forever indebted to them and should never forget their bravery or their sacrifice or that of their loved ones.

I hope my colleagues will join me in sponsoring this resolution. I have it at the desk and I am submitting it now. I hope on a broad bipartisan basis we are able to recognize those brave passengers and crew of flight 93 for what they did on that remarkable day.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 3621. Mrs. MURRAY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill H.R. 4567, making appropriations for the Department of Homeland Security for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2005, and for other purposes.

SA 3622. Mr. SMITH submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2709, to provide for the reforestation of appropriate forest cover on forest land derived from the public domain, and for other purposes; which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

SA 3623. Mr. SHELBY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 4567, making appropriations for the Department of Homeland Security for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2005, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3624. Ms. MIKULSKI (for herself, Mrs. BOXER, Mrs. CLINTON, Mr. HARKIN, Mr. JEFFORDS, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. SARBANES, and Mr. SCHUMER) proposed an amendment to the bill H.R. 4567, supra.

SA 3625. Mr. NELSON, of Nebraska proposed an amendment to the bill H.R. 4567, supra.

SA 3626. Mr. KENNEDY proposed an amendment to the bill H.R. 4567, supra.

SA 3627. Mr. HOLLINGS submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 4567, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3628. Mr. NELSON, of Nebraska submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 4567, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3629. Mr. DAYTON proposed an amendment to the bill H.R. 4567, supra.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 3621. Mrs. MURRAY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill H.R. 4567, making appropriations for the Department of Homeland Security for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2005, and for other purposes; as follows:

On page 39, between lines 5 and 6, insert the following:

SEC. 515. Of the amount appropriated by title II for the Office of the Under Secretary for Border and Transportation Security under the heading ''AIR AND MARINE INTERDICTION, OPERATIONS, MAINTENANCE, AND PROCUREMENT'', $5,000,000 may be used for a pilot project to test interoperable communications between the first Northern Border Air Wing, Bellingham, Washington, and local law enforcement personnel.

SA 3622. Mr. SMITH submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2709, to provide for the reforestation of appropriate forest cover on forest land derived from the public domain, and for other purposes; which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources; as follows:

At the end, add the following:

SEC. 6. BISCUIT FIRE RECOVERY PROJECT.

(a) JUDICIAL REVIEW.—The final environmental impact statement issued by the Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management concerning the Biscuit Fire Recovery Project on the Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest and the Grants Pass Resource Area (including the records of decision accompanying the final environmental impact statement) and any Federal action brought under the final environmental impact statement shall not be subject to judicial review by any court of the United States.

(b) TIMING.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, including, but not limited to, the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.), the National Forest Management Act of 1976 (16 U.S.C. 472a et seq.), and the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.), the activities authorized by the final environmental impact statement described in subsection (a) shall proceed immediately and to completion.

(c) EXEMPTION FROM APPLICABLE LAW.—The activities authorized by the final environmental impact statement described in subsection (a) shall not be subject to—

(1) the notice, comment, and appeal requirements of section 322 of Public Law No. 102–381 (16 U.S.C. 1612 note);

(2) administrative remedies under title 43, Code of Federal Regulations; or

(3) judicial review under subchapter II of chapter 5, and chapter 7, of title 5, United States Code (commonly known as the ''Administrative Procedure Act'').

(d) ATTORNEY'S COSTS, FEES, AND EXPENSES.—No costs, fees, or expenses of an attorney may be recovered in any civil action relating to the Biscuit Fire Recovery Project.

SEC. 7. KALMIOPSIS WILDERNESS ADDITION.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) MAP.—The term ''map'' means the map dated September ___, 2004, and entitled ''Proposed Kalmiopsis Wilderness Addition-Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest''.

(2) SECRETARY.—The term ''Secretary'' means the Secretary of Agriculture.

(b) DESIGNATION.—In accordance with the Wilderness Act (16 U.S.C. 1131 et seq.), the approximately 64,000 acres of land in the Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest in the State of Oregon, as generally depicted on the map, is—

(1) designated as wilderness and as a component of the National Wilderness Preservation System, to be known as the ''Kalmiopsis Wilderness Addition''; and

(2) incorporated into, and to be managed as part of, the Kalmiopsis Wilderness.

(c) MAP AND BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—As soon as practicable after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall—

(A) prepare a boundary description of the Kalmiopsis Wilderness Addition; and

(B) submit to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate and the Committee on Resources of the House of Representatives the map and boundary description.

(2) PUBLIC AVAILABILITY.—The map and boundary description shall be on file and available for public inspection in the office of the Chief of the Forest Service.

(3) FORCE OF LAW.—The map and boundary description shall have the same force and effect as if included in this Act, except that the Secretary may correct minor errors in the map and the boundary description.

(d) ADMINISTRATION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to valid existing rights in existence on the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall administer the Kalmiopsis Wilderness Addition in accordance with the Wilderness Act (16 U.S.C. 1131 et seq.) and this Act.

(2) EFFECTIVE DATE OF WILDERNESS ACT.—With respect to the Kalmiopsis Wilderness Addition, any reference in the Wilderness Act (16 U.S.C. 1131 et seq.) to the effective date of that Act shall be deemed to be a reference to the date of the enactment of this Act.

SA 3623. Mr. SHELBY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 4567, making appropriations for the Department of Homeland Security for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2005, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 16, line 4, before the period at the end, insert the following: '': *Provided, further*, That the budget for fiscal year 2006 that is submitted under section 1105(a) of title 31, United States Code, shall include an amount for the Coast Guard that is sufficient to fund delivery of a long-term maritime patrol aircraft capability that is consistent with the original procurement plan for the CN–235 aircraft beyond the three aircraft already funded in previous fiscal years''.

SA 3624. Ms. MIKULSKI (for herself, Mrs. BOXER, Mrs. CLINTON, Mr. HARKIN, Mr. JEFFORDS, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. SARBANES, and Mr. SCHUMER) proposed an amendment to the bill H.R. 4567, making appropriations for the Department of Homeland Security for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2005, and for other purposes; as follows:

SEC. 515. The amount appropriated by title III for the Office of State and Local Government Coordination and Preparedness under the heading ''FIREFIGHTER ASSISTANCE GRANTS'' is hereby increased to $900,000,000.

SA 3625. Mr. NELSON of Nebraska proposed an amendment to the bill H.R. 4567, making appropriations for the Department of Homeland Security for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2005, and for other purposes; as follows:

On page 19, line 17, strike ''$2,845,081,000'' and all that follows through line 22, and insert the following: ''$3,605,081,000, which shall be allocated as follows:

''(1) $1,700,000,000 for formula-based grants, $400,000,000 for law enforcement terrorism

prevention grants, and $30,000,000 for Citizen Corps grants pursuant to section 1014 of the USA PATRIOT ACT (42 U.S.C. 3714): *Provided*, That''.

SA 3626. Mr. KENNEDY proposed an amendment to the bill H.R. 4567, making appropriations for the Department of Homeland Security for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2005, and for other purposes; as follows:

On page 39, between lines 5 and 6, insert the following:

SEC. 515. (a) Not later than 15 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the President shall submit a copy of the Scowcroft Commission report to Congress.

(b) The report required under subsection (a) shall be submitted in unclassified form, but may include a classified annex.

(c) In this section, the term ''Scowcroft Commission report'' means the report on improving the capabilities of the United States intelligence community that was prepared by the presidential commission appointed pursuant to National Security Presidential Directive 5 (May 9, 2001) and chaired by General Brent Scowcroft and that was submitted to the President in or around December 2001.

SA 3627. Mr. HOLLINGS submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 4567, making appropriations for the Department of Homeland Security for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2005, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place in title I, insert the following:

MARITIME TRANSPORTATION SECURITY FUNDING

For the purposes described in section 70121(b) of title 46, United States Code, an amount equal to the amounts credited to the Maritime Transportation Security Fund under section 70121(c) of that title, but not in excess of $500,000,000: *Provided* that chapter 701 of title 46, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

''§ 70120. Security service fees

''(a) GENERAL AUTHORITY.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—For fiscal years 2005 through 2008, the Secretary of Homeland Security shall impose a maritime security user fee on entities that benefit directly from a secure system of international maritime transportation to assist in the payment of the costs of providing international maritime security services for shipments of cargo and to provide to shippers the benefit of a secure system of international maritime trade. The Secretary shall impose the fee for each unit of measure of cargo imported into or exported from the United States on a vessel when entering or leaving the United States as follows:

Cargo Group	Unit of Measure	Fee
Container (non-HAZMAT).	TEU	$20.00
Container (HAZMAT).	TEU	$50.00

''(2) INTERNATIONAL TRANSSHIPMENT SECURITY FEE.—The Secretary shall impose an international maritime transshipment security user fee for providing security services for shipments of cargo entering the United States as part of an international transportation movement by water through Canadian or Mexican ports at the same rates as the fee imposed under paragraph (1). The fee authorized by this paragraph shall not be assessed or collected on transshipments from—

''(A) Canada after the date on which the Secretary determines that an agreement between the United States and Canada has entered into force that will provide equivalent security regimes and international maritime security user fees of the United States and Canada for transshipments between the countries; or

''(B) Mexico after the date on which the Secretary determines that an agreement between the United States and Mexico has entered into force that will provide equivalent security regimes and international maritime security user fees of the United States and Mexico for transshipments between the countries.

''(b) IMPOSITION OF FEES.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding section 9701 of title 31 and the procedural requirements of section 553 of title 5, the Secretary shall impose the fees under subsection (a) through the publication of notice of such fee in the Federal Register. A fee shall be imposed on each cargo shipment when imported into or exported from the United States on a vessel. No fee shall be assessed more than once per voyage.

''(2) MEANS OF COLLECTION.—The Secretary shall prescribe procedures to collect fees under this section. The Secretary may use a department, agency, or instrumentality of the United States Government or of a State or local government to collect the fee and may reimburse the department, agency, or instrumentality a reasonable amount for its services.

''(3) SUBSEQUENT MODIFICATION OF FEES.—After imposing a fee under subsection (a), the Secretary may modify, from time to time through publication of notice in the Federal Register, the imposition or collection of such fee, or both. The Secretary shall evaluate the fee annually to determine whether it is necessary and appropriate to pay the cost of activities and services, and shall adjust the amount of the fee accordingly.

''(c) ADMINISTRATION OF FEES.—

''(1) FEES PAYABLE TO SECRETARY.—All fees imposed and amounts collected under this section are payable to the Secretary.

''(2) INFORMATION.—The Secretary may require the provision of such information as the Secretary decides is necessary to verify that fees have been collected and remitted at the proper times and in the proper amounts.

''(e) REFUNDS.—The Secretary may refund any fee paid by mistake or any amount paid in excess of that required.

''§ 70121. MARITIME TRANSPORTATION SECURITY FUND.

''(a) IN GENERAL.—There is established within the Department of Homeland Security a fund to be known as the Maritime Transportation Security Fund.

''(b) PURPOSE.—Amounts in the Fund shall be available to the Secretary to pay or reimburse the costs of implementation and compliance with the requirements of this chapter, including—

''(1) the maritime transportation security grant program authorized by section 70107(a);

''(2) the national maritime transportation security plan under section 70103(a) and the area maritime transportation security plans under section 70103(b);

''(3) implementation of the automatic identification systems required by section 70114;

''(4) the costs of developing standards and curricula for the training and certification of maritime security professionals and providing training and certification courses; and

''(5) reimbursement of port authorities, waterfront facility operators, and State, local, and regional authorities for the costs of addressing extraordinary or high priority Coast Guard identified vulnerabilities in security and ensuring compliance with the national maritime transportation security plan and applicable area maritime transportation security plans.

''(c) FUNDING.—For each of fiscal years 2005, 2006, 2007, and 2008 there shall be credited to the Fund the sum of the amounts collected from the user fees imposed by the secretary under section 70120(a), to the extent that such sum does not exceed $500,000,000 per fiscal year.

''(d) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There are authorized to be appropriated from the Fund for each fiscal years 2005, 2006, 2007, and 2008 not more than $500,000,000. Any amounts appropriated pursuant to this section shall remain available until expended.'': *Provided further*, that the chapter analysis for chapter 701 of title 46, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

''70120. Security service fees

''70121. Maritime transportation security fund''.

SA 3628. Mr. NELSON of Nebraska submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 4567, making appropriations for the Department of Homeland Security for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2005, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 19, line 17, strike ''$2,845,081,000'' and all that follows through line 22, and insert the following: ''$3,605,081,000, which shall be allocated as follows:

''(1) $1,700,000,000 for formula-based grants, $400,000,000 for law enforcement terrorism prevention grants, and $30,000,000 for Citizen Corps grants pursuant to section 1014 of the USA PATRIOT ACT (42 U.S.C. 3714): *Provided*, That''.

SA 3629. Mr. DAYTON proposed an amendment to the bill H.R. 4567, making appropriations for the Department of Homeland Security for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2005, and for other purposes; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. ____. Amounts appropriated under this Act for expenses related to the protection of federally owned and leased buildings and for the operations of the Federal Protective Service shall not be made available unless the Service implements procedures to ensure that, with respect to contracts (including subcontracts) entered into on or after May 30, 2004 with private security firms to provide protective services for federally owned or leased buildings, the terms of such contracts are not modified in a manner that results in a change in benefits for the employees involved unless the employees involved consent to such changes.

NOTICES OF HEARINGS/MEETINGS

COMMITTEE ON INDIAN AFFAIRS

Mr. CAMPBELL. Mr. President, I would like to announce that the Committee on Indian Affairs will meet on Wednesday, September 29, 2004, at 9:30 a.m. in room 216 of the Hart Senate Office Building to conduct a business meeting on pending committee matters, to be followed immediately by an oversight hearing on lobbying practices involving Indian tribes regarding allegation of misconduct associated with lobbying and related activities.

Those wishing additional information may contact the Indian Affairs Committee at 224–2251.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON NATIONAL PARKS

Mr. THOMAS. Mr. President, I would like to announce for the information of the Senate and the public that the following hearing has been scheduled before the Subcommittee on National Parks of the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

The hearing will be held on Tuesday, September 21, 2004, at 2:30 p.m., in room SD–366 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building in Washington, DC.

The purpose of the hearing is to receive testimony on the following bills: S. 784 and H.R. 1630, to revise the boundary of Petrified Forest National Park in the State of Arizona, and for other purposes; S. 2656, to establish a National Commission on the Quincentennial of the discovery of Florida by Ponce de Leon; S. 2499, to modify the boundary of the Harry S Truman National Historic Site in the State of Missouri, and for other purposes; S. 1311, to establish the Hudson-Fulton-Champlain 400th Commemoration Commission, and for other purposes; and H.R. 2055, to amend P.L. 899–366 to allow for an adjustment in the number of free roaming horses permitted in Cape Lookout National Seashore.

Because of the limited time available for the hearings, witnesses may testify by invitation only. However, those wishing to submit written testimony for the hearing record should send two copies of their testimony to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, U.S. Senate, SD–364. Dirksen Senate Office Building, Washington, DC 20510–6150.

For further information, please contact Tom Lillie at (202) 224–5161 or Sarah Creachbaum at (202) 224–6293.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

Mr. COCHRAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Governmental Affairs be authorized to meet on Monday, September 13, 2004, at 9:30 a.m., for a hearing titled ''The Importance of Real-Time, Actionable Intelligence: Ensuring the U.S. Intelligence Community Supports Homeland Defense and Departmental Needs.''

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON TERRORISM, TECHNOLOGY, AND HOMELAND SECURITY

Mr. COCHRAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on the Judiciary Subcommittee on Terrorism, Technology and Homeland Security be authorized to meet to conduct a hearing on ''A Review of the Tools to Fight Terrorism'' on Monday, September 13, 2004, at 9:30 a.m., in Dirksen 226. The witness list will be sent later today.

Witness List

Panel I: Hon. Daniel J. Bryant, Assistant Attorney General, Department of Justice, Washington, DC; and Barry Sabin, Esq., Chief, Counterterrorism Section of the Criminal Division, Department of Justice, Washington, DC.

Panel II: Professor Jonathan Turley, George Washington University Law School, Washington, DC.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR

Mr. COCHRAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that Lore Aguayo, a fellow in Senator TALENT's office, be granted the privileges of the floor during consideration of the Homeland Security appropriations bill.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

APPOINTMENT

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair, on behalf of the President pro tempore, upon the recommendation of the Democratic Leader, pursuant to Public Law 105–292, as amended by Public Law 106–55, and as further amended by Public Law 107–228, appoints the following individual to the United States Commission on International Religious Freedom: Preeta D. Bansal of Nebraska, for a term of two years (May 15, 2004–May 14, 2006).

EXECUTIVE SESSION

REMOVAL OF INJUNCTION OF SECRECY—2ND PROTOCOL AMENDING TAX CONVENTION WITH BARBADOS (TREATY DOC. 108–26)

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, as in executive session, I ask unanimous consent that the injunction of secrecy be removed from the following treaty transmitted to the Senate on September 13, 2004 by the President of the United States: 2nd protocol amending tax convention with Barbados (Treaty Doc. 108–26).

I further ask unanimous consent that the treaty be considered as having been read the first time, that it be referred, with the accompanying papers, to the Committee on Foreign Relations in order to be printed, and that the President's message be printed in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The message of the President is as follows:

To the Senate of the United States:

With a view to receiving the advice and consent of the Senate to ratification, I transmit the Second Protocol Amending the Convention Between the United States of America and Barbados for the Avoidance of Double Taxation and the Prevention of Fiscal Evasion with Respect to Taxes on Income Signed on December 31, 1984, signed at Washington on July 14, 2004. Also enclosed for the Senate's information is an exchange of notes with attached Understandings, which provide clarification with respect to the application of the Convention, as amended, in specified cases. Also transmitted for information of the Senate is the report of the Department of State with respect to the Protocol.

The Protocol updates the existing Convention to bring it into close conformity with current U.S. tax treaty policy and to ensure that the Convention cannot be used inappropriately to secure tax reductions in circumstances where there is no risk of double taxation. The Protocol would modernize the Convention's anti-treaty-shopping provision. The Protocol also updates the Convention to take account of a 1996 change in the Internal Revenue Code relating to the tax treatment of certain former long-term residents of the United States. The exchange of notes with attached Understandings provides guidance to taxpayers and each government regarding the intended interpretation of certain provisions of the Convention, as amended.

I recommend that the Senate give early and favorable consideration to this Protocol and give its advice and consent to ratification.

GEORGE W. BUSH.

THE WHITE HOUSE, *September 13, 2004.*

ORDERS FOR TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 2004

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until 9:45 a.m. tomorrow, Tuesday, September 14. I further ask unanimous consent that following the prayer and pledge, the morning hour be deemed expired, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the time for the two leaders be reserved, and the Senate then begin a period of morning business with debate only for up to 60 minutes; that the first 30 minutes be under the control of the Democratic leader or his designee and the final 30 minutes be under the control of the majority leader or his designee; provided further that the Senate then resume consideration of Calendar No. 488, H.R. 4567, the Homeland Security appropriations bill.

I further ask unanimous consent that the Senate recess from 12:30 until 2:15 for the weekly party luncheons.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

PROGRAM

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, for the information of all Senators, tomorrow following morning business the Senate will resume consideration of the Homeland Security appropriations bill. It is imperative that we finish the Homeland Security bill prior to the observance of Rosh Hashanah on Wednesday. The chairman and ranking member will be here in the morning to

begin working through the final amendments. Senators should expect a long day with numerous rollcall votes. Senators should make themselves available throughout the day tomorrow as we move forward to complete this bill.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, if the Senator will allow me a few words before we finish, as I have stated on the floor, I believe we can finish the Homeland Security appropriations bill tomorrow. I think we can do that. Senator DASCHLE has stated that he believes that is the case also. There is a complicating factor, and that is the reason we didn't have a cutoff time this evening for filing amendments. There is some interest in tying this together with supplemental appropriations for the catastrophes—I say that in the plural—that have hit Florida. The last one is not yet there. We understand the importance of that.

I say as sincerely as I can to my friend, who is my counterpart on the majority side, don't connect these two bills. We are aware and concerned about the problems in Florida and we will work to help. We have two Democratic Senators from Florida. We know how important that is. But to tie these two together is only making our work more difficult. We can finish this bill tomorrow. If the leadership on the Republican side decides they want to go to another supplemental even before, let us do that separately. We are going to do everything we can to take care of the people of Florida. But this is so important.

I will not guarantee anything, but I think if the supplemental is tied to Homeland Security, we are not going to finish this tomorrow, and I think we will be lucky to finish it Wednesday morning.

That is my observation. I am doing everything I can to work on this matter. I am making that suggestion.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I appreciate the suggestions of my good friend from Nevada. We both share a desire to help the people of Florida who have certainly been lambasted by two horrendous hurricanes and are about to be hit by one that may be even bigger. We will work with the other side of the aisle to see the best way to accommodate the needs of our folks down in Florida.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 9:45 A.M. TOMORROW

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate stand in adjournment under the previous order.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 7:04 p.m., adjourned until Tuesday, September 14, 2004, at 9:45 a.m.

NOMINATIONS

Executive nominations received by the Senate September 13, 2004:

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

RICHARD GRECO, JR., OF NEW YORK, TO BE AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE NAVY, VICE DIONEL M. AVILES.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

PATRICK J. LEAHY, OF VERMONT, TO BE A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE FIFTY-NINTH SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE UNITED NATIONS.

JOHN E. SUNUNU, OF NEW HAMPSHIRE, TO BE A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE FIFTY-NINTH SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE UNITED NATIONS.

THE FOLLOWING-NAMED CAREER MEMBERS OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF CAREER MINISTER, FOR THE PERSONAL RANK OF CAREER AMBASSADOR IN RECOGNITION OF ESPECIALLY DISTINGUISHED SERVICE OVER A SUSTAINED PERIOD:

To be career ambassador

RYAN C. CROCKER, OF WASHINGTON
MARC ISAIAH GROSSMAN, OF VIRGINIA
A. ELIZABETH JONES, OF MARYLAND
ALAN PHILIP LARSON, OF IOWA
JOHNNY YOUNG, OF MARYLAND

IN THE COAST GUARD

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES COAST GUARD RESERVE UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be captain

SCOTT B. BEESON, 0000
ROSLYN D. BURBANK, 0000
JAMES K. GILLESPIE, 0000
WILLIAM J. HERBERT, 0000
JOHN J. MARKS, 0000
DAVID J. MARTIN, 0000
MICHAEL M. MILKOVICH, 0000
CARL M. NAGATA, 0000
WILLIAM J. NASH, 0000
KIMBERLY J. PICKENS, 0000
PETER J. SAMMIS, 0000
MAUREEN M. STEINHOUSE, 0000
NEEDHAM E. WARD, 0000

IN THE AIR FORCE

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE AND FOR REGULAR APPOINTMENT (IDENTIFIED BY AN ASTERISK (*)) UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 624 AND 531:

To be lieutenant colonel

NOEL D. MONTGOMERY, 0000
KATHERINE S. REARDEN, 0000
ALEXANDER V.* SERVINO, 0000

IN THE ARMY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C. SECTION 624:

To be colonel

RAYMOND L. NAWOROL, 0000

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C. SECTION 624:

To be colonel

KEITH A. GEORGE, 0000

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be lieutenant colonel

CURTIS L. BECK, 0000

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C. SECTION 624:

To be lieutenant colonel

REX A. HARRISON, 0000

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C. SECTION 624:

To be lieutenant colonel

KEVIN HAMMOND, 0000
MICHAEL KNIPPEL, 0000

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY VETERINARY CORPS AND FOR REGULAR APPOINTMENT (IDENTIFIED BY AN ASTERISK(*)) UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 624, 531, AND 3064:

To be lieutenant colonel

JAIME B. * ANDERSON, 0000
CHESSLEY R. * ATCHISON, 0000
KENNETH L. * BATEY, 0000
CAROL A. * BOSSONE, 0000
ANTHONY C. * BOSTICK, 0000
BRIAN J. * GENTILE, 0000
CHRIS E. * HANSON, 0000
ANNETTE K. * HILDABRAND, 0000
SUZANNE C. * JARDINE, 0000
KELLY A. * MANN, 0000
JAMES T. * SHEETS, 0000
ROBERT R. THOMPSON, 0000
STEVEN W. * TOBIAS, 0000
JOSEPH G. * WILLIAMSON, 0000

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY MEDICAL SERVICE CORPS AND FOR REGULAR APPOINTMENT (IDENTIFIED BY AN ASTERISK(*)) UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 624, 531, AND 3064:

To be lieutenant colonel

JAMES R. ANDREWS, 0000
IAN R. ASHCROFT, 0000
THOMAS P. AXTMAN, 0000
CONSTANCE A. * BELL, 0000
PAUL D. * BLIESE, 0000
KARL C. BOLTON, 0000
JOHN D. BUTLER, 0000
NOEL J. CARDENAS, 0000
WILLIAM E. CARTER, 0000
GREGORY Q. CHEEK, 0000
GRANT J. COBBS, 0000
MARIE T. COCHRAN, 0000
THOMAS C. DELK, 0000
RICK G. DICKINSON, 0000
RAYMOND S. DINGLE, 0000
WILLIAM S. DRENNON, 0000
JOSEPH G. ECKERT, 0000
DAWN B. ERCKENBRACK, 0000
ALLESA J. EWELL, 0000
MYRON L. FAY, 0000
EMERY B. * FEHL, 0000
MICHAEL D. FRAVELL, 0000
JONATHAN C. FRISTOE, 0000
JOHN M. GARRITY JR., 0000
DAVID M. GILES, 0000
TAMI L. GLASCOCK, 0000
WILLIAM T. GOFORTH, 0000
DONOVAN G. GREEN, 0000
LINDA L. GUTHRIE, 0000
WENDY L. * HARTER, 0000
RONALD B. HENRY, 0000
MARK R. HICKMAN, 0000
TONI D. JACKMAN, 0000
EVELYN JACKSON, 0000
BRETT J. KELLY, 0000
TIMOTHY L. KNICKERBOCKER, 0000
ANGELA A. KOELSCH, 0000
GIOVANNI T. KOTORIY, 0000
RONALD L. KROGH, 0000
WILLIAM P. LACHANCE, 0000
GREGORY T. LAFRANCOIS, 0000
JOSEPH E. LAUNDREE, 0000
MICHAEL J. LOPATKA, 0000
ALEJANDRO LOPEZDUKE, 0000
TIMOTHY P. * LYONS, 0000
PETER V. MARKS JR., 0000
DOUGLAS M. MARR, 0000
MATTHEW E. MATTNER, 0000
JAMES D. MCLAIN, 0000
JOHN F. MERKLE, 0000
STEVEN P. MIDDLECAMP, 0000
STEVEN G. MILLWARD, 0000
MARK E. MORGAN, 0000
SEAN T. MORGAN, 0000
FINK C. MOSER, 0000
LUIS A. * MUNIZ, 0000
TIMOTHY L. NAPORA, 0000
ALEX G. ORNSTEIN, 0000
SHARON J. * PACCHIANA, 0000
JOHN C. PASTINO, 0000
THOMAS E. PAUL, 0000
FRANCISCO C. PAULINO JR., 0000
RICHARD D. PAZ, 0000
ROBERT K. PELL JR., 0000
DEXEL V. * PETERS, 0000
REBECCA I. * PORTER, 0000
BRADLEY G. PREDMORE, 0000
KAREN M. PRICE, 0000
DAVID T. * REIBER, 0000
DAVID G. RICHARDSON, 0000
DANYLO O. RUDAKEVYCH, 0000
CAROL Z. * RYMER, 0000
LEE H. SCHILLER JR., 0000
GARY A. SEAL, 0000
KENNETH S. * SHAW, 0000
DAVID V. SHEAFFER, 0000
JAMES K. SJOVALL, 0000
PETER H. SMART, 0000
JOHN A. SMITH, 0000
IVAN D. SPEIGHTS SR., 0000
ANGELO J. ST III, 0000
ANDREA M. STAHL, 0000
ELIZABETH J. * STEAD, 0000
KEVIN J. STEVENS, 0000
RANDY STORY, 0000
WILLIAM M. STUBBS, 0000
JOHN E. SUTTON, 0000
TARRA L. TAYLOR, 0000
JERRY S. THOMAS, 0000
WILLIAM B. TILSON, 0000
STEVEN A. TOFT, 0000
GARY W. * TRYNISZEWSKI, 0000
JAMES B. UPTON, 0000
JOSEPH J. VANCOSKY JR., 0000
TERSCH R. * VON, 0000
ROBERT M. WALKER JR., 0000
SCOTT L. WARNER, 0000
MARK R. WHITE, 0000
ERIN V. * WILKINSON, 0000
KARL O. WILSON, 0000
ALEX P. ZOTOMAYOR, 0000
SHANDA M. ZUGNER, 0000

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY AND FOR REGULAR APPOINTMENT (IDENTIFIED BY AN

ASTERISK(*)) UNDER TITLE 10 U.S.C., SECTIONS 624 AND 531:

To be lieutenant colonel

MICHAEL C. AARON, 0000
KENNETH P. ADGIE, 0000
BRIAN E. ALBERT, 0000
DANIEL S. ALBERT, 0000
MANLEY R. ALFORD, 0000
WILLIAM E. ALLEN, 0000
STEPHANIE D. ALLENMOFFETT, 0000
HOLTORF R. * ALONSO, 0000
CATHERINE E. ALTHERR, 0000
JOHN M. ALTMAN, 0000
MARICELA ALVARADO, 0000
MICHAEL W. ANASTASIA, 0000
CAROL L. ANDERSON, 0000
DELMAR G. ANDERSON, 0000
MATTHEW R. ANDERSON, 0000
RICHARD J. ANDERSON, 0000
STEVEN P. ANDERSON, 0000
CHRIS L. * ANDREWS, 0000
ERIC J. ANGELI, 0000
JOSE E. ARANES, 0000
HOWARD E. AREY IV, 0000
REGINALD D. ARMSTRONG, 0000
TODD A. ARMSWORTH, 0000
ANTHONY E. ARTHUR, 0000
TERRI L. ASHLEY, 0000
DAVID W. ASTIN, 0000
CHARLES L. ATKINS, 0000
DOUGLAS R. BABB, 0000
GLENN C. BACA, 0000
PETER K. BACON, 0000
SCOTT D. BAER, 0000
DOUGLAS G. BAGDASARIAN, 0000
GWEN E. BAKER, 0000
JEFFERY S. BAKER, 0000
STEVEN A. BAKER, 0000
ROBERT M. BALCAVAGE JR., 0000
BRADLY S. BALDWIN, 0000
DANE A. BARKSDALE, 0000
BRENT E. BARNES, 0000
DANIEL R. BARNETT, 0000
JAMES E. BARREN, 0000
MARIA B. BARRETT, 0000
JAMES L. BARTON JR., 0000
RONALD J. BASHISTA, 0000
RENA M. BATTS, 0000
FRANCIS M. BEAUDETTE, 0000
CURTIS L. BECK, 0000
CHRISTOPHER H. BECKERT, 0000
FRANK D. BEESLEY, 0000
JOSELYN L. BELL JR., 0000
LOUIS J. BELLO, 0000
JOHN N. BENDER, 0000
BRIAN D. BENNETT, 0000
CHRISTOPHER R. BENOIT, 0000
WAYNE P. BERGERON, 0000
CARLOS J. BETANCOURT JR., 0000
PAUL BEZZEK, 0000
ALDO P. BIAGIOTTI, 0000
ELLEN A. BIRCH, 0000
THOMAS M. * BISCHOF, 0000
SCOTT J. BISCIOTTI, 0000
PAUL A. BISHOP, 0000
MARK R. BLACKBURN, 0000
MICHAEL BLAHOVEC, 0000
MAURICE T. BLAND, 0000
MURRAY K. BLANDING SR., 0000
BRYAN H. BLUE, 0000
MICHAEL A. BODEN, 0000
RUSSELL E. * BODINE, 0000
ADRIAN T. * BOGART III, 0000
WILLIAM E. BOHMAN, 0000
GILLIAN S. BOICE, 0000
WILLIAM L. BOICE, 0000
BRENT T. BOLANDER, 0000
SCOTT D. BOLSTAD, 0000
JACK W. BONE, 0000
CHRISTOPHER J. BONHEIM, 0000
BRETT L. BONNELL, 0000
JAMES E. BONNER, 0000
PAUL BONTRAGER, 0000
KARL D. BOPP, 0000
REGINALD BOSTICK, 0000
ROLAND J. BOSTICK, 0000
MICHAEL E. * BOWNAS, 0000
JEFFREY A. BOYER, 0000
JAMES H. BRADLEY JR., 0000
JOHN M. BRADSHER, 0000
MICHAEL E. BRANDT, 0000
LIANA L. BRATLAND, 0000
KENNETH A. BREITEN, 0000
DONALD E. BRIDGERS, 0000
TIMOTHY P. BROOKS, 0000
SCOTT E. BROWER, 0000
ANTHONY BROWN, 0000
DUANE E. BROWN, 0000
JAMES C. BROWN, 0000
JENIFER L. BROWN, 0000
KERK B. BROWN, 0000
LESLIE F. BROWN, 0000
RANDALL K. BROWN, 0000
RENE BROWN, 0000
TITUS BROWN, 0000
ERIC B. BRUNS, 0000
SHEILA A. BRYANT, 0000
GEOFFREY P. BUHLIG, 0000
STEVEN R. BUNCH, 0000
ROBERT J. BUNGARDEN, 0000
MARK A. BURGE, 0000
CHRISTOPHER T. BURGESS, 0000
STEPHEN A. BURK, 0000
EMMETT E. BURKE, 0000
DAVID W. BURWELL, 0000
TROY D. BUSBY, 0000
RICHARD S. BUSKO, 0000
ALFONZO * BUTLER, 0000
HAROLD B. BYRNE, 0000
LEO F. CABALLERO, 0000
STEVEN G. CADE, 0000
JOSEPH E. CALISTO, 0000
DAVID C. CALLAHAN, 0000
PAUL T. CALVERT, 0000
TERESA L. CAMPBELL, 0000
MATTHEW M. CANFIELD, 0000
DOUGLAS C. CARDINALE, 0000
SARAH A. CAREY, 0000
TORI R. CARLILE, 0000
MICHAEL A. CARLINO, 0000
JAMES D. CARPENTER, 0000
KEITH A. CARROLL, 0000
MARTIN V. CARROLL, 0000
RICHARD C. CARROLL, 0000
ROBIN P. CARROW, 0000
ROGER D. * CARSTENS, 0000
JOY W. CARTER, 0000
WALTER L. CARTER JR., 0000
MICHAEL J. CASHNER, 0000
PETER A. CATANESE, 0000
BRIAN M. CAVANAUGH, 0000
RUSSELL D. CAVIN, 0000
JOHN P. CHADBOURNE, 0000
ZANE D. CHAMBERS, 0000
DAVID W. CHASE, 0000
MARTY P. CHAVERS, 0000
JOHN R. CHAVEZ, 0000
WAYNE G. CHERRY JR., 0000
EDWARD J. CHESNEY, 0000
KEMP L. CHESTER, 0000
BRYCE R. CHRISTENSEN II, 0000
ERIK K. CHRISTENSEN, 0000
GEORGE N. CHRISTENSEN III, 0000
KEVIN J. CHRISTENSEN, 0000
KAREN M. CHRISTRUP, 0000
JORDAN S. CHROMAN, 0000
NICHOLAS P. CHRONIS, 0000
JASON A. CHUNG, 0000
KIM T. CINCOTTI, 0000
ALICIA A. CLARK, 0000
CHADWICK W. CLARK, 0000
WILLIAM J. CLARK, 0000
CHARLES H. CLEVELAND, 0000
DAVID R. CLONTS, 0000
THOMAS J. CLOSS, 0000
JOHN R. COBB JR., 0000
KENNETH G. COCKERHAM II, 0000
ROD A. COFFEY, 0000
MICHAEL J. COLARUSSO, 0000
RUSSELL E. COLE, 0000
MATTHEW B. COLEMAN, 0000
CHRISTOPHER M. COLOMBO, 0000
KEVIN C. COLYER, 0000
DARREN R. COMPTON, 0000
CHARLES T. CONNETT, 0000
TODD Z. CONYERS, 0000
STEVEN A. COOK, 0000
THOMAS R. COOPER, 0000
MICHAEL D. COPENHAVER, 0000
LYLE T. CORDER, 0000
DANIEL R. COREY, 0000
ROBERT M. CORNEJO, 0000
BEVERLY F. CORNELIUS, 0000
KERRILYNN A. * CORRIGAN, 0000
SEAN J. CORRIGAN, 0000
MICHAEL E. CORSON, 0000
STEPHEN M. COSTABLE, 0000
CARL W. COWEN, 0000
CHRISTOPHER E. CRATE, 0000
PETER D. CREAN, 0000
RICHARD D. CREED JR., 0000
JAMES R. CRIDER, 0000
ORLANDO D. CRITZER, 0000
CHRISTOPHER D. CROFT, 0000
MICHAEL E. CROWELL, 0000
HARRY L. CUNNINGHAM, 0000
KENNETH D. CURTIS, 0000
SCOTT D. CUSTER, 0000
GREGORY A. DADDIS, 0000
WILLIAM E. DAHLBERG, 0000
STEVEN DAKNIS, 0000
TIMOTHY J. DAUGHERTY, 0000
DAVID S. DAVIDSON, 0000
FRANCIS J. * DAVIDSON, 0000
ROSS E. DAVIDSON, 0000
JAMES B. DAVIS, 0000
LANCE E. DAVIS, 0000
STEVEN G. DEAN, 0000
PATRICK C. DEDHAM, 0000
EDWIN J. DEEDRICK JR., 0000
ROBERT J. DEHAAN, 0000
DOUGLAS J. DELANCEY, 0000
EUGENE * DELOACH SR., 0000
WILLIAM L. DEMALADE, 0000
JAMES R. DEMOSS, 0000
SHEILA C. DENHAM, 0000
MICHAEL P. DERADDO, 0000
JAMES M. DESJARDIN, 0000
THOMAS E. DETRICK, 0000
MARGARET S. DEVEREUX, 0000
KAILON G. DICKENS, 0000
SERGIO M. DICKERSON, 0000
CRAIG M. DICKINSON, 0000
JAMES E. DIGGS, 0000
JOHN D. DILL, 0000
HEINZ P. DINTER JR., 0000
GERALD R. DIOTTE JR., 0000
DAVID J. DLUZYN, 0000
JAMES E. DODSON, 0000
DANIEL R. DOLWICK, 0000
JAMES A. DONNELLY, 0000
MICHAEL P. DONOVAN, 0000
GERALD O. DORROH JR., 0000
CALVIN D. DOWNEY, 0000
KEVIN P. DRAGNETT, 0000
SHAWN T. DRISCOLL, 0000
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DARRELL DUCKWORTH, 0000
ROBERT E. * DUKE, 0000
KENNETH J. DUXBURY, 0000
MICHAEL J. DVORACEK, 0000
FRED R. EASTWOOD III, 0000
DARWIN D. EBELING, 0000
JEFFREY A. ECK, 0000
VANCE A. EDWARDS, 0000
RICHARD F. ELLIS, 0000
RICKY N. EMERSON, 0000
KIMBERLY A. ENDERLE, 0000
SVEN C. ERICHSEN, 0000
NILS J. ERICKSON, 0000
FREDERICK J. ERST, 0000
ALLEN S. ESTES, 0000
BRUCE A. ESTOK, 0000
JOHN R. EVANS JR., 0000
CARL S. EY, 0000
DONALD G. FALLIN, 0000
ADRIAN R. FARRALL, 0000
ANTHONY P. FARRIS, 0000
ROBERT G. FAUSTI, 0000
DUSAN L. FENNER, 0000
MICHAEL R. FENZEL, 0000
BRIAN R. FESER, 0000
EDWARD G. FILLER, 0000
JAMES C. FISCHER, 0000
STEVEN T. FISCHER, 0000
WILLIAM O. FISHER, 0000
DAVID P. FITCHITT, 0000
DWAINE FLANNAGAN, 0000
ANTONIO M. FLETCHER, 0000
CHARLES D. FLETCHER, 0000
JEFFREY FLETCHER, 0000
RODNEY D. FOGG, 0000
CHRISTOPHER S. FORBES, 0000
MICHAEL L. FRANCK, 0000
GEORGE H. FRANCO, 0000
PATRICK D. FRANK, 0000
BRENTON K. FRASER, 0000
HARRY M. FRIBERG, 0000
GARLAND M. * FROST, 0000
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GREGORY D. GADSON, 0000
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JEFFERY GARLAND, 0000
GEORGE T. GARRELL, 0000
JAMES E. GARRISON, 0000
BRIAN K. GATES, 0000
BRADLEY D. GAVLE, 0000
HEIDI L. GEBHARDT, 0000
MICHAEL A. GETCHELL, 0000
WILLIAM M. GIAMMARESE, 0000
RICHARD D. GILLEM JR., 0000
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IVAN R. GONZALEZ, 0000
WILLIAM J. GOODRICH, 0000
GERALD M. GORDNER II, 0000
JOHN K. GORDON, 0000
FREDERICK C. GOTTSCHALK, 0000
BARRY F. GRAHAM, 0000
BRADLEY W. GRAUL, 0000
TODD W. GUSTAFSON, 0000
CARL G. GREBE, 0000
SHARON D. GREEN, 0000
IAN N. GREENE, 0000
JOHN H. GREENMYER III, 0000
JAMES D. GREGORY, 0000
WARREN C. GRIGGS, 0000
HEIDI L. GRIMM, 0000
MARIE C. GRIMMER, 0000
DAVID L. GROSSO, 0000
LEON M. GRUBE, 0000
CARL D. GRUNOW, 0000
WILLIAM W. GUM, 0000
JOHN S. GUMPF, 0000
MARSHALL A. GUTIERREZ, 0000
ANTHONY E. HAAGER, 0000
CRAIG T. HAAS, 0000
BARRY V. HADLEY, 0000
VICTOR S. HAGAN, 0000
MACK D. HAGIN, 0000
ERIC D. HAIDER, 0000
MECHELLE B. HALE, 0000
CHRISTOPHER G. HALL, 0000
JAMES H. HALL, 0000
JIMMY L. HALL JR., 0000
DANIEL J. HALSE, 0000
CHARLES R. HAMILTON, 0000
DAVID M. HAMILTON, 0000
JOHN D. HAMILTON, 0000
JOHN S. HAMILTON, 0000
RUTH L. HAMILTON, 0000
PATRICK R. HAMPTON, 0000
ROBERT E. HARBISON, 0000
ROBERT J. HARDBARGER, 0000
THOMAS A. HARRAGHY, 0000
HUGHIE B. HARRIS, 0000
KEVIN J. HARRIS, 0000
WELDON B. HARRIS, 0000
STEVEN D. HART, 0000
JEFFRY W. HARTMAN, 0000
THURINTON W. HARVELL, 0000
GREGORY M. HAUG, 0000
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MARVIN A. HEDSTROM JR., 0000

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DARIEN P. HELMLINGER, 0000
KRISTI L. HELTON, 0000
CHARLES T. HENSLEY, 0000
JEFFREY HENSLEY, 0000
ROBERT B. HERNDON, 0000
NEIL S. HERSEY, 0000
TODD A. HEUSSNER, 0000
PAUL D. HEYING, 0000
LONNIE G. HIBBARD, 0000
WILLIAM D. HIBNER, 0000
RALPH G. * HIGGINS III, 0000
DAVID C. HILL, 0000
JOSEPH B. HINES, 0000
MIGUEL B. HOBBS, 0000
KELLEY A. HODGE, 0000
HORACE C. HODGES, 0000
ANTHONY J. HOFMANN, 0000
TIMOTHY C. HOLLOWAY, 0000
VERNON D. HOLMES, 0000
MARK D. HOLMQUIST, 0000
RUSSELL A. HOLSCHER, 0000
MATTHEW J. HOLT, 0000
DANIEL A. HOPE, 0000
MICHAEL S. HOPKINS, 0000
YVETTE C. * HOPKINS, 0000
CLIFFORD M. * HOPPMAN, 0000
JASON R. HORNE, 0000
ROBERT C. HORNECK, 0000
JODI L. HORTON, 0000
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TODD M. HUDERLE, 0000
KEVIN L. HUDIE, 0000
ARLIS D. HUMMEL, 0000
HOWARD M. HUNT, 0000
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WILLIAM M. HUNTHROP, 0000
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CHRISTOPHER R. HUPP, 0000
JOHN S. HURLEY, 0000
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JOHN L. HUTTO JR., 0000
BASHEER ILYAS, 0000
CHARLES W. INNOCENTI, 0000
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ROBERT L. IRICK, 0000
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THOMAS H. ISOM, 0000
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JOYCE J. JACOBS, 0000
FRANK JAMES JR., 0000
GLENN A. JAMES, 0000
STEVEN P. JAMES, 0000
JAYNE V. JANSEN, 0000
CLAY C. JANSSEN, 0000
LINDA C. JANTZEN, 0000
JOSEPH F. JARRARD, 0000
DAVID E. JENKINS, 0000
LOGAN JENKINS JR., 0000
JEFFREY E. JENNINGS, 0000
HEIDI E. JENSEN, 0000
DAVID O. JERNIGAN, 0000
RENE JEWETT, 0000
JOHNNIE L. JOHNSON, 0000
JONATHAN A. JOHNSON, 0000
MITCHELL R. JOHNSON, 0000
SCOTT C. JOHNSON, 0000
CLIFTON R. JOHNSTON, 0000
JOSHUA T. JONES JR., 0000
CHRISTOPHER I. JOSE, 0000
TIMOTHY F. JUERGENS, 0000
ERIC G. KAIL, 0000
MARK A. KARASZ, 0000
MICHAEL C. KASALES, 0000
MARK J. KAZMIERCZAK, 0000
KENNETH R. KEIM, 0000
MARK S. KEITH, 0000
JULIE A. KELLER, 0000
JOHN A. KELLY, 0000
KYLE W. KELLY, 0000
SCOTT T. KENDRICK, 0000
DAVID R. KENNEDY, 0000
JAMES L. KENNEDY JR., 0000
KRIS L. KENNER, 0000
CHRISTOPHER M. KENNEY, 0000
PAT L. KERBUSKI JR., 0000
CRAIG W. KILEY, 0000
JOHN M. KILGALLON, 0000
RICHARD C. KIM, 0000
JEFFREY S. KING, 0000
ROBERT L. KING, 0000
RODNEY L. KING, 0000
SCOTT D. KING, 0000
ROBERT D. KIRBY, 0000
AIMEE L. KLIMOWICZ, 0000
CHARLES H. KLINGE JR., 0000
EVERETT D. KNAPP JR., 0000
DARRIN S. KNELLER, 0000
MARK S. KNERAM, 0000
ANDY F. KNIGHTS, 0000
DEAN R. KNOX, 0000
KURT J. KO, 0000
NAM Y. KO, 0000
JOHN S. KOLASHESKI, 0000
GREGORY W. KOLLER, 0000
DALE A. KORNUTA, 0000
TINA S. * KRACKE, 0000
DAVID M. KRALL, 0000
ANN K. KRAMARICH, 0000
WILLIAM R. LAGRONE, 0000
STEVEN R. LAHR, 0000
DANIEL F. LARKE, 0000
DANIEL S. LARSEN, 0000
DARREL G. LARSON, 0000
CHARLES D. LASSITTER, 0000
RODNEY F. LASZLO, 0000
MATTHEW M. LAVER, 0000
KELLY J. LAWLER, 0000
BRIAN A. * LAWLESS, 0000
GLENN S. LAWSON, 0000
JAMES O. LECHNER, 0000
MARK A. LEE, 0000
PETER A. LEE, 0000
ROBERT E. LEE JR., 0000
SHANE E. LEE, 0000
WILLIAM E. LEE, 0000
LYNNE P. LEGLOAHEC, 0000
GUY A. LEMIRE, 0000
MARTY M. LENERS, 0000
LUKE T. * LEONARD, 0000
ROBERT S. LEVIS IV, 0000
DAVID F. LEWIS, 0000
SEAN P. LEWIS, 0000
JOHN F. LIGHTNER, 0000
REYNOLDS J. LILLIBRIDGE, 0000
JOHN J. LINDSAY, 0000
GARY W. LINHART, 0000
ANDREW J. LIPPERT, 0000
THORSTEN A. LITTAU, 0000
RICHARD M. LIVINGSTON, 0000
DAVID L. LLOYD, 0000
MICHAEL C. LOPEZ, 0000
ROSS W. LOVELACE, 0000
ADAM A. LOVELESS, 0000
ROBERT E. LOWE, 0000
BRYAN K. LUKE, 0000
JAMES R. MACKLIN JR., 0000
WILLIAM B. MADDOX, 0000
LIONEL W. MAGEE JR., 0000
MICHAEL F. MAHONY, 0000
BRIAN K. MAIJALA, 0000
MARCUS D. MAJURE, 0000
GEOFFREY S. MANGELSDORF, 0000
JERRY K. MANLEY, 0000
LONNIE W. MANSELL, 0000
JOHN E. MARAIA, 0000
STEPHEN J. MARANIAN, 0000
BRYAN K. MARKET, 0000
PAUL V. MARNON, 0000
JOHN J. MARR, 0000
ROBERT W. MARSHALL, 0000
DONNA W. * MARTIN, 0000
LARRY E. MARTIN JR., 0000
TONY M. MARTIN, 0000
GREGORY A. MASON, 0000
TWALA D. MATHIS, 0000
THOMAS S. MATSEL, 0000
MICHAEL R. MATTHEWS, 0000
LEONARD H. MATZ JR., 0000
JANICE Y. MAXWELL, 0000
ROGER K. MAYER, 0000
CARSON H. MAYO, 0000
GREGORY S. MCAFEE, 0000
ROBERT J. MCALEER, 0000
TIMOTHY J. MCATEER, 0000
DOUGLAS M. MCBRIDE, 0000
MICHAEL R. MCCAFFERY, 0000
OWEN P. MCCAULEY, 0000
CHARLES M. MCCLUNG, 0000
JEFFREY H. MCCLURE, 0000
DENNIS J. MCCORMACK, 0000
ROGER L. MCCREERY, 0000
BERRIEN T. MCCUTCHEN JR., 0000
SCOTT L. MCDEED, 0000
MARK E. MCDERMOTT, 0000
KEVIN L. MCDONALD, 0000
REGAN P. MCDONALD, 0000
WILLIAM R. MCDONOUGH, 0000
DARRYL D. MCDOWELL, 0000
DANIEL J. MCFARLAND, 0000
WILLIAM D. MCGARRITY, 0000
LEO R. MCGONAGLE, 0000
OTIS W. MCGREGOR III, 0000
RANDALL A. MCINTIRE, 0000
DENNIS S. MCKEAN, 0000
MATTHEW F. MCKENNA, 0000
TAMMY S. MCKENNA, 0000
THOMAS W. MCKEVITT SR., 0000
WILLIAM D. MCMICKLE, 0000
DENNIS J. MCNULTY, 0000
MARY A. MCPEAK, 0000
STUART J. MCRAE, 0000
JEFFREY L. MEEKER, 0000
ROBERT M. * MEGINNIS, 0000
DONALD E. MEISLER, 0000
MANUEL C. MENO JR., 0000
ROBERT C. MERKEL JR., 0000
JAMES L. MERLO, 0000
PETER P. MERRILL III, 0000
LEANNE L. MEYER, 0000
STEPHEN L. MICHAEL, 0000
MATTHEW T. MICHAELSON, 0000
JEFFREY L. MILHORN, 0000
CHRISTOPHER C. MILLER, 0000
DANIEL C. MILLER, 0000
MICHAEL C. MILLER, 0000
RANDALL E. MILLERS, 0000
ROCCO M. MINICUCCI, 0000
RONALD E. MISAK, 0000
CHERYL L. MOMAN, 0000
RICHARD D. MONTIETH II, 0000
ALVIN K. MOORE, 0000
LESTER C. MOORE, 0000
DREW MOORES, 0000
CARLOS MORALES, 0000
EDGBERT L. MORTON, 0000
GERALD M. MUHL JR., 0000
RONALD A. MULKEY, 0000
JAMES H. MULLEN, 0000
THOMAS W. MUNDELL, 0000
ADAM J. MUNN, 0000
WADE L. MURDOCK, 0000
THERESA G. MURPHY, 0000
JOHN A. NAGL, 0000
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MICHAEL P. NEAVERTH, 0000
JONATHAN J. NEGIN, 0000
WILLIAM C. NEWMAN, 0000
DONALD R. NITTI, 0000
PAUL N. NOBBE JR., 0000
JULIE S. NORMAN, 0000
STEVEN M. NORTH, 0000
PAUL R. NORWOOD, 0000
BONNIE A. NOYES, 0000
FREDERICK I. NUTTER, 0000
FREIDA M. OAKLEY, 0000
CARTER A. OATES, 0000
WILLIAM K. * OCONNOR, 0000
RONALD J. OCKER, 0000
DAN S. OLEXIO, 0000
MICHAEL D. OLIVER, 0000
RODNEY L. OLSON, 0000
THOMAS V. OLSZOWY, 0000
JOSEPH M. ORECCHIO, 0000
DOUGLAS J. ORSI, 0000
DAN R. ORTEGA, 0000
ROSS T. OSBORNE, 0000
WILLIAM B. OSTLUND, 0000
PAUL A. OTT, 0000
BRIAN A. OWEN, 0000
DALE E. OWEN, 0000
THOMAS C. OWENS, 0000
RONALD E. PACHECO JR., 0000
DAVID A. PAINE, 0000
RODNEY M. PALMER, 0000
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MARK L. PARENT, 0000
KEITH J. PARKER, 0000
ROSS A. PARKER, 0000
ALLEN E. PATTY, 0000
DAVID L. PEDERSEN JR., 0000
STEVEN C. *PEDERSEN, 0000
SAMUEL N. PEFFERS, 0000
CARLOS PEREZ JR., 0000
MICHAEL PEREZRIVERA, 0000
TROY D. PERRY, 0000
ANDREW C. PETERS, 0000
GEORGE PETERS III, 0000
IHOR PETRENKO, 0000
TAMMIE J. PETTIT, 0000
PAUL R. PFAHLER, 0000
ALANA S. PHILLIPS, 0000
RAMONA D. PLEMMONS, 0000
RICHARD P. PLETTE, 0000
WESLEY B. PLYBON, 0000
MARK J. PONTIUS, 0000
JAMES A. PORTER II, 0000
BETH A. PORTERFIELD, 0000
LAURA A. POTTER, 0000
COLICE D. POWELL, 0000
RANDY E. POWELL, 0000
MICHAEL J. PRICE, 0000
DWAYNE E. PTASCHEK, 0000
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THOMAS G. QUINN JR., 0000
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BRIAN RAHN, 0000
BRUCE W. RAHN, 0000
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BRIAN J. REED, 0000
SHAWN E. REED, 0000
FRANCES V. REESE, 0000
JAMES P REESE, 0000
BLAIN A. REEVES, 0000
ROBERT A. REEVES, 0000
TOIMU A. REEVES II, 0000
MYRON J. REINEKE, 0000
MARLIN L. REMIGIO, 0000
TIMOTHY W. RENSHAW, 0000
DAVID B. RESLER, 0000
JAMES R. *REYNOLDS, 0000
JULIE K. RHEN, 0000
PHILIP D. RICE, 0000
CHRISTOPHER A. RICHARDSON, 0000
MICHAEL W. RICHARDSON, 0000
WILLIAM L. RICHARDSON, 0000
DARRIN C. RICKETTS, 0000
MARK L. RIDLEY, 0000
EDWARD C. RIEHLE, 0000
DALE S. RINGLER, 0000
ANDREW J. RISKO II, 0000
THOMAS A. RIVARD, 0000
BRYAN K. ROBBINS, 0000
JOHN P. ROBERTS, 0000
PAUL J. ROBERTS, 0000
REID A. ROBERTSON, 0000
BRIAN M. ROGERS, 0000
THOMAS J. ROGERS, 0000
STEVEN L. ROHLENA, 0000
FREDRIC W. ROHM JR., 0000
JAMES D. ROLAND, 0000
JOHN G. ROMERO, 0000
PETER L. ROOKS, 0000
RICHARD D. ROOT, 0000
CHRISTOPHER J. ROSCOE, 0000
ANDREW L. ROSE, 0000

JOSE ROSS, 0000
LUZ B. ROSS, 0000
DEREK R. ROUNTREE, 0000
STACY L. RUBLE, 0000
MICHEL M. RUSSELL SR., 0000
RHETT C. RUSSELL, 0000
ROBERT R. RUSSELL JR., 0000
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DIANE M. RYAN, 0000
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NESTOR A. SADLER, 0000
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DAVID E. SALTER, 0000
CHARLES P. SAMARIS, 0000
ROBERTA K. SAMUELS, 0000
ERIC L. SANCHEZ, 0000
SHERARD D. SANDERS, 0000
LE T. SANFORD, 0000
PAUL S. SARAT JR., 0000
FLOSSIE J. SATCHER, 0000
RALPH E. SAUNDERS, 0000
WINFRIED E. SCHEEL, 0000
MARCEL A. SCHNEIDER, 0000
ANDREW R. SCHOTT, 0000
DENNIS L. SCHRECENGAST, 0000
SCOTT A. SCHRINER, 0000
CARMEN X. SCHROCK, 0000
DANA L. SCHUBERT, 0000
JAY R. SCHUNEMAN, 0000
STEVEN R. SCHWAIGER, 0000
ARTICE * SCOTT, 0000
THOMAS A. SEAGRIST, 0000
JOHN J. SEBASTYN, 0000
JOSEPH W. SECINO, 0000
JON K. SEGARS, 0000
DAVID T. SEIGEL, 0000
PATRICIA A. SELLERS, 0000
THEODORE SELLERS JR., 0000
JOHN E. SENA JR., 0000
ROY C. * SEVALIA, 0000
WILLIAM R. SEVER, 0000
JOHN M. SEXTON, 0000
MARK E. SHANKLE, 0000
CHRISTOPHER J. SHARPSTEN, 0000
JOHN B. SHATTUCK JR., 0000
JAMES P. SHAVER, 0000
KRISADA J. SHAW, 0000
RICHARD A. SHAW, 0000
JOHN M. SHECKLER, 0000
CLAYTON O. SHEFFIELD, 0000
MICHAEL J. SHINNERS, 0000
TIMOTHY D. SHOWERS, 0000
RONALD J. SHUN, 0000
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KELLY J. SIROTA, 0000
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JAMES A. SKELTON, 0000
TIMOTHY P. SMALL, 0000
BARNEY I. SMITH III, 0000
GARY M. SMITH, 0000
MARK N. SMITH, 0000
MCCOY C. SMITH, 0000
RAYMOND C. SMITH, 0000
STEPHEN G. SMITH, 0000
STEPHEN T. SMITH, 0000
DAVID A. SMOOT, 0000
NICHOLAS R. SNELSON, 0000
DAVE F. SNIDER, 0000
DEBORAH L. SNYDER, 0000
MICHAEL C. SNYDER, 0000
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JERRY D. STEPHENS, 0000
RANDY G. STEVENS, 0000
MARK L. STOCK, 0000
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PAUL E. STOTE, 0000
JOHN T. STROMBERG, 0000
JOHN J. * STRYCULA, 0000
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LINDA H. STUART, 0000
ROBIN L. STUART, 0000
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DENNIS S. SULLIVAN, 0000
KEVIN T. SULLIVAN, 0000
TIMOTHY M. SULLIVAN, 0000
ZEYAD M. SUQI, 0000
JONATHAN E. SWEET, 0000
BRADLY S. TAYLOR, 0000
WILLIAM J. TAYLOR, 0000
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GERARD P. TERTYCHNY, 0000
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DONNIE L. THOMAS, 0000
GEORGE K. THOMAS, 0000
WALTER THOMAS II, 0000
ANDREA L. THOMPSON, 0000
JOHN W. THOMPSON, 0000
SANDRA M. THOMPSON, 0000
JASON H. THORNTON, 0000
ROBERT L. THROWER, 0000
CLIFFORD V. THURMAN, 0000
ERIC D. TILLEY, 0000
JACQUELINE L. TILLOTSON, 0000
MICHAEL W. * TINGSTROM, 0000
PETER M. TOFANI, 0000
JEFFERY K. TOOMER, 0000
JOSE A. TORRES, 0000
DAVID G. TOUZINSKY, 0000
JAMES H. TRONE, 0000
MORRIS A. TURNER, 0000
MICHAEL R. TUTTLE, 0000
JOEL K. TYLER, 0000
ANDREAS S. ULRICH, 0000
LISIANE M. VALENTINE, 0000
BRET A. VANCAMP, 0000
TERRY D. VANSKY, 0000
KEVIN VEREEN, 0000
WILLIAM M. VERTREES, 0000
KENNETH E. VIALL, 0000
JASON R. VICK, 0000
JOHN A. VIGNA, 0000
SHURMAN L. VINES, 0000
VAN J. VOORHEES, 0000
DAVID D. WALDEN, 0000
PAUL R. WALTER, 0000
JOHN L. WARD, 0000
RICHARD C. WARD, 0000
KEVIN C. WARREN, 0000
PAUL S. WARREN, 0000
TARN D. WARREN, 0000
JOHN W. WASHBURN, 0000
STACEY S. WASHINGTON, 0000
NATHAN K. WATANABE, 0000
CHARLES J. WATSON, 0000
KIRBY E. WATSON, 0000
ROBERT W. WEAVER, 0000
SHAWN C. WEED, 0000
MARK J. WEINERTH, 0000
MARK E. WEIR, 0000
FREDERICK P. * WELLMAN, 0000
THOMAS R. WETHERINGTON, 0000
CLIFFORD E. WHEELER JR., 0000
JOSEPH F. WHELAN, 0000
BILLY J. WHELCHEL, 0000
INES N. WHITE, 0000
JERRY A. WHITE II, 0000
DANIEL W. WHITNEY, 0000
RYAN J. * WHITTINGTON, 0000
JOSEPH E. * WICKER, 0000
CLAYTON C. WIENECKE, 0000
KENNETH S. WILDER, 0000
PAUL J. WILLE, 0000
MAURICE L. WILLIAMS, 0000
MONTY L. WILLOUGHBY, 0000
TIMOTHY D. WILSEY, 0000
DARRELL T. WILSON, 0000
RICHARD A. WILSON, 0000
TRACY L. WINBORNE, 0000
ANTHONY A. WIRTH, 0000
ERIC L. WITHERSPOON, 0000
CHRISTOPHER F. WOLFE, 0000
DAVID J. WOODS, 0000
MONTE L. YODER, 0000
ROBERT J. YOST, 0000
JAMES R. YOUNG II, 0000
ERIC F. ZELLARS, 0000
RONALD E. ZIMMERMAN JR., 0000
X612
X0000

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY AND FOR REGULAR APPOINTMENT (IDENTIFIED BY AN ASTERISK(*)) UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 624 AND 531:

To be major

CHRISTOPHER W. * ABBOTT, 0000
PETER M. ABBRUZZESE, 0000
ZAID I. * ABDULRAHMAAN, 0000
ALFRED A. ACENAS, 0000
LUIS E. * ACEVEDOGUIVAS, 0000
JOSE C. * ACOSTAJAVIERRE, 0000
JAMES E. ADAMS, 0000
JOHN E. * ADAMS, 0000
STEVEN J. ADAMS, 0000
THOMAS J. ADDYMAN JR., 0000
GENE A. * AGUSTIN, 0000
JAMES M. * AHEARN, 0000
ADEJUWON N. * AKINDAYOMI, 0000
TAMMY R. ALATORRE, 0000
JAMES R. ALCOCK, 0000
TEREK B. * ALI, 0000
DANIEL M. * ALLEN, 0000
DAVID J. * ALLEN, 0000
DAVID S. * ALLEN, 0000
JAMES C. ALLEN, 0000
WHITNEY P. * ALLEN JR., 0000
WILLIAM C. * ALLEN III, 0000
DAVID K. * ALMQUIST, 0000
JON W. ALTHOFF, 0000
ROGER S. * ALVAREZ, 0000
KENDALL M. * AMAZAKI JR., 0000
SAMUEL H. AMBER, 0000
DAVID T. AMBROSE, 0000
JEFFREY S. * AMOS, 0000
SAMUEL S. * ANCIRA JR., 0000
BRENDEN C. * ANDERSON, 0000
EDWARD G. ANDERSON IV, 0000
HENRY L. ANDERSON, 0000
JOSEPH L. * ANDERSON, 0000
DOUGLAS W. ANDRESEN, 0000
AARON A. * ANDREWS, 0000
TACILDAYUS ANDREWS, 0000
MICHAEL J. ANLAGE, 0000
MIGUEL A. * APONTERODRIGUEZ, 0000
KIRK A. * APPLETOFT, 0000
PHILIP R. * ARCHER, 0000
GREGORY M. * ARNDT, 0000
RANDALL J. * ARVAY, 0000
THOMAS D. * ASBERY, 0000
EDWARD P. ASH, 0000
PATRICK C. ASPLAND, 0000
ELIZABETH A. ATHERTON, 0000
ERIC S. * ATHERTON, 0000
JOHN R. * ATHEY, 0000
CHARLES W. * ATKINSON, 0000
ADAM J. AUGUSTOWSKI, 0000
THOMAS E. * AUSTIN, 0000
JEFFREY T. * AVOLIO, 0000
ALEJANDRO AYALA, 0000
JAWHAR * AZIZ, 0000
AMANDA I. * AZUBUIKE, 0000
JOEL D. * BABBITT, 0000
MAYCROS I. * BAEZ, 0000
BRIAN P. BAILEY, 0000
DAVID B. * BAILEY, 0000
TOMMY D. BAILEY, 0000
HARPREET S. * BAINS, 0000
CHRISTOPHER M. BAKER, 0000
JOHN K. BAKER, 0000
JOHN T. BAKER JR., 0000
ROBERT F. * BALDWIN, 0000
JAY F. * BALL, 0000
RICHARD J. * BALL, 0000
ROBERT S. * BALLAGH III, 0000
DIRK P. BARBER, 0000
JACKQUILINE M. BARNES, 0000
HOLLIE J. BARRETT, 0000
JONATHAN M. BARROW, 0000
JAMES B. BARTHOLOMEES, 0000
BRAUM P. BARTON, 0000
ROBERT B. * BASHEIN, 0000
JOHN T. BATSON JR., 0000
ISAAC T. * BATTLE, 0000
KYLE W. * BAYLESS, 0000
DEREK G. * BEAN, 0000
CHAD A. BEASINGER, 0000
JONATHAN R. * BEASLEY, 0000
OWEN J. BEAUDOIN, 0000
SLADE H. BEAUDOIN, 0000
STEVEN D. BEAUMONT, 0000
GUILLAUME N. BEAURPERE, 0000
BRADLEY E. * BECHEN, 0000
JEFFREY A. BECKER, 0000
BRIAN T. * BECKNO, 0000
BRYANT J. * BEEBE, 0000
LESLIE D. BEGLEY, 0000
BETH A. BEHN, 0000
JOHN C. * BELANGER JR., 0000
JAIME L. BELL, 0000
PAUL N. BELL, 0000
TIMOTHY M. BENINATO, 0000
DANIEL T. BENNETT, 0000
KIMBERLY A. * BENNETT, 0000
GARRICK B. * BENSON, 0000
TYRONE C. * BENTINCK, 0000
ERIK M. BERDY, 0000
ROBERT E. * BERG, 0000
CARL L. * BERGMANN, 0000
CEASAR P. * BERGONIA, 0000
BARRETT M. * BERNARD, 0000
PAUL T. BERQUIST, 0000
ROBERT D. * BETTWY, 0000
DAVID A. BEVACQUA, 0000
JEFFREY P. * BEVINGTON, 0000
MICHAEL A. * BIANCHI, 0000
MARK R. BIEHL, 0000
MICHELLE L. BIENIAS, 0000
JONATHAN D. BIGGERT, 0000
DAVID D. * BIGGINS, 0000
CHRISTOPHER J. BIRCHARD, 0000
NATALEE M. * BIRDSELL, 0000
MICHAEL J. BIRMINGHAM, 0000
FREDERICK H. BLACK JR., 0000
RONALD C. BLACK, 0000
TIMOTHY G. BLACKWELL, 0000
JONATHAN A. * BLAKE, 0000
JOSEPH D. BLANDING, 0000
JOHN F. BLANKENHORN, 0000
IRIZARRY H. BLAS, 0000
DARIN J. BLATT, 0000
ANDREW J. * BLISS, 0000
MATTHEW A. BOAL, 0000
MEGAN A. * BOGLEY, 0000
ROD L. BOLES, 0000
MICHAEL S. * BOLSHAZY, 0000
NATHAN M. * BOND, 0000
WILLIAM * BONILLA JR., 0000
PETER A. * BOOKER, 0000
ROBERT S. * BOONE III, 0000
BA K. * BOOZE, 0000
TIMOTHY B. BORGERDING, 0000
RALPH T. BORJA, 0000
PHILLIP A. * BORNEFELD, 0000
JAMES T. * BOROVILOS, 0000
KEVIN T. * BOSCH, 0000
CLARENCE O. * BOSWELL JR., 0000
JEFFERY G. * BOUMA, 0000
ROBERT J. * BOWEN, 0000
JENNIFER I. * BOWER, 0000
STEVEN T. BOWER, 0000
CHARLES J. * BOWIE, 0000
JOSEPH A. BOWMAN, 0000
CHARLES W. BOWSER, 0000
DARRIN M. BOWSER, 0000
JOHN C. BOYARSKI, 0000
ADAM J. BOYD, 0000
GREGORY L. BOYLAN, 0000
BARBARA D. * BRACY, 0000
DAVID E. * BRADLEY JR., 0000
ERIC L. * BRADLEY, 0000
TANYA J. * BRADSHER, 0000
ANDREW S. * BRAGG, 0000
MATTHEW W. BRAMAN, 0000
JEFFREY G. BRAMLETT, 0000
STEPHON M. * BRANNON, 0000

CHARLES E. * BRANSON, 0000
CLAY A. * BRASHEAR, 0000
DAVID M. BRESSER, 0000
BLAKE F. BREWER, 0000
FRANK D. * BRIDGES, 0000
JASON T. * BRIDGES, 0000
KAREN L. * BRIGGMAN, 0000
RODNEY O. * BRIGGMAN, 0000
JAMES D. * BRINSON, 0000
JEFFREY J. * BRITTON, 0000
JASON M. BRIZEK, 0000
ADRIAN G. BROCKINGTON, 0000
ROBERT E. BROOKS, 0000
ANDREW R. BROWN, 0000
DARRYL B. * BROWN, 0000
DERWIN A. * BROWN, 0000
KEVIN D. * BROWN, 0000
MYRTITH A. * BROWN JR., 0000
THELMA C. BROWN, 0000
CHARLES D. * BROWNING, 0000
MICHAEL C. BRUENS, 0000
COREY L. BRUMSEY, 0000
JASON A. BRYAN, 0000
CRAIG D. * BRYANT, 0000
DEMETRIS T. * BRYANT, 0000
DOUGLAS P. BRYANT, 0000
CHRISTOPHER L. * BUDIHAS, 0000
JOEL M. BUENAFLOR, 0000
ALFRED T. BUFFINGTON, 0000
JONATHAN D. BULSECO, 0000
DOUGLAS W. BURBEY, 0000
KEVIN P. BURKE, 0000
THOMAS E. * BURKE, 0000
TODD A. BURKHARDT, 0000
WILLIAM G. * BURNETT, 0000
BARRETT A. BURNS, 0000
MATTHEW L. * BURR, 0000
STEPHEN J. * BURR, 0000
LARRY Q. BURRIS JR., 0000
DOUGLAS T. * BURRUSS, 0000
JAMES T. * BUSHONG, 0000
KEVIN J. BUTLER, 0000
JONATHAN C. BYROM, 0000
TONYA S. * BYRON, 0000
JEFFREY L. * CALDWELL, 0000
TRUDY L. CALDWELL, 0000
LUKE T. * CALHOUN, 0000
MATTHEW K. * CALHOUN, 0000
PAUL R. * CALLAHAN, 0000
BRANN G. CALVETTI, 0000
ROBERT L. * CANNADAY JR., 0000
CAROLYN A. * CANNON, 0000
ROMAN J. * CANTU, 0000
JOHN F. * CANTWELL, 0000
JANEL M. * CARBONE, 0000
THOMAS E. * CARLSON, 0000
THOMAS G. * CARONA, 0000
STEVEN N. * CAROZZA, 0000
FRANCIS J. CARR JR., 0000
WILLIAM J. CARR, 0000
HELENE A. * CARRAS, 0000
JON L. * CARRICO JR., 0000
MARION C. * CARRINGTON, 0000
CHAD G. CARROLL, 0000
JOHN S. * CARTER, 0000
ERIC A. * CARVER, 0000
RICHARD K. * CASSEM II, 0000
JAMES P. CASTELLI, 0000
FRAZARIEL I. CASTRO, 0000
BASIL J. * CATANZARO, 0000
DONALD C. * CAUGHEY, 0000
ANNETTE R. * CAULKINS, 0000
STEVEN * CELESTE, 0000
RAY M. CERALDE, 0000
JAY H. * CHA, 0000
NEIL T. * CHAFFEE, 0000
CHARLES B. CHALFONT, 0000
STEVEN B. * CHAMBERS, 0000
WILLIAM L. * CHANADY III, 0000
CHARLES K. CHANG, 0000
DARREN L. * CHARTIER, 0000
CHAD E. * CHASTEEN, 0000
DAVID R. * CHENEY II, 0000
DAVID C. CHIARENZA, 0000
TORRANCE D. * CHISM, 0000
SAMUEL * CHISOLM JR., 0000
STEVEN N. CHO, 0000
JESUS C. CHONG, 0000
STEVE C. CHONG, 0000
CHAD Q. CHRISTMAN, 0000
JOHN S. CHU, 0000
NICOLE K. * CHUPAS, 0000
JOSEPH J. * CIESLO, 0000
JORGE L. * CINTRONOLIVIERI, 0000
JAMES M. * CLARK, 0000
JOSEPH D. * CLARK JR., 0000
KENT A. * CLARK, 0000
ROBERT J. * CLARK, 0000
STEVEN M. * CLARK, 0000
THOMAS D. CLARK, 0000
JAMES C. CLARKE JR., 0000
RICHARD R. CLAYTON, 0000
ANTHONY T. CLEMENTE, 0000
KERRY G. * CLEMENTS, 0000
GEORGE G. * CLEVELAND II, 0000
JAMES S. CLIFFORD, 0000
RONNIE W. * CLIFTON, 0000
NATHAN S. * CLINE, 0000
KEVIN S. * COCHIE, 0000
CLYDE S. * COCHRANE III, 0000
JOHN L. * COCKERHAM JR., 0000
JOHN P. COGBILL, 0000
JASON M. COLBERT, 0000
ROLANDA D. COLBERT, 0000
CHARLES F. * COLE III, 0000
FAREN R. COLE, 0000
GREGORY J. COLE, 0000
JOHN E. * COLE, 0000
KENNETH C. COLE, 0000
CRAIG N. * COLLET, 0000
RAHHSHAHUN * COLLEY, 0000
LEVORN S. COLLINS, 0000
SCOT A. * COLVER, 0000
ANTHONY C. COMELLO, 0000
GRAHAM J. COMPTON, 0000
JAMES L. * CONATSER, 0000
JAMES R. CONNALLY, 0000
JAMES L. * CONNER, 0000
DAWN E. CONNIFF, 0000
JADA D. * CONNOR, 0000
MICHAEL * CONSIGLIO, 0000
THOMAS A. * CONSTABLE, 0000
MARY J. * CONSTANTINO, 0000
CLINTON J. CONZEMIUS, 0000
DENISE L. * COOK, 0000
JAMES M. * COOK, 0000
DORIAN A. COOPER, 0000
WILLIAM W. * COPPERNOLL, 0000
MICHAEL R. * CORBISIERO, 0000
SEAN M. * COREY, 0000
CHRISTOPHER D. * CORIZZO, 0000
CARLOS A. * CORREIA, 0000
RICHARD S. * CORREZ, 0000
KEVIN K. * CORRICA, 0000
JEFFREY J. CORTON, 0000
ROBERT F. * COSGROVE, 0000
ENRIQUE L. * COSTASOLIVERA, 0000
ALBERT M. COSTELLO, 0000
KEITH L. * COSTELLO, 0000
DOUGLAS J. * COTE, 0000
KEVIN L. COTMAN, 0000
JAMES R. * COTTER JR., 0000
WILLIAM D. * COTTY, 0000
KEVIN E. * COUNTS, 0000
KIMBERLY A. * COX, 0000
RICHARD R. COYLE, 0000
ERIC H. CRAIG, 0000
PETER J. * CRANDALL, 0000
TERRY G. * CRANK, 0000
JEFFREY S. CRAPO, 0000
KENNETH D. * CRAWFORD, 0000
MICHAEL A. CRAWFORD, 0000
DAVID F. CRAY, 0000
ANDREW P. * CREEL, 0000
GARY J. * CREGAN, 0000
BRETT D. * CRIQUI, 0000
FREDERICK L. CRIST, 0000
ROGER A. CROMBIE III, 0000
RORY A. * CROOKS, 0000
ROBBIE J. CROSS, 0000
MANUEL * CRUZ, 0000
FRANK * CRUZCARABALLO, 0000
SAMUEL J. CUBBERLEY JR., 0000
CHRISTOPHER M. * CUMMINGS, 0000
PAUL E. CUNNINGHAM II, 0000
RODERICK R. * CUNNINGHAM, 0000
DESIE L. * CURTIS, 0000
DAVID B. CUSHEN, 0000
SIOBHAIN I. CUSHEN, 0000
CHRISTOPHER S. * CUTLER, 0000
PHILIP J. DACUNTO, 0000
CHRISTOPHER G. * DAKE, 0000
JOHN D. DALBEY, 0000
LAWRENCE J. DALEY, 0000
ROBERT E. * DALTON, 0000
KEVIN K. * DAMON, 0000
DEXTER C. * DANIEL, 0000
KENNETH L. DANIEL JR., 0000
RICHARD E. * DANNER JR., 0000
TRENT R. * DARLING, 0000
COLANDERS * DARRISAW, 0000
H W. * DARVILLE, 0000
RICHARD B. DAVENPORT, 0000
JOSE R. DAVILAFORTI, 0000
CHADWICK G. DAVIS, 0000
CHARLES E. * DAVIS, 0000
CHERRIE L. * DAVIS, 0000
CHRISTOPHER L. * DAVIS, 0000
GARY J. * DAVIS II, 0000
JACQUELINE H. * DAVIS, 0000
JEFFREY S. * DAVIS, 0000
JOHNNY W. * DAVIS, 0000
MICHAEL A. DAVIS, 0000
JEFFREY A. * DECARLO, 0000
JOSEPH F. DECOSTA, 0000
GILBERT F. DEIMEL, 0000
VICTOR J. * DELACRUZ, 0000
THOMAS R. * DELAGARZA, 0000
CHESTER R. * DELF, 0000
VAUGHN D. DELONG, 0000
WALTER F. * DEMELLI, 0000
ROCHELLE A. DENMAN, 0000
RONNIE L. * DENSON, 0000
DEAN H. DENTER, 0000
JAMES A. DEORE JR., 0000
PHILLIP J. DEVRIES II, 0000
ANDREW A. DEWEES, 0000
LARRY C. DEWEY JR., 0000
MICHAEL G. DHUNJISHAH, 0000
OSCAR F. * DIANO, 0000
EDWIN C. * DIAZ, 0000
ELIUD DIAZ, 0000
MARCUS K. * DICKINSON, 0000
ROLAND H. * DICKS, 0000
NICHOLAS J. DIFIORE, 0000
BENJAMIN T. * DIMAGGIO, 0000
RICHARD F. DIMARCO, 0000
JAMES E. DIMON, 0000
WILLIAM S. DINWIDDIE, 0000
RAMONA L. DISCAVAGE, 0000
JOHN J. * DISMER, 0000
MICHAEL P. DOHERTY, 0000
TIMOTHY * DOMKE, 0000
WAYNE W. DON, 0000
JOSEPH E. * DONALBAIN, 0000
MATTHEW W. * DONALD, 0000
JOHN W. * DONCHEZ, 0000
BRIAN J. * DONLEY, 0000
ROBERT C. DONNELLY, 0000
AARON L. * DORF, 0000
JEFFREY T. * DOUDS, 0000
OSCAR W. * DOWARD, 0000
LYNN E. DOWNIE, 0000
DAVID H. DOWNING JR., 0000
WILLIAM S. DOWNING, 0000
WINONA C. * DOWNING, 0000
BRIAN J. * DOYLE, 0000
JOHN P. * DREW, 0000
LAWRENCE W. * DRING, 0000
DARRELL W. DRIVER, 0000
JAMES M. * DROPPLEMAN JR., 0000
THOMAS M. DUCKWORTH, 0000
DAVID M. * DUDAS, 0000
JEFFREY J. * DUDLEY, 0000
DOUGLAS W. * DUECKER, 0000
PATRICK M. * DUGGAN, 0000
WILLIAM J. * DUGGAN III, 0000
CHARLES J. DUGLE, 0000
CHAD M. DUHE, 0000
ERIC K. * DUNAHEE, 0000
DANIEL J. DUNCAN, 0000
KEVIN A. * DUNHAM, 0000
CHRISTOPHER L. DUNLAP, 0000
JAMES L. * DUPRAS JR., 0000
DANIEL J. DURBIN, 0000
GREGORY L. * DUTKA, 0000
ROBERT P. * DYE, 0000
DARIN R. * EADES, 0000
JESSE L. EASTER, 0000
JOHN A. * ECENRODE, 0000
ERVIN W. * EDDINGS JR., 0000
SHERRY A. * EDIKAUSKAS, 0000
JOSEPH W. * EDSTROM, 0000
JOHN K. * EDWARDS, 0000
MICHAEL D. * EGAN, 0000
KELLY B. EILAND, 0000
DAVID G. * ELDER, 0000
KEVIN T. * ELDER, 0000
JOSEPH W. * ELLISON III, 0000
JOHN E. * ELRICH, 0000
CHRISTOPHER J. * EMOND, 0000
JOHN P. * ENGEL, 0000
MARK C. * ENGEN, 0000
JAMES H. * ENOS, 0000
WILLIAM J. EPOLITO, 0000
ROBERT E. * ERIKSEN, 0000
SAMUEL A. * ESCALANTE, 0000
PAUL A. * ESMAHAN, 0000
DONALD R. ESSER, 0000
STEVEN R. * ESTER, 0000
MAUREEN T. * ESTY, 0000
BRIAN B. * ETTRICH, 0000
BRAD J. * EUNGARD, 0000
DONALD C. * EVANS, 0000
GARY A. * EVANS, 0000
LEE H. * EVANS, 0000
CYNTHIA A. EVELYN, 0000
CRAIG A. EVERSON, 0000
MICHAEL S. * EVERTON, 0000
NORBY E. * EWING, 0000
TROY L. * EWING, 0000
WILLIAM M. * FAIRCLOUGH, 0000
STEVEN L. FANDRICH, 0000
DONNA K. * FANNING, 0000
INTHAVONGSA R. * FARMER, 0000
JACKIE G. * FARMER, 0000
TIMOTHY L. FARMER, 0000
SEAN E. FARRAR, 0000
JOHN P. * FARRELL, 0000
PRESCOTT R. FARRIS, 0000
KEVIN N. FAUGHNDER, 0000
STUART T. * FAULK, 0000
JAMES A. * FAULKNOR, 0000
RYAN J. * FAYRWEATHER, 0000
PETER H. FECHTEL, 0000
DAVID A. * FEDROFF, 0000
JOHN A. * FEJERANG, 0000
LUIS E. * FELICIANO, 0000
RUSSELL A. * FENTON, 0000
MICHAEL E. * FERET, 0000
LAWRENCE G. * FERGUSON, 0000
GEORGE G. * FERIDO, 0000
JOHN M. * FERRELL, 0000
KEVIN * FIELD, 0000
SCOTT T. FIGLIOLI, 0000
JORGE A. * FIGUEROA, 0000
SAMUEL E. FIOL, 0000
NATHAN S. * FISCHER, 0000
RICHARD J. * FISHER, 0000
CARLA J. * FITCH, 0000
RONALD P. FITCH JR., 0000
GARY D. * FITTS, 0000
WILLIAM G. * FITZHUGH, 0000
AARON P. * FITZSIMMONS, 0000
JOHN C. FLANAGAN, 0000
SCOTT FLANDERS, 0000
ERIC C. * FLESCH, 0000
ANDREW S. FLETCHER, 0000
ANTHONY J. FLORES, 0000
DAVID C. FOLEY, 0000
DOYLE A. * FONTENOT, 0000
GILMORE * FORD JR., 0000
ROLAND C. * FORD III, 0000
BRIAN R. FORMYDUVAL, 0000
BRIAN D. FORREST, 0000
CHRISTOPHER R. * FORSYTHE, 0000
CALONDRA L. FORTSON, 0000
JONATHAN A. * FOSKEY, 0000
JEFFREY L. * FOSTER, 0000
ROBERT B. FOUCHE, 0000
BRYAN E. FOWLER, 0000

JENNIFER L. FOWLER, 0000
MATTHEW J. * FOX, 0000
MELISSA J. FOZMAN, 0000
ANTOINETTE E. * FRANKLIN, 0000
LADARYL D. * FRANKLIN, 0000
BARRY J. * FRANKS, 0000
PARKER L. FRAWLEY, 0000
RICHARD C. * FULGIUM, 0000
RAYMOND L. * FULLER, 0000
BRETT T. FUNCK, 0000
STEPHEN E. * GABAVICS, 0000
MICHAEL D. * GAFFNEY, 0000
PHILLIP K. GAGE, 0000
HERIBERTO * GALARZAGONZALEZ, 0000
JOHN P. GALLAGHER, 0000
BLAISE L. * GALLAHUE, 0000
RACQUEL M. * GALLMAN, 0000
JAMES J. GALLUZZO III, 0000
JOSE L. * GALVAN JR., 0000
ANTOINETTE R. GANT, 0000
EDUARDO M. * GARCIA, 0000
JESUS D. * GARCIA, 0000
STEVEN * GARCIA, 0000
JOSE A. * GARCIAESMURRIA, 0000
DAVID W. GARDNER, 0000
HILTON B. * GARDNER, 0000
JASON G. * GARDNER, 0000
CURTIS L. * GARNER II, 0000
TYSON D. * GARREN, 0000
ALLEN B. GARRISON JR., 0000
TIMOTHY M. * GARTEN, 0000
FRANK M. * GASCA, 0000
GREGORY J. * GASTAN, 0000
CHARLES GATLING, 0000
ROBERT L. * GAUSE, 0000
ONEIL A. * GAYLE, 0000
JOHN D. * GAZZELLI, 0000
DAVID C. * GEARHART, 0000
TIMOTHY M. * GEARHART, 0000
ODESSA * GENTRY, 0000
ADDALYRICA Q. * GEORGE, 0000
BYRON K. GERMAN, 0000
CHARLES E. * GETZ JR., 0000
WILLIAM R. * GIBBS, 0000
MICHAEL C. GIBSON, 0000
CLAIR GILL, 0000
KENNON S. GILLIAM, 0000
PETER R. * GILLOOLY, 0000
WAYNE A. GILSTRAP, 0000
WILLIAM L. * GIPSON, 0000
KENNETH R. * GIRARDI, 0000
NICHOLAS H. GIST, 0000
MARK D. * GLADNEY, 0000
WILLIAM R. * GLASER, 0000
LARRY E. * GLASSCOCK, 0000
TROY L. GLAZIER, 0000
JAN K. GLEIMAN, 0000
JASON C. GLICK, 0000
CHARLES V. * GOLEK, 0000
VINCENT S. GOLEMBESKI, 0000
VICTOR R. * GOLLHOFER, 0000
HECTOR A. GONZALEZ, 0000
TAROLYN Y. * GONZALEZ, 0000
STEVEN * GONZALEZRODRIGUEZ, 0000
YUSEF E. * GOOD, 0000
KENNETH S. * GOODPASTER, 0000
SARAH M. * GOODSON, 0000
KELLIE K. * GOSS, 0000
JEFFREY P. * GOTTLIEB, 0000
WILLIAM C. GOTTMEIER, 0000
NATHAN D. GOUBEAUX, 0000
GIUSTI C. * GOVEO, 0000
MATTHEW E. GRADY, 0000
CURBY W. * GRAHAM, 0000
PHILIP E. GRAHAM, 0000
DAVID A. GRANT, 0000
WILLIE J. * GRATE JR., 0000
ERIN A. GRAVITT, 0000
DANIEL M. * GRAY, 0000
DARRELL M. GRAY, 0000
BRIAN R. GREATA, 0000
DAVID K. * GREEN, 0000
MAUREEN J. GREEN, 0000
MICHAEL D. * GREEN, 0000
CHANNING M. GREENE, 0000
GEOFFREY D. * GREENE, 0000
TIMOTHY A. * GREENE, 0000
JOHN P. GREGOR, 0000
JAMES O. * GREGORY, 0000
STEPHEN M. GRENIER, 0000
CHRISTOPHER A. GRICE, 0000
SHANE M. GRIES, 0000
CAMILLE D. GRIFFIN, 0000
GREGORY C. GRIFFIN, 0000
GREGORY G. GRIFFIN, 0000
DWIGHT R. * GRIFFITH, 0000
TERRY L. * GRIFFITH, 0000
JOE D. GRIGG JR., 0000
ROBERT F. GRIGGS, 0000
TIMOTHY J. * GRIGGS, 0000
VINCENT E. * GRIZIO, 0000
CHRISTOPHER J. GROSE, 0000
JEFFREY C. * GROSKOPF, 0000
JOSEPH W. * GROSS, 0000
NOELLE M. GROSSO, 0000
GARY A. GRUBB, 0000
DANIEL A. * GRUBER, 0000
FERNANDO GUADALUPE JR., 0000
JESUS E. * GUERRA, 0000
JULIAN GUERRERO, 0000
DAVID T. * GUESS, 0000
RICHARD K. * GUESS, 0000
DERRILL R. * GUIDRY, 0000
DANNY T. GUSUKUMA, 0000
JOSEPH E. GUZMAN, 0000
DARIN O. HAAS, 0000
GLEN E. * HADAWAY III, 0000
WALTER O. * HADLEY, 0000
KYLE H. HADLOCK, 0000
DEAN B. * HAGADORN, 0000
SAMUEL J. HAGADORN, 0000
BRIAN M. HAGER, 0000
DECKER B. HAINS, 0000
KELLY D. * HAIR, 0000
THOMAS B. * HAIRGROVE JR., 0000
MICHAEL A. * HALES, 0000
DON R. HALL, 0000
HOWARD P. HALL, 0000
JOHN W. HALL, 0000
MICHELE L. HALL, 0000
RICHARD A. * HALL, 0000
DAVID T. HAMANN, 0000
DANIEL C. HAMILTON, 0000
NEIL A. * HAMILTON JR., 0000
RONALD G. HAMILTON, 0000
SCOTT A. HAMILTON, 0000
MICHAEL L. * HAMMERSTROM, 0000
JIMMY W. HAMNER, 0000
JASON M. * HANCOCK, 0000
TODD J. HANLON, 0000
CHRISTOPHER J. * HANNA, 0000
DARREN D. HANNA, 0000
ANDREW S. HANSON, 0000
JAMES M. * HARDAWAY, 0000
AARON * HARDY JR., 0000
JAMES D. * HARKSEN, 0000
RONALD R. * HARNESS, 0000
JERAD I. HARPER, 0000
MICHAEL R. HARPER, 0000
GORDON D. * HARRINGTON, 0000
BRIAN D. * HARRIS, 0000
OMEGA A. * HARRIS II, 0000
RICHARD L. HARRIS JR., 0000
KENNETH D. * HARRISON, 0000
RICHARD A. * HARRISON, 0000
DEREK R. * HART, 0000
BRIAN J. HARTHORN, 0000
TIMOTHY W. * HARTMAN, 0000
FROWENE S. HARVEY, 0000
RICHARD P. * HARVEY, 0000
SAMUEL L. * HARVILL, 0000
KRISTEN A. * HASSE, 0000
OLIVER L. * HASSE, 0000
CLARK C. * HATCH, 0000
VAUGHN E. * HATHAWAY, 0000
MICHAEL R. HAUENSTEIN, 0000
KEITH W. HAUFLER, 0000
ADAM R. * HAUGHEY, 0000
ERIC F. * HAUPT, 0000
ROBERT J. * HAUPT, 0000
GARY M. * HAUSMAN, 0000
JOHN M. HAWKINS, 0000
TIMOTHY C. HAYDEN, 0000
ANDREW C. HAYES, 0000
EDWARD B. HAYES JR., 0000
PAUL R. HAYES, 0000
KENNETH G. * HAYNES, 0000
LANCE E. * HEADRICK, 0000
MICHAEL T. * HEATON, 0000
JAMES M. * HEER, 0000
JON L. * HEFFNER JR., 0000
RICHARD G. * HEIDORN II, 0000
ERIK L. * HEINZ, 0000
BRADLEY D. HELTON, 0000
JOHN W. * HENDERSON, 0000
OBIE C. * HENDERSON, 0000
STEVEN J. HENDERSON, 0000
VALERIE D. HENDERSON, 0000
WILLIAM A. * HENDERSON, 0000
JOEL W. * HENDRICKSON, 0000
BARTHOLOMEW J. * HENNESSEY IV, 0000
KURT M. * HENNINGER, 0000
GERARD * HENRY, 0000
GORDON S. * HENRY, 0000
LAWRENCE W. HENRY, 0000
PAUL A. * HENRY, 0000
ROBERT B. HENSLEY, 0000
TY A. * HENSLEY, 0000
ARCHIE S. HERNDON, 0000
RAYMOND J. * HERRERA, 0000
GREGORY T. * HETZEL, 0000
CURT J. * HEWETT, 0000
DANIEL H. HIBNER, 0000
DAVID R. HIBNER, 0000
CHRISTOPHER J. HICKEY, 0000
DELBERT L. * HICKS JR., 0000
JEFFREY D. * HICKS, 0000
VANESSA F. HICKSCALLAWAY, 0000
JENNIFER K. HICKSMCGOWAN, 0000
TRISTAN S. * HIGGINS, 0000
LEON M. * HILDRETH, 0000
BERNARD K. * HILL, 0000
GARY L. * HILL, 0000
RACHEL J. HILL, 0000
ANDREW C. HILMES, 0000
ANDREW J. HITTNER, 0000
BRIAN E. HITTNER, 0000
DANIEL R. * HOCHSTATTER, 0000
EVERETT D. * HOCKENBERRY III, 0000
HAROLD B. * HODGE III, 0000
MATTHEW S. HODGE, 0000
JOHN G. HODGSON, 0000
TERRELL L. * HODGSON, 0000
BETH C. * HOFFMAN, 0000
CHRISTOPHER W. * HOFFMAN, 0000
ROBERT U. * HOFFMAN, 0000
DAVID A. * HOFFS, 0000
JOHN * HOLEVAS, 0000
MARCUS E. * HOLLIEN, 0000
LOREN A. * HOLLINGER, 0000
MATTHEW J. HOLLY, 0000
TIMOTHY S. * HOLMSLEY, 0000
FREDERICKA C. * HOLT, 0000
KEVIN M. * HOLTON, 0000
NORMA J. HONAKER, 0000
ADRIAN D. * HOPE, 0000
JOHN C. HOPKINS, 0000
MARK A. * HOPKINS, 0000
BRITTON T. * HOPPER, 0000
BRIAN S. * HORINE, 0000
ADA L. HORN, 0000
TODD R. HOURIHAN, 0000
CRAIG D. * HOVLAND, 0000
CHARLES O. HOWALD, 0000
ANTHONY R. HOWARD, 0000
JACKY S. HOWARD, 0000
PAUL D. * HOWARD, 0000
STEPHEN F. HOWE, 0000
BRIAN E. * HOWELL, 0000
STEVEN T. * HOWELL, 0000
ALBERT Y. HUANG, 0000
RICHARD C. HUBBARD, 0000
CALVIN C. * HUDSON II, 0000
JOHN L. * HUDSON, 0000
CHRISTIAN H. HUETTEMEYER, 0000
PETER B. * HUIE, 0000
MICHAEL S. HUMPHREYS, 0000
JOEL P. * HUMPHRIES, 0000
JACK C. HUNNICUTT, 0000
MICHAEL S. HUNTER, 0000
SEAN K. * HUNTER, 0000
DOUGLAS S. * HUNTRODS, 0000
SCOTT A. * HURLEY, 0000
HARRY H. HURST III, 0000
LLOYD W. HURST JR., 0000
MAVIS Y. * HUTCHINGS, 0000
EUGENE S. HWANGBO, 0000
TERRY C. * HYMAN, 0000
CHERYL L. * HYNES, 0000
MARVIN E. IAVECCHIA, 0000
ROBERT M. * IMBRIALE, 0000
JOHN F. IRISH, 0000
RUBEN * IRIZARRYGUZMAN, 0000
PAUL T. * JACKSON, 0000
WILLIAM G. JACOBS II, 0000
TIMOTHY S. JACOBSEN, 0000
CHAD T. JAGMIN, 0000
WILLIAM K. * JAKOLA, 0000
JEFFERY N. JAMES, 0000
JOHN A. * JAMES, 0000
ROGERS K. * JAMES, 0000
JOHN M. * JANGULA, 0000
DEIDRA A. * JANKOWIAK, 0000
DEAN E. * JANOSIK, 0000
KEITH R. * JAROLIMEK, 0000
MICHAEL D. JASON, 0000
THOMAS G. * JAUQUET, 0000
JON E. * JECKELL, 0000
DEVERICK M. * JENKINS, 0000
GLENN E. JENKINS, 0000
DARREN K. * JENNINGS, 0000
WYLIE A. * JENSEN, 0000
LOREN B. JERLOW, 0000
CHRISTOPHER J. * JESZENSZKY, 0000
KYLE F. JETTE, 0000
MANUEL A. * JIMENEZ, 0000
SAMUEL L. * JOCK, 0000
MICHAEL W. * JOHNS, 0000
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DAVID A. * JOHNSON, 0000
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MARION * JOHNSON JR., 0000
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ZANDRA L. * JOHNSON, 0000
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DESMOND C. * JONES, 0000
GARY D. * JONES, 0000
JOHN W. * JONES, 0000
STEVEN K. JONES, 0000
TRAVIS H. * JONES, 0000
JASON E. JOOSE, 0000
TIMOTHY T. * JORDAN, 0000
BRENT M. * JORGENSEN, 0000
IRA I. * JOSEPH, 0000
NICHOLAS A. * JOSLIN, 0000
JASON R. KALAINOFF, 0000
MELINDA Z. * KALAINOFF, 0000
JOHN W. KALLO, 0000
ANDREW D. * KAMINSKY, 0000
KING Y. KAO, 0000
RICHARD C. * KASERMAN, 0000
ANSIS A. * KAUGARS, 0000
PATRICK N. * KAUNE, 0000
STEPHEN L. * KAVANAUGH, 0000
MICHAEL J. KAYS, 0000
JIM R. * KEENE, 0000
CHESTER L. * KEETON, 0000
JONATHAN B. * KEISER, 0000
MARVIN D. * KELLEM IV, 0000
ANDREW D. KELLY JR., 0000
KEVIN KELLY, 0000
MICHAEL T. KELLY, 0000
SCOTT W. KELLY, 0000
JOSEPH T. KEMMER JR., 0000
KENNETH G. * KEMMERLY, 0000

MICHAEL W. * KENFIELD, 0000
JAMES G. * KENT, 0000
WILLIAM O. * KEPLEY JR., 0000
DANFORD A. KERN, 0000
DENNIS W. KERWOOD, 0000
RANDALL E. * KESSELRING, 0000
NEAL G. * KETRON III, 0000
BRIAN G. * KEYES, 0000
NEIL K. KHATOD, 0000
MARTINE S. KIDD, 0000
DON A. * KING JR., 0000
DANIEL C. KINGSTON, 0000
DANIEL D. * KINN, 0000
NICKOLAS T. KIOUTAS, 0000
JEFFREY R. * KIRBY, 0000
DANIEL K. * KIRK III, 0000
MICHAEL P. KIRKPATRICK, 0000
ARPAD * KISCH, 0000
LAURA L. KNAPP, 0000
MICHAEL S. KNAPP, 0000
GEORGE M. * KNEUPER II, 0000
JEFFREY C. * KNIGHT, 0000
PETER G. KNIGHT, 0000
AMY M. * KNOWLTON, 0000
MICHAEL G. KNOWLTON, 0000
KODJO S. KNOXLIMBACKER, 0000
DEREK W. * KNUFFKE, 0000
PETER J. * KOCH, 0000
JAMES R. KOEPPEN, 0000
TRACY D. KOIVISTO, 0000
DEITRA T. * KORANDO, 0000
KENT A. KORUNKA, 0000
MEGAN A. KOSER, 0000
PETER J. * KOSKO, 0000
JOHN M. * KOSTUR, 0000
NELSON G. KRAFT, 0000
ALAN H. KRAL, 0000
ANTHONY S. * KRAM, 0000
MICHAEL G. KRAUSE, 0000
TRACY L. KREUSER, 0000
SEAN J. * KREYLING, 0000
KARLIS A. * KRIEVINS, 0000
ERIK * KRIVDA, 0000
NICOLE R. KRIZ, 0000
ZOLTAN L. * KROMPECHER, 0000
MICHAEL R. * KROPUSHEK, 0000
SETH D. * KRUMMRICH, 0000
GARY C. * KUCZYNSKI, 0000
MICHAEL J. * KUENZLI, 0000
KEVIN R. KUGEL, 0000
GEOFFREY D. KUHLMANN, 0000
JOSEPH M. * KUSHNER, 0000
ROBERT B. * KUTH, 0000
WILLIAM C. KUTTLER JR., 0000
ROGER D. KUYKENDALL, 0000
ALBERT M. LABELLA, 0000
ELDEN D. * LACER, 0000
MARC A. LAGO, 0000
JOHNNY M. LAIRSEY JR., 0000
ADRIEL C. * LAM, 0000
SON K. * LAM, 0000
CARL A. LAMAR, 0000
STEVEN F. * LAMB, 0000
DAVID J. * LAMBRECHT, 0000
PATRICK M. LANGE, 0000
ROBERT C. LAPREZE, 0000
HAROLD L. LAROCK II, 0000
JONATHAN S. LARONDE, 0000
JAMES C. * LASLIE III, 0000
DUANE S. LAUCHENGCO, 0000
DANIEL P. * LAURELLI, 0000
DAVINA LAUSEN, 0000
ANDREW M. * LAWFIELD, 0000
ARNETTA L. LAWRENCE, 0000
GAVIN A. LAWRENCE, 0000
JOHN D. * LAWRENCE, 0000
KENNETH L. LAWRENCE, 0000
RYAN C. * LAWRENCE, 0000
GARY R. * LAYNE II, 0000
RICHARD D. * LAZIK, 0000
STEPHEN W. * LEDBETTER, 0000
ANTHONY Q. * LEE, 0000
MICHAEL C. * LEE, 0000
TARA R. * LEE, 0000
HARRIETT M. * LEENEWMAN, 0000
MICHAEL J. * LEGLER, 0000
BRADEN G. * LEMASTER, 0000
RICHARD H. * LEMAY, 0000
CHARLES R. LENOIR JR., 0000
SCOTT M. * LENZMEIER, 0000
KEEGAN S. * LEONARD, 0000
PETER E. * LEONE, 0000
GARY C. * LEROUX, 0000
KENNETH W. * LETCHER, 0000
SETH D. * LEVINE, 0000
JASON L. LEWALLEN, 0000
BARCLAY L. * LEWIS JR., 0000
JAMES M. LEWIS III, 0000
JERRY M. * LEWIS, 0000
TROY D. LEWIS, 0000
AARON B. LILLEY, 0000
CLOYD D. LILLEY, 0000
DARRYL T. * LILLIAN, 0000
ALAN T. LINDLEY, 0000
DAVID A. * LINDOW JR., 0000
ROBERT H. LINDSEY JR., 0000
BRIAN P. * LIONBERGER, 0000
JOHN F. * LITVIN, 0000
MICHAEL R. * LIVERPOOL, 0000
WALTER * LLAMAS, 0000
BRUCE A. * LLOYD, 0000
JOHN P. LLOYD, 0000
JAMES L. * LOCK, 0000
GRACIELA LOERA, 0000
DAMEION L. * LOGAN, 0000
BRITTON T. * LONDON, 0000
DOUGLAS T. * LONDON, 0000
DAVID F. * LONGBINE, 0000
CARLOS G. * LOPEZVEGA, 0000
FREDERICK E. LORA, 0000
MATTHEW C. LORENZ, 0000
RALPH A. * LOUNSBROUGH, 0000
ERIK W. * LOWE, 0000
LANGDON J. LUCAS, 0000
NICOLE M. LUCAS, 0000
SAMANTHA LUCAS, 0000
SHANNON M. LUCAS, 0000
KIRK A. * LUEDEKE, 0000
THOMAS B. * LUFT, 0000
JOYCE M. * LUGRAIN, 0000
CAREY G. * LUSE, 0000
ROBERT * LUTZ, 0000
DAVID S. LYLE, 0000
MICHAEL R. MAAS, 0000
DONALD A. MACCUISH, 0000
OCTAVE V. * MACDONALD, 0000
ROCKY C. * MACK, 0000
JASON C. * MACKAY, 0000
RONALD A. MACKAY, 0000
DANIEL W. MACKLE, 0000
JOHN C. * MACMURRAY, 0000
MATTHEW D. * MACNEILLY, 0000
CECIL R. MACPHERSON, 0000
GABRIELLE M. MADDALONI, 0000
MARIANNE * MADRID, 0000
AARON P. * MAGAN, 0000
ROBERT E. MAGEE, 0000
JOEL S. * MAGSIG, 0000
NEIL R. * MAHABIR, 0000
JENNIFER R. MAHONY, 0000
PATRICK A. * MAHONY, 0000
LUCIO E. * MALDONADO JR., 0000
DALE W. * MALLORY, 0000
ANTONE * MALONE, 0000
DANIEL M. * MALONEY, 0000
WILLIAM R. * MANER, 0000
RENEE L. MANN, 0000
ROBERT P. * MANN, 0000
LOUIS R. MANNING, 0000
GREGORY A. * MANNS, 0000
HOWARD A. * MARBUT, 0000
VICTOR R. * MARKELL, 0000
TEWANNA K. MARKS, 0000
KYLE R. * MAROLF, 0000
STEPHEN C. MARR, 0000
ADRIAN A. MARSH, 0000
ROBERT W. * MARSHALL, 0000
MICHAEL P. MARTEL, 0000
BRET N. MARTIN, 0000
JAY C. MARTIN, 0000
PHILIP D. * MARTIN, 0000
WENDY D. MARTIN, 0000
ANTHONY A. MARTINEZ, 0000
HECTOR I. * MARTINEZPINEIRO, 0000
FRED M. MARTY, 0000
THERESA F. MASENGALE, 0000
BARBARA J. MASON, 0000
ROBERT A. * MASON, 0000
KEITH E. * MATISKELLA, 0000
MARK W. * MATTEI, 0000
JOSEPH G. MATTHEWS, 0000
CHRISTOPHER MATTHIE, 0000
JAMES A. MATTOX, 0000
JAMES R. MAULDIN, 0000
SHERYL M. * MAXWELL, 0000
ZABRINA D. * MAYNARD, 0000
KEVIN A. MCANINCH, 0000
KEVIN D. MCCARLEY, 0000
ROBERT E. MCCLINTOCK JR., 0000
CHRISTOPHER M. * MCCLUNG, 0000
MICHAEL W. * MCCOLLOUGH, 0000
ROBERT G. * MCCOMMONS, 0000
CHRISTINA L. MCCORMICK, 0000
SHON A. MCCORMICK, 0000
JEFFREY D. MCCOY, 0000
DANIEL A. * MCCRAY, 0000
LOUIS P. * MCCRUTCHEN, 0000
DAVID E. * MCCULLEY, 0000
KERRY D. MCCULLUM, 0000
MICHAEL J. MCCURTY, 0000
TIMOTHY R. * MCDONALD, 0000
JESSE L. * MCFARLAND JR., 0000
DANIEL L. * MCGEE, 0000
SCOTT T. * MCGLEISH, 0000
JOSEPH J. MCGRAW, 0000
TERRENCE J. MCGRAW, 0000
MICHAEL D. * MCGREGOR, 0000
JASON J. MCGUIRE, 0000
JEREMY P. * MCGUIRE, 0000
DAVID G. MCGURK, 0000
STEPHEN R. MCHALE, 0000
SEAN K. MCKEAGUE, 0000
MARVIN T. * MCKENZIE, 0000
MARC W. MCKINLEY, 0000
JIMMIE J. * MCKINNEY, 0000
MITCHELL J. * MCKINNEY, 0000
FRANK D. * MCKINNIS, 0000
VALERIE N. MCKNELLY, 0000
BRIAN W. * MCLAUGHLIN, 0000
INGO * MCLEAN, 0000
TIMOTHY L. * MCLEAN, 0000
GARY S. * MCLEOD, 0000
CLYDE M. * MCNALLY, 0000
THOMAS C. * MCNEW, 0000
KENNETH D. * MCRAE, 0000
RODNEY S. MCWHORTER, 0000
JOSEPH W. * MEANS, 0000
KRISTIN A. MEANS, 0000
AMY M. MEEKS, 0000
STEPHEN T. MEFFORD, 0000
JOSE E. MELENDEZ, 0000
JORGE * MELENDEZRAMOS, 0000
BRIAN E. MEMOLI, 0000
WILLIAM H. MENGEL JR., 0000
ISRAEL * MERCADO JR., 0000
ROBERT * MERCERON, 0000
ANGEL C. * MESA, 0000
THOMAS B. MESSERVEY, 0000
JOSEPH A. * METAYER, 0000
DANIEL S. * METTLING, 0000
CHRISTOPHER E. * METZ, 0000
DAVID A. * MEYER, 0000
DARLENE M. MIDDLETON, 0000
IRA E. MIKESELL, 0000
MARK D. MILES, 0000
AUSTIN J. MILLER, 0000
JASON L. MILLER, 0000
JOEL M. MILLER, 0000
MARK A. MILLER, 0000
ROLAND N. * MIRACO JR., 0000
STEVEN T. * MISCZENSKI JR., 0000
JASON A. MISELI, 0000
CHAD T. * MITCHELL, 0000
ROBB C. MITCHELL, 0000
SAMUEL T. MITCHELL II, 0000
SUSAN M. MITCHELL, 0000
VINCENT * MITCHELL, 0000
JAMES E. * MIXSON III, 0000
DOUGLAS A. MOHLER, 0000
RICHARD A. * MOHR, 0000
MARK A. * MOLITOR, 0000
JAMES * MOMON JR., 0000
JOSHUA L. MOON, 0000
STEWART W. MOON JR., 0000
BRADLEY S. * MOORE, 0000
CATHRYN L. * MOORE, 0000
DAVID C. * MOORE, 0000
JEREMY B. * MOORE, 0000
JESSE F. MOORE, 0000
SCOTT M. * MOORE, 0000
THEO K. * MOORE, 0000
VIRGINIA A. * MOORECATLETT, 0000
MICHAEL E. MORA, 0000
LOUIS W. MORALES, 0000
THOMAS P. MORAN, 0000
GARY J. MOREA, 0000
DANIEL S. * MORGAN, 0000
JOHN L. MORGAN, 0000
SAMUEL W. * MORGAN, 0000
MICHAEL R. MORIN, 0000
DANIEL Y. MORRIS, 0000
ERWIN C. * MORRIS III, 0000
JEFFREY E. * MORRISON, 0000
JAMES C. * MOSES, 0000
GLENN R. * MOSHER, 0000
DAVID A. * MOTES, 0000
GREGORY L. MOTES, 0000
VINCENT A. * MOTLEY, 0000
JOSEPH M. * MOUER, 0000
JOHN C. MOUNTCASTLE, 0000
JOHN B. MOUNTFORD, 0000
KARL B. MUEGO, 0000
SCOTT W. MUELLER, 0000
JONATHAN C. MUENCHOW, 0000
DAVID E. MUGG, 0000
CHRISTOPHER W. MULLER, 0000
JAMES D. * MULLINAX, 0000
MICHAELLE M. * MUNGER, 0000
BRIAN C. * MURPHY, 0000
BRUCE A. MURPHY, 0000
JEFFREY B. MURPHY, 0000
JOHN P. MURPHY JR., 0000
STEPHEN M. * MURPHY, 0000
FELECIA D. * MURRAY, 0000
MICHELLE M. * MURRAY, 0000
SHAWN R. * MURRAY, 0000
JASON R. MUSTEEN, 0000
BRUCE W. * MYERS, 0000
FREDERICK W. * MYERS III, 0000
DAVID M. MYRDA, 0000
JOHN C. * NALLS, 0000
PATRICIA * NANCE, 0000
RICHARD A. * NASH, 0000
KARL D. * NEAL, 0000
ROBERT E. * NEAVE JR., 0000
KEITH L. * NELSON, 0000
THOMAS F. * NELSON, 0000
THOMAS M. * NELSON, 0000
JEFFREY T. * NESTER, 0000
DANTE S. * NETHERY, 0000
JOSEPH A. NEUMANN, 0000
MARK T. * NEUMANN, 0000
BERTON R. * NEWBILL, 0000
JENNIFER L. * NEWLON, 0000
LEONARD J. * NEWMAN III, 0000
RICHARD * NG, 0000
THONG H. NGUYEN, 0000
CONSTANTIN E. NICOLET, 0000
JEFFREY S. * NIEMI, 0000
RAFAEL E. NIGAGLIONIBEAMUD, 0000
TERRY M. NIHART, 0000
JASON M. * NORTON, 0000
STEVEN J. * NOSBISCH, 0000
JOSEPH A. NOTCH, 0000
BRENT E. NOVAK, 0000
ALEXANDER G. * NYGAARD, 0000
STEVEN L. * OATMAN, 0000
TIMOTHY F. * OBRIEN, 0000
CHRISTOPHER M. OCONNOR, 0000
RYAN P. * OCONNOR, 0000
HENRY S. * OFECIAR, 0000
ROSS M. * OHARAHULETT, 0000
RONALD C. * OLDANI, 0000
MARK P. OLIN, 0000
MICHAEL R. OLIVE, 0000
JOHN A. OLIVER JR., 0000
APRIL N. * OLSEN, 0000
ROGER L. OLSON, 0000
DENNIS P. ONEIL, 0000
OKAL A. * ONYUNDO, 0000
ROBERT J. * ORSI, 0000

LUIS A. * ORTIZ, 0000
DAVID D. ORTON, 0000
BRIAN K. ORWIG, 0000
JEFFREY M. OSADNICK, 0000
JOHN C. * OSBOURN, 0000
HECTOR E. OSEGUERA, 0000
EDWARD J. * OSPITAL, 0000
ROGER D. * OSTEEN JR., 0000
BRADLEY D. * OSTERMAN, 0000
LARS B. * OSTERVOLD JR., 0000
JAMES A. OSUNA, 0000
CHRISTOPHER L. OTT, 0000
DAVID G. * OTT, 0000
JONATHAN A. * OTTO, 0000
DARCY L. * OVERBEY, 0000
KEVIN D. * PACE, 0000
JIN H. PAK, 0000
JOSEPH T. * PALASTRA III, 0000
DEBORAH S. * PALLADINI, 0000
BILL A. PAPANASTASIOU, 0000
ALBERT J. PAQUIN, 0000
FRANCIS J. PARK, 0000
STEVE J. PARK, 0000
ROBBIE W. PARKE, 0000
INGRID A. * PARKER, 0000
STEPHEN L. * PARKER, 0000
JAMES C. PARRACK, 0000
CHRISTOPHER A. * PARRINELLO, 0000
CARL L. * PARSONS, 0000
ANGELITO G. * PASION JR., 0000
THOMAS PATRINICOLA, 0000
CRAIG R. * PATTERSON, 0000
MARIE T. PAULEY, 0000
JOSEPH H. PAULIN, 0000
GLENN J. * PAULINO, 0000
MARK L. PAULUS, 0000
JOSEPH A. * PAVONE JR., 0000
RANDY L. PAXTON, 0000
DEREK P. * PAYNE, 0000
MICHAEL A. * PAYNE, 0000
ANTONIO M. * PAZ, 0000
OSSIE L. * PEACOCK JR., 0000
MATTHEW K. PEAKS, 0000
AUSTIN T. * PEARSON, 0000
DARLENE E. * PEARSON, 0000
GUENTHER * PEARSON, 0000
MATTHEW D. PEDERSON, 0000
CHARLIE L. * PELHAM, 0000
JUAN J. PENA, 0000
OSA D. * PENNY III, 0000
RODNEY G. * PENNY, 0000
GERRY A. * PEPPMULLER, 0000
STEVEN R. PERKINS, 0000
EDDIE L. PERRY, 0000
KEYE E. PERRY JR., 0000
DWIGHT J. PETERS JR., 0000
ROBERT M. * PETERS, 0000
SCOTT A. * PETTIGREW, 0000
THOMAS C. * PETTY, 0000
STEPHEN C. PETZOLD, 0000
ANDREW M. PHALAN, 0000
ALEX V. PHAM, 0000
CONWAY S. * PHELPS, 0000
DAVID C. PHILLIPS, 0000
SHELIA Y. * PHILLIPSHICKS, 0000
PHILIP T. * PIAGET III, 0000
SEAN M. * PICCIANO, 0000
MARK A. * PICCONE, 0000
CURTIS L. PIERCE II, 0000
JOSEPH I. PIERCE, 0000
MICHAEL D. * PIERCE, 0000
STEVEN M. PIERCE, 0000
JOHN L. PILGRIM, 0000
WESLEY M. PIRKLE, 0000
ESLI T. * PITTS, 0000
JOSEPH N. * PLESH, 0000
ALFONSO T. * PLUMMER, 0000
CHRISTOPHER PLUMMER, 0000
DAWSON A. * PLUMMER, 0000
JOHN POCHINSKI, 0000
JOSE L. POLANCO, 0000
ROSS M. * POLLACK, 0000
JOHN T. * POPE, 0000
RICHARD A. * POPE III, 0000
ROSS C. * POPPENBERGER, 0000
JOHN J. * PORAMBO, 0000
LARRY E. * PORTER JR., 0000
DONALD S. POTOCZNY, 0000
JEFFREY H. POWELL II, 0000
MICHAEL T. * POWELL, 0000
PAUL * POWELL, 0000
STEVEN M. POWELL, 0000
LEWIS J. POWERS, 0000
MARK L. * PRALAT SR., 0000
EDDIE L. * PRESSLEY, 0000
RONNIE H. PRESTON JR., 0000
DONALD L. * PRIOLEAU, 0000
PATRICK E. PROCTOR, 0000
JAMES R. PUGH, 0000
ERIC S. * PULS, 0000
MARK T. PURDY, 0000
MARK C. QUANDER, 0000
CHRISTOPHER R. * QUICK, 0000
RICHARD A. QUINBY, 0000
JOHN W. * QUINENE, 0000
ANTHONY U. * QUINN, 0000
JUAN D. QUINTERO, 0000
GINO * QUINTILIANI, 0000
MICHAEL A. * QUITANIA, 0000
PAUL W. * RADTKE, 0000
LESLIE A. * RAFFERTY, 0000
VANESSA K. RAGSDALE, 0000
KENNETH A. * RAIFORD, 0000
ROBERT L. * RALSTON, 0000
CHARLES R. * RAMBO, 0000
RICHARD T. * RAMSEY II, 0000
KEVIN J. RANTS, 0000
FRANKIE A. RAS, 0000
LANCE C. RASMUSSEN, 0000
MATTHEW D. * RAUSCHER, 0000
KEITH R. * RAUTTER, 0000
JOSEPH F. * RAWLINGS, 0000
JOHN C. * RAYBURN, 0000
ANDREW M. * REARDON, 0000
DON S. * REDD JR., 0000
MATTHEW R. * REDDELL, 0000
HEATHER L. REED, 0000
JAMES W. REED IV, 0000
JOHN P. * REED, 0000
DWAYNE D. * REEVES, 0000
WILLIAM R. REEVES, 0000
CHRISTOPHER N. REICHART, 0000
ANDREW C. REICHERT, 0000
AARON W. REISINGER, 0000
RYAN D. REMLEY, 0000
ERIC M. * REMOY, 0000
KEVIN P. * RESZKA, 0000
DOUGLAS J. * REYNOLDS, 0000
ERIK J. * REYNOLDS, 0000
MICHAEL E. * REZABEK, 0000
MARY M. * REZENDES, 0000
ERIC S. RHIND, 0000
CYNTHIA L. RHODES, 0000
WILLIAM J. * RICE, 0000
CHRISTOPHER F. RIEMER, 0000
SCOTT W. * RILEY, 0000
JOHN D. RING, 0000
SCOTT W. * RINGWALD, 0000
MATTHEW C. RINKE, 0000
JASON R. RIOS, 0000
MICHAEL T. RIPLEY, 0000
ROBERT A. * RISDON, 0000
MICHAEL A. * RITCHART, 0000
WILEY P. RITTENHOUSE, 0000
CARLOS A. * RIVERA, 0000
JOSE M. * RIVERA, 0000
LUIS M. * RIVERA, 0000
CRAIG T. RIVET, 0000
CHRISTOPHER M. * RIZZO, 0000
ALFRED S. * ROACH, 0000
JOSEPH F. * ROACH, 0000
VINCENT W. * ROACH, 0000
JAMES R. * ROBBINS, 0000
JARED D. * ROBBINS, 0000
RYAN N. ROBERSON, 0000
GEORGE H. * ROBERTS III, 0000
JOSEPH ROBERTS, 0000
JOSEPH W. * ROBERTS, 0000
RODNEY C. * ROBERTS, 0000
CHARLES S. * ROBERTSON, 0000
CHRISTOPHER * ROBERTSON, 0000
DARELL M. * ROBINSON, 0000
THOMAS J. * ROBINSON JR., 0000
TERRY J. * RODESKY, 0000
ADRIAN L. RODRIGUEZ, 0000
CHRISTOPHER * RODRIGUEZ, 0000
JOSE L. RODRIGUEZ, 0000
PATRICK C. ROGERS, 0000
WILLIAM G. * ROGERS JR., 0000
JONATHAN A. ROLFE, 0000
JOSEPH D. * ROLLER, 0000
WILLIAM G. ROM, 0000
MATTHEW A. * ROMAGNUOLO, 0000
MONTE L. RONE, 0000
LUIS A. ROSADOFELICIANO, 0000
PATRICK A. * ROSE, 0000
TIMOTHY S. ROSE, 0000
BRINTON H. * ROSENBERRY, 0000
MARCO V. ROSITO, 0000
CHARLES X. * ROTE, 0000
JEFFREY A. * ROTHERMEL, 0000
JOHN P. * ROTIER, 0000
ROBERT D. * ROUSE, 0000
PAUL U. ROYLE, 0000
JEFFREY N. * RUCH, 0000
JAN L. * RUESCHHOFF, 0000
LETA M. * RUFFIN, 0000
AVERILL RUIZ, 0000
DAVID M. * RUIZ, 0000
FIDEL V. * RUIZ, 0000
RODGER S. * RUIZ JR., 0000
DANIEL L. RUNYON, 0000
ANTHONY W. RUSH, 0000
SCOTT M. * RUSH, 0000
ROBERT T. * RUSTAD, 0000
RANDY D. RUSTMAN, 0000
BRYAN W. * RYDER, 0000
JEFFREY A. SAELI, 0000
AARON W. SAGER, 0000
THOMAS J. * SAGER, 0000
RAMIRO R. * SALAZAR, 0000
STEVEN M. * SALLOT, 0000
PAUL J. SALMON, 0000
THOMAS I. SALTYSIAK, 0000
WELLINGTON W. * SAMOUCE, 0000
ALISHA A. * SANDERS, 0000
LARRY G. * SANDERS, 0000
SHELLEY E. * SANDERS, 0000
SARGIS * SANGARI, 0000
ROBERT C. SANTAMARIA, 0000
ARIZMENDI E. SANTIAGO, 0000
RODRIGUEZ G. * SANTIAGO, 0000
JUSTIN W. * SAPP, 0000
BYRON L. * SARCHET, 0000
WILLIAM C. SAUNDERS, 0000
MICHAEL E. SAXON, 0000
PATRICIA K. SAYLES, 0000
CURBY * SCARBOROUGH, 0000
BRIAN R. * SCHAAP, 0000
KURT A. * SCHADEWALD, 0000
HERMANN W. * SCHLORTT, 0000
TERESA A. * SCHLOSSER, 0000
GEOFFREY M. * SCHMALZ, 0000
GLENN C. * SCHMICK, 0000
ERIC A. * SCHMIDT, 0000
CHRISTOPHER D. SCHNEIDER, 0000
MARIA D. * SCHNEIDER, 0000
CHAD C. * SCHOOLS, 0000
JONATHAN E. * SCHRADER, 0000
MATTHEW F. * SCHRAMM, 0000
PATRICK X. SCHREIBER, 0000
JAMES H. * SCHREINER, 0000
CURTIS M. SCHROEDER, 0000
JEFFREY M. * SCHROEDER, 0000
JEREMY J. SCHROEDER, 0000
SCOTT J. SCHROEDER, 0000
TODD E. * SCHROEDER, 0000
DANIELLE J. * SCHUG, 0000
JAMES C. SCHUG, 0000
CRAIG L. * SCHUH, 0000
SHAWN C. * SCHULDT, 0000
ROBERT W. * SCHULTZ, 0000
JAMES M. SCHULTZE, 0000
RICHARD T. * SCHUTE JR., 0000
DOMINIC M. SCOLA, 0000
JAMES J. SCOTT, 0000
JEFFREY A. * SCOTT, 0000
RICHARD M. SCOTT, 0000
CARMELIA J. * SCOTTSKILLERN, 0000
JERRY R. * SCRIVEN JR., 0000
JOSEPH E. SCROCCA, 0000
RODNEY H. * SEALE, 0000
AUGUST C. * SEEBER, 0000
PATRICK R. * SEIBER, 0000
ARTHUR W. SELLERS, 0000
LAWRENCE M. SEWARD, 0000
JON T. * SEXTON, 0000
SHERRI L. SHADROCK, 0000
DAVID E. SHANK, 0000
SALEM L. * SHARP, 0000
MERRILL P. * SHARPTON, 0000
MARK A. * SHEEHAN, 0000
RICHARD D. SHEMENSKI, 0000
TALMADGE C. SHEPPARD, 0000
MAKALENA Y. SHIBATA, 0000
WILLIAM J. * SHINN JR., 0000
STEPHEN T. SHORE, 0000
THOMAS A. * SHULTZ, 0000
ERIC P. * SHWEDO, 0000
CHARLENE P. SIBAJA, 0000
ROSIHER A. * SIBAJA, 0000
MICHAEL B. SIEGL, 0000
MICHAEL R. * SIERAKOWSKI, 0000
STEVEN B. * SIGLOCH JR., 0000
TERRY D. SIMMS, 0000
MICHAEL J. * SIMPSON, 0000
SAMUEL K. SIMPSON II, 0000
KEITH L. * SINGLETON, 0000
DAVID R. SIRY, 0000
GREGORY T. * SISSON, 0000
RICKY L. SKEEN, 0000
SAMUEL H. SKINNER, 0000
SHANNON M. SLACK, 0000
MICHAEL L. SLUSSER, 0000
THOMAS L. SMALL, 0000
KENNETH B. * SMEDLEY, 0000
DAVID A. * SMITH, 0000
DONALD E. SMITH, 0000
EDWARD L. * SMITH, 0000
ERIC T. * SMITH, 0000
GRANVILLE R. * SMITH, 0000
GREGORY K. SMITH, 0000
GREGORY S. * SMITH, 0000
HANK E. * SMITH, 0000
IRA L. * SMITH, 0000
JAMES F. SMITH, 0000
JAMES P. * SMITH, 0000
JAMES R. * SMITH, 0000
JASON S. * SMITH, 0000
JOEY R. * SMITH JR., 0000
MATTHEW P. SMITH, 0000
PATRICK M. * SMITH, 0000
QUENTIN L. SMITH, 0000
ROBERT C. * SMITH JR., 0000
ROBERT L. SMITH, 0000
RONALD W. SMITH, 0000
SHARON G. * SMITH, 0000
TAMARA L. * SMITH, 0000
TONG I. * SMITH, 0000
MICHAEL K. * SNEDDEN, 0000
KENT M. * SNYDER, 0000
MIKE SOLIS, 0000
DEAN R. * SOMERS, 0000
RUTH J. SONAK, 0000
SCOTT E. SONSALLA, 0000
JON K. SOWARDS, 0000
RICHARD J. * SPANARD, 0000
JOHN P. * SPANOGLE, 0000
ANTHONY D. * SPAULDING, 0000
JEFFREY S. SPEAR, 0000
JONATHAN E. SPEARS, 0000
RICHARD C. SPENCER JR., 0000
VANCE R. SPERRY, 0000
JAMES G. SPIVEY, 0000
SCOTT A. * SPRADLIN, 0000
CHARLES E. * STCLAIR, 0000
MATTHEW N. STADER, 0000
CHARLONE E. * STALLWORTH, 0000
RICHARD E. STANFIELD II, 0000
PAUL R. * STANFILL, 0000
NAOMI R. * STANKOWMERCER, 0000
DWAYNE T. STANTON, 0000
PAUL T. STANTON, 0000
TERESA L. STARKS, 0000
ADAM C. STEELHAMMER, 0000
JENNIFER M. * STEPHENS, 0000
JAMES M. STEPIEN, 0000
ROBERT P. * STERBUTZEL, 0000
LLOYD C. * STERLING, 0000
JAMES L. * STEVENSON, 0000
JAMES M. * STEVISON, 0000

GLENDA M. STEWARD, 0000
ALLISON L. * STEWART, 0000
LAUNDETTE A. * STEWART, 0000
LAWRENCE I. * STEWART, 8900
RYAN T. STEWART, 0000
RICHARD G. * STINSON, 2695
ROGERS L. * STINSON JR., 1082
CARY G. STOLARCEK, 0000
JONATHAN M. * STONE, 7853
LESLIE E. * STONEHOCKER, 9488
ALAN W. * STOUT, 9360
STEVEN D. * STOWELL, 4491
MICHAEL E. * STUBER, 8853
BRIAN L. * STUCKERT, 0172
RODRIDGUEZ L. STUCKEY, 0000
BRIAN P. SULLIVAN, 0000
JOHN F. SULLIVAN III, 0000
MICHAEL C. * SULLIVAN, 2652
MICHAEL D. SULLIVAN, 0000
MICHAEL P. * SULLIVAN, 0281
SHANE M. SULLIVAN, 0000
STEPHEN K. * SULLIVAN, 0858
RAYMOND V. * SUMNER, 9093
TIMOTHY J. * SWANNER, 2713
ERICK W. * SWEET II, 5218
MATTHEW J. * TACKETT, 1836
STEPHEN P. TALBOTT, 0000
ADAM S. * TALKINGTON, 2267
TERRY P. * TANNER, 1479
PAUL W. * TAPPEN, 6961
MICHAEL S. TARQUINTO, 0000
DAVID F. TASHEA, 0000
CHRISTOPHER J. TATKA, 0000
ANNE V. * TAYLOR, 3991
CHARLES A. * TAYLOR, 4522
HORACE D. TAYLOR, 0000
JOSEPH R. * TAYLOR III, 8705
KEITH L. * TAYLOR, 8302
MICHAEL R. * TAYLOR, 5137
PATRICK E. * TAYLOR, 0774
RANDY L. * TAYLOR, 7790
RICHARD I. * TAYLOR IV, 9979
DANIEL L. TEETER, 0000
COREY M. * TEJCHMA, 4683
DIANNA N. TERPIN, 0000
BRUCE W. TERRY, 0000
KIRKPATRICK F. * TERRY, 7944
TONY L. * THACKER, 6385
SAKURA S. THERRIEN, 0000
ALLAN R. THOMAS JR., 0000
CALVIN C. * THOMAS, 5597
DAVID A. THOMAS, 0000
GLENN R. THOMAS, 0000
JERRY J. * THOMAS, 7307
JOSEPH J. * THOMAS JR., 6367
KIM M. * THOMAS, 4477
LENARD E. THOMAS II, 0000
STEVEN L. * THOMAS, 2434
CHRISTOPHER M. * THOMPSON, 6417
DAVID G. * THOMPSON, 8782
MARK A. * THOMPSON, 6428
ANTHONY M. THORNTON, 0000
DOUGLAS E. * THORNTON, 9728
TIMOTHY N. TIMMONS, 0000
PETER B. TINGSTROM, 0000
BRADLEY F. * TISCHLER, 7159
ROY L. * TISDALE, 9237
MICHAEL A. * TODD, 7311
VICTOR E. * TODD, 9726
WALTER R. * TODD JR., 6105
LLOYD L. * TOGISALA, 3801
VINCENT J. * TOLBERT, 4746
ERIC S. TOLLEFSON, 0000
BOYD J. * TOMASETTI, 9668
WILLIAM P. * TOMLIN, 8977
GREGORY A. TOROK, 0000
EDWIN R. * TORRES, 2768
MARIO TORRES, 0000
AADAM B. * TRASK, 4552
REBECA R. * TRAYLOR, 8020
STEPHEN R. TREANOR, 0000
PATRICK W. * TRIPLETT, 0349
EARLE C. * TROTT, 0886
DAVID S. * TROUTMAN, 9174
MICHAEL A. TRUE, 0000
ANDRE V. * TUCKER, 6641
JOHN D. TUCKER, 0000
AARON D. TUEMLER, 0000
LINDA F. * TURK, 9867
PAUL W. * TURNBULL JR., 4039
FRANK L. TURNER II, 0000
GREGORY S. * TURNER, 0832
JOHN W. TURNER, 0000
MATTHEW J. TURPIN, 0000
KEVIN C. * TYLER, 5651
JEFFREY G. * URBAN, 2082
JOSE A. * VALENTIN JR., 5413
JAMES T. * VALENTINE, 9935
JEFFREY VANCLEAVE, 0000
JEFFERY P. * VANCUREN, 0921
CHRISTINE A. * VANLOOK, 2660
WILLIAM D. * VANNESS, 5995
JOSEPH W. * VARNEY, 0564
VICTOR C. * VASQUEZ, 9179
GRANT A. VAUGHAN, 0000
JOEY L. VAUGHT, 0000
EDWARD M. * VEDDER, 3205
MICHAEL A. * VEGA, 9626
DANIEL L. VELAZQUEZ, 0000
WILLIAM J. * VELAZQUEZRIVERA, 1180
KIMBERLY J. * VENABLE, 9719
MARTIN W. * VERBOOM, 3104
TODD J. VERRILL, 0000
GARRETT J. VERSER, 0000
SCOTT D. * VERVISCH, 3591
MICHAEL VICK, 0000
PETER B. * VIEN, 7267
BRIAN D. VILE, 0000
NOAH * VILLANUEVA, 9154
CHRISTOPHER C. VINE, 0000
DANIEL J. * VINSAND, 0000
THOMAS P. VOGEL, 0000
TIMOTHY J. VOLKMANN, 0000
JASON R. VRANES, 0000
CLIFFORD L. * VROONLAND, 0000
PETER J. * VUTERA, 0000
JENNIFER J. WABALS, 0000
DAVID A. WALDRON, 0000
GARY A. WALENDA, 0000
ANTHONY T. * WALKER, 0000
BRITTIAN A. * WALKER, 0000
FRANK E. * WALKER, 0000
JAMES E. * WALKER, 0000
JAMES H. WALKER II, 0000
MARC A. WALKER, 0000
MARION * WALKER JR., 0000
MICHAEL A. * WALKER, 0000
RHETT D. * WALKER, 0000
ROY E. * WALKER, 0000
ANDREW D. WALMSLEY, 0000
BRIAN E. * WALSH, 0000
JAMES P. WALSH, 0000
JOSHUA F. * WALSH, 0000
KIMBERLY A. WALTER, 0000
FLETCHER D. WALTERS, 0000
ADAM Z. * WALTON, 0000
DINA S. * WANDLER, 0000
HENRY H. * WANG, 0000
KENNETH M. WANLESS JR., 0000
CHAD E. * WARD, 0000
DERWIN E. * WARD, 0000
JASON C. WARD, 0000
RICHARD I. WARD, 0000
JOEL E. * WARHURST, 0000
WILLIAM L. * WARNER, 0000
GREGORY L. WARREN, 0000
MONICA P. WASHINGTON, 0000
ROBERT E. * WATTS, 0000
CAMERON W. * WEATHERS, 0000
JONATHAN K. WEAVER, 0000
WARREN S. * WEAVER, 0000
KELLY L. WEBSTER, 0000
JOHN L. WEDGES III, 0000
FREDERICK D. * WEIS, 0000
PAUL I. * WEIZER, 0000
SAMUEL J. * WELCH, 0000
JASON A. * WENDELL, 0000
CHRISTOPHER W. WENDLAND, 0000
ROBERT B. * WENGER, 0000
JASON A. WESBROCK, 0000
DOUGLAS R. WESNER, 0000
MICHAEL J. WEST II, 0000
GUY E. * WETZEL, 0000
JOHN N. WHILDEN, 0000
EDDIE L. * WHITE JR., 0000
JEANINE M. * WHITE, 0000
LAWRENCE B. * WHITE, 0000
SCOTT A. WHITE, 0000
GENE P. WHITESIDES, 0000
YWAIN A. * WHITFIELD, 0000
WARREN J. * WHITMIRE, 0000
LISA D. WHITTAKER, 0000
RICHARD * WHITTINGSLOW, 0000
JOHN P. WHYTE III, 0000
KENNETH W. WICAL, 0000
FRANCES E. * WIDDICOMBE, 0000
LON R. * WIDDICOMBE, 0000
JAMES G. WIDEMAN, 0000
JOHN S. WIEMAN, 0000
MICHAEL B. * WILBER, 0000
SHANE * WILDE, 0000
SCOTT D. WILKINSON, 0000
BRADLEY A. * WILLIAMS, 0000
BRIAN L. * WILLIAMS, 0000
DESMOND R. WILLIAMS, 0000
HENRY T. * WILLIAMS III, 0000
KENNETH K. WILLIAMS, 0000
MATTHEW D. WILLIAMS, 0000
SEAN C. WILLIAMS, 0000
THOMAS R. * WILLIAMS, 0000
TENNIE L. WILLIAMSHARRIS, 0000
DANIEL J. WILLIAMSON, 0000
SAMUEL J. WILLMON, 0000
MARK E. WILSON, 0000
SEAN P. * WILSON, 0000
EDWARD B. * WILTCHER, 0000
DIEDRE L. WINDSOR, 0000
DAVID G. WINGET, 0000
BRIAN D. WINNINGHAM, 0000
DAVID WISE, 0000
DAVID O. * WISEMAN, 0000
EVAN H. * WOLLEN, 0000
JASON A. WOLTER, 0000
ERNEST Y. WONG, 0000
CAMILLA A. * WOOD, 0000
CHRISTOPHER D. WOOD, 0000
MARC D. WOOD, 0000
THOMAS E. * WOOD, 0000
CLEO J. * WOODBURY, 0000
HARVEY L. * WOODBURY JR., 0000
CECIL H. * WOODE, 0000
SCOTT C. * WOODWARD, 0000
FORREST A. WOOLLEY, 0000
COLIN H. WOOTEN, 0000
JAMES P. WORK, 0000
BREN K. * WORKMAN, 0000
JOSEPH E. * WORLEY JR., 0000
ONINTZA R. WREN, 0000
GARVEY A. * WRIGHT, 0000
JAMES W. WRIGHT, 0000
PATRICIA K. * WRIGHT, 0000
STEVEN C. * WRIGHT, 0000
SUSAN L. * WRIGHT, 0000
WESLEY H. * WRIGHT, 0000
RICHARD M. WRONA JR., 0000
STEVEN G. * YAMASHITA, 0000
MICHAEL F. YANKOVICH, 0000
BRIAN J. * YARBROUGH, 0000
MANU L. * YASUDA, 0000
RENE * YBARRA, 0000
SAMUEL YBARRA, 0000
CURTIS D. * YOUNG, 0000
JAMES C. * YOUNG, 0000
MARC D. * YOUNG, 0000
MARCUS R. YOUNG, 0000
ROBERT E. YOUNG, 0000
STEVEN L. YOUNGBLOOD, 0000
VICTOR Y. YU, 0000
CHRISTOPHER J. YUSKAITIS, 0000
DAVID * ZACCHEUS, 0000
DOUGLAS E. ZADOW, 0000
MATTHEW A. * ZAHN, 0000
RICHARD H. ZAMPELLI, 0000
JOHN J. ZAVAGE, 0000
JUAN C. * ZAVALA, 0000
ERIC P. * ZENK, 0000
MICHAEL T. * ZERNICKOW, 0000
DANIEL N. * ZEYTOONIAN, 0000
CODY L. * ZILHAVER, 0000
LELAND H. * ZIMMERMAN JR., 0000
DAVID J. ZINN, 0000
JERZY S. * ZUBR, 0000
RICHARD M. * ZYGADLO, 0000
X0000
X0000
X0000

IN THE NAVY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be lieutenant commander

GLENN A. JETT, 0000
DANNY W. KING, 0000
FAITH E. STRAUSBAUGH, 0000
ROBERT W. VEIT, 0000
MATTHEW WILLIAMS, 0000

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be lieutenant commander

RICHARD S. ADCOOK, 0000
ANDREW J. AVILLO, 0000
RAUL L. BARRIENTOS, 0000
JOHN E. BISSELL, 0000
BRYAN BLANKENSHIP, 0000
CARLEN P. BLUME, 0000
PRESTON C. BRIGGS, 0000
DERRICK B. CASTRO, 0000
BRETT M. CHUNG, 0000
BRENT J. CRUMPTON, 0000
JEREMY B. DAVIDSON, 0000
MARY A. DIETRICH, 0000
VINH D. DOAN, 0000
ERIC S. EVANS, 0000
BRIDGET M. FERGUSON, 0000
JONATHAN G. FRANKMANN, 0000
BENJAMIN J. FRAVEL, 0000
LENNY FUTERMAN, 0000
ELIZABETH B. GOHL, 0000
DANIEL E. GROSSMAN, 0000
HATIM A. HAMAD, 0000
JERALD B. HAWK, 0000
JASON C. HOLLIER, 0000
RACHEL A. HOLY, 0000
WEI HUANG, 0000
ANDREW S. HUTTULA, 0000
JOSEPH C. JOYCE, 0000
MOHAMMAD KAMIL, 0000
ANGELINE A. KUZNIA, 0000
BRETT T. LAGGAN, 0000
JEFFERY S. LEE, 0000
JOHN R. LUNDSTROM, 0000
JOHN D. MCLAUGHLIN, 0000
SAMIRA MEYMAND, 0000
JEFFREY P. MILES, 0000
ANN B. MONASKY, 0000
ENRIQUE M. MORALES, 0000
KEVIN D. MORSE, 0000
RACHEL MYAINGMISFELDT, 0000
SHANNON D. NALLY, 0000
CHRISTOPHER G. PACE, 0000
ORBITO I. PATANGAN, 0000
YAOHSIEN PENG, 0000
DONALD M. PHILLIPS JR., 0000
ROBERT T. RADEL, 0000
JOHN M. RAY, 0000
MATHEW J. ROYAL, 0000

MELISSA L. RUFF, 0000
NANCY S. SALISBURY, 0000
GLYNN S. SPENCER JR., 0000
JENNIFER T. STATLER, 0000
GREGORY L. STINE, 0000
KAREN M. STOKES, 0000
STEVEN M. STOKES, 0000
HELENE S. STRAZZA, 0000
MICHAEL M. TARIGHATI, 0000
ANDREW P. TAYLOR, 0000
HIEN T. TRINH, 0000
BRENDAN W. TULLY, 0000
DEBRA M. VAZQUEZ, 0000
MICHAEL B. VENER, 0000
YEN H. WAGNER, 0000
JOHN H. WILSON, 0000
EMME H. WONG, 0000
JEFFREY G. ZELLER, 0000

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR REGULAR APPOINTMENT AS A PERMANENT LIMITED DUTY OFFICER IN THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 531 AND 5582:

To be lieutenant

DANIEL C. RITENBURG, 0000

WITHDRAWAL

Executive message transmitted by the President to the Senate on September 13, 2004, withdrawing from further Senate consideration the following nomination:

ROBERT JEPSON, OF GEORGIA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE OVERSIGHT BOARD FOR A TERM EXPIRING SEPTEMBER 14, 2008, WHICH WAS SENT TO THE SENATE ON DECEMBER 9, 2003.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

RECOGNIZING LEONARDO AGRICOLA BISCARI FOR ACHIEVING THE RANK OF EAGLE SCOUT

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 13, 2004

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Leonardo Agricola Biscari of Independence, MO, a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 865, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout. Leonardo will receive the Eagle Scout Award at an Eagle Scout Court of Honor on September 12, 2004, at St. Mark's Catholic Church in Independence, MO.

Leonardo has been very active with his troop, participating in many Scout activities. Over the many years Leonardo has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but the respect of his family, peers, and community.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Leonardo Agricola Biscari for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

HISPANIC RECOGNITION AWARDS

HON. BARNEY FRANK

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 13, 2004

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, on September 16, the Hispanic Recognitions Awards Committee Incorporated in the City of New Bedford, Massachusetts will have its annual ceremony, giving awards to a number of individuals and organizations. The recipients of these awards, to be presented at 5 p.m. at New Bedford High School on September 16, have distinguished themselves by their dedication and energy on behalf of the Hispanic community in our area, and on behalf of the community as a whole. I congratulate Emilio E. Cruz for the work he has done in making this possible, and I wish to join Mr. Cruz and others in recognizing the important community service performed by these recipients.

The list of awards and those receiving them is as follows: Community Organization Award 2004—Catholic Social Services; Cultural Achievement Award 2004—Johnny Arellano; Youth Award 2004—Chayrel Adams; Health Awards 2004—Marta Gonzalez; Education Award 2004—Sara Rodriguez; Public Safety Award 2004—Jose A. Perez; Latino Organization Award 2004—Association Maya Kiche USA, Inc.; Community Service/Leadership Award 2004—Reverend Abraham Torres; The Rising Star Award 2004—Marilyn Vega.

RECOGNIZING JEREMIAH COOMES FOR ACHIEVING THE RANK OF EAGLE SCOUT

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 13, 2004

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Jeremiah Coomes of Smithville, MO, a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 447, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout. Jeremiah will receive the Eagle Scout Award at an Eagle Scout Court of Honor on September 19, 2004 at River of Life Church in Kansas City, MO.

Jeremiah has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Jeremiah has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but the respect of his family, peers, and community.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Jeremiah Coomes for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

EXPRESSING SENSE OF THE HOUSE ON ANNIVERSARY OF TERRORIST ATTACKS LAUNCHED AGAINST UNITED STATES ON SEPTEMBER 11, 2001

SPEECH OF

HON. GEORGE MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 9, 2004

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, three years since the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, we solemnly remember those who risked their lives, those whose lives were lost and those they left behind.

America changed forever that day. Some called 9–11 America's wake up call.

The actions of first responders and everyday citizens give true meaning to the word hero. I applaud the resolution in the House today for honoring their service and the memories of those no longer with us.

But sadly, Mr. Speaker, I must tell you that this resolution is flawed. While it rightfully honors the victims and heroes of September 11, it misleadingly connects the invasion of Iraq with the war on terrorism. Iraq did not start the U.S global war on terrorism—Osama bin Laden did.

Despite that fact, after only four months of hunting for bin Laden, the U.S. began redirecting military and intelligence personnel from his pursuit in Afghanistan to preparing for war with Iraq.

The President then declared in a press conference that, "I don't know where [bin Laden] is. You know, I just don't spend that much time on him . . . I truly am not that concerned about him."

The President was clearly at odds with his terrorism advisers.

The FBI was concerned about him. It said that al-Qaeda remained the "number one concern."

Homeland Security Secretary Tom Ridge was concerned about him. He said America was still bin Laden's number 1 target.

Despite all this, what did the President do?

He shortchanged homeland security needs like port, rail and border security. He reduced law enforcement funding by over 30 percent. And he became less concerned with the man who started the war on terrorism and more concerned with Saddam Hussein—a man the 9–11 Commission determined had no operational connection to al Qaeda and who played no role in the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001.

Did this make America any safer? If so, redirecting resources from hunting the world's number one terrorist in order to invade Iraq might have made sense. But the fact is, the invasion in Iraq has made us less, not more, secure.

And because of that fact, we do ourselves as a country and the memories of those who were lost on September 11, 2001 a great disservice by misrepresenting the facts.

The invasion of Iraq did not deny terrorists a safe haven from which to operate, but rather it created one. In fact, because of poor planning and inadequate troop levels, U.S. forces in Iraq have withdrawn from unstable areas like Falluja, Ramadi and Samarra allowing them to become foreign terrorist safehavens. The low troop level has also prevented the U.S. from sealing off the borders and allowed foreign terrorists to enter Iraq at will.

More American Service members have been killed since the President announced that all major combat operations had ended than before that time. All told, over 1,000 soldiers have been killed, 7,000 wounded, and the rate at which American soldiers are being killed is rapidly increasing.

With all that said, the President still speaks of "taking the fight to the enemy" so that we don't have to fight him at home. But the Department of Homeland Security had to raise the terrorist alert level four times since the invasion of Iraq. And Homeland Security Secretary Tom Ridge has said, "[al Qaeda] is still determined to strike."

The Bush Administration would still lead us to believe that al Qaeda is no longer a threat because two thirds of its senior leadership have been captured or killed. But Secretary of Defense Rumsfeld says "it's almost impossible to have metrics" that determine whether Al Qaeda and other terrorist groups are being drained of support around the world. In fact some experts still put al Qaeda's end strength at close to 18,000.

Secretary Rumsfeld went on to say that the War on Terrorism is not "a military problem alone." In fact the overreliance on military

means to address the threat of terrorism might have done more to help al Qaeda recruit new members than it did to shrink the organization.

So what lessons have we learned three years later?

Iraq had nothing to do with 9–11; our invasion of Iraq made us more, not less vulnerable to terrorist attack; despite capturing and killing al Qaeda leaders, the organization remains operational; we shortchanged homeland security; and the President's attempt to make America safer by taking the fight to the enemy and invading Iraq has done nothing to deter bin Laden's desire to attack the U.S. again.

The administration has failed to adequately address the worldwide threat of terror. It has alienated much of the international community and failed to assemble an effective coalition. We honor the fallen today, but we must also refocus America's foreign and security policy.

EXPRESSING SENSE OF THE HOUSE ON ANNIVERSARY OF TERRORIST ATTACKS LAUNCHED AGAINST UNITED STATES ON SEPTEMBER 11, 2001

SPEECH OF

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 9, 2004

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, we will never forget the events of September 11, 2001—where we were, how we felt and how the America people came together as one Nation, undivided.

On the third anniversary of this tragedy, we again stand together to honor the victims and their loved ones, and to pay tribute to the women and men who continue to protect and defend our Nation at home and around the world.

As the American people move forward, we also know our lives have forever been changed. We understand the threat of terrorism is a reality that must be confronted and prevented. Yet, the spirit of this strong, proud Nation will overcome this threat and prevail against adversaries who attempt to harm us.

As we look to the future, we must not forget the past. We must understand how and why the events of 9/11 happened and we must remain determined to keep our homeland and our families safe and secure. And, forever, we must remember the 3,000 men and women who lost their lives on this tragic day—they are forever enshrined in the memory of our nation.

RECOGNIZING EXCELSIOR SPRINGS FOOTBALL AND THE OFFICIAL OPENING OF TIGER STADIUM

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 13, 2004

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize the Excelsior Springs Football Tigers, a team steeped in history with a promising future, thanks in part to the new Tiger Stadium, which is officially opening tonight, September 10, 2004.

Excelsior Springs football was first played about 1910 on "Old Lady Reed's Field" near Superior Street. In 1920, games were moved to Association Park, a location that later became the site of the old high school football field that officially became Roosevelt Field in 1938. The stone wall surrounding the field was built during the FDR era as a WPA project to provide area jobs after the Great Depression. In 1984, major renovations brought the field and track up to state regulations and new lighting was installed. In the '90s, however, the location started to become a problem: the field was plagued by repeated flooding from Fishing River, the field was now across town from the high school, and parking was more inadequate with each passing year. Early in the 2000s, the community passed a bond issue to build a Performing Arts Center, which opened in fall 2003, a new Career Center building, which will open in January 2005, and this Tiger Stadium, officially opening tonight September 10, 2004.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in congratulating the people of Excelsior Springs on their new Tiger Stadium, and wishing the Tigers the best of luck in their new home.

EXPRESSING SENSE OF THE HOUSE ON ANNIVERSARY OF TERRORIST ATTACKS LAUNCHED AGAINST UNITED STATES ON SEPTEMBER 11, 2001

SPEECH OF

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 9, 2004

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, on Saturday our nation will stop and reflect on the terrible events that occurred three years ago on that day. Each of us will remember in vivid detail where we were and what we were doing when we realized that America had come under murderous attack by cowardly terrorists. We will remember the way that firemen and policemen rushed into burning buildings to save lives. We will remember the heroism of the passengers and crew of Flight 93. We will remember the 3,000 friends, family and loved ones who died that day, and we will pay a debt of thanks to the men and women of our military who continue the fight against terrorism in far off places.

And I, for one, Mr. Speaker, will recall the spirit of bipartisanship that pervaded Washington in the days that followed—how Members of Congress stood together on the steps of the Capitol, singing "God Bless America" in one strong voice. As we consider the events of that day, I urge my colleagues to recapture that spirit and move quickly to adopt the reforms of the September 11th Commission. By doing so, we will improve our intelligence gathering capabilities, improve coordination between government agencies and strengthen Congressional oversight of the intelligence community.

As Americans stop to consider how much the world has changed in these three years, it is imperative that the Congress do all that it can to ensure that our government changes with the world. Every day that goes by without action to embrace the reforms of the Commission is a day that our ability to prevent another 9/11 is limited.

RECOGNIZING WILLIAM M. RAINE FOR ACHIEVING THE RANK OF EAGLE SCOUT

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 13, 2004

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize William M. Raine of Parkville, Missouri, a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout. William will receive his Eagle Scout Award on September 12, 2004, at the Theodore Naish Scout Reservation in Bonner Springs, Kansas.

William has been very active with his troop, participating in many Scout activities. Over the many years William has been involved with Scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but the respect of his family, peers, and community.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending William M. Raine for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

RECOGNIZING CORY HOGAN FOR ACHIEVING THE RANK OF EAGLE SCOUT

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 13, 2004

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Cory Hogan of Kansas City, Missouri, a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 357, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Cory has been very active with his troop, participating in many Scout activities. Over the many years Cory has been involved with Scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but the respect of his family, peers, and community.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Cory Hogan for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

EXPRESSING SENSE OF THE HOUSE ON ANNIVERSARY OF TERRORIST ATTACKS LAUNCHED AGAINST UNITED STATES ON SEPTEMBER 11, 2001

SPEECH OF

HON. PETER A. DeFAZIO

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 9, 2004

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to discuss H. Res. 757, legislation commemorating the third anniversary of the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks against our country.

I remember September 11, 2001, vividly. The weather in our Nation's capital was warm

and sunny. I was giving a speech on the House floor. Soon after I finished, the Capitol building was evacuated. I did not know until I got back to my office that planes had hit the World Trade Center buildings in New York and that a third plane that may have been headed toward the Capitol building was taken down in a field in Pennsylvania. I am profoundly grateful that the passengers aboard United Airlines Flight 93 bravely fought back, thinking of the safety of others, not of their own well-being. Their actions saved the lives of untold numbers of us who were in Washington, D.C. that day.

The resolution on the floor today appropriately honors those who lost their lives due to these heinous attacks. Thousands of husbands, fathers, mothers, wives, daughters, brothers, children, grandparents and others were lost on that day. We must never forget those individuals and their families.

The resolution also honors the heroic actions and sacrifices of our men and women in the U.S. military and their families. I have had the privilege of visiting with dozens of our men and women in uniform, both here at home and in a war zone. I am continually awed by the professionalism, determination, and commitment of our troops.

I am also pleased that H. Res. 757 acknowledges the service and sacrifice of the first responders—emergency personnel, fire fighters, police officers, and others—who aided the innocent victims of the terrorist attacks. While these individuals humbly say they were merely doing their jobs that day, their selfless actions embody some of the best qualities of the American people.

Finally, the resolution congratulates the Congress and the President for various steps taken to improve the security of the American people in the wake of September 11th.

While Congress has adopted some piecemeal improvements on the security front, al-Qaeda will not wait for us to make gradual improvements. Security must be improved today, not after the next attack.

Congress and the Bush administration must stop the finger pointing, turf protection, and minor tweaking that have been the primary features of the Federal government's response to 9/11. It is time for bolder action.

Aviation security is not what it should be. Security screeners need the same upgraded equipment used in congressional office buildings and the White House. We need to deploy technology to detect plastic explosives carried on board planes. We must screen employees and vendors who work on the runways and have access to planes, but who are not currently screened at all. All cargo carried on passenger planes must be tested for explosives. We need effective countermeasures and international agreements to reduce the threat of shoulder-fired missiles. The arbitrary cap on the number of security screeners should be lifted.

A fully unified terrorist watch list that is electronically accessible to necessary Federal and State officials for real-time searches must be put in place now.

Border security is still notably lacking, three years after 9/11. The Federal government should hire 3,000 additional border inspectors and border patrol agents to secure our borders with Canada and Mexico. Existing technologies, like remote sensors, long-range cameras, and unmanned aerial vehicles, should monitor all 7,000 miles of our border 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

Astonishingly, on the 3rd anniversary of the attacks, America's police, firefighters, and emergency response personnel still lack the fundamental ability to communicate with each other by radio. Congress must increase funding to help States and local governments purchase essential equipment.

Our Nation has 95,000 miles of coastline and 361 ports. Yet, the Federal government will spend only $46 million on port security grants this year while spending $10 billion to develop a missile defense system that is irrelevant to the threat posed by al-Qaeda. Congress should increase funding for radiation detection equipment to screen every cargo container, beef up the presence of U.S. inspectors at foreign ports to inspect cargo destined for the U.S., and enhance the Coast Guard fleet.

Five times as many Americans travel on trains and transit each day as on planes, but less than two percent of the transportation security budget goes to non-aviation programs. Congress and the Administration should increase funding for passenger rail and transit security. A baseline level of security for the transit systems in the 50 largest metropolitan areas would cost $2 billion.

Most of the 20 tons of nuclear material at 130 facilities in 40 countries has no more security than a night watchman and a chain link fence. In 2001, a bipartisan commission recommended tripling funding to $3 billion a year for programs to help secure nuclear materials around the world from terrorists.

Finally, I want to say that I am disappointed that H. Res. 757 contains several whereas clauses implying a link between al-Qaeda and Iraq, and Iraq and the September 11th attacks. A variety of experts, including the 9/11 Commission and the Senate Intelligence Committee, have concluded there was no cooperation between Iraq and al-Qaeda on the September 11, 2001, attacks or anything else. It is also inappropriate to link Iraq to the global war against al-Qaeda. Iraq did not pose an urgent threat to our national security. Iraq did not have ties to al-Qaeda. Iraq had not attacked the United States, nor is there any evidence Iraq planned to attack us. Iraq did not have weapons of mass destruction, nor any delivery system capable of attacking us.

I supported the war against the Taliban and al-Qaeda in Afghanistan, and I continue to support military action against al-Qaeda. But, to use a resolution commemorating the anniversary of 9/11 to peddle discredited theories about Iraq in order to cover for the failures of the Bush administration in Iraq and justify the diversion of resources from the war against our real national security threat—al-Qaeda—does a disservice to the American people.

I will vote in favor of H. Res. 757 because I want to honor those I mentioned at the outset of my statement—those who lost their lives in the attacks, those who tried valiantly to save lives on that day, and our men and women in uniform. But, I want to state for the record that I disagree with some of the rhetoric in the resolution.

RECOGNIZING MATTHEW EMERY ECKARD FOR ACHIEVING THE RANK OF EAGLE SCOUT

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 13, 2004

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Matthew Emery Eckard, an outstanding young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 444, and by earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Matthew has been active with his troop by participating in many Scout activities. Over the 14 years Matt has been involved with Scouting, he has earned 29 merit badges. Matt set the goal in 2001 to be the youngest Eagle Scout in Kansas City. I am proud of him for achieving this goal and becoming the fifth youngest Eagle Scout in the whole United States. He was a 3-year camper at H. Roe Bartle Scout Reservation, and is a Brotherhood member in the Order of the Arrow.

For his Eagle Scout project, Matt repainted and surveyed the only Corp of Engineers flood gauge on Line Creek beneath Vivion Road in Riverside, Missouri. This gauge is the official marker used to measure the creek in the flood of 1993.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Matthew Emery Eckard for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

CENTENARY OF ST. MICHAEL'S COLLEGE

HON. BERNARD SANDERS

OF VERMONT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 13, 2004

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. Speaker, this is a time for celebration of higher education in the Green Mountain State: One hundred years ago Saint Michael's College was founded in Winooski, Vermont.

In the past century the college has seen its enrollment burgeon from 34 students to 1,900 students. It has grown from very modest beginnings into a major institution of higher education, widely known as one of the finest liberal arts colleges in the Northeast, and one of the premier Catholic colleges in America. With the diversity of its student body, and its long history as one of the first schools to offer education in teaching English as a second language, its reputation for academic excellence is not just national but international.

Priests of the Society of St. Edmund emigrated to North America, fleeing religious persecution in France in the late nineteenth century. They settled in Vermont, and changed forever the shape of education in their adopted state.

As an order dedicated to education, the Edmundites founded Saint Michael's College in 1904. With an initial investment of $5,000 they began the college on the Kelly Farm in Winooski Park. Their initial effort was modest, just under three dozen students ranging in age from 10 to 22. Few, except the visionary

founders, would have believed that from such small beginnings would emerge the thriving institution which, a century later, is widely known for both its rigorous academic program and its deep commitment to service.

The founders themselves probably did not foresee that the college, originally open only to men, would go co-educational in 1970, or that its commitment to excellence in every pursuit—in developing the ethical as well as the intellectual and spiritual side of human existence, in improving the body as well as the mind—would lead to the Ice Knights winning the NCAA Division II hockey championship. (Nor have the women far behind: in 2000 the St. Michael's field hockey team advanced to the NCAA Division II Final Four.) The founders knew they were sowing the seeds for building character and giving a base for achievement in the secular world, but even they could not have foreseen that graduates of St. Michael's would serve in the United States Senate, and head some of America's largest and most important corporations, or win the Pulitzer Prize. Many graduates serve their fellow men and women, here and abroad, with great dedication, though that they could have foreseen, for commitment to the welfare of the underprivileged and dispossessed has always been central to the Edmundite mission.

Today, the 1,900 full-time undergraduate students at St. Michael's reside in an environment in which learning takes place both in and out of the classroom. In addition to its undergraduates, a multitude of graduate and international students experience its commitment to moral and ethical development, a commitment inspired by the strong Edmundite tradition of service. Although it is now run by a secular Board of Trustees, and no longer are the majority of its teachers Edmundite priests, St. Michael's still is guided by the spirit of its founding order, the recognition that service and education are inextricably linked, and intellectual growth must proceed in concert with spiritual and ethical deepening.

St. Michael's was one of the first colleges to institute an Alternative Spring Break, enabling students to work in inner cities and rural areas to rebuild communities and provide needed services. Today, the college lives out its commitment to service in many ways at home and abroad. In the past few years, student programs have gone to Calcutta, Tanzania, Haiti and elsewhere to learn and do good work. St. Michael's remains dedicated to teaching biology and literature, history and philosophy—but is also enduringly dedicated to working with the impoverished, the homeless, and the victims of AIDS.

It is a particular mark of St. Michael's excellence that it was recently invited to join the elite ranks of colleges and universities hosting Phi Beta Kappa chapters on campus.

And Saint Michael's continues to grow ever stronger academically. For fourteen consecutive years it has been highly rated in rankings of colleges by US News and World Report, and in 2003 it was identified by Newsweek magazine as one of thirty "hidden treasure" colleges that deserve wider national recognition.

Under the able leadership of President Marc vanderHeyden, a dedicated and excellent faculty teaches courses which are at the cutting edge of knowledge, while still rooted in the great traditions of learning. The staff at the college are as committed to excellence and the growth of students as are the faculty. The alumni, those prior generations of St. Michael's students, have gone on to do significant work in the world, serving as models for the engaged students of today, and contribute as generous benefactors to the fiscal well-being of the college.

I have spoken at St. Michael's, met with classes there, and had its students serve as interns in my office. So I say with confidence that its students are remarkable young people, for they embody that dedication to conjoining learning with service which is the hallmark of the college.

As St. Michael's College moves into its second century, the people of Vermont salute its past achievement and its present accomplishment. Situated above the Winooski River, overlooking the splendors of Mount Mansfield, it is my firm expectation that St. Michael's College and its campus community will continue to sparkle, a bright jewel in the Green Mountain State.

RECOGNIZING DANIEL BRYAN DUDDY FOR ACHIEVING THE RANK OF EAGLE SCOUT

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 13, 2004

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Daniel Bryan Duddy, a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 444, and by earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Bryan has been very active with his troop, participating in many Scout activities. Over the 10 years Bryan has been involved with Scouting, he has earned numerous merit badges and held several leadership positions. Bryan served as both Patrol and Senior Patrol Leader, was a 2-year camper at H. Roe Bartle Scout Reservation, and is a Firebuilder in the Tribe of Mic-O-Say. Bryan is also a current Brotherhood member in the Order of the Arrow.

For his Eagle Scout project, Bryan constructed several permanent seating benches around the campfire rings at Tall Oaks Christian camp.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Daniel Bryan Duddy for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

2004 TEXAS HONOR SCHOOL BOARD FOR LEWISVILLE

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 13, 2004

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to congratulate one of my hometown school districts for its outstanding achievements and recently being named a 2004 Texas Honor School Board by the Texas Association of School Administrators.

Among the factors that resulted in the recognition of the Lewisville School Board were its vision, commitment, and leadership as policy makers; commitment to the improvement of student performance and evidence of academic achievement; evidence of strong community support for the district; cooperation among board members and the superintendent; and evidence of successful school-business partnerships.

Congratulations to the following members of the Lewisville district school board: Mark Shaw, Fred Placke, Carol Kyer, Anita Nelson, Tom Kim, Mike McDaniel, and Tom Ferguson for the honor.

I am delighted that your award-winning performance has garnered you this recognition. Your work is greatly appreciated.

The Lewisville school district has a history of outstanding distinction throughout the State of Texas and continues to pursue educational excellence. Every member is vital to the overall goal and performance of the board.

HONORING STEPHEN C. ROBERTS FOR HIS 30 YEARS OF SERVICE TO THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 13, 2004

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Stephen C. Roberts, Senior Auditor for the United States Department of Agriculture Great Plains Region. Mr. Roberts has exemplified the finest qualities of leadership and service and is being honored for his 30 year commitment to Federal service.

Mr. Roberts began his career with the Office of the Inspector General in 1978, as an auditor in Marlboro, Massachusetts, and transferred to the Beltsville, Maryland, office later that year. In 1982, Mr. Roberts moved to our Kansas City office. Mr. Roberts rapidly progressed with the Office of the Inspector General to Supervisory Auditor in 1985 where he has served until his August 21, 2004 retirement.

During his illustrious career with the USDA, Mr. Roberts was recognized for directing complex audits of management and security of information technology, as well as serving on Quality Assessment Review teams in Chicago, Illinois, and San Francisco, California.

He also received awards for audits of food service management companies and vendors performed at school districts located in seven States and Puerto Rico. Mr. Roberts was also one of the original instructors at the Office of the Inspector General Audit Academy started in 1988 and he also developed an Audit Survey Techniques training course for the agency. In 1984 and 1985, Mr. Roberts was detailed to the North Atlantic Region to act as a Supervisory Auditor over work being conducted in Puerto Rico. Mr. Roberts has had a diverse and exemplary career with a consistently high level of accomplishments in his many years of Federal service for the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending the career of Stephen C. Roberts, who exemplifies the qualities of dedication and service to the United States Department of Agriculture Great Plains Region and the people of the United States of America.

CONGRATULATING CROATIAN SONS LODGE NUMBER 170

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 13, 2004

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, it is my distinct honor to congratulate the Croatian Sons Lodge Number 170 of the Croatian Fraternal Union on the festive occasion of its 97th Anniversary and Golden Member banquet on Sunday, October 3, 2004.

This year, the Croatian Fraternal Union will hold this gala event at the Croatian Center in Merrillville, Indiana. Traditionally, the anniversary celebration entails a formal recognition of the Union's Golden Members, those who have achieved fifty years of membership. This year's honorees that have attained fifty years of membership include: Mary Badovinac, Betty Balanoff, Mary Lou Brown, Matthew Guglielmetti, George Kepcher, Margaret Knack, Anastasia Kresich, Charles Lacko, Beverly Perko, Mary Plesha, Theresa Anne Young, and Mary Ann Zorich.

These loyal and dedicated individuals share this prestigious honor with approximately 429 additional Lodge members who have previously attained this important designation.

This memorable day will begin with a morning mass at Saint Joseph the Worker Catholic Church in Gary, Indiana, with the Reverend Father Stephen Loncar officiating. The festivities will be culturally enriched by the performance of several Croatian musical groups. The Croatian Glee Club, ''Preradovic,'' and the Hoosier Hrvarti Adult Tamburitza Orchestra, will both perform at this gala event. The Croatian Strings Tamburitzans and Junior Dancers directed by Dennis Barunica will provide additional entertainment for those in attendance. A formal dinner banquet at 3:30 in the afternoon will end the day's festivities.

Mr. Speaker, I urge you and my other distinguished colleagues to join me in commending Lodge president Betty Morgavan, and all the other members of the Croatian Fraternal Union Lodge Number 170, for their loyalty and radiant display of passion for their ethnicity. The Croatian community has played a key role in enriching the quality of life and culture of Northwest Indiana. It is my hope that this year will bring renewed hope and prosperity for all members of the Croatian community and their families.

RECOGNIZING FORD MOTOR COMPANY

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 13, 2004

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly rise to recognize the introduction of the 2005 Ford Escape Hybrid, expected to roll off the assembly lines at the Ford Claycomo Plant in Claycomo, Missouri, beginning in August.

The Escape Hybrid is the first vehicle of its kind to combine hybrid technology with SUV capability. The Escape Hybrid can be powered solely by the gasoline engine, solely by the electric motor, or by using both working together. The hybrid system automatically switches between pure electric, pure gasoline, or combined operation to maximize fuel efficiency and performance, and the Escape Hybrid is projected to surpass 35 miles-per-gallon in city driving. Additionally, exhaust emissions will be lower than many vehicles currently on the market.

The technology that makes the Escape Hybrid possible is revolutionary, and the fact that Ford has produced a hybrid SUV demonstrates Ford's continued leadership in the automobile industry. I am proud that the Ford Claycomo Plant, located in Missouri's Sixth District, will assemble the Escape Hybrid. It is a testament to the employees at Claycomo, especially since the plant already produces Ford F-series models and the Escape and the Mazda Tribute.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in recognizing Ford Motor Company and the Ford Claycomo Plant as they begin production of the Ford Escape Hybrid.

HONORING LOWELL C. KRUSE FOR HIS 20 YEARS OF SERVICE AS PRESIDENT AND CEO OF HEARTLAND HEALTH

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 13, 2004

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Lowell C. Kruse, President and CEO of Heartland Health, an employer of 2,600 located in St. Joseph, Missouri. Mr. Kruse has exemplified the finest qualities of leadership and service and is being honored for his 20 year commitment to Heartland Health and the people of northwest Missouri.

Mr. Kruse was born in Lake City, Iowa, just about four hours north of St. Joseph where he currently lives with his wife of 40 years, Leslie Marsden-Kruse. Together, Lowell and Leslie have three adult sons. Mr. Kruse began his career in 1967 as the Assistant Administrator of St. Barnabas Hospital in Minneapolis, Minnesota. For the next ten years, Mr. Kruse held leadership positions in a variety of health facilities in the Minneapolis area, before moving to New York in 1977 to become President and CEO of Park Ridge Hospital and Nursing Home in Rochester. Two years later, he became President and CEO of Update Health System, Inc. in Rochester. In 1984, Mr. Kruse came to St. Joseph as President and CEO of Heartland Health, and he hasn't looked back since. During Mr. Kruse's tenure as President and CEO, Heartland has been the recipient of the Missouri Quality Award, the Distinguished Hospital Award for Clinical Excellence, and in 2000 was named one of the top 100 hospitals in the country for orthopedics and cardiovascular care. Mr. Kruse has been the recipient of the Justin Ford Kimball Innovators Award from the American Hospital Association, and the Visionary Leadership Award and the Distinguished Service Award from the Missouri Hospital Association. In addition to his work at Heartland, Mr. Kruse currently serves on the Boards of Directors for Premier, Inc., the Excellence in Missouri Foundation, and the Missouri State Coordinating Board for Higher Education.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending the career of Lowell C. Kruse, who exemplifies the qualities of dedication and service to Heartland Health and the people of northwest Missouri.

IN HONOR AND REMEMBRANCE OF ZACHARY VIRGIN

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 13, 2004

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor and remembrance of Zachary Virgin, an angel of light and love, whose brief journey here brought joy and love to his mother and father, Shane and Joseph, and to everyone who held him, loved him, and gazed upon him.

Forever perfect and innocent baby Zachary's message of giving and grace brought light and warmth into our world. He will live forever within the hearts and memories of his parents, and his song will be heard for all time.

Mr. Speaker and Colleagues, please join me in honor and remembrance of Zachary Virgin, whose beautiful, brief life has become a miracle of life for others. We honor and recognize the love and courage of Shane and Joseph Virgin, loving parents of baby Zachary. We extend our condolences to you both, and to your extended family and friends, and we wish you strength and peace within your deep sorrow.

An angel of heaven, baby Zachary will forever soar with a song of life and message of hope for other babies: A baby breathes with his breath; a baby sees with his eyes; a baby lives with his life. Baby Zachary is their guardian angel, he lives on through all of them, and he will never be forgotten. May his life, love, and memory forever bring you strength, comfort and peace.

TRIBUTE HONORING THE 60TH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY OF MR. AND MRS. ALBERT JOHNSON, SR.

HON. DONALD M. PAYNE

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 13, 2004

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues here in the House of Representatives to join me as I rise to congratulate Mr. and Mrs. Albert Johnson, Sr. on their 60th wedding anniversary. A celebration in their honor is being hosted by their children at the Galloping Hill Caterers in Union, New Jersey on Friday, August 27, 2004.

Albert Johnson, Sr. and the former Loretta Cobb were married in Newark, New Jersey on August 24, 1944. This blessed union produced six children, fourteen grandchildren and fifteen great-grandchildren. The Johnsons made their home in Newark before moving to Hillside, New Jersey in the late sixties. Mr. Johnson retired from the United States Post office after working there for many years. Mrs. Johnson was a homemaker and childcare provider. She delighted in providing a warm and nurturing environment for her young charges.

Mr. and Mrs. Johnson are deeply religious and they celebrate their faith at the Emanuel Missionary Baptist Church in Newark. Mr.

Johnson is a deacon there and Mrs. Johnson is a deaconess as well as a church mother. This couple embodies the spirit of matrimony and faith as they travel together to visit the sick. They also hold weekly prayer service at a facility for senior citizens. Mr. and Mrs. Johnson inspire others with their words of encouragement and their harmonious demeanors.

Mr. Speaker, I know my colleagues join me in letting Mr. and Mrs. Albert Johnson, Sr.'s family, friends and congregation know that their 60th anniversary is indeed a cause for celebration.

HONORING ASIAN COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 13, 2004

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Asian Community Mental Health Services of Oakland, California for 30 years of invaluable service to the community.

Asian Community Mental Health Services (ACMHS) was founded in 1974 with the objective of providing community based mental health services to the East Bay's Asian Pacific Islander Community. The services provided by ACMHS are unique in that they are designed not only to provide care that is comprehensive, but that is structured in accordance with the cultural background of the patients it serves. ACMHS services are available in twelve languages and dialects, and aim to serve Oakland's Asian Pacific children, adolescents, adults, and their families.

The role played by ACMHS in Oakland's Asian Pacific Islander community is truly vital due not only to the caliber of health service it provides, but also because of its continuous involvement in community life through the working relationships it has cultivated with virtually every major social service provider in the East Bay. ACMHS is able to maintain and broaden the scope of its services not only by coordinating with these organizations in order to deliver high quality health care to its patients, but also by sponsoring and participating in a variety of community-building programs and events such as the ACMHS Annual Multi-Ethnic Conference, and the recent establishment of the ACMHS Neighborhood Learning Center in Oakland.

On October 7, 2004, Asian Community Mental Health Services will be celebrating its 30th anniversary in Oakland, California. I would like to mark this occasion by commending this organization for the exceptional service it has provided to the community not only in its capacity as a health service provider, but also as a leader in working to strengthen cultural and community ties among the people of Oakland. By remaining committed to the areas of health and multicultural awareness throughout its thirty years of service, ACMHS has contributed enormously not only to the East Bay's Asian Pacific Islander community, but also to the 9th Congressional District as a whole. I salute and congratulate Asian Community Mental Health Services for 30 remarkable years of service.

IN HONOR OF THE JEWISH HIGH HOLY DAYS

HON. NANCY PELOSI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 13, 2004

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, in the Jewish community this time of year is marked by reflection thanksgiving, consecration, and celebration. It is a time to reflect on the events of the past year and be thankful for family and friends whose love and support guide and inspire us each day. And it is a time to rededicate ourselves to our commitment to tikkun olam, repairing our world, both at home and abroad.

It is also a time to remember our commitment to our democratic ally and friend, the state of Israel. Israel stands as a symbol of Jewish prosperity and survival that dates back more than 5,000 years. This strong tradition is why we must continue to work and pray for peace.

Over the past year we have again witnessed continued violence in the Middle East, but steps have also been taken to reinvigorate a peace process between Israelis and Palestinians. We must continue to support these efforts and remain optimistic that they will result in a lasting peace for all in the region. It is time for all parties to the Roadmap to use the opportunities presented by the Sharon plan to bring an end to the violence and achieve lasting peace in the Middle East.

As we begin the year 5765, we are also celebrating 350 Years of Jewish Life in America and American Jewish History Month. Last year, the Congress recognized and marked this anniversary by passing a resolution noting the important contributions of the American Jewish community to our nation's civic, social, economic, and cultural life. Indeed, as my colleagues observed, the American Jewish community has "sought to actualize the broad principles of liberty and justice that are enshrined in the Constitution of the United States."

In Congress, my Democratic colleagues and I are fighting to bring prosperity, opportunity and security to every corner of America. We are committed to growing the economy; to expanding access to quality affordable health care; to keeping our promise to our children for safe schools with well-paid teachers; to honoring our historic commitment to seniors so they can retire with security and dignity; to sustaining a healthy environment; to upholding the separation of church and state; to protecting civil rights; and to fighting discrimination in all forms.

I pray that we all experience peace, prosperity, opportunity, and security in the New Year. L'Shana Tova Tikatevu.

HONORING POW/MIA RECOGNITION DAY

HON. JACK QUINN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 13, 2004

Mr. QUINN. Mr. Speaker, tomorrow is National POW/MIA recognition day. This annual day of recognition honors those brave soldiers who served valiantly to protect our liberties but remain unaccounted for. America remains vigilant in its effort to see that each one of these nearly 93,000 brave soldiers are identified, accounted for, and returned to their families. Recently, I met with representatives from the Department of Defense Prisoner of War—Missing Personnel office and was pleased to learn of the Department's steadfast dedication to see to it that each one of these POW/MIA cases is resolved.

America owes an enormous debt of gratitude to those who have answered the call to defend our freedoms and there is no better way to honor that debt than to remain committed to bringing closure to the suffering for each of their families. We will never forget the sacrifices that thousands of American Soldiers have made throughout the world in the name of liberty and freedom, and we must do everything we can to help bring the POW/MIA soldiers home.

To date, the Department of Defense lists 1,854 Americans as missing and unaccounted for from the Vietnam War. There are 1,415 in Vietnam, 377 in Laos, 55 in Cambodia and 7 in PRC (People's Republic of China) territorial waters.

I display the POW/MIA flag outside my office as a constant reminder to those who visit, that there are heroes who have not yet made it home. I encourage my colleagues to join me tomorrow in honoring these brave soldiers by renewing our resolve to close these cases and end the suffering caused by the uncertainty of their fate.

IN HONOR AND REMEMBRANCE OF SHERMAN HENDRICKS

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 13, 2004

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor and remembrance of Sherman Hendricks, United States veteran, beloved family member, friend and mentor to many.

Mr. Hendricks was committed to family, faith, community and country. He proudly and honorably served our country as a member of the United States Army, and was a veteran of the Korean War. Following his honorable discharge, Mr. Hendricks brought the integrity and strong work ethic that was reflected in his service to our country to his work and community service.

Back in Cleveland, Mr. Hendricks worked diligently at Anchor Industries and RBW Company. He loved his work and developed long-lasting friendships with colleagues. He was always known as a giving, caring person who would go the extra mile for anyone in need. His concern for others branched out into the community, where he was active in the Cuyahoga County Republican Party as a Precinct Committee Person, a position he held for nearly forty-two years. Additionally, Mr. Hendricks continually inspired others within his church community. He served as a Senior Trustee at the Antioch Chapel Baptist Church of Cleveland, and read Scripture every morning at 7:00 am without fail.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honor and remembrance of Sherman Hendricks, an outstanding American citizen whose

integrity, warmth, and concern for others has left an indelible mark upon on our Cleveland community. I extend my deepest condolences to Mr. Hendricks' beloved sisters and brothers, Celestine Maudlin, Isabelle Hendricks, Napolean Hendricks, Spencer Hendricks and William Hendricks; to his many nieces and nephews and to his extended family members and many friends. Although he will be deeply missed, the wonderful life and legacy of Sherman Hendricks will be remembered always by all whom he loved and inspired—especially his family and closest friends—today, and for generations to come.

TRIBUTE TO MS. BARBARA KUKLA

HON. DONALD M. PAYNE

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 13, 2004

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Ms. Barbara Kukla, an outstanding member of my community who has been the lifeblood of the community spirit and cultural vitality of my hometown of Newark.

She is a writer, a journalist, a historian, a mentor, and was the award-winning Star-Ledger Editor of ''Newark This Week,'' a 4-page weekly section that highlighted events important to original Newarkers, helping to make local events more successful and creating a community meeting place for all our citizens. Barbara's thorough and sustaining coverage of Newark news generated public interest in local events, contributing greatly to the growth and development of our city.

Her love for Newark is not only limited to current events, but includes its rich past. She shared a great friendship with Miss Rhapsody, a legendary Newark jazz singer, who introduced her to many local musicians and piqued her interest in the thriving music scene. Barbara's involvement led to countless hours of research and writing, establishing her as the preeminent historian on Newark's prominence from the 1920s to the present, and inspiring her first book, Swing City. Her second book, Defying the Odds, follows the lives of eight of Newark's most distinguished women, and includes the biographies of 180 others.

Among her many honors, Barbara has received a Recognition Award from the Newark Preservation & Landmarks Committee, the Newark Community Development Network's Charles E. Cummings Award, the Newark Do Something's Lifetime Award for Community Leadership, the Metropolitan Baptist Church of Newark's Living Legend Award, and the John Cotton Dana Distinguished Lecturer Award, named after the founder of the Newark Museum and Library.

In support of the Barbara Kukla Scholarship Fund, Barbara will be hosting Newark Stars on Parade for Newark Students, a star-studded event which will feature a wide-ranging array of music by artists who were either born in Newark or have long-time ties to our city. Stars such as Gloria Gaynor, Melba Moore, the Monotones, Drinkard Singers II, Yvette Glover, the South Side High School Madrigals, Robert Banks, Carrie Smith, Kevin Maynor, Don Williams and Lady CiCi, Gwen Moten, BJ Plus Forty, Pam Purvis and Bob Ackerman, Carrie Jackson, and Gil ''Bebop'' Benson will all be on hand to showcase their musical talent in support of our students. The proceeds from this extravaganza will be used to provide college scholarships for Newark high school graduates and to aid others who are struggling to stay in school.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in extending my thanks to my neighbor, Ms. Barbara Kukla, for her contributions to the civic and cultural life of our community, and I invite my colleagues to join me in sending our congratulations for her outstanding achievements which celebrate what is best and brightest about our city, and have brought such positive recognition to the city of Newark.

TRIBUTE TO THE PINELANDS CULTURAL SOCIETY

HON. JIM SAXTON

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 13, 2004

Mr. SAXTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the Pinelands Cultural Society as it celebrates its 30th year of incorporation with a special celebration concert at Albert Music Hall on November 20, 2004.

The Pinelands Cultural and Historical Preservation Society is a grass roots, non-profit, all-volunteer organization that has been operating in southern New Jersey for the past three decades to preserve the cultural heritage of the New Jersey Pinelands region.

The Society's goals include preservation and stimulation of interest in South Jersey's musical and cultural heritage. Running a live show 50 Saturday nights each year, plus special occasion Sunday shows, the proceeds, along with individual donations of time, talents and money have culminated in the creation of the present 35-seat concert hall building called ''Albert Music Hall'' which serves as a ''living history'' venue for the presentation of live acoustic music concerts in the decades-old tradition of people indigenous to the Pinelands area. It also serves as a repository for extensive historic archives including audiotape and videotape recordings, documentation and photographs reflecting life in the New Jersey Pines from the early 1900s.

Albert Music Hall has been inducted into the American Folklore Center, Local Legacies Collection Archive at the Library of Congress, and is also registered in the Library of Congress' Moving Image Collections Archive Database.

Thus, I am pleased to recognize the efforts of an expert staff of volunteers for their efforts in bringing New Jersey's history to life. I congratulate them, and wish them many more decades of success.

ASSAULT WEAPONS BAN

HON. JIM McDERMOTT

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 13, 2004

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, in the one minute it will take to read these remarks, an Uzi can fire off 1,700 rounds.

Uzis and similar assault weapons are about to be legal again, as if we don't have enough to worry about in America.

For the past ten years, the assault weapons ban has protected Americans from these lethal, military-designed guns.

These weapons are not used for hunting animals. They are used to kill human beings.

The assault weapons ban has bipartisan support, both in Congress and across the nation.

Seventy-five percent of Americans want to see the ban extended. Even two-thirds of gun owners favor renewing the ban.

Yet the Republican leadership has refused to take action. Now, these killing machines will be back in circulation.

Good and decent people won't buy them. Those who hate us will, and we have just made it easier.

The President says he favors the ban, but he made no effort to get his Republican leadership, which controls both the House and Senate, to bring the issue up for a vote.

IN HONOR OF THE 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF LA PROVIDENCIA FAMILY CENTER

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 13, 2004

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor and recognition of Catholic Charities' La Providencia Family Center, a Hispanic Senior Center that exists to provide support, programs and services for Cleveland's westside elderly Hispanic citizens.

In 1984 several community leaders and residents within the Cleveland Hispanic community came together to address the issue of Cleveland's vulnerable and increasing elderly Hispanic population. The facility, programs and services that were developed twenty years ago have evolved over the years, but the vision, assistance and compassion has remained a constant source of comfort and hope for countless seniors and their families.

Along with providing vital services such as transportation, health screenings, home visits, social activities and events, the bi-lingual and bi-cultural Center staff and volunteers consistently understand and focus on the cultural and linguistic needs of those whom they serve. All services provided at La Providencia are offered without regard to race, religion, gender, disability or ability to pay.

Mr. Speaker and Colleagues, please join me in honor and celebration of the 20th Anniversary of the La Providencia Family Center—Cleveland's Westside Hispanic Senior Center. For two decades, the Center has existed as a vital lifeline to our elderly Hispanic citizens, providing hope, health and a true understanding and connection to the homeland of every senior who visits there.

TRIBUTE TO THE NEW JERSEY BUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION TRADES COUNCIL

HON. DONALD M. PAYNE

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 13, 2004

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a landmark achievement of the hardworking men and women of New Jersey. This month, the New Jersey Building and Construction Trades Council will be holding its

100th convention at Caesar's Resort and Casino in Atlantic City, NJ.

The skilled craftsmen and women of the building trades have formed the backbone of New Jersey's labor movement for more than two centuries. It was the building trades, in particular the carpenters at the Hibernia Iron Works in 1774, who were the first to band together and strike for better working conditions. It was the building trades unions who consistently provided for the city and county trade federations that formed in the mid-19th century, for New Jersey's Knights of Labor assemblies, and especially for the New Jersey State Federation of Labor that grew into New Jersey's AFL–CIO.

The New Jersey Building and Construction Trades Council and its unions led the fight for the 8-hour day, better and safer working conditions, strong pension and health benefits, and a living wage.

The NJBCTC and its unions built the modern State of New Jersey, from the New Jersey Turnpike and the Garden State Parkway, to Newark Airport and the Meadowlands. They built the high-rise casinos that light up Atlantic City's skyline, the new skyscrapers rising up on Jersey City's Gold Coast, the hospitals in which we care for our sick, and the schools in which we educate our children.

Mr. Speaker, the men and women of the New Jersey Building and Construction Trades Council and its unions deserve our gratitude, and I would like to offer my congratulations to President William Mullen and his vice presidents, representing each of the construction trades. I also invite my colleagues to join me in recognizing their predecessors who built the NJBCTC into what it is today, and to the tens of thousands of building trades craft unionists of generations past and present, who have built strong unions and a strong New Jersey.

CRS LETTER ADMITTING ITS ERRONEOUS STATEMENT IN A MEMO ISSUED DURING DEBATE ON H.R. 3313, THE MARRIAGE PROTECTION ACT

HON. F. JAMES SENSENBRENNER, JR.

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 13, 2004

Mr. SENSENBRENNER. Mr. Speaker, on July 22, 2004, the House debated and passed H.R. 3313, the Marriage Protection Act, a bill that would prevent Federal courts from striking down the protection we granted to States in the Defense of Marriage Act. That protection allows states to refuse to recognize same-sex marriage licenses issued in other States if they so choose.

In the midst of floor debate on H.R. 3313, the Congressional Research Service issued a memorandum to the minority staff of the House Judiciary Committee, which stated: "We are not aware of any precedent for a law that would deny the inferior Federal courts original jurisdiction or the Supreme Court of appellate jurisdiction to review the constitutionality of a law of Congress." Those on the other side of the aisle made much of this statement, and the statement was widely reported in the press.

I would like to set the record straight. The statement that Congress has never passed a law that would deny Federal courts jurisdiction to hear a constitutional claim is false, and the most cursory review of American history shows that. The very first Judiciary Act of 1789 denied the inferior Federal courts original jurisdiction and the Supreme Court appellate jurisdiction to review the constitutionality of literally thousands of Federal statutes under a jurisdictional regime that governed for roughly a century.

The Judiciary Committee majority staff pointed out these precedents to the Congressional Research Service in a letter sent on August 4, 2004, asking CRS if its position continued to be that "there is not 'any precedent for a law that would deny the inferior federal courts original jurisdiction or the Supreme Court of appellate jurisdiction to review the constitutionality of a law of Congress.'"

On August 16, the Congressional Research Service responded in a letter that states: "*our earlier memorandum was incorrect.*" (Emphasis added). Let me repeat that. CRS admitted that: "our earlier memorandum was incorrect." CRS goes on to note that it recognizes "the fact that as written and construed [the Judiciary Act of 1789] did operate to preclude any federal court from deciding the validity of a federal statute from 1789 to 1875."

I would like to submit for the RECORD, in addition to my statement, the original erroneous memorandum sent by the Congressional Research Service, the letter to CRS from the majority staff of the committee requesting a clarification of CRS's views, and the response from CRS admitting its error.

So let the record be clear. H.R. 3313, the Marriage Protection Act, has ample precedent in American history, and the Congressional Research Service agrees.

CONGRESSIONAL RESEARCH SERVICE

MEMORANDUM

To: House Committee on the Judiciary, Attention: Perry Apelbaum.

From: Johnny H. Killian, Senior Specialist, American Constitutional Law, American Law Division.

Subject: Precedent for Congressional Bill.

This memorandum is in response to your query, respecting H.R. 3313, now pending before the House of Representatives, as to whether there is any precedent for enacted legislation that would deny judicial review in any federal court of the constitutionality of a law that Congress has enacted, whether a law containing the jurisdictional provision or an earlier, separate law. We are not aware of any precedent for a law that would deny the inferior federal courts original jurisdiction or the Supreme Court of appellate jurisdiction to review the constitutionality of a law of Congress.

[Letter sent to the Congressional Research Service from the Committee on the Judiciary]

AUGUST 4, 2004.

Mr. JOHNNY KILLIAN,
Madison Building, Library of Congress, Washington, DC.

DEAR JOHNNY: In an undated Memorandum from yourself to Perry Apelbaum, the minority chief counsel of the House Judiciary Committee, you stated "We are not aware of any precedent for a law that would deny the inferior federal courts original jurisdiction or the Supreme Court of appellate jurisdiction to review the constitutionality of a law of Congress." This Memorandum was made known to us in the midst of House floor debate on H.R. 3313, the Marriage Protection Act, on July 22, 2004.

In the Judiciary Act of 1789, (Footnote Text: Judiciary Act of 1789, 1 Stat. 85 (1789)) Congress provided no general federal question jurisdiction in the federal courts below the Supreme Court. (Footnote Text: See Richard H. Fallon, Daniel J. Meltzer, and David L. Shapiro, Hart & Wechsler's The Federal Courts and the Federal System (4th ed. 1996) at 33 (stating that in the Judiciary Act of 1789, "Congress provided no general federal question jurisdiction in the lower federal courts")). The federal circuit courts were vested with jurisdiction according to the nature of the parties rather than the nature of the dispute. The Judiciary Act of 1789 provided "the circuit courts shall have original cognizance . . . of all suits of a civil nature at common law or in equity, where the matter in dispute exceeds . . . the sum . . . of five hundred dollars, and the United States are plaintiffs, or petitioners; or an alien is a party, or the suit is between a citizen of the State where the suit is brought, and a citizen of another State." (Footnote Text: Judiciary Act of 1789, 1 Stat. 73, §11 (1789))

Further, and of relevance here, Section 25 of the Judiciary Act of 1789 restricted the Supreme Court's appellate jurisdiction over state court decisions to cases where the validity of a treaty, statute, or authority of the United States was drawn into question and the state court's decision was against their validity (Footnote Text: Judiciary Act of 1789, 1 Stat. 73, §25 (1789)) or where a state court construed a United States constitution, treaty, statute, or commission and decided against a title, right, privilege, or exemption under any of them. (Footnote Text: Judiciary Act of 1789, 1 Stat. 73, §25 (1789))

Consequently, under the Judiciary Act of 1789, if the highest state courts upheld a federal law as constitutional and decided in favor of a right under such federal statute (and there was no coincidental federal diversity jurisdiction), no appeal claiming such federal law was unconstitutional was allowed to any federal court, including the Supreme Court. The Judiciary Act of 1789, therefore, denied the inferior federal courts original jurisdiction and the Supreme Court appellate jurisdiction to review the constitutionality of literally thousands of laws of Congress in the many and various circumstances meeting the criteria just mentioned.

Congress did not grant a more general federal question authority to the lower federal courts until after the Civil War, (Footnote Text: See Act of Mar. 3, 1875, ch. 137, 18 Stat. 470 (1875)) and Congress did not grant the Supreme Court the authority to review state court rulings upholding a claim of federal right until 1914. (Footnote Text: See Judiciary Act of 1914, Act of Dec. 23, 1914, ch. 2, 38 Stat. 790 (1914)) Until 1914, then, a situation existed in which the constitutionality of literally thousands of federal laws could not be reviewed in either the inferior federal courts, or the Supreme Court, or both.

We are not aware of any doubt about these facts among scholars of federal court jurisdiction.

The Judiciary Act of 1789, of course, went far beyond what H.R. 3313 would do regarding federal court jurisdiction. While the Judiciary Act of 1789 precluded all federal court review of constitutional issues when state courts upheld any law of Congress (expressing a policy distinctly in favor of the validity of federal law), H.R. 3313 simply provides that challenges brought against one section of the Defense of Marriage Act, codified at 28 U.S.C. §1738C, (Footnote Text: 28 U.S.C. §1738C states "No State, territory, or possession of the United States, or Indian tribe, shall be required to give effect to any public act, record, or judicial proceeding of any other State, territory, possession, or tribe respecting a relationship between persons of

the same sex that is treated as a marriage under the laws of such other State, territory, possession, or tribe, or a right or claim arising from such relationship.'') be brought in federal court, and in no way favors any particular outcome.

Therefore, I am writing to ask you whether you continue to believe the statement that there is not ''any precedent for a law that would deny the inferior federal courts original jurisdiction or the Supreme Court of appellate jurisdiction to review the constitutionality of a law of Congress'' is correct.

We would appreciate your answer as soon as possible, but no later than August 16, 2004.

Sincerely,

PHIL KIKO,
Chief of Staff/General Counsel.

[Letter in response to the letter dated August 4, 2004 from the Congressional Research Service to the Committee on the Judiciary]

CONGRESSIONAL RESEARCH SERVICE,
August 16, 2004

MEMORANDUM

To: House Committee on the Judiciary, Attention: Philip C. Kiko.

From: Johnny H. Killian, Senior Specialist, American Constitutional Law, American Law Division.

Subject: Congressional Control of Jurisdiction of Federal Courts.

This memorandum responds to your request that we reassess an earlier memorandum of ours that was prepared for Congress in light of construction of an early congressional enactment.

In brief, during consideration of H.R. 3313, the Marriage Protection Act, in the House of Representatives, we were asked whether we were aware of any precedent for the provisions of the bill that would deny all federal courts, the Supreme Court under its appellate jurisdiction and the inferior courts under their original jurisdiction, of authority to review any questions pertaining to the interpretation of, or the validity under the Constitution of, 28 U.S.C. §1738C. That statute provides that no State, or other relevant jurisdiction, is required to give full faith and credit to any public act, record, or judicial proceeding that recognizes marriage between two persons of the same sex. We responded, first orally and then by a brief memorandum, that we were not aware of any precedent for a law that would deny to all federal courts the power to review the constitutionality of a law of Congress.

You have called our attention to provisions of the Judiciary Act of 1789, 1 Stat. 85, specifically §§11, 25, which you contend contradict our memorandum and do deny all federal courts jurisdiction to review the constitutionality of acts of Congress. We do acknowledge that the cited provisions of the first Judiciary Act do in some respects prevent federal judicial review of the constitutionality of some acts of Congress, with, however, some qualifications that we set out below. Nonetheless, there were, indeed, some circumstances under which federal court jurisdiction was denied or not provided, so that our memorandum was not entirely accurate.

Our response requires some analysis. As you point out and as it is the consensus of the scholarly community, the first Judiciary Act did not confer on the federal courts, both the inferior federal courts and the Supreme Court, all the jurisdiction that might have been conferred under Article III of the Constitution. (Footnote Text: See R. Fallon, D. Melzer, & D. Shapiro, Hart & Wechsler's The Federal Courts and the Federal System (4th ed., 1996), 29–33; W. Casto, The First Congress's Understanding of Its Authority Over the Federal Courts' Jurisdiction, 26 B.C. L. Rev. 1101, 1116–17(1985)). Thus, §11 of the Judiciary Act generally conferred diversity jurisdiction, with some limits, on the inferior federal courts, and a few other grants, but it did not confer federal question jurisdiction, that is, jurisdiction arising under the Constitution, laws, and treaties of the United States. So, absent the ability of litigants to obtain original jurisdiction in the inferior federal courts under some other head of jurisdiction, the constitutionality of federal statutes could not be attacked in those inferior federal courts. Some few instances of federal question jurisdiction appeared in the historical record, but it was not until 1875 when Congress conferred general federal question jurisdiction on the inferior federal courts, subject to a jurisdictional amount limitation. 18 Stat. 470.

However, such actions could be brought in the state courts, and the Supreme Court had limited appellate jurisdiction to review the state court decisions. This presents the focal point of the issue before us. Congress did not confer complete appellate jurisdiction over such questions decided by state courts. There were three categories of jurisdiction (Footnote Text: Casto, cited in fn. 1, 1118–20). That is, the Supreme Court enjoyed appellate jurisdiction:

1. Where the validity of a treaty, statute, or authority of the United States is drawn into question and the state court's decision is against their validity.

2. Where the validity of a state statute or authority is challenged on the basis of federal law and the state court's decision is in favor of their validity.

3. Where a state court construes a United States constitution, treaty, statute, or commission and decides against a title, privilege, or exemption under any of them.

Thus, the Supreme Court's appellate jurisdiction in these cases depended upon the particular results reached by the state courts. The first grant clearly recognized the federal interest in having one national, uniform resolution of the question of the validity of a federal law or a treaty, so that if a state court decision invalidated either under the U.S. Constitution the Supreme Court could review it. Only if the state court upheld the federal law or treaty did the Supreme Court lack jurisdiction. Obviously, Congress had in mind the federal interest involved in this situation, but it is nonetheless true that one challenging the validity of a federal law could not take that challenge to the Supreme Court if he lost in the state court.

Similarly, if a litigant challenged a state law as being invalid under a federal law and the state court upheld the validity of the state law, the litigant could appeal to the U.S. Supreme Court and obtain an answer. But if a litigant was defending in state court a claim under a state law, including a contention the federal law was invalid, and that court held the state law invalid under federal law, the litigant could not appeal that decision to the U.S. Supreme Court. So the way that §25 was worded did have the effect, at least in some instances, of insulating a federal law from a federal constitutional attack (Footnote Text: The law, incidentally, was not changed until 1914, 38 Stat. 790, as a result of the decision in Ives v. South Buffalo Ry., 201 N.Y. 271, 94 N.E. 431 (1911), invalidating a regulatory measure under a Lochner-like application of the Fourteenth Amendment's due process clause. One may wonder how often this kind of thing happened if the law was not changed for 85 years).

Now, one can imagine that federal laws were not forever protected from constitutional challenge, that a challenge might only often be postponed. Just consider, the instance might arise in which a state court invalidated a state law as in conflict with a federal law, and the losing party in the state court could not appeal that decision. But in a Nation of many States, thirteen when the Judiciary Act was passed in 1789, as compared to some 40 or so by 1875, when the inferior federal courts were invested with federal question jurisdiction, how many times is it likely that in only one State a federal law of general applicability that could be interpreted as invalidating a state law would be challenged. No principle of res judicata or collateral estoppel would prevent a challenge to such state laws being brought in many States and surely state courts would be divided. Eventually, the issue would come to the U.S. Supreme Court.

That the effect of §25 might only infrequently result in the constitutionality of a federal statute being insulated from review does not alter the fact that as written and construed the section did operate to preclude any federal court from deciding the validity of a federal statute from 1789 to 1875. Accordingly, our earlier memorandum was incorrect.

EXPRESSING SENSE OF THE HOUSE ON ANNIVERSARY OF TERRORIST ATTACKS LAUNCHED AGAINST UNITED STATES ON SEPTEMBER 11, 2001

SPEECH OF

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 9, 2004

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate and observe the solemn anniversary of the unspeakable attacks of September 11, 2001, and in particular to express my deepest sympathies to the families of two American heroes, Naomi Solomon who died in the World Trade Center and Andy Garcia who lost his life aboard Flight 93.

Few events in U.S. history have been so jarring to our collective security and so unifying. The sorrow we all felt that day was surpassed only by our commitment to do everything possible to ensure that never again would we be so vulnerable and so unprepared.

Today, on the third anniversary of that fate-filled day, we must reconnect ourselves to the task of actually doing what has not yet been completed to make America safe.

While we've made progress, we cannot rest. Whether on land, sea, or air, critical security gaps continue to exist 3 years after the attacks of September 11. We have before us concrete steps, recommended by the 9/11 Commission, to address our vulnerabilities and to strengthen our defenses. Congress must reform the intelligence community by doing the following:

Create a strong National Intelligence Director;

Improve Congressional oversight;

Ensure an integrated terrorist watch list;

Strengthen the FBI's ability to collect and analyze domestic intelligence;

Create an integrated strategic plan for aviation and transportation security;

Improve airline passenger and baggage screening;

Improve coordination between FAA and military authorities;

Provide for the increased assignment of radio spectrum for safety purposes; and

Make the Select Committee on Homeland Security permanent.

In the aftermath of our Nation's tragedy, the American people wanted to know how we could help the families of the victims. Their response was to seek independent investigation of what led up to the attack on our country. We owe it to them and to our entire Nation to implement the unanimous recommendations of the bipartisan Commission to protect the American people and our national security. We can do nothing less.

GOOD LUCK TO NATIONAL FEDERATION OF COFFEE GROWERS OF COLOMBIA WITH JUAN VALDEZ COFFEE SHOPS

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 13, 2004

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, during the 1960s, I lived and worked in Colombia as a Peace Corps Volunteer. I was able to see first hand the resilience, business savvy and general gumption of the Colombian people. One of the sectors in Colombia that exemplifies the strength of Colombians is the Colombian cafeteros, or coffee farmers. Despite the roller coaster that is the world market of coffee prices, Colombian cafeteros have managed to excel and continue to produce the best coffee beans in the world. Decades ago, Colombian farmers joined together and formed the National Federation of Coffee Growers of Colombia—a farmer owned and controlled organization that has worked tirelessly to improve the livelihoods of Colombian cafeteros.

In the 1980s the Federation recognized the importance of marketing and created, what is now a pop icon, the Juan Valdez logo. Today, I would like to applaud the Colombian Coffee Federation for reinvigorating the Juan Valdez logo by opening up the first Washington, DC branch of Juan Valdez coffee shop, located in the Washington headquarters of the Organization of American States building. Selling directly to consumers will help the Colombian farmers earn more for the quality beans that they produce and help increase the standard of living of the cafeteros. Again, I would like to send a special ''felicidades'' to the Federation for their work on behalf of Colombian cafeteros and wish them the best of luck with the Juan Valdez coffee shops.

IN HONOR OF ANDY MONTANEZ

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 13, 2004

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor and welcome of Andy Montanez, premier singer from the beautiful island of Puerto Rico. For nearly 40 years, the salsa sound of Mr. Montanez has garnered countless fans in Cleveland, Ohio and around the world.

His love for music and exceptional voice was the driving force behind the immensely successful band, El Gran Combo. During the 15 years they played together, El Gran Combo recorded 37 LPs that included several hit singles. Mr. Montanez retired from El Gran Combo to pursue an international career. He joined the Venezuelan band, La Dimension Latina, one of the most popular orchestra's in Venezuala. His collaboration with La Dimension also produced several LPs and hit songs.

Today, Mr. Montanez continues to compose, play, record and tour with some of the finest Latin musicians around, including his grown children. His talent and enthusiasm continues to inspire and entertain fans located across the globe, yet connected through the universal language of music.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honor of salsa legend and premier Latin singer, Andy Montanez. His rich and powerful voice continues to uplift our spirits and nourish our souls—here in Cleveland, throughout Puerto Rico and around the world. Let the song begin!

A CELEBRATION OF YOUTH IN HONOR OF MADISON AINSLEY KNAPP

HON. NICK SMITH

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 13, 2004

Mr. SMITH of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of the birth and life of Madison Ainsley Knapp, born born September 10, 2004. She weighed 7.6 pounds and is 18¾ inches. Madison was born to my Legislative Director Alan Knapp and his wife Jennifer Knapp. Madison was also welcomed into this world by grandparents Larry and Carol Knapp of St. Joseph, Michigan and Virginia McNees of Benton Harbor, Michigan.

Madison is fortunate to be born to such a great family. We welcome Madison to the world with open arms and congratulate her parents and grandparents on the occasion of her birth.

IN CELEBRATION OF THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF LEISURE WORLD—LAGUNA WOODS

HON. CHRISTOPHER COX

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 13, 2004

Mr. COX. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 40th Anniversary of Leisure World in Laguna Woods, California. It was on September 10, 1964 that the first residents moved into Leisure World, a private community designed especially for active, retired seniors. Within a mere three years, the community had grown to a population of 10,000, making it one of our country's earliest and largest age restricted developments.

Today, Leisure World is home to nearly 18,000 residents who enjoy a variety of housing options and social services, an abundance of recreational activities and organizations, and an exceptionally warm and welcoming community. Nestled in the rolling hills of South Orange County, Leisure World existed as an unincorporated part of the county for more than three decades. In 1999, the community made history when its residents voted for cityhood and the area officially became part of Laguna Woods, America's first and only age-restricted city.

I had the pleasure of getting to know the residents of Leisure World when I was first running for Congress in 1988. And, for the past sixteen years, it has been a true honor to represent this unique and thriving community. In my experience, Leisure World residents are among the most politically aware and active of my constituency. Local political clubs have included me in hundreds of roundtable discussions, candidate debates, and ''Get-Out-The-Vote'' events. Leisure World TV has interviewed me on numerous occasions for its local cable show, and the community newsletter has welcomed my columns.

Most importantly, individual residents are always willing to share their informed opinions and suggestions on nearly any issue. Because of their insight, I have authored laws to reduce death taxes for seniors living in communities such as Leisure World, and to ease federal regulations that sought to outlaw age-restricted communities. I truly value my relationship with Leisure World, and I appreciate the opportunity to carry legislation on behalf of this community.

Mr. Speaker, it is my sincere honor to ask the Congress of the United States of America to join me in congratulating Leisure World-Laguna Woods on the occasion of its 40th Anniversary.

REMEMBERING FIRST LIEUTENANT RONALD WINCHESTER

HON. CAROLYN McCARTHY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 13, 2004

Mrs. McCARTHY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise on behalf of the 4th Congressional district of New York in remembrance of First Lieutenant Ronald Winchester, from Rockville Center, of the United States Marine Corps. I would like to extend my heartfelt sympathy and condolences to Robert's friends and family, especially his parents Ronald and Marianna. Lt. Winchester was killed in the line of duty while heroically serving his country during Operation Iraqi freedom.

Ronald graduated from Chaminade High School in Mineola where he was a star on the football team. That did not change upon his arrival at the Naval Academy in Annapolis, Md. He was a star offensive lineman during the 1999 and 2000 seasons when he had some memorable games against Army and his friend Doug Larsen.

Ronald had a profound love and dedication for his family and country. People could see this and were drawn to Ronald's outgoing nature. Ronald had an infectious personality and was a natural leader. It was easy for his peers, whether on the football field or the battlefield, to respect and admire him.

It is always sad when a person, such as Ronald, is taken from us. He will be missed but not forgotten. I ask people to remember Ronald and all of the other men and women we have lost. We must also pray for those still fighting for the ideals, rights and freedoms Ronald held deeply.

EXPRESSING SENSE OF THE HOUSE ON ANNIVERSARY OF TERRORIST ATTACKS LAUNCHED AGAINST UNITED STATES ON SEPTEMBER 11, 2001

SPEECH OF

HON. JERRY F. COSTELLO

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 9, 2004

Mr. COSTELLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the anniversary of perhaps the worst day in U.S. history, September 11, 2001.

No one will ever forget where he or she was on that tragic morning. No one will ever forget the selfless and hardworking members of our firefighters, police officers, paramedics, and emergency response workers when the two towers of the World Trade Center collapsed and when the Pentagon was hit by a hijacked plane. No one will ever forget the gallant acts of heroism that occurred on United Airlines flight 93, as the actions of several individuals saved the lives of thousands.

September 11th unified America and reawakened a spirit of patriotism and unity because it was on that day we were reminded that freedom is not free—that there is a price. With time to reflect on the terrible losses suffered that day and the threat of terrorism still present throughout the world, we realize now more than ever the debt of gratitude that we owe to those who place themselves in harm's way to protect our country and our people.

As I stand here before you today, we mourn for those we lost. Our prayers are dedicated to the heroic firefighters, police officers and emergency first responders, our military men and women and other ordinary Americans who have answered the call for freedom.

Again, as our country mourns and continues to heal, I know my colleagues join me in expressing our deepest sympathies to the families of our heroes. America continues to be tested but we are strong and will persevere!

HONORING SENATOR HIRAM FONG

HON. DAVID WU

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 13, 2004

Mr. WU. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor our friend and colleague, Senator Hiram Fong. Even though I did not serve with Mr. Fong, I admired his leadership in the Asian American community.

Senator Fong was born in Honolulu, Hawaii on October 15, 1906. He was one of 11 children born to Chinese parents. His work ethic was a good example to all that aspire to be successful. At the age of 4, Hiram caught and sold fish to contribute to his family. He worked hard as a shoeshine boy and sold newspapers when he was 7. Hiram attended Honolulu's public schools and went on to continue his education at the University of Hawaii and Harvard Law School.

Mr. Fong had a full public service career before he entered the United States Senate. He was a member of the Territorial House of Representatives where he would eventually gain many leadership roles. This helped him gain support for statehood of Hawaii among his many colleagues. He also served in the Army Air Corp when he took a short break from the Territorial House of Representatives. He eventually retired honorably as a colonel.

The Senator is remembered for the many great things he did in Congress. He secured funding for the H–1 freeway which runs through Hawaii, established and nourished relationships between the United States and Asian and Pacific countries, and promoting civil rights by requiring auditors at polling sights to ensure minority voting rights.

He was also known for working in a bi-partisan nature to obtain progress and policy for the citizens of our country. Hiram set an example for all who hold public office. Working with both sides of the aisle earned him a successful Senate record that many admire today.

Hiram Fong was a hard working man that gave a great amount of public service to the great state of Hawaii and our country. He provided big shoes to fill, being the first Asian Pacific American to join the United States Senate. I admired his courage and willingness when he defended the civil rights of the APA community and worked on the Immigration Reform Act of 1965. His true leadership contributed to eliminating the immigration quotas for the Asian and Pacific countries.

Senator Fong is survived by his high school sweetheart and wife Ellyn Lo. They had four children Hiram Jr., Rodney, Marvin, and Merie-Ellen.

My deepest sympathies go out to his family during this time of remembrance. Senator Fong will be greatly missed and his service will never be forgotten.

THE EXPIRATION OF THE ASSAULT WEAPONS BAN

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 13, 2004

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, today I come to the floor to protest the Republican leadership's refusal to renew the assault weapons ban. I have heard from law enforcement agencies across the country and citizens from my district urging Congress to take action and renew the assault weapons ban. It is unconscionable that this ban has been allowed to lapse and that we may again see assault style weapons on our street corners.

The assault weapons ban did not have to expire. There are several bills in both the House and Senate that would have extended the assault weapons ban and continued to protect our law enforcement officers from these dangerous weapons. I am a cosponsor of H.R. 2038, the Assault Weapons Ban and Law Enforcement Protection Act of 2003, and H.R. 3831, Assault Weapons Ban Reauthorization Act of 2003. Either of these bills would have successfully and seamlessly continued the protection established by the original assault weapons ban in 1994.

The Assault Weapons Ban has proven remarkably effective in reducing the use of assault weapons in crime. Since 1994, the proportion of assault weapons traced to crimes has fallen by a dramatic 66 percent. In addition, opinion polls show that 75 percent of the public supports the renewal of the assault weapons ban. This legislation takes a commonsense approach that successfully protects the rights of those who collect or hunt and use weapons for legitimate recreational purposes, while also guarding the safety of our law enforcement officers.

On this issue, the Congressional Republican leadership has ignored the will of the public, the professional opinion of law enforcement agencies across the country, and even the views of President Bush who publicly stated his willingness to sign an extension of the assault weapons ban into law. I am saddened by this failure and I will continue working to reinstate the assault weapons ban and to provide our law enforcement officers with the greatest protection possible.

HONORING SENIOR AIRMAN KURT MARUNICK ON HIS SELECTION AS ONE OF TWELVE OUTSTANDING AIRMEN OF THE YEAR

HON. JOHN D. DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 13, 2004

Mr. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a man who has given himself wholly to his country and his community. Senior Airman Kurt Marunick, from Dundee, Michigan, has been selected as one of the twelve Outstanding Airmen of the Year. He represents the standard of excellence in service for today's men and women in the armed forces of this country.

As part of this award, Senior Airman Marunick will be honored at the Air Force Association National Convention in Washington, D.C. In addition, he will serve as a member of the Air Force Association's enlisted advisory council for the next year.

Senior Airman Marunick is assigned to the 347th Maintenance Squadron of Moody Air Force Base of Valdosta, Georgia. He was recently deployed to Iraq from February to April of 2004, where he received the Air Force Achievement Medal for "outstanding achievement" for his service. His service is known to have saved many lives and contributed greatly to the success of numerous missions.

In 2003, he was named Airman of the Year for Air Force Special Operations Command. The two awards show a true dedication to his work and fellow Airmen. His efforts are truly commendable; he is a role model who serves in an exemplary manner.

Senior Airman Marunick is a life-long resident of Michigan, graduating from Dundee High School and Eastern Michigan University. Not only does he serve as an example for all who wear a United States uniform, but he also serves as a role model for his friends and neighbors outside of the Air Force. He volunteers for many different charitable organizations, tutors at local high schools, and founded the Moody chapter of Airmen Against Drunk Driving.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues rise and join me in recognizing Senior Airman Kurt Marunick for all of his accomplishments. Our country is certainly a better place because of his efforts.

HONORING AND RECOGNIZING DOROTHY SCOTT

HON. STEVE ISRAEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 13, 2004

Mr. ISRAEL. Mr. Speaker, on November 7, 2003, I came to the House floor to honor and recognize servicewomen who served as Women Airforce Service Pilots (WASP) during the Second World War.

It is not an exaggeration that we owe a big part of the freedom we enjoy today to these women pilots. Their love of country and love of flying is something for which we will always be grateful.

Unfortunately, when I gave thanks to the thirty-eight WASPs who gave their lives in service to their country, I unintentionally failed to include the name of Dorothy Scott. Like the others, her courage is an inspiration for all Americans.

The complete list should read as follows: Jane Champlin, Susan Clark, Margie L. Davis, Katherine Dussaq, Marjorie D. Edwards, Elizabeth Erickson. Cornelia Fort, Frances Grimes, Mary Hartson, Mary H. Howson, Edith Keene, Kathryn B. Lawrence, Hazel Ying Lee, Paula Loop, Alice Lovejoy, Lea Ola McDonald, Peggy Martin, Marie N. Michell, Virginia Moffatt, Beverly Moses, Dorothy Nichols, Jeanne L. Norbeck, Margaret Oldenburg, Mabel Rawlinson, Gleanna Roberts, Betty Scott, Dorothy Scott, Margaret J. Seip, Helen J. Severson, Marie Sharon, Evelyn Sharp, Betty P. Stine, Marion Toevs, Gertrude Tompkins, Mary Trebing, Bonnie Jean Welz, Betty T. Wood, and Mary L. Webster.

DEPARTMENTS OF LABOR, HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, AND EDUCATION, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2005

SPEECH OF

HON. ENI F.H. FALEOMAVAEGA

OF AMERICAN SAMOA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 5006) making appropriations for the Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2005, and for other purposes:

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Mr. Chairman, I rise in support of the Bordallo-Faleomavaega-Christiansen amendment to the Labor-HHS-Education Appropriations Act and I commend my colleagues, including Chairman DAN BURTON of the Government Reform Committee, for their support.

While I am sure my colleagues will address specific issues related to their constituencies, I would like to share with you my concerns about American Samoa's treatment under the Medicaid program. During the 108th Congress, I introduced H.R. 1188, a bill to amend the Social Security Act to provide for American Samoa treatment under the Medicaid Program similar to that provided to States.

I introduced this legislation for two reasons. One, each year American Samoa's expenditures exceed its federal fiscal ceiling. Two, American Samoa, like every other insular area, pays a higher federal match than 40 other states.

Each of these points deserves discussion and I would like to begin by addressing the issue of federal fiscal ceilings. In fiscal year 2003, more than 36,200 individuals in American Samoa were Medicaid eligible and American Samoa received $3.7 million in Medicaid reimbursement.

However, in FY2003, American Samoa's Medicaid program cost $12.2 million and if American Samoa were treated like a State, the federal government would have been responsible for $6.1 million (or half of the costs) and the American Samoa Government (ASG) would have been responsible for the other half, also $6.1 million.

As it is, a federal ceiling is in place. For FY 2003, the federal ceiling for American Samoa was $3.7 million, meaning that the federal government only paid out $3.7 million of the $6.1 million to which we would have been entitled if we were treated like a State, leaving a difference of $2.4 million for American Samoa to pay for in addition to its own share of $6.1 million. In other words, American Samoa paid the $2.4 million which was over the federal ceiling plus its local share of $6.1 million for a total of $8.5 million in FY2003 Medicaid costs. The federal government paid $3.7 million.

For FY2004, and as a result of our efforts to include provisions for the insular areas in the Tax Act of 2003, American Samoa will receive about a 5.9% increase or about $460,000 in Medicaid payments. But an increase of a half a million dollars is not enough. It is not enough for American Samoa and it is not enough for the other insular areas. Like American Samoa, all other insular areas including Guam, CNMI, the Virgin Islands, and Puerto Rico have federal ceilings in place that cap the amount of federal assistance they can receive under the Medicaid program. Although I have introduced legislation to specifically address American Samoa's needs, and although the other Territories have also asked Congress to intervene in their behalf, Congress has hesitated to assist us because of Puerto Rico's population.

Puerto Rico has a population of almost 4 million. American Samoa, Guam, CNMI and the U.S. Virgin Islands have populations which range from 60,000 to 150,000. Federal costs to reduce the match and increase the Medicaid ceiling for Pacific Island Territories and the U.S. Virgin Islands would be minimal. However, to assist Puerto Rico, Congress would have to shell out millions of dollars per year in Medicaid reimbursements and this has been the problem.

Time and time again, Congress has hesitated to assist the Pacific Island Territories and the U.S. Virgin Islands for fear this might open the door for increased Medicaid benefits to Puerto Rico. Quite frankly, I think we should all be treated fairly, including Puerto Rico, and I will continue to bring this matter to the attention of Congress until the matter is fairly resolved.

With a per capita income of about $4,500 per year, more than 56 percent of American Samoa's population lives below the poverty level and all on-island health care is provided by the LBJ Tropical Medical Center. The LBJ Tropical Medical Center is a semi-autonomous agency of the American Samoa Government.

Construction of the LBJ Tropical Medical Center was completed in 1967. The in-patient wards have not been renovated since this time. The patient wards have no air conditioning and many do not meet fire safety codes and ADA standards and requirements.

While I am not asking for millions of dollars to address the inequity that currently exists in the way we provide for the healthcare needs of American Samoa, I am asking that the federal Medicaid ceiling be raised and the calculations used to determine the federal match for the States be applied to American Samoa.

Until this matter can be fully resolved by Congress, I am hopeful that my colleagues, both Republican and Democrat, will support this amendment which minimally increases the Medicaid cap for American Samoa, Guam, the U.S. Virgin Islands and CNMI.

Again, I thank my colleagues for their consideration of this amendment and I look forward to working with each of you to find a fair and reasonable approach to resolving health care disparities in the United States Pacific Island Territories.

THE HONORABLE CHARLES L. LEWIS III

HON. SUSAN A. DAVIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 13, 2004

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to and honor the life of Charles L. Lewis III.

Charles Lewis was a leader in the San Diego community, the city that I am so proud to represent in the Congress. During his 37 years of life, Charles contributed so much to the citizens of San Diego. With his passing on August 8, 2004, our city has lost one of its great heroes.

Charles's life is that classic story of one of the kids that made good. He grew up in the neighborhoods of Skyline and Paradise Hills in San Diego, where he was known by his friends as Chucky. At the time, these were tough, working class neighborhoods that were often forgotten by the officials elected to represent them.

Through hard work, talent, and grace, Chucky grew into a strong young man. He graduated from Morse High School and went on to receive a bachelor's degree from San Diego State University.

It was at this time, Mr. Speaker, that Chucky came to be known as Charles, and he came to serve this body. He spent his senior year of college interning for then Congressman Jim Bates and began what would be a lifetime of service to San Diego.

Recognizing his intelligence and dedication, Charles was hired by Councilman George Stevens to serve his constituents in the City's Fourth Council District, the very neighborhoods Charles grew up in. Over the next 12 years, Charles spent every day of his life serving the Fourth District. Remembering where he came from, he resolved to never let his neighborhoods be forgotten by City Hall again.

While working for Councilman Stevens, Charles developed many innovative programs that empowered and inspired the people of the Fourth District. He helped create 23 Neighborhood Councils that gave residents a voice to

take back their neighborhoods from crime and blight. He implemented graffiti control and tree replacement programs that helped beautify his communities. As a result of his accomplishments, he was promoted up the chain until he became the Councilman's Chief of Staff.

In 2002, after 10 years of effective leadership as a civil servant, Charles was chosen by his community to represent them on the San Diego City Council. His campaign platform was called the Three Rs: Reputation, Relationships, and Results.

On the Council, Charles made a name for himself as a strong advocate for neighborhoods and he built a reputation of being tough on crime. His efforts helped San Diego achieve the lowest crime rate among the 10 largest cities in America in 2003. This was a statistic that I know made Charles very proud.

While on the Council, Charles was known for his quiet strength. He was often reserved in public meetings, only to become vocal and outspoken when issues related to his neighborhoods were brought forward. He was a fighter.

He also wasn't afraid to take unpopular positions. Although an elected representative of the City of San Diego, Charles remained an avid Oakland Raiders fan—to the dismay of many San Diego Charger supporters.

Mr. Speaker, because of his deep roots in the community; because of his strength of character; because he never forgot where he came from or who elected him to serve; and because of his strong faith in God, Charles was beloved in the Fourth District and throughout San Diego.

Sadly, Charles Lewis died suddenly last month at the age of 37. He is survived by his wife Carlette, his mother Rosemary Pope, his father Charles Lewis II, and his sister Charis. And he is also survived by the over 160,000 San Diegans that called Charles their Councilman.

I am sad that I will no longer see Charles when I return to my district. That we won't run into one another at annual Juneteenth celebrations, community fish-frys and traditional groundbreaking and ribbon-cutting ceremonies. And I regret that San Diego will not have his leadership to guide us in the years ahead.

But, I am certain that Charles' memory will live on through his contributions to the community. Today, the Neighborhood Councils he helped create still meet. The trees he helped plant continue to grow. The lives he touched go on. And the neighborhoods he helped revitalize flourish.

We will all miss Charles L. Lewis III.

STATEMENT REGARDING THE WOMEN'S EDUCATIONAL EQUITY ACT AMENDMENT

HON. MICHAEL M. HONDA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 13, 2004

Mr. HONDA. Mr. Speaker, Title IX established the principle of equal opportunity for all students and athletes, breaking down the institutional barriers to education that had beset women for decades. Its affirmed goal was to eliminate "discrimination based on sex." It quickly became clear that this milestone could not be achieved by decree alone, and 2 years after the passage of the Title IX, late Congresswoman Patsy Mink of Hawaii introduced the Women's Educational Equity Act (WEEA) as one of the means to implement and establish those principles embodied in the language of Title IX.

The Women's Educational Equity Act addresses the social and cultural structures surrounding gender inequality. For 20 years, WEEA has provided Federal dollars for projects that promote educational equity for young women through competitive grants to public agencies, private non-profit organizations, and individuals. Most of the funds are directed to local implementation of gender equity policies in the academic curriculum and research and development projects.

In its 20 year history, WEEA has funded a variety of projects from the Women in Science and Environment (WISE) program in Boston which provides hands-on experiences in science and environmental industries for more than 300 students each year to the Stepping Stones Across the Digital Divide, a project in my state of California, which targets Hispanic females in grades 3 to 6. The goal of this project is to increase academic performance through developing computer and emerging information technologies. Collectively, these programs have made great strides in providing equity in education opportunity for women.

Republicans in Congress have steadily eroded the money appropriated to this program from its peak of $10 million in 1980 to less than $3 million last year. This year, for inexplicable reasons, Republicans have stripped this successful program of all of its funding, effectively eliminating it.

It is clear that WEEA has succeeded in creating unprecedented educational opportunities for women in all areas of academia. Since WEEA was enacted, 63 percent of female high school graduates enroll in college, up from 43 percent in 1973. Furthermore, the number of women earning a bachelor's degree from college jumped from 18 percent to over 30 percent. These dramatic academic accomplishments, pale in comparison to the strides made at the graduate level. In the ten years since WEEA was adopted, the number of women receiving medical, law, and doctoral degrees has spiked from 9 percent to 38 percent, 7 percent to 43 percent, and 25 percent to 44 percent respectively.

The Women's Educational Equity Act embodies the ideals of equal opportunity embraced by all Americans. It provides an environment where women are given the opportunity to overcome the institutional barriers to education that have existed for many years. WEEA's principles and programs talented young women's skills and interests in whatever discipline they choose. Most importantly, it is a program whose proof lies in the achievements of the women who have thrived in the years since its inception. Patsy Mink had the foresight to introduce this program and positively affect the lives of thousands of young women. In honor of the late Congresswoman Patsy Mink, let us carry out her vision of the implementation of Title IX and support this amendment and the thousands of women who can benefit from such programs in the future.

HURRICANES

HON. MICHAEL BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 13, 2004

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my deep sorrow and incredible admiration for the people of the State of Florida, who have had to endure the damage and destruction of Tropical Storm Bonnie and Hurricanes Charley and Frances and who are preparing for the landfall of Hurricane Ivan. Not many natural disasters target an entire state, and I am comforted to know that even in the toughest of times, Floridians can work together and persevere.

These past few weeks have been very hard for the people of Florida. As our families were returning from late summer vacations and our children were settling into the new school year, the official hurricane season snuck up on us. While Florida's unique location between the Atlantic Ocean and the Gulf of Mexico makes it the most hurricane prone state in the Nation, no one would have imagined the loud roar that greeted us in the middle of August. We have been challenged by this abrupt and alarming hurricane season and one thing is for sure: the people of Florida are strong-willed and resilient.

We have had to board up our homes and businesses, pack our belongings, and pray. We have had to return to our homes and watch our neighbors pick up what belongings remain. We have had to wait in long lines to receive food, water, and gas. And we have had to do this while trying to maintain a normal life.

Florida's tourism industry suffered greatly because of the fear of these storms and the ensuing closure of many of Florida's greatest attractions, and the agriculture industry also has suffered deeply. The State of Florida has a wide range of crops and livestock grown and raised in her backyard. Our farmers and ranchers will be affected for years after the devastating effects these high winds have had on their crops. The total loss in Florida's agricultural production from Hurricanes Charley and Frances alone could cost more than $2 billion.

Before this year, the State of Florida had fallen victim to seven major hurricanes and one devastating tropical storm in the past century, which makes this year's active hurricane season so unique. While much research has been conducted to help the National Weather Service detect hurricanes before landfall, the need still remains for an exact method to predict the paths of hurricanes and tropical storms.

The U.S. Congress recognizes the need to further research the impact hurricanes and other windstorms have on communities. As we have experienced these past few weeks, hurricanes can hit land with wind speeds in excess of 155 mph and destroy all that is in their path. The Nation's most expensive hurricane, Hurricane Andrew, made landfall near Miami in 1992 with wind speeds exceeding 175 mph and caused more than $25 billion in damage. It is still too early to measure the monetary impact of Hurricanes Charley, Frances and possibly Ivan, and there are still six weeks remaining in the official hurricane season.

The House of Representatives approved the National Windstorm Impact Reduction Act on

July 8, 2004. This bill establishes a multi agency National Windstorm Hazard Reduction Program which will improve the understanding of windstorms, windstorm impact assessment, and windstorm impact reduction. The bill authorizes much needed funds for research and development projects that will improve the understanding of the behavior of windstorms and their impact on buildings, structures, and lifelines. Through this research, the goal is to ensure the safety of buildings and homes from the destructive effects of hurricanes. Although approving this legislation will reduce the impact of hurricanes and improve the prediction of these storms, this bill will not help the victims of this year's hurricanes. Additional research is needed to protect our citizens in the future.

The road to recovery can not be accomplished without all of the help and outpouring of support that the State of Florida has received in the past few weeks. Thousands of volunteers have come from all over our great Nation to restore our electricity, cook us hot meals, provide temporary shelter and clothing for those who are now homeless, and help us pick up what remains of our communities. I am grateful for all of those volunteers and for all of the government agencies that are quickly and efficiently working to help the citizens of Florida stand up on their feet. We are indebted to your service and will not forget your help during these hard times.

IN SUPPORT OF H. RES. 2038: REAUTHORIZATION OF THE ASSAULT WEAPONS BAN, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

HON. ELIJAH E. CUMMINGS

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 13, 2004

Mr. CUMMINGS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H. Res. 2038, a resolution to reauthorize the assault weapons ban, sponsored by Representative CAROLYN MCCARTHY, member of the committee on Homeland Security. I thank you for your tireless leadership on this issue.

September 13, 2004, marks the day that we take a step back. Today marks the day that some Members will ignore the outcries of millions of Americans to extend this legislation, whose communities have been protected for a decade under the Assault Weapons Ban. On this day, the Republican leadership in Congress and the Administration have failed the citizens of this country by allowing this ban to expire. While some Members of these two chambers and the administration are content to play this game of ''cat and mouse,'' the expiration of this progressive legislation unleashes unimaginable threats upon our society.

Mr. Speaker, we need not look too far in the recent past to know the terrifying effects of military-style weapons on our society. In 2002 John Lee Muhammad and Lee Boyd Malvo terrorized the Washington Metropolitan area for several weeks. While some Members of this body and the Administration may have forgotten, I can assure you that the D.C. sniper shootings left an indelible mark on the 12 families who suffered at their hands and many Americans. Just last year, in 2003, our society was plagued again by sniper shootings in Ohio. There have been 12 shootings linked to this Ohio sniper, who allegedly used a semi-automatic pistol in his shooting spree. Of course let us not forget Columbine and the more recent Randallstown shooting in Baltimore County—evidence that no one, in no place even our innocent children are safe from gun violence. It is impossible to ignore the impact of gun violence in our society.

Mr. Speaker, today we witness a political conundrum—we have an administration that believes that the War on Terror is a continuous battle, but then seeks to potentially arm the people who threaten our homeland, our security, and our safety in this country. By allowing the ban to expire, it demonstrates a lack of leadership, and undermines the very system we are currently trying to strengthen here in Congress. The administration's failure to push Congress to hear this debate, while at the same time announcing its willingness to sign the ban if extended, sends mixed signals. If the administration will not fight to protect millions of lives in the U.S. who inevitably stand in harm's way when the ban is lifted, how can it propose to effectively lead our country as we combat foreign enemies?

The importance of this ban is evident. Since its enactment, our Nation has witnessed a sharp decline of assault weapons used in crimes. The Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives notes that since the ban's enactment in 1994 that usage of assault weapons in a crime has declined by 66 percent, and the Bureau has recovered more than 1.4 million guns in our country. These weapons, which were illegally possessed, were either used in a crime or linked to a crime. With staggering statistics such as these, Mr. Speaker, it is hard to ignore the effectiveness of this ban. In my home State of Maryland, there has been an overwhelming decline of assault pistols used in crimes since the Maryland Assault Pistol Ban in 1994. The Baltimore City Police Department concluded that since the ban's enactment that 55 percent fewer assault pistols were used in crimes. Once again Mr. Speaker, with statistics such as these, we cannot ignore that this ban saves lives.

Furthermore, the administration has proposed deep cuts in the Community Oriented Policing Services program (COPS), which provides grants to State and local law enforcement agencies to hire police officers, by cutting funding from 482 million to 97 million dollars. These cuts coupled with the expiration of the ban render our Nation's State and local law enforcement agencies practically unable to defend and protect citizens.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to conclude with these final words—the failure to pass this extension signals to millions of Americans that the leadership in Congress once again has not heard their pleas. This failure to extend the ban is only symptomatic of the failure of this current leadership and administration to hear the voices of this nation pleading for better healthcare, better schools, and safer communities.

How can we let this ban lapse when it has saved so many lives?

DEPARTMENTS OF LABOR, HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, AND EDUCATION, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2005

SPEECH OF

HON. BOBBY L. RUSH

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 9, 2004

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 5006) making appropriations for the Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2005, and for other purposes:

Mr. RUSH. Mr. Chairman, last Thursday, during the House's consideration of H.R. 5006, the Fiscal Year 2005 Appropriations for the Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education and related agencies, I inadvertently voted for the Hayworth/Boehner amendment. I would like the record to reflect that I am opposed to the Hayworth/Boehner amendment and should have voted against it.

The Hayworth amendment would have exempted more than 400,000 workers employed by tribally-owned casinos from coverage under the National Labor Relations Act (NLRA). While I strongly support sovereignty for tribal governments, I do not believe that Native American sovereignty was meant to deny the right to freely associate or collectively bargain to casino employees. A recent NLRB decision held—in fact—that Indian tribal enterprises are subject to the NLRB. In light of that decision, this House took the appropriate action in turning back the Hayworth/Boehner amendment, and passing H.R. 5006 without it.

SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate on February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules Committee—of the time, place, and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled, and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Tuesday, September 14, 2004 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

SEPTEMBER 15

9:30 a.m.

Energy and Natural Resources

Business meeting to consider pending calendar business.

SD–366

Foreign Relations

To hold hearings to examine accelerating U.S. assistance to Iraq.

SD–419

10 a.m.

Commerce, Science, and Transportation

To hold hearings to examine impacts of climate change.

SR–253

Finance

Business meeting to consider a substitute to S. 333, to promote elder justice, and the nomination of J. Russell George, of Virginia, to be Inspector General for Tax Administration, Department of the Treasury.

SD–215

Indian Affairs

Business meeting to consider pending calendar business.

SR–485

Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe

To hold hearings to examine how the U.S. can best utilize the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe to advance its political, security and humanitarian interests.

334 CHOB

10:30 a.m.

Appropriations

Business meeting to markup proposed legislation making appropriations for the Departments of Commerce, Justice, and State, the Judiciary, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2005, proposed legislation making appropriations for foreign operations, export financing, and related programs for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2005, and proposed legislation making appropriations for the Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2005.

SH–216

SEPTEMBER 20

2 p.m.

Aging

To hold hearings to examine a new generation of older Americans redefining the new rules of the workplace.

SD–628

SEPTEMBER 21

10 a.m.

Energy and Natural Resources

To hold hearings to examine the nominations of Karen Alderman Harbert, of the District of Columbia, to be an Assistant Secretary of Energy for International Affairs and Domestic Policy, and John S. Shaw, of the District of Columbia, to be an Assistant Secretary of Energy for Environment, Safety and Health.

SD–366

Veterans' Affairs

To hold joint hearings with the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs to examine the legislative presentation of the American Legion.

345 CHOB

2:30 p.m.

Energy and Natural Resources

National Parks Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine S. 784 and H.R. 1630, bills to revise the boundary of the Petrified Forest National Park in the State of Arizona, S. 2656, to establish a National Commission on the Quincentennial of the discovery of Florida by Ponce de Leon, S. 2499, to modify the boundary of the Harry S Truman National Historic Site in the State of Missouri, S. 1311, to establish the Hudson-Fulton-Champlain 400th Commemoration Commission, and H.R. 2055, to amend Public Law 89–366 to allow for an adjustment in the number of free roaming horses permitted in Cape Lookout National Seashore.

SD–366

SEPTEMBER 22

9:30 a.m.

Indian Affairs

Business meeting to consider pending calendar business; to be followed by an oversight hearing on the contributions of Native American code talkers in American military history.

SR–485

10 a.m.

Joint Economic Committee

To hold hearings to examine expanding consumer choice and addressing ''adverse selection'' concerns in health insurance.

SD–628

2:30 p.m.

Foreign Relations

To hold hearings to examine the nominations of Lloyd O. Pierson, of Virginia, to be an Assistant Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development, and a Member of the Board of Directors of the African Development Foundation.

SD–419

SEPTEMBER 23

10 a.m.

Energy and Natural Resources

To hold hearings to examine the current status of the Hard Rock Mining Industry in America, focusing on a status and trend analysis, a review of domestic mineral reserves, a summary on exploration investments and current production as well as permitting and reclamation issues.

SD–366

SEPTEMBER 29

9:30 a.m.

Indian Affairs

Business meeting to consider pending calendar business; to be followed by an oversight hearing on lobbying practices involving Indian tribes.

SH–216

POSTPONEMENTS

SEPTEMBER 15

10 a.m.

Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs

To hold hearings to examine the 9/11 Commission and efforts to identify and combat terrorist financing.

SD–538

Daily Digest

Senate

Chamber Action

Routine Proceedings, pages S9099–S9154

Measures Introduced: Five bills and one resolution were introduced, as follows: S. 2792–2796, and S. Con. Res. 136. **Page S9130**

Homeland Security Appropriations: Senate resumed consideration of H.R. 4567, making appropriations for the Department of Homeland Security for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2005, taking action on the following amendments proposed thereto: **Pages S9108–20**

Adopted:

Murray Amendment No. 3621, to set aside an amount for a pilot project to test interoperable communications between the first Northern Border Air Wing, Bellingham, Washington, and local law enforcement personnel. **Page S9117**

Reid (for Feingold) Amendment No. 3585, to require the development of a transportation security plan. **Pages S9119–20**

Reid (for Feingold) Amendment No. 3602, to require the Secretary of Homeland Security to report to Congress on goods purchased by the Department of Homeland Security that were manufactured outside of the United States. **Pages S9119–20**

Reid (for Levin) Amendment No. 3620, to clarify the prohibition on contracting with foreign incorporated entities. **Pages S9119–20**

Rejected:

Schumer Further Modified Amendment No. 3615, to appropriate $70,000,000 to support efforts for identification and tracking for shipments of hazardous materials and continue and expand upon the background check system for commercial driver licenses with a HAZMAT endorsement, and to offset this appropriation with a corresponding reduction from the Human Resources Account of the Office of the Under Secretary of Management. (By 55 yeas to 34 nays (Vote No. 173), Senate tabled the amendment.) **Pages S9108, S9112, S9113–16**

Withdrawn:

Nelson (NE) Amendment No. 3625, to maintain the State Homeland Security Grant Program at the fiscal year 2004 funding level. **Page S9110**

Pending:

Nelson (FL) Amendment No. 3607, to provide funds for the American Red Cross. **Page S9108**

Corzine Amendment No. 3619, to appropriate an additional $100,000,000 to enhance the security of chemical plants. **Page S9108**

Mikulski Amendment No. 3624, to increase the amount appropriated for firefighter assistance grants. **Pages S9108–10**

Kennedy Amendment No. 3626, to require the President to provide to Congress a copy of the Scowcroft Commission report on improving the capabilities of the United States intelligence community. **Pages S9110–12**

Dayton Amendment No. 3629, to ensure the continuation of benefits for certain individuals providing security services for Federal buildings. **Pages S9117–19**

During consideration of this measure today, the Senate also took the following action:

By 38 yeas to 50 nays (Vote No. 174), three-fifths of those Senators duly chosen and sworn, not having voted in the affirmative, Senate rejected the motion to waive section 302(f) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974, with respect to Reid (for Lautenberg) Amendment No. 3617, to ensure that the Coast Guard has sufficient resources for its traditional core missions. Subsequently, the point of order that the amendment would provide spending in excess of the subcommittee's 302(b) allocation was sustained, and the amendment thus fell. **Pages S9108, S9116–17**

Cochran (for Frist) Amendment No. 3618, to make available to the Department of Homeland Security additional funds for certain customs and border protection, immigration, transportation security, and emergency management programs, previously agreed to on Friday, September 10, 2004, was modified by unanimous consent. **Page S9119**

A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing for further consideration of the bill at approximately 10:45 a.m., on Tuesday, September 14, 2004. **Page S9144**

Removal of Injunction of Secrecy: The injunction of secrecy was removed from the following treaty:

Second Protocol Amending Tax Convention with Barbados (Treaty Doc. No. 108–26).

The treaty was transmitted to the Senate today, considered as having been read for the first time, and referred, with accompanying papers, to the Committee on Foreign Relations and ordered to be printed. **Page S9144**

Appointments:

United States Commission on International Religious Freedom: The Chair, on behalf of the President pro tempore, upon the recommendation of the Democratic Leader, pursuant to Public Law 105–292, as amended by Public Law 106–55, and as further amended by Public Law 107–228, appointed the following individual to the United States Commission on International Religious Freedom: Preeta D. Bansal of Nebraska, for a term of two years (May 15, 2004–May 14, 2006). **Page S9144**

Nominations Received: Senate received the following nominations:

Richard Greco, Jr., of New York, to be an Assistant Secretary of the Navy.

Patrick J. Leahy, of Vermont, to be a Representative of the United States of America to the Fifty-ninth Session of the General Assembly of the United Nations.

John E. Sununu, of New Hampshire, to be a Representative of the United States of America to the Fifty-ninth Session of the General Assembly of the United Nations.

Routine lists in the Air Force, Army, Coast Guard, Department of State, and Navy.

Pages S9145–54

Nominations Withdrawn: Senate received notification of withdrawal of the following nomination:

Robert Jepson, of Georgia, to be a Member of the Internal Revenue Service Oversight Board for a term expiring September 14, 2008, which was sent to the Senate on December 9, 2003. **Page S9154**

Executive Communications: **Pages S9127–30**

Additional Cosponsors: **Pages S9130–31**

Statements on Introduced Bills/Resolutions: **Pages S9131–42**

Additional Statements: **Pages S9126–27**

Amendments Submitted: **Pages S9142–43**

Notices of Hearings/Meetings: **Pages S9143–44**

Authority for Committees to Meet: **Page S9144**

Privilege of the Floor: **Page S9144**

Record Votes: Two record votes were taken today. (Total—174) **Pages S9116, S9117**

Adjournment: Senate convened at 2 p.m., and adjourned at 7:04 p.m., until 9:45 a.m., on Tuesday, September 14, 2004. (For Senate's program, see the remarks of the Acting Majority Leader in today's Record on pages S9144–45.)

Committee Meetings

(Committees not listed did not meet)

INTELLIGENCE REFORM

Committee on Governmental Affairs: Committee concluded a hearing to examine ensuring the U.S. intelligence community supports homeland defense and departmental needs, focusing on intelligence and information sharing, building international partnerships, border and transportation security, civil liberties and privacy issues, and preparedness, after receiving testimony from Colin L. Powell, Secretary of State; and Tom Ridge, Secretary of Homeland Security.

TOOLS TO FIGHT TERRORISM ACT

Committee on the Judiciary: Subcommittee on Terrorism, Technology, and Homeland Security concluded a hearing to examine the provisions of S. 2679, to strengthen anti-terrorism investigative tools, promote information sharing, and punish terrorist offenses (pending on Senate Calendar), after receiving testimony from Daniel J. Bryant, Assistant Attorney General, Office of Legal Policy, and Barry Sabin, Chief, Counterterrorism Section, Criminal Division, both of the Department of Justice; and Jonathan Turley, George Washington University Law School, Washington, D.C.

House of Representatives

Chamber Action

Measures Introduced: 7 public bills, H.R. 5063–5069; 1 private bill, H.R. 5070; and 5 resolutions, H. Con. Res. 490 and H. Res. 765, 767–769, were introduced. **Pages H7072–73**

Additional Cosponsors: **Page H7073**

Reports Filed: Reports were filed today as follows:

H.R. 784, to amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to authorize appropriations for sewer overflow control grants, amended (H. Rept. 108–675);

H.R. 4470, to amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to extend the authorization of appropriations for the Lake Pontchartrain Basin Restoration Program from fiscal year 2005 to 2010 (H. Rept. 108–676);

H.R. 4688, to amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to reauthorize the Chesapeake Bay Program (H.Rept. 108–677);

H.R. 4731, to amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to reauthorize the National Estuary Program (H. Rept. 108–678);

H.R. 1084, to provide liability protection to nonprofit volunteer pilot organizations flying for public benefit and to the pilots and staff of such organizations, amended (H. Rept. 108–679);

H.R. 1787, to remove civil liability barriers that discourage the donation of fire equipment to volunteer fire companies, amended (H. Rept. 108–680);

H.R. 3369, to provide immunity for nonprofit athletic organizations in lawsuits arising from claims of ordinary negligence relating to the passage or adoption of rules for athletic competitions and practices (H. Rept. 108–681);

H.R. 4571, to amend Rule 11 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure to improve attorney accountability, amended (H. Rept. 108–682);

H.R. 4658, to amend the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act to make certain improvements and technical corrections to that Act, amended (H. Rept. 108–683); and

H. Res. 766, providing for consideration of H.R. 4571, to amend Rule 11 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure to improve attorney accountability (H. Rept. 108–684). **Page H7072**

Speaker: Read a letter from the Speaker wherein he appointed Representative Cole to act as Speaker Pro Tempore for today. **Page H6999**

Recess: The House recessed at 12:46 p.m. and reconvened at 2 p.m. **Page H7001**

Suspensions: The House agreed to suspend the rules and pass the following measures:

Saluting the life of the late Commander Lloyd "Pete" Bucher": H. Con. Res. 407, saluting the life and courage of the late Commander Lloyd "Pete" Bucher, United States Navy (retired), who commanded the USS *Pueblo* (AGER–2) at the time of its capture by North Korea on January 23, 1968; **Pages H7002–03**

Expressing the grave concern of Congress regarding the continuing violations of human rights and civil liberties of the Syrian people: H. Con. Res. 363, amended, expressing the grave concern of Congress regarding the continuing gross violations of human rights and civil liberties of the Syrian people by the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic, by a ⅔ yea-and-nay vote of 342 yeas with none voting "nay" and one voting "present", Roll No. 441; **Pages H7003–06, H7031–32**

Expressing support for freedom in Hong Kong: H. Res. 667, expressing support for freedom in Hong Kong, by a ⅔ yea-and-nay vote of 345 yeas with none voting "nay" and one voting "present", Roll No. 442; **Pages H7006–08, H7032–33**

Condemning the terrorist attacks against the Russian Federation that occurred in August and September 2004: H. Res. 760, condemning the series of terrorist attacks against the Russian Federation that occurred in late August and early September 2004, by a ⅔ yea-and-nay vote of 347 yeas with none voting "nay", Roll No. 443; **Pages H7008–11, H7033–34**

National Archives and Records Administration Efficiency Act of 2003: H.R. 3478, amended, to amend title 44, United States Code, to improve the efficiency of operations by the National Archives and Records Administration; **Pages H7011–13**

Agreed to amend the title so as to read: to amend title 44, United States Code, to improve the efficiency of operations by the National Archives and Records Administration and to reauthorize the National Historical Publications and Records Commission. **Page H7013**

Archie Spigner Post Office Building Designation Act: H.R. 4632, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 19504 Linden Boulevard in St. Albans, New York, as the "Archie Spigner Post Office Building"; **Pages H7013–14**

Honoring former President William Jefferson Clinton on the occasion of his 58th birthday: H.

Res. 717, amended, honoring former President William Jefferson Clinton on the occasion of his 58th birthday; **Pages H7014–17**

Thomas E. Creek Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center Designation Act: H.R. 4836, to name the Department of Veterans Affairs medical center in Amarillo, Texas, as the "Thomas E. Creek Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center"; **Pages H7017–18**

Thomas P. Noonan, Jr., Department of Veterans Affairs Outpatient Clinic Designation Act: H.R. 1318, to name the Department of Veterans Affairs outpatient clinic in Sunnyside, Queens, New York, as the "Thomas P. Noonan, Jr., Department of Veterans Affairs Outpatient Clinic"; **Pages H7018–20**

Castillo de San Marcos National Monument Preservation and Education Act: H.R. 2457, amended, to authorize funds for an educational center for the Castillo de San Marcos National Monument; **Pages H7020–21**

Authorizing the Secretary of Commerce to make available to the University of Miami property under the jurisdiction of the NOAA for a Marine Life Science Center: H.R. 4027, amended, to authorize the Secretary of Commerce to make available to the University of Miami property under the administrative jurisdiction of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration on Virginia Key, Florida, for use by the University for a Marine Life Science Center; **Pages H7021–22**

Wilson's Creek National Battlefield Boundary Adjustment Act of 2004: H.R. 4481, amended, to amend Public Law 86–434 establishing Wilson's Creek National Battlefield in the State of Missouri to expand the boundaries of the park; **Pages H7022–23**

Clarifying the boundaries of the John H. Chafee Coast Barrier Resources System: H.R. 3056, amended, to clarify the boundaries of the John H. Chafee Coast Barrier Resources System Cedar Keys Unit P25 on Otherwise Protected Area P25P; **Pages H7023–24**

Harpers Ferry National Historical Park Boundary Revision Act of 2004: S. 1576, to revise the boundary of Harpers Ferry National Historical Park—clearing the measure for the President; **Pages H7024–25**

Amending the Organic Act of Guam: H.R. 2400, to amend the Organic Act of Guam for the purposes of clarifying the local judicial structure of Guam; **Pages H7025–28**

Providing for an additional temporary extension of programs under the Small Business Act and the Small Business Investment Act of 1858: H.R. 5008, to provide an additional temporary extension of programs under the Small Business Act and the Small Business Investment Act of 1958 through September 30, 2004; and **Pages H7028–31**

Expressing gratitude to the cities of Boston and New York for their hospitality, planning, and hosting of the 2004 national political conventions: H. Res. 765, expressing gratitude to the cities of Boston, Massachusetts and New York City, New York, for their extraordinary hospitality and successful planning and hosting of the 2004 national political conventions. **Pages H7034–35**

Recess: The House recessed at 5:27 p.m. and reconvened at 6:30 p.m. **Page H7031**

Presidential Message: Read a message from the President wherein he notified Congress of the continuation of the national emergency with respect to the terrorist attacks on the United States of September 11, 2001—referred to the Committee on International Relations and ordered printed (H. Doc. 108–212). **Page H7002**

Senate Messages: Messages received from the Senate today appear on pages H7001.

Senate Referrals: S. 1368 was referred to the Committee on Financial Services; S. Con. Res. 127 was held at the desk. **Page H7060**

Amendments: Amendments ordered printed pursuant to the rule appears on page H7074.

Quorum Calls—Votes: Three yea-and-nay votes developed during the proceedings of today and appear on pages H7031–32, H7032–33, and H7033–34. There were no quorum calls.

Adjournment: The House met at 10 a.m. and adjourned at 11:33 p.m.

Committee Meetings

CONSTITUTION RESTORATION ACT OF 2004

Committee on the Judiciary: Subcommittee on Courts, the Internet and Intellectual Property held a hearing on H.R. 3799, Constitution Restoration Act of 2004. Testimony was heard from former Representative William E. Dannemeyer of California; and public witnesses.

LAWSUIT ABUSE REDUCTION ACT OF 2004

Committee on Rules: Granted by voice vote, a modified closed rule on H.R. 4571, Lawsuit Abuse Reduction Act of 2004, providing one hour of debate in the House equally divided and controlled by the chairman and ranking minority member of the Committee on the Judiciary. The rule waives all points of order against consideration of the bill. The rule

provides that the amendment in the nature of a substitute now printed in the bill shall be considered as adopted. The rule makes in order the amendment printed in the Rules Committee report accompanying the resolution, if offered by Representative Turner of Texas or his designee, which shall be considered as read, and which shall be debatable for 40 minutes equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent. The rule waives all points of order against the amendment printed in the report. Finally, the rules provides one motion to recommit, with or without instructions. Testimony was heard from Representatives Smith (TX) and Scott (VA).

COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 2004

(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

Senate

Committee on Appropriations: business meeting to mark up proposed legislation making appropriations for the Department of the Interior and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2005, proposed legislation making appropriations for Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies programs for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2005, and proposed legislation making appropriations for the Departments of Transportation and Treasury, the Executive Office of the President, and certain independent agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2005, 3 p.m., SD–G50.

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation: Subcommittee on Oceans, Fisheries and Coast Guard, to hold hearings to examine S. 2066, to authorize appropriations to the Secretary of Commerce for the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act for fiscal years 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, and 2008, 8:30 a.m., SR–253.

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources: Subcommittee on Public Lands and Forests, to hold hearings to examine S. 2532, to establish wilderness areas, promote conservation, improve public land, and provide for the high quality development in Lincoln County, Nevada, S. 2723, to designate certain land in the State of Oregon as wilderness, and S. 2709, to provide for the reforestation of appropriate forest cover on forest land derived from the public domain, 2:30 p.m., SD–366.

Committee on Governmental Affairs: Subcommittee on Oversight of Government Management, the Federal Workforce, and the District of Columbia, to hold hearings to examine and discuss legislative and administrative options to address the personnel recommendations of the National Commission on Terrorist Attacks Upon the United States, focusing on improving the presidential appointments process for national security positions, establishing a single agency that conducts security clearance background investigations for U.S. personnel, and providing some additional personnel flexibilities to the Federal Bureau of Investigation to reflect its increased counterterrorism and intelligence responsibilities, 9:30 a.m., SD–342.

Committee on the Judiciary: business meeting to consider pending calendar business, 9:30 a.m., SD–226.

Subcommittee on Antitrust, Competition Policy and Consumer Rights, to hold hearings to examine maintaining innovation and cost savings relating to hospital group purchasing, 2 p.m., SD–226.

Select Committee on Intelligence: to hold hearings to examine the nomination of Porter J. Goss, of Florida, to be Director of Central Intelligence, 10 a.m., SH–216.

Special Committee on Aging: to hold hearings to examine mandatory retirements, 10 a.m., SD–628.

House

Committee on Energy and Commerce, Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations, to consider a motion authorizing the issuance of subpoenas for certain records and testimony in connection with its investigation into the E-rate program, 10 a.m., 2123 Rayburn.

Committee on Financial Services, Subcommittee on Capital Markets, Insurance, and Government Sponsored Enterprises, hearing entitled ''The Ratings Game: Improving Transparency and Competition Among the Credit Rating Agencies,'' 10 a.m., 2128 Rayburn.

Committee on Government Reform, Subcommittee on National Security, Emerging Threats and International Relations, hearing entitled ''Homeland Security: Monitoring Nuclear Power Plant Security,'' 10 a.m., 2247 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Technology. Information Policy, Intergovernmental Relations and the Census, oversight hearing entitled ''Lessons Learned from the 2004 Overseas Census Test,'' 2 p.m., 2154 Rayburn.

Committee on International Relations, Subcommittee on Africa, hearing on Malaria and Tuberculosis in Africa, 2 p.m., 2200 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Europe and the Subcommittee on International Terrorism, Nonproliferation and Human Rights, joint hearing on U.S.–European Cooperation on Counterterrorism: Achievements and Challenges, 1:30 p.m., 2172 Rayburn.

Committee on the Judiciary, Subcommittee on the Constitution, oversight hearing on Due Process and the NCAA, 9:30 a.m., 2141 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Immigration, Border Security, and Claims, to mark up the following: H.R. 775, Security and Fairness Enhancement for America Act of 2003; H.R. 4306, To amend section 274A of the Immigration and Nationality Act to improve the process for verifying an individual's eligibility for employment; and private relief measures, 4:30 p.m., 2141 Rayburn.

Committee on Resources, Subcommittee on National Parks, Recreation and Public Lands, hearing on the following bills: H.R. 305, Kate Mullany National Historic Site; H.R. 2237, 225th Anniversary of the American Revolution Commemoration Act; H.R. 3258, Hibben Center Act; H.R. 4285, To provide for the conveyance of certain public land in Clark County, Nevada, for use as a heliport; H.R. 4667, Tapoco Project Licensing Act of 2004; H.R. 4683, Gullah/Geechee Cultural Heritage Act;

H.R. 4808, To provide for a land exchange involving private land and Bureau of Land Management land in the vicinity of Holloman Air Force Base, New Mexico, for the purpose of removing private land from the required safety zone surrounding munitions storage bunkers at Holloman Air Force Base; H.R. 4817, To facilitate the resolution of a minor boundary encroachment on lands of the Union Pacific Railroad Company in Tipton, California, which were originally conveyed by the United States as part of the right-of-way granted for the construction of transcontinental railroads; and H.R. 4887, Cumberland Island Wilderness Boundary Adjustment Act of 2003, 10 a.m., 1334 Longworth.

Select Committee on Homeland Security, hearing entitled ''Homeland Security: The 9/11 Commission and the Course Ahead,'' 2 p.m., 2318 Rayburn.

Next Meeting of the SENATE

9:45 a.m., Tuesday, September 14

Senate Chamber

Program for Tuesday: After the transaction of morning business for debate only (not to extend beyond 60 minutes), Senate will continue consideration of H.R. 4567, Homeland Security Appropriations.

(Senate will recess from 12:30 p.m. until 2:15 p.m. for their respective party conferences.)

Next Meeting of the HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

9 a.m., Tuesday, September 14

House Chamber

Program for Tuesday: Consideration of Suspensions:

(1) H.R. 3369—Nonprofit Athletic Organization Protection Act of 2003;

(2) H.R. 1787—Good Samaritan Volunteer Firefighter Assistance Act of 2003; and

(3) H.R. 1084—Volunteer Pilot Organization Protection Act.

Consideration of H.R. 4571—Lawsuit Abuse Reduction Act of 2004 (Subject to a Rule).

Consideration of H.R. 5025—Transportation, Treasury, and Independent Agencies Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2005 (Subject to a Rule, Begin Consideration).

Extensions of Remarks, as inserted in this issue

HOUSE

Bilirakis, Michael, Fla., E1609
Burgess, Michael C., Tex., E1600
Costello, Jerry F., Ill., E1607
Cox, Christopher, Calif., E1606
Cummings, Elijah E., Md., E1610
Davis, Susan A., Calif., E1608
DeFazio, Peter A., Ore., E1598
DeLauro, Rosa L., Conn., E1598
Dingell, John D., Mich., E1607
Eshoo, Anna G., Calif., E1605
Faleomavaega, Eni F.H., American Samoa, E1608
Farr, Sam, Calif., E1606, E1607
Frank, Barney, Mass., E1597
Graves, Sam, Mo., E1597, E1597, E1598, E1598, E1598, E1599, E1600, E1600, E1601, E1601
Honda, Michael M., Calif., E1609
Israel, Steve, N.Y., E1608
Kucinich, Dennis J., Ohio, E1601, E1602, E1603, E1606
Lee, Barbara, Calif., E1602
McCarthy, Carolyn, N.Y., E1606
McCollum, Betty, Minn., E1598
McDermott, Jim, Wash., E1603
Miller, George, Calif., E1597
Payne, Donald M., N.J., E1601, E1603, E1603
Pelosi, Nancy, Calif., E1602
Quinn, Jack, N.Y., E1602
Rush, Bobby L., Ill., E1610
Sanders, Bernard, Vt., E1599
Saxton, Jim, N.J., E1603
Sensenbrenner, F. James, Jr., Wisc., E1604
Smith, Nick, Mich., E1606
Visclosky, Peter J., Ind., E1601
Wu, David, Ore., E1607

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