

However, I was shocked at the abysmal performance by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms (ATF), which is tasked with the responsibility of regulating the sale of explosives in our country. During the hearing, it became quite clear that ATF had absolutely no idea of how many explosive storage sites there are in this country. Given the fact that our country uses about 2.5 million metric tons of explosives every year, the idea of any of it being unaccounted for should concern all of us. Equally troubling was the revelation that there is minimal regulation—and zero enforcement—of the storage of equally, or even more hazardous explosive material by law enforcement agencies, which means that communities across this country face a menace that we need to address right away: large caches of high explosives are being kept in countless locations, with nobody held accountable for their safe-keeping.

Mr. Speaker, this is a September 10th standard for a September 12th world, and it is simply unacceptable. We need uniform federal standards that will be uniformly enforced across the country. I am pleased to report to my colleagues that the Shays-Lantos legislation that we are introducing today creates such standards.

There are obvious and logical reasons for local law enforcement agencies to have explosive materials. For example, a police agency that maintains a bomb squad unit, as many larger departments do, needs a ready supply of material for training purposes. Other legitimate uses include training bomb-sniffing dogs or holding confiscated contraband for evidentiary purposes. No one doubts the legitimate need for local law enforcement agencies to maintain storage facilities, but the lack of any clear guidelines on the manner of storage is very troubling.

At a time when explosives are the preferred weapon of choice of international terrorists, it was alarming to learn of a facility, located just a few miles from the heart of a major metropolitan area, that was as undefended and unprotected as the facility in San Mateo. The stolen materials could have been sold to the highest bidder and used against any target, near or far away. And the same can be said for storage locations nationwide.

To address this shortcoming the Shays-Lantos legislation, H.R. 5162, the Law Enforcement Explosive Storage Enhancement Act, requires every state to submit a list to the Attorney General reporting how many locations are in their respective states. The legislation further requires an inventory to be kept so that the Attorney General is aware of how much explosive material is being stored at these facilities around the country. These changes will allow better monitoring of these dangerous materials.

In addition the Shays-Legislation to create uniform federal regulations to ensure that all local law enforcement agencies are storing their explosives in a safe and secure manner. This includes requiring law enforcement facilities to have a security system that, at a minimum, will include either a video surveillance camera or an alarm system capable of notifying the agency of an unauthorized entry. Mr. Speaker, Chairman SHAYS and I are cognizant of the fact that many of our local police chiefs are facing the tightest budgets they have ever dealt with, and that this requirement could produce a major burden for many local offi-

cers. That is why we included a matching grant program to assist law enforcement agencies cover the costs associated with improving their security at their explosive storage sites. However much the cost of improving security at these facilities may be, I can assure you that it is less than the cost of allowing these types of explosive materials to fall into the hands of terrorists.

Mr. Speaker, after listening to the testimony from all of the witnesses, it became increasingly apparent that it would make no sense for the federal government to require law enforcement agencies to have licenses to store high explosives, as private-sector entities are required to do. When private-sector entities that sell high explosives are told to improve storage security or face the prospect of losing their licenses, they will shape up—or else they lose access to the explosives. But law enforcement agencies have no such economic incentives; we're not going to take these materials away from them. So some other form of financial incentive, under federal government control, is called for.

The H.R. 5162 ensures compliance from local jurisdictions by using the enormous power of the Congressional purse. This legislation tasks the Attorney General with inspecting law enforcement storage facilities, and if a facility is found to be in non-compliance with federal regulations, our bill requires the Attorney General to reduce that law enforcement agency's Department of Justice grants by 10%.

Mr. Speaker, Chairman SHAYS and I are introducing this legislation because we want to ensure the safety of this country. The tragedy of September 11, 2001 destroyed the innocence of our nation and opened our eyes to the true threat of terrorism. That awful day revealed that the United States was confronting a "Guns of Singapore" phenomenon. As our colleagues undoubtedly know, during the Second World War, the guns of Singapore, a mighty array of armaments, were fixed in place aiming out to the ocean, defending the island from the expected threat. Instead, the true threat, the actual invasion and the eventual occupation of Singapore, came from the land—and the massive guns were never fired in battle. Likewise, prior to September 11, the United States had not directed its enormous power in the proper direction.

Mr. Speaker, there are many fronts in the international struggle against terrorism. Passage of the H.R. 5162, the Law Enforcement Explosive Storage Enhancement Act, will be a crucial step in this battle, as it will prevent potential terrorists from easily accessing explosive materials stored throughout the country. I urge all of my colleagues to join me in calling for its immediate passage.

HONORING THE PEGGY  
NOTEBAERT NATURE MUSEUM

HON. RAHM EMANUEL

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 29, 2004*

Mr. EMANUEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to acknowledge the tremendous work being done at one of Chicago's greatest institutions, the Peggy Notebaert Nature Museum, on the occasion of the opening of several exciting new exhibits.

Since its beautiful building opened in Lincoln Park in 1999, the Notebaert Museum has served as a cornerstone for innovative scientific learning and environmental programs, and allowed thousands of visitors to come and see exhibits on the wonders of nature and our environment. And with the opening of "Mysteries of the Marsh," "Istock Family Look-in Animal Lab," "RiverWorks," and "Rooftop Stop and the Nature Museum Greening Project," the numerous educational opportunities the museum provides will be greatly enhanced.

The Peggy Notebaert Nature Museum grew out of the Chicago Academy of Sciences, founded by Robert Kennicott in 1857 as Chicago's first museum. The Great Chicago Fire destroyed many of the original collections, but by 1893 the Matthew Laflin building was constructed which housed the museum's collections for over 100 years. The museum's new building located along the northern Chicago lakefront is an architectural masterpiece worthy of the treasures located within.

Today the Notebaert Museum continues the same tradition of education and enjoyment of the environment that was its original mission. The opening of these new exhibits will, no doubt, be a tremendous success.

Mr. Speaker, I join with the people of the 5th district, indeed all of Chicago, in congratulating the Peggy Notebaert Nature Museum on its continued importance to Chicago and the environmental community. I thank the staff and trustees of the museum for their diligent work and dedication toward making the museum one of the elite learning institutions in the country.

BETHUNE-COOKMAN COLLEGE  
CENTENNIAL

HON. JOHN L. MICA

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 29, 2004*

Mr. MICA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on the 100th anniversary of the founding of the Bethune-Cookman College in Daytona Beach, Florida.

On October 4, 1904, Dr. Mary McLeod Bethune opened the Daytona Literary and Industrial School for Training Negro Girls in Daytona Beach with 5 pupils, \$1.50 in capital and an unwavering faith in God.

Today, that initial investment has grown into a diverse student body of nearly 3,000, an annual budget of \$50 million and an endowment of \$26 million.

Today, the Bethune-Cookman College Board of Trustees is comprised of national corporate leaders, educators and religious leaders.

In 1923 the school begun by Dr. Bethune merged with the Cookman Institute of Jacksonville, Florida and 1 year later it became affiliated with the United Methodist Church. Today Bethune-Cookman College enjoys and flourishes in its relationship with the Board of Higher Education and Ministry of the United Methodist Church.

In 1931 the school evolved into a junior college and became known as it is today, Bethune-Cookman College.

In its 100-year history the College has had only four presidents: Dr. Mary McLeod Bethune; Dr. James E. Colston; Dr. Richard V.