The House met at 2 p.m.
The Chaplain, the Reverend Daniel P.
Coughlin, offered the following prayer:

Lord God, creator of all and guide of
history, on October 22, 1978, Your serv-
ant and priest, Karol Wojtyla, greeted
the world, as John Paul II in St. Pe-
ter’s Square, with the words: “Be not
afraid!”

He wrote later that he could not fully
know how far these words would take
him and the whole world into the fu-
ture. “Their meaning came more from
the Holy Spirit than the man who
spoke them,” he said.

Lord, his exhortation, “Be not
afraid!” is to be interpreted now as
having very broad meaning. In a cer-
tain sense, it remains an exhortation
addressed to all people, an exhortation
to conquer fear in the present world
and every situation.

It is a prayerful exhortation ad-
dressed to America and Members of
Congress today: “Have no fear of that
which you yourselves and the founders
of this great country have created.
Have no fear of all that human history
has produced. Have no fear of a world
that is every day becoming more dan-
gerous to the human perspective. Have
no fear of yourselves!”

You, Lord God, are the source of hope
and strength which conquers every fear
and sets us free. In You, Lord God,
there is more power than anything
man, woman, or child could imagine or
fear. With You, Lord God, people of
faith can take bold steps themselves to
ride the world of fear and plant seeds of
hope for the least and the most threat-
ened in our midst.

Through You, Lord God, we find
peace, reconciliation, unity and free-
dom, now and forever.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. The Chair has exam-
ined the Journal of the last day’s pro-
cedings and announces to the House
his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Jour-
nal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman
from Texas (Mr. BURGESS) come for-
ward and lead the House in the Pledge
of Allegiance.

Mr. BURGESS led the Pledge of Al-
egiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the
United States of America, and to the Repub-
lic 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.
Monohan, one of its clerks, announced
that the Senate agreed to the following
resolution:

S. Res. 93

Resolved, That the Senate has heard with
profound sorrow and deep regret the an-
nouncement of the death of the Honorable
Howell T. Heflin, formerly a Senator from
the State of Alabama.

Resolved, That the Senate has heard with
profound sorrow and deep regret the an-
nouncement of the death of the Honorable
Howell T. Heflin, formerly a Senator from
the State of Alabama.

Resolved, That the Secretary of the Senate
communicate these resolutions to the House
of Representatives and transmit an enrolled
copy thereof to the family of the deceased.

Resolved, That when the Senate adjourns
today, it stand adjourned as a further mark
of respect to the memory of the Honorable
Howell T. Heflin.

The message also announced that the
Senate has passed with an amendment
in which the concurrence of the House
is requested, a concurrent resolution of
the House of the following title:

H. Con. Res. 95. Concurrent Resolution es-
ablishing the congressional budget for the
United States Government for fiscal year
2005, revising appropriate budgetary levels
for fiscal year 2006, and setting forth appro-
riate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2007
through 2010.

The message also announced that the
Senate insists upon its amendment to
the bill (H. Con. Res. 95) entitled “Con-
current resolution establishing the congres-
sional budget for the United States
Government for fiscal year 2006, revising
appropriate budgetary levels for
fiscal year 2005, and setting forth
appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal
years 2007 through 2010.”, and requests
a conference with the House on the dis-
agreeing votes of the two Houses there-
on, and appoints

Mr. Gregg, Mr. Domenech, Mr. Grass-
ley, Mr. Allard, Mr. Conrad, Mr. Sar-
banes and Mrs. Murray, to be the con-
feres on the part of the Senate.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. Pursuant to rule 4
of rule I, the Speaker signed the fol-
lowing enrolled bills on Monday, March
21, 2005:

H.R. 1270, to amend the Internal Re-
venue Code of 1986 to extend the Leak-
ing Underground Storage Tank Trust
Fund financing rate;

S. 686, for the relief of the parents of
Theresa Marie Schiavo.

AUTHORIZING THE SPEAKER TO
DECLARE A RECESS ON WEDNES-
DAY, APRIL 6, 2005, FOR THE
PURPOSE OF RECEIVING IN
JOINT MEETING HIS EXCEL-
LENCY, VIKTOR YUSHCHENKO,
PRESIDENT OF UKRAINE

Mr. SHAW. Mr. Speaker, I ask unani-
mous consent that it may be in order
at any time on Wednesday, April 6, 2005, for the Speaker to declare a recess, subject to the call of the Chair, for the purpose of receiving in joint meeting His Excellency, Viktor Yushchenko, President of Ukraine.

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

There was no objection.

SOCIAL SECURITY

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

Mr. SHAW. Mr. Speaker, I want to introduce to my colleagues someone that they may already know, Ida May Fuller. Ida May was the recipient of the first Social Security check ever issued. In 1940, the year Ida May began collecting, Social Security was a dream come true for retiring Americans.

For every Ida May, there were 42 younger workers contributing to her retirement. Ida May worked under Social Security for 3 years, paid in $24 and got more than $22,000 in benefits. Ida May Fuller got one heck of a deal. Fast forward now to 2005, March 15, 2006, the day that my 15th grandchild was born, Keegan Riley Shaw. Today, there are only three workers supporting each retiree; and soon, it will dwindle to two.

If we do not act now to save Social Security, when Keegan walks across the stage at his college graduation, a diploma will not be the only thing he is handed. Try a $600 billion-a-year tax hike. And when Keegan retires and goes to his mailbox to get his Social Security check, unlike Ida May, he will be opening a giant IOU.

I am fighting so that my grandchildren, and every grandchild in America, have a secure retirement, just like Ida May. Let us start talking America, have a secure retirement, children, and every grandchild in our young people expanding their horizons and their dreams.

Mr. Speaker, as we all know, teaching is more than reciting material out of a textbook and hoping that students absorb the information, and being a principal is more than keeping the doors open on time. The love, dedication, and inspiration these leaders display on a daily basis set them apart. They are the leadership in the House.

TOP PRINCIPALS IN GEORGIA

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

Mr. PRICE of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to honor a few of Georgia’s top educators. The following principals, Robin Lattizori of Mt. Bethel Elementary School, Angela Bailey of Mountain View Elementary School, Don Prechtl of Centennial High School, Dr. Michael Johnson of Fell High School, and Dr. Edward Spurka of Roswell High School, all have been named one of the top 10 principals in Georgia by the State’s PTA. These principals do not just teach; they reach. They inspire students and teachers, and they encourage our kids and our teachers and our parents to work in concert, resulting in more of our young people expanding their horizons and their dreams.

Mr. Speaker, as we all know, teaching is more than reciting material out of a textbook and hoping that students absorb the information, and being a principal is more than keeping the doors open on time. The love, dedication, and inspiration these leaders display on a daily basis set them apart. They are the leadership in the House.

PRIVATIZING SOCIAL SECURITY

(Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, like most of my colleagues, I have recently spent time traveling through my district and listening to my constituents. The President’s plan to privatize Social Security was the number one issue for many of my constituents.

Not everyone has the means or ability to prepare for the future, and none of us can protect our families against all the misfortunes that can sweep us into economic hard times.

Mr. Speaker, the President’s plan to privatize Social Security is social insolvency, not social security. By forcing people, especially seniors, to rely on private accounts that fluctuate with the market, the President is gambling with our economic safety net. When the market loses ground, as it has in the past year, the safety net for America’s seniors could be yanked away, not only for the seniors, Mr. Speaker, but for the survivors and the children.

We need to make sure that Social Security will continue to provide the same safety net against poverty that it has for almost 70 years.

GRATEFUL FOR BEING HERE AND THE LEADERSHIP IN THE HOUSE

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

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, just like the gentleman from Texas, I returned from my district late last night. On the plane ride up here, I could not help but reflect on how grateful I am to my constituents for allowing me the opportunity to serve here in Congress; and, Mr. Speaker, I reflected on the fact that I was grateful for the leadership we have in this House. I am grateful for the leadership we have in the gentleman from Texas (Mr. DELAY), our majority leader.

The majority leader has his critics. None of us are without fault, but recently it seems we cannot pick up a paper without some half-truth or conjecture being put out there as fact. I guess the game plan is to heck with facts, just keep repeating it and eventually it will receive believability.

Mr. Speaker, our majority leader is a target because he is so effective. They cannot beat him in the arena of public debate. Their policies do not sell in the marketplace of ideas.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to look back at 10 years of electoral defeats on the other side to prove the point. Well, if they cannot outwork him and outthink him, if people are not buying what they are selling, then the game plan apparently is to tarnish our majority leader, and maybe then they can change the equation.

Mr. Speaker, I am grateful for our majority leader, and I am grateful to be working with him. This rank-and-file Member will stand with him. I would rather be working with our leader than running with the pack.

KEEP THE TRUST IN SOCIAL SECURITY

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

Mr. BLUMENTHAUER. Mr. Speaker, I noted with interest my colleague from Florida talking about Ida May Fuller, the first recipient of a Social Security check January 31, 1940. I, too, think that she is a symbol of what this debate is about. The debate is about our commitment to assure that our seniors and disabled and widows and survivors are not subjected to poverty.

We do have far fewer workers today than we had for each Social Security recipient. We also have far fewer dependents today. In many households today there are more workers than there are dependents. We are changing, but this was part of a plan that was approved by President Reagan and Democratic Speaker Tip O’Neill to change the Social Security program in 1983 to build up a $1.3 trillion surplus that will continue building up in the future.

We do not have a problem if we keep the trust in Social Security and use that surplus for what it is used for, rather than spend it on tax cuts for people who do not need it or other frivolous government spending.

I strongly urge that we keep the commitment to the Ida May Fullers of the future by using that money for what it was intended.

NEED TO REIN IN FEDERAL JUDICIARY

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

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, the President signed into law a bill ordering courts to take a new look, a de novo order on a death penalty case, a de novo order on a death penalty case, a de novo order on a death penalty case, a de novo order on a death penalty case, a de novo order on a de novo order on a death penalty case. To each of them I send a hearty congratulations and thank you; but most importantly, your students, your parents, and the teachers thank you for the passion with which you do your job. Well done.
Instead, in Terri’s case, they took a cursory look at the case, did not issue a stay and affirmed her death sentence.

The problem here is not Congress; it is the courts. These judges abandoned the law, as immune from accountability, we have ceased to be ruled by the conscience of the governed, the people. We need to get courts under control before we slip further towards a Nation ruled by judicial fiat.

The problem is that though judges are the arbiters of legal disputes, they have become lawmakers just like us. We do not live in a land governed by judges. We live in a land governed by the people; and if we continue to ignore that, we have only ourselves to blame.

WTO AND U.S. SOVEREIGNTY

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

Mr. DUNCAN. Mr. Speaker, the World Trade Organization has now ruled the State of Utah cannot ban Internet gambling within its own borders. The WTO said if the ban was enforced, Utah would be impeding the rights of the small nations of Antigua and Barbados.

Who would have ever thought that Antigua and Barbados would have more control over what goes on in Utah than the people of Utah themselves do?

This is ridiculous. What have we come to? Utah State Representative Sheryl Allen commented on this ruling saying, “It is not just gambling. The States are losing their authority in a lot of areas.”

Where are those people now who told us that membership in the WTO would not cause any loss of U.S. sovereignty? Mr. Speaker, we had plenty of free trade before the WTO even existed, and we could do so again. At the very least, we should renegotiate the terms of our membership to allow our States to prohibit Internet gambling if they wish to do so.

TRIBUTE TO MASTER SERGEANT MICHAEL T. HIESTER

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

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, it is written, “If you owe debts, pay debts; if honor, then honor; if respect, then respect.”

I rise humbly today to pay a debt of honor and respect to Army National Guard Master Sergeant Mike Hiest er of Bluffton, Indiana. As I saw firsthand last December at Camp Phoenix in Kabul, Afghanistan, Hoosiers have made an extraordinary difference for freedom in Operation Enduring Freedom, and Master Sergeant Mike Hiest er was a leader of men in that place.

On March 26, 2005, Mike lost his life while fighting to defend America in Afghanistan. His military vehicle with the 76th Infantry Brigade Army National Guard, Indianapolis, struck a land mine 30 miles west of Kabul, Afghanistan, claiming his life and the lives of three other Indiana Army National Guard.

At his home in Bluffton, Indiana, he was known as a loving husband and father, a member of the Bluffton Fire Department, and he will not soon be forgotten by his grieving community of Bluffton, which will say goodbye to him this week.

I also offer my deepest condolences to his wife Dawn; his two children Emily and Adam; and his parents, Tom and Kay Hiest er; as well as his sisters Megan and Michele, and all those across northeastern Indiana and all of our State who cherish the memory of this hero.

Master Sergeant Michael Hiest er was a hero whose service and sacrifice bolstered the hopes of millions of Americans and Afghans, and the memory of his sacrifice and service will forever be emblazoned on the hearts of two grateful nations.

POPE JOHN PAUL’S DREAM FOR FREEDOM LIVES ON

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

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, as the world mourns the passing of His Holiness Pope John Paul II, it is important to note that the struggle for which the Pope lived goes on today. We remember very vividly, back in June of 1989, being in Krakow, Poland, when we saw those active in the Solidarity movement clawing their way to freedom. We all know the outcome of that.

As we watched the Pope decline over the past several weeks and months, I had the honor over the Easter break to join with a bipartisan delegation of our colleagues to travel throughout the Middle East. It is interesting to note, as I said, that the Pope’s dream is alive and well. The dream that Ronald Reagan and George H.W. Bush, and today George W. Bush has is one that is encouraging people throughout the world to seek an opportunity to enjoy freedom.

While we were in the Middle East, we had the chance to go to Beirut, Lebanon, where we met with university students who stood in Martyr Square, and who said they are imprisoned today by the Syrians and that they are trying to claw their way to freedom. So the exact same message, Mr. Speaker, that came forth in 1989 in Eastern and Central Europe is alive and well today. Thank God this Pope lived.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE HONORABLE J. DENNIS HASTERT, SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. CULBERSON) laid before the House the following communication from J. DENNIS HASTERT, Speaker of the House:


Hon. JEFF TRANDOLL, Clerk of the House, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CLERK: Consistent with Rule VIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, I write to record that I have been served with a civil subpoena for documents issued by the Circuit Court for Cook County, Illinois.

After consulting with the Office of General Counsel, I will make the determinations required by Rule VIII of the Rules of the House.

Sincerely,

J. DENNIS HASTERT, Speaker of the House.

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.

COMMEMORATING THE LIFE OF ZURAB ZHVANIA, PRIME MINISTER OF REPUBLIC OF GEORGIA

Mr. MCCOTTER. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 108) commemorating the life of the late Zurab Zhvania, Prime Minister of the Republic of Georgia.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. Res. 108

WHEREAS on the night of February 3, 2005, the Prime Minister of the Republic of Georgia, Zurab Zhvania, died, apparently due to carbon monoxide poisoning caused by a malfunctioning heater;

WHEREAS Zurab Zhvania was a dedicated reformer whose visionary leadership inspired a new generation of political leaders in the Republic of Georgia;

WHEREAS Zurab Zhvania founded the Citizen’s Union Party, which won elections in 1995, making him the Speaker of the Georgian Parliament;

WHEREAS under the leadership of Speaker Zhvania, the Georgian Parliament was transformed into an effective and transparent legislative institution;

WHEREAS in November 2001, Speaker Zhvania resigned his position in protest when government authorities attempted to suppress the leading independent television station in the Republic of Georgia;

WHEREAS Zurab Zhvania formed the United Democrats, a party that blossomed into one of the major forces that brought about the Rose Revolution in the Republic of Georgia in November 2003;

WHEREAS in the most dangerous hours of the Rose Revolution, when it appeared that armed conflict was imminent, Zurab Zhvania used against the peaceful protesters, Zurab Zhvania dismissed his bodyguards and led a march to Parliament accompanied only by his young children;

WHEREAS Zurab Zhvania was named Prime Minister of the Republic of Georgia in November 2003, and led governmental efforts to develop and implement far-reaching economic, judicial, military, and social reforms thereby turning the promise of the Rose Revolution into real results that have dramatically improved life in the Republic of Georgia;

WHEREAS the strong commitment of Zurab Zhvania to the peaceful restoration of the territorial integrity of the Republic of Georgia was most recently displayed in the central role he played in the development of the unprecedented and generous proposal of the Republic of Georgia for resolving the status of South Ossetia peacefully and justly; and

WHEREAS Zurab Zhvania’s vision of the historical destiny of the Republic of Georgia was eloquently expressed before the Council of Europe on April 27, 1999, when he said, “I am Georgian and therefore, I am European”: Now, therefore, be it

The Speaker pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. MCCOTTER) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 108.

The question was taken.

Mr. MCCOTTER. 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 House Resolution 108.

The Speaker pro tempore. Pursuant to the request of the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. MCCOTTER) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 108, the question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. MCCOTTER) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 108.

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. MCCOTTER. 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, the Chair’s prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

COMMENDING OUTSTANDING EFFORTS OF ARMED FORCES AND EMPLOYEES OF STATE DEPARTMENT AND USAID IN RESPONSE TO EARTHQUAKE AND TSUNAMI OF DECember 26, 2004

Mr. MCCOTTER. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 120) commending the outstanding efforts by Members of the Armed Forces and civilian employees of the Department of State and the United States Agency for International Development in response to the earthquake and tsunami of December 26, 2004.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. Res. 120

WHEREAS on December 26, 2004, an earthquake and tsunami struck the Indian Ocean basin, killing over 250,000 people in Indonesia, Sri Lanka, India, Thailand, Somalia, Burma, Maldives, Malaysia, Tanzania, Bangladesh, and Kenya;

WHEREAS the response by members of the Armed Forces and civilian employees of the Department of State and the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) was immediate, invaluable, and courageous;

WHEREAS civilian employees of the Department of State and USAID showed great leadership in helping to coordinate relief efforts...
The December 26, 2004, earthquake off the coast of Indonesia was one of the largest natural disasters on record, devasting coastal areas throughout the Indian Ocean area, particularly in Indonesia and Sri Lanka. The cost in human life now stands at nearly 300,000 dead or missing, another 1 million displaced, and many more otherwise affected.

The response by U.S. military and civilian personnel was nearly instantaneous as they moved into action to provide help to those caught in the tragedy. The logistics, airlift, and other supplies and services provided by the Department of Defense were, by all accounts indispensable. Similarly, the humanitarian relief provided by U.S. civilian agencies, particularly the United States Agency for International Development, demonstrated the capacity and compassion of the American people who tried to aid those who were suffering.

In addition to its speed, the United States Government has been generous in its response: Nearly $150 million has already been spent and will be followed by several hundred million more dollars for ongoing recovery and reconstruction programs. The American people should also be greatly complimented for their generosity, as private donations from the United States alone are estimated at $1 billion.

This resolution recognizes America’s military and civilian first responders to this terrible disaster and extends the appreciation of Congress to them for their work in saving lives, helping the survivors relay our American virtues to our brothers and sisters beyond our shores.

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

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

I wish to thank my colleague from Michigan for joining me in cosponsoring this resolution, and the chairman of the Subcommittee on Asia and the Pacific from Iowa (Mr. LEACH), for introducing the resolution with me.

This resolution commends the actions of civilian employees of the State Department and the U.S. Agency for International Development and the members of the Armed Forces for their response to last December’s tsunami tragedy in the Indian Ocean.

Mr. Speaker, it was my privilege to journey with a congressional delegation to the stricken region immediately in the aftermath of the disaster. As we viewed the stricken region, we were all impressed by the quality of the relief effort and the coordination between all parties. It was truly gratifying to see the governments, particularly of these four affected countries, stepping forward in some areas where we had simmers conflicts and military actions.

People would put aside the hostilities to deal with those in need.

I must confess that the pictures of our military, the rapid response, spoke volumes. I had an opportunity to visit with the leadership, starting with Admiral Crowder, and other senior officials.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. McCOTTER) and the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. BLUMENAUER) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. McCOTTER).

Mr. McCOTTER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and any material on House Resolution 120.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. McCOTTER. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume, and I wish to begin by sending my gratitude to the distinguished gentleman from Oregon for bringing this resolution before the House.

The December 26, 2004, earthquake off the coast of Indonesia was one of the largest natural disasters on record, devastating coastal areas around the world. It was clear that they were not just acting out of a professional dedication and a military ethic, but they were doing it for the profound and heartfelt desire to help people in need.

While the pictures spoke volumes of the affected people throughout that region, I think it is important that we also recognize the efforts of the civilians from the State Department and USAID who do the tireless work of diplomacy and development that form the backbone of our foreign policy. They contribute day in and day out with far less fanfare and too often less of our support.

I was struck by individual cases of Foreign Service officers. Two examples that had been brought to my attention while I was visiting was that of Richard Hanrahan and Michael Chadwick, who were junior consular officers from American embassies who were on vacation in Phuket when the disaster struck.

They were there with their own families and had to make sure they were safe, but then they acted to set up their own remote control command post in Phuket to ensure the safe return of Americans. They dealt with traumatized families under the most difficult of circumstances, being able to borrow cell phones and deal with the communication difficulties; dealing with really very difficult situations, from hospital to hospital, identifying injured Americans, and reporting on the situation before others had a chance to arrive.

Having seen and heard how these people behaved in such difficult circumstances, hour after hour, day after day, using their own independent action and individual motivation is something that all of us in Congress can be proud of. Having seen the impact that the officials from the State Department and USAID, working together with our military in response to the tsunami, highlights for us all the need to continue to enhance our diplomatic development and humanitarian capabilities.

As I heard these stories and met these people, I thought of the work that former Secretary of State Powell performed when he invested the prestige of his office, used the leverage of the White House to increase the support, ramping up the hiring of a new class of officials and making it a personal priority to make sure that the men and women in the front lines of the State Department around the world had the resources that they needed.

I hope that our new Secretary of State, Condoleezza Rice, will build upon his actions and as we in this Congress go through our appropriations process, we support her and our diplomats with the necessary funding.

We should strengthen the ability of the State Department to respond to...
These crises, both natural and man-made, in part to minimize the challenge for our over-stretched military who are not always going to be able to be available in force to make the contributions that we saw in the aftermath of the tsunami. Often, frankly, there are tasks better left to civilian hands.

This disaster was an illustration of the value of the services provided by many of these agencies. I think of the USAID’s outstanding individuals who were there as part of the briefing, indicating how they were equipped and ready to go to help fight the problems after the tsunami, and deal with the aftermath of poverty and environmental degradation. Hopefully, their work will make these communities less vulnerable in the future, and we can invest in disaster mitigation and planning to reduce the loss of life the next time the inevitable disaster strikes.

It is the selfless commitment of these individuals in the military, the State Department, and USAID that is making a difference. At a time when our prestige, particularly in this region, as a Nation is at an all-time low, according to independent opinion surveys, the contributions in the aftermath of the tsunami is making a difference, particularly with Indonesia, the world’s largest Muslim country. Two-thirds of the Indonesians are now more favorable to the United States because of what they saw. Americans responding and dealing with the aftermath of this disaster.

We should continue to invest in diplomacy and development along with our national defense, extend the kindness and compassion demonstrated by American people into a full-time commitment to those who suffer around the world. These efforts will pay dividends not just for the people in need but for our security as well.

The civilian employees of the State Department, USAID, and our men and women in uniform went beyond the call of duty in responding to the tsunami. Through this demonstration of their professionalism, skill, creativity and commitment, they saved lives and took important steps for peace and security. I strongly urge the adoption of this resolution.

Mr. CROWLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of this resolution and I would like to give a special thanks to the sponsor of this resolution, my good friend from Oregon, Mr. BLUMENAUER.

Like several of my colleagues on the House International Relations Committee, I had the opportunity to meet with many of the men and women of our Armed Forces, the Department of State and the United States Agency for International Development operating in the tsunami affected region.

My trip to the region began in Singapore, where I met with members of our armed forces who were using the Singapore Air Force base as a staging ground for missions into the hardest hit area of the tsunami, Banda Aceh, Indonesia.

They were running operations out of the base 24 hours a day thanks to the support of our Singaporean friends. While I was at the base I met with a Marine who was injured just days before in a helicopter crash but he remained in high spirits and was eager to get back out to help the survivors of there.

Singapore has been such a strong ally and a solid supporter of our relief mission; I want to publicly thank the government and people of Singapore for their role in the assistance to the tsunami affected region.

After Singapore, I flew to Sri Lanka and went south of Colombo to Galle, a tourist town, which was ravaged by the tsunami. During my day in Galle, I visited a maternity hospital that had been badly damaged and is now unusable, but I met with a doctor who told me about a c-section he was performing when the wave hit the hospital.

This doctor was able to finish the surgery by flashlight and saved the mother and child. These are some of the stories we may never have heard.

As I traveled on the road back to Colombo stretching the length of the shore I saw more affects of the Tsunami, train tracks were turned into corkscrews and buildings were totally destroyed.

But what I sullie this was American Marines and USAID Disaster Assistance Relief Teams working hand in hand with the Sri Lankan’s clearing destroyed homes.

I asked one of the marines about his daily activities and he told me what brought him the most joy was playing with the local children who had lost their families and homes and that just making them smile and keeping them active brought him so much fulfillment.

As those children grow up they will always remember that marine who brought a little sense of normalcy back to their lives.

Also, during a meeting with the U.S. Embassy in Colombo, I met the director of the U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance, OFDA, covering South Asia, which with the help of this committee: I was able to establish this branch. I was caught off guard when William Berger, the director of the OFDA, thanked me for establishing this office and told me that the funding I was able to secure has saved thousands of lives and will continue to.

It’s a real testament to the effect our committee has on the lives of those living so far away.

I urge all of my colleagues to support this important resolution.

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H. Res. 120, commending members of the Armed Forces and civilian employees of the Department of State and the United States Agency for International Development in response to the earthquake and tsunami of December 26, 2004.

In particular, I would like to commend Colonel Wayne Schatz, the 62nd Airlift Wing commander, who deployed to Hickam Air Force Base, Hawaii, and became the Deputy Director of Mobility Forces for the entire operation. While there, he helped marshal the massive humanitarian airlift mission, directing hundreds of aircraft that delivered nearly 3,000 tons of relief supplies to countries most in need of aid.

All told, Team McChord’s contributions to the relief efforts included: 1.8 million pounds of relief supplies delivered; 660+ passengers moved; and 48 relief missions flown.

Mr. Speaker, I’m proud of the men and women in my District who participated in this noble operation.

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

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. CULBerson). The question is on the motion of the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. McCOTTER) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 120.

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

The yeas and nays were ordered. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair’s prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.
HONORING THE LIFE AND CONTRIBUTIONS OF YOGI BHajan

Mr. MCCOTTER. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 34) honoring the life and contributions of Yogi Bhajan, a leader of Sikhs, and expressing condolences to the Sikh community on his passing.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. CON. RES. 34

Whereas the Sikh faith was founded in the northern section of the Republic of India in the 15th century by Guru Nanak, who claimed by his teacher to be a master of yogic training, and eight years later was proclaimed by his teacher to be a master of Kundalini Yoga, which stimulates individual growth through breath, yoga postures, sound chanting, and meditation;

Whereas during the turmoil on the partition between Pakistan and India in 1947, at the age of 18, Yogi Bhajan led his village of 7,000 people 325 miles on foot to safety in New Delhi, India, from what is now Lahore, Pakistan;

Whereas Yogi Bhajan, before emigrating to North America in 1968, served the Government of India faithfully through both civil and military service;

Whereas when Yogi Bhajan visited the United States in 1968, he recognized immediately that the experience of higher consciousness that many young people were attempting to find through drugs could be alternatively achieved through Kundalini Yoga, and in response, he began teaching Kundalini Yoga publicly, thereby breaking the centuries-old tradition of secrecy surrounding it;

Whereas in 1969, Yogi Bhajan founded “Healthy, Happy, Holy Organization (3HO),” a nonprofit private educational and scientific foundation dedicated to serving humanity, improving physical well-being, deepening spiritual awareness, and offering guidance on nutrition and health, interpersonal relationships, child rearing, and human behavior;

Whereas under the direction and guidance of Yogi Bhajan, 3HO expanded to 300 centers in 35 countries;

Whereas in 1971, the president of the governing body of Sikh Temples in India gave Yogi Bhajan the title of Siri Singh Sahib, which recognizes him the chief religious and administrative authority for Sikhs in the Western Hemisphere, and subsequently the Sikh seat of religious authority gave him responsibility to create a Sikh ministry in the West;

Whereas in 1971, Sikh Dharma was legally incorporated in the State of California and recognized as a nonprofit religious organization by the United States, and in 1972, Yogi Bhajan founded the ashram Sikh Dharma in Espanola, New Mexico;

Whereas in 1973, Yogi Bhajan founded “3HO SuperHealth,” a successful drug rehabilitation program that blends ancient yogic wisdom with modern technology of the West;

Whereas in June 1985, Yogi Bhajan established the first “International Peace Prayer Day Celebration” in New Mexico, which still draws thousands of participants annually;

Whereas Yogi Bhajan traveled the world calling for unity at meetings with leaders such as Pope Paul VI; Pope John Paul II; His Holiness the Dalai Lama; the President of the former Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, Mikhail Gorbachev; and two Archbishops of Canterbury;

Whereas Yogi Bhajan wrote 30 books and inspired the publication of 200 other books through his teachings of a drug rehabilitation program, and inspired the founding of several businesses;

Whereas Sikhs and students across the world testify that Yogi Bhajan exhibited dignity, divinity, grace, commitment, courage, kindness, compassion, tolerance, wisdom, and understanding;

Whereas Yogi Bhajan taught that in times of joy and sorrow members of the community should come together and be at one with each other; and

Whereas, beginning with his passing on October 6, 2004, Yogi Bhajan requested that his passing be a time of celebration of his going home: Now, therefore, be it—

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

(1) recognizes that the teachings of Yogi Bhajan about Sikhism and yoga, and the business formed under his inspiration, improved the personal, political, spiritual, and professional relations between citizens of the United States and the citizens of India;

(2) recognizes his legendary compassion, wisdom, kindness, and courage of Yogi Bhajan, and his wealth of accomplishments on behalf of the Sikh community; and

(3) extends its condolences to Inderjit Kaur, the wife of Yogi Bhajan, his three children and five grandchildren, and to Sikh and 3HO communities around the Nation and the world on the death on October 6, 2004, of Yogi Bhajan, an individual who was a wise teacher and mentor, an outstanding pioneer, a champion of peace, and a compassionate human being.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. MCCOTTER) and the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. BLUMENAUER) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlemen from Michigan (Mr. MCCOTTER).

Mr. MCCOTTER. 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 Michigan?

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, first, I would like to recognize the fine work of the gentleman from New Mexico (Mr. Udall) for placing this resolution before us.

On October 6, 2004, Yogi Bhajan passed from this world. He had requested that his passing be a time of celebration. Thus I rise in support of H. Con. Res. 34 in order to celebrate the life of this extraordinary man.

At the age of 18 during a time of turmoil, he led his village of 7,000 people over 325 miles on foot to the safety of New Delhi, India. He served the Government of India faithfully through both civilian and military service.

When he came to the United States, he founded a nonprofit private educational, scientific foundation dedicated to serving humanity, improving physical well-being, deepening spiritual awareness, and offering guidance on nutrition and health, interpersonal relationships, child rearing, and human behavior.

In 1971, the President of the Governing Body of Sikh Temples in India named him the chief religious and administrative authority for Sikhism in the Western Hemisphere, and he was given the responsibility for creating a Sikh ministry in the West.

In June of 1985, he established the first International Peace Prayer Day Celebration which draws thousands of participants annually.

Mr. Speaker, it is appropriate that Congress join in the celebration of his passing and recognize his legendary compassion, wisdom, kindness, and courage and extend its condolences to his wife and family.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I join my colleague, the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. MCCOTTER), in commending our friend and colleague from New Mexico (Mr. UDALL) for the gentleman’s introduction of this resolution, and his concern and leadership on Sikh-American issues. We are grateful for his work on these matters.

Mr. Speaker, the contributions made by Yogi Bhajan to Sikh-Americans and others across the globe are enormous. In addition to teaching the spiritual and yogic education, Yogi Bhajan applied his motivational skills to business and civil society. Most notably, he founded 3HO, an educational nonprofit organization that promotes human rights and health care education.

Given those enormous contributions, the passing of Yogi Bhajan last October was a loss not only to the Sikh-American community but to the entire Nation.

Mr. Speaker, in the post-9/11 era, it is increasingly important to recognize the contributions and participation of our Sikh-American brethren in American society since Sikh-Americans have unfortunately been the target of many hate crimes since 9/11. Yogi Bhajan was a man who helped educate and enlighten Americans about Sikh philosophy, further enhancing this country’s great diversity and tolerance of all cultures.

We extend our condolences to his family, his children and grandchildren, and to the Sikh community around the world. I strongly support the passage of
Mr. Speaker, I rise today to support House passage of H. Con. Res. 34, honoring the life and contributions of Yogi Bhajan, a leader of Sikhs in the United States and a Sikh Dharma family. This resolution recognizes Yogi Bhajan for his tireless advocacy of world peace and religious unity, his work in promoting the Sikh faith, and his contributions to the Sikh community in the United States and around the world.

Yogi Bhajan was a person of utmost respect and gratitude for his labors on behalf of the Sikh community and enlightened his fellow human beings. His philosophy was punctuated by selfless leadership and principles he believed in sincerely and authentically to better the world, enhance his health, and promote the true spirit of Sikhism.

Yogi Bhajan continually merged the principles of his business with his time on earth. He founded 3HO Super Health, which has become a highly successful drugless drug rehabilitation program. He furthered books, conducted workshops, and made his teachings available to large numbers of people through radio, television, and the internet.

Under his guidance as Director of Spiritual Organizations, the Siri Singh Sahib of the World Fellowship of Religions in the Western Hemisphere, and he was given the responsibility to create a Sikh Ministry in the West by the Akal Takht, the Sikh seat of religious authority in India. He was honored with the title Bhai Sahib by the Akal Takht in 1974. When he became a United States Citizen in 1976, Yogi Bhajan changed his name legally to Harbhajan Singh Khalsa Yogi.

Under his guidance as Director of Spiritual Education, 3HO mushroomed worldwide, to 300 centers in 35 countries. In 1949 3HO became a member of the United Nations as an NGO (Non-Governmental Organization) in Consultative Status with the Economic and Social Council, representing women’s issues, promoting human rights and providing education in alternative systems of medicine.

Loyal friend and mentor of Senators, Congressmen, and Governors regardless of political affiliation, he promoted spiritual awareness in all arenas. An ardent advocate of world peace and religious unity, the Siri Singh Sahib met with world leaders of all faiths to encourage dialogue, including Pope Paul VI, Pope John Paul II, and the Dalai Lama, and two Archbishops of Canterbury. He became Co-President of the World Fellowship of Religions in 1974.

He became a trusted management consultant for 14 corporations representing industries as diverse as health food manufacturing (KIIT-Golden Temple Foods), computer systems (Sun and Son), and security services (Akal Security). He conducted business seminars and authored several books and CD’s to help its member entrepreneurs as well as the seasoned executive.

He is survived by his wife, children, grandchildren and all those in his 3HO and Sikh Dharma families.

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a dear friend of mine and a man who was an incredible voice for peace—Yogi Bhajan. H. Con. Res. 34 recognizes Yogi Bhajan, the late chief religious and

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this resolution and urge my colleagues to do likewise.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I would like to echo a sentiment put forward by the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. BLUMENAUER). In my district, the 11th Congressional District of Michigan, we have a substantial Sikh presence; and in the month of September, I was asked by their temple to come before them and to reassure them that their fellow Americans understood Sikhism and would never stand for any type of oppression or prejudice or acts of hate being perpetrated against them.

I think in passing this resolution, we add one more accord on our part to Sikism and its adherents and I am honored to be a part of this, as I am honored to have the friendship of the Sikh community and people like Chaudhary Sant Sazara Singh, back home in my district.

Mr. WEINER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to mourn the loss of Yogi Bhajan, a leader and inspiration to more than 23 million Sikhs around the world. Born in 1929, Yogi Bhajan led his village of 7,000 people 325 miles to safety on foot when violence erupted between Pakistan and India in 1947. The 3HO organization he founded in 1969 has strengthened the spiritual and interpersonal ties of more than 300 communities in 35 countries.

The Sikh faith was founded in India in the 15th century. Today, there are more than 175,000 Sikhs living in the United States and as many as 75,000 in the New York City metropolitan area.

Like their founder Guru Nanak, Sikhs practice tolerance and equality for all humans. Unfortunately, Sikhs here in the United States find themselves in the shadow of the terrorist attacks of September 11th. It is time for employers to accommodate a worker’s religious expression when the Metropolitan Transit Authority (MTA) said he could not wear his religious headgear to work.

Today, in the spirit of our commemoration of Yogi Bhajan’s enormous contributions, Congress should pass the Workplace Religious Freedom Act, which would require an employer to accommodate a worker’s faith unless it imposes significant difficulty or expense on the employer.

The Workplace Religious Freedom Act has the support of an incredibly diverse coalition of organizations including the National Sikh Congress, Agudath Israel, the Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism, the National Council of Churches, the National Council of Muslim Women, and the Southern Baptist Convention.

If the Workplace Religious Freedom Act were passed, a Sikh would be able to wear a turban at work unless it posed a serious health or safety concern. And a Jew or Seventh Day Adventist could arrange not to work on Saturday in exchange for working overtime earlier in the week.

We should take this opportunity to honor Yogi Bhajan by doing right by the community that survives him. Let’s make sure the Sikh community in America lives in America devoted to the spirit of tolerance and equality that Yogi Bhajan came to symbolize.

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today, as the whole House of Representatives rises also, to honor Yogi Bhajan, a beloved member of the Sikh community in California, Khalsa Yogiji. He died on October 7th 2004, just several weeks after his 75th birthday. Though he gained notoriety as a great yoga teacher, throughout his life he wore many hats; that of a successful business man, an author and a diplomat who bridged the boundaries of culture and religion.

The man we know as Yogi Bhajan was born Harghajan Singh Puri on August 26th, 1929 in a part of India that later became Pakistan. He spent his youth attending Catholic convent school and studying yoga from the age of eight years old. At just sixteen his teacher, Sant Sazara Singh, proclaimed him to be a Master of Kundalini Yoga. The rest of his life was punctuated by selfless leadership and teaching to people from all walks of life.

After working in the Indian government for some time, in 1968 when Yogi Bhajan migrated to Canada and then to the United States, he recognized the disenchantment and spiritual yearning that was felt by Western youth during the tumult of the 1960's and began to teach them the technology of Kundalini Yoga and meditation. That same year he incorporated the Healthy, Happy, Holy Organization (3HO), whose Superhealth Drug Rehabilitation centers soon garnered top awards and results from the Joint Accreditation Body for Healthcare Organizations.

Through his personal efforts, Sikh Dharma was legally incorporated and officially recognized as a religion in the U.S. in 1971. In 1971, in acknowledgment of his extraordinary impact of spreading the universal message of Sikhism, the president of the SGPC (government of Sikh Temples in India), Sant Charan Singh called him the Siri Singh Sahib, Chief Religious and Administrative Authority for the Western Hemisphere, and he was given the responsibility to create a Sikh Ministry in the West by the Akal Takht, the Sikh seat of religious authority in India. He was honored with the title Bhai Sahib by the Akal Takht in 1974. When he became a United States Citizen in 1976, Yogi Bhajan changed his name legally to Harbhajan Singh Khalsa Yogi.

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Loyal friend and mentor of Senators, Congressmen, and Governors regardless of political affiliation, he promoted spiritual awareness in all arenas. An ardent advocate of world peace and religious unity, the Siri Singh Sahib met with world leaders of all faiths to encourage dialogue, including Pope Paul VI, Pope John Paul II, the Dalai Lama, and two Archbishops of Canterbury. He became Co-President of the World Fellowship of Religions in 1974.

He became a trusted management consultant for 14 corporations representing industries as diverse as health food manufacturing (KIIT-Golden Temple Foods), computer systems (Sun and Son), and security services (Akal Security). He conducted business seminars and authored several books and CD’s to help its member entrepreneurs as well as the seasoned executive.

He is survived by his wife, children, five grandchildren and all those in his 3HO and Sikh Dharma families.

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a dear friend of mine and a man who was an incredible voice for peace—Yogi Bhajan. H. Con. Res. 34 recognizes Yogi Bhajan, the late chief religious and
As the resolution states, Yogi Bhajan sought to introduce political and spiritual leaders. He also served as informal counsel to the Dalai Lama to discuss world peace and religious unity. Through his teaching, and inspired to at least 300 Sikh families.

Yogi Bhajan passed away on October 6, 2004 at age 75 in Espanola, New Mexico. I had the privilege of Yogi Bhajan's friendship and support. He was a dynamic, powerful person with a strong devotion to human rights, religious freedom, and good health. Whatever your faith, Yogi Bhajan had the right words, the right lesson, the right message. He spoke to us all and he inspired us. Around the world he was a powerful voice for peace. I am pleased that he will be honored by Congress today.

The resolution, H. Con. Res. 34, by the yeas and nays; pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until approximately 6:30 p.m.

Accordingly, (at 2 o'clock and 42 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess until approximately 6:30 p.m.

Mr. POMBO. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to have my name removed as a cosponsor of H.R. 298.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The motion is in order. The question is on the request of the gentleman from California?

There was no objection.

Mr. McCOTTTER. 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 Michigan (Mr. McCOTTTER) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution, H. Con. Res. 31.

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. McCOTTTER. 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, proceedings on this motion will be postponed.
Ms. MCKINNEY changed her vote from ‘nay’ to ‘yea.’

So (two-thirds having voted in favor)

Ms. KILDEE changed her vote from ‘nay’ to ‘yea.’

So (two-thirds having voted in favor)
The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question of suspending the rules and agreeing to the concurrent resolution, H. Con. Res. 34, on which the yeas and nays are ordered.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 405, nays 0, answered “present” 1, not voting 28, as follows:

Abercrombie
Ackerman
Aderholt
Akin
Allen
Andrews
Baca
Bachus
Baker
Baldwin
Barrett (SC)
Bartlett (MD)
Barton (TX)
Bean
Beausoleil
Becerra
Berkley
Berman
Biggers
Bilirakis
Bishop (NY)
Bishop (UT)
Blackburn
Blumenauer
Blunt
Boehner
Bommarito
Bono
Boren
Bowser
Boucher
Boystun
Boyd
Bradley (NY)
Bradley (PA)
Brown (SC)
Brown, Corinne
Brown-Watson
Bratton
Burke
Burgess
Burton (IN)
Butterfield
Buyer
Camp
Cantor
Capito
Capuano
Cardin
Carnahan
Carson
Carter
Case
Chabot
Chandler
Chocola
Clay
Cleaver
Chung
Colin (OK)

[Roll No. 93]

YEA—405

Berman
Moore (WI)
Mollohan
Miller, George
Miller (FL)
McCotter
Matheson
Lucas
Lucerino, Daniel E.
Lynch
McKernan
McKeon
McKnew
McNulty
McEachin
McKeon
McKeown
McKeown
McKay, Nathan
McKnelly
Putnam
Radack
Rieber
Tierney
McNally
Meehan
Meeks
Meeks (NY)
McNathan
McKeon
Michaud
Mica
Mica (FL)
Mather
Miller, Harold
Miller, James
Miller, John
Miller, George
Millohan
Moats
Moore (WI)
More (VA)
Morton (KS)
Moss
Murphy
Murtha
Maas
Myrick
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal (MA)
Knauss
Klob
Kucinich
Kilpatrick (MI)
Jackson-Lee
Keller
Johnson (NY)
Johnson (IL)
Johnson (IA)
Johnson (TX)
Johnson (MD)
Johnson (ND)
Johnson (PA)
Johnson (TN)
Johnson (UT)
Johnson (WA)
Johnson (WV)
Johnson (WI)
Johnson, Andrew
Johnson, Christopher
Johnson, Lyndon
Johnson, Ralph
Johnson, Scott
Johnson, Todd
Johnson, Wally
Johnson, William
Johnson, Wyndall
Johnson, Young

NOT VOTING—33

Alexander
Baird
Berman
Brown (CA)
Coble
Conyers
Costello
Eilers
Fattah
Ferguson
Granger

Nadler
Napolitano
Neal (MA)
Knauss
Klob
Kucinich
Kilpatrick (MI)
Jackson-Lee
Keller
Johnson (NY)
Johnson (IL)
Johnson (IA)
Johnson (ND)
Johnson (PA)
Johnson (TN)
Johnson (UT)
Johnson (WA)
Johnson (WV)
Johnson, Andrew
Johnson, Christopher
Johnson, Lyndon
Johnson, Ralph
Johnson, Scott
Johnson, Todd
Johnson, Wally
Johnson, William
Johnson, Young

NOT VOTING—28

Alexander
Baird
Brown (OH)
Calvert
Costello
Ehlers
Fallin
Gohmert

Nadler
Napolitano
Neal (MA)
Knauss
Klob
Kucinich
Kilpatrick (MI)
Jackson-Lee
Keller
Johnson (NY)
Johnson (IL)
Johnson (IA)
Johnson (ND)
Johnson (PA)
Johnson (TN)
Johnson (UT)
Johnson (WA)
Johnson (WV)
Johnson, Andrew
Johnson, Christopher
Johnson, Lyndon
Johnson, Ralph
Johnson, Scott
Johnson, Todd
Johnson, Wally
Johnson, William
Johnson, Young

The vote was taken as above recorded.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.
MAKING IN ORDER AT ANY TIME CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION HONORING THE LIFE AND ACHIEVEMENTS OF HIS HOLINESS POPE JOHN PAUL II AND EXPRESSING PROFOUND SORROW ON HIS DEATH

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. MORAN) be authorized to request unanimous consent that the resolution shall be debatable for 1 hour equally divided and controlled by the majority leader and the minority leader or their designees; and the previous question shall be considered as ordered on the resolution and the preamble to final adoption without intervening motion.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Texas? There was no objection.

REMOVAL OF NAME OF MEMBER AS COSPONSOR OF H.R. 867

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. MORAN) be removed as a cosponsor of H.R. 867. The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Texas? There was no objection.

REMOVAL OF NAME OF MEMBER AS COSPONSOR OF H.J. RES. 23

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that my name removed as a cosponsor of H.J. Res. 23. The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Florida? There was no objection.

HONORING WILLIAM C. MARTIN FOR HIS CONTRIBUTIONS TO HIS COMMUNITY, HIS UNIVERSITY AND HIS COUNTRY

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

Mr. SCHWARZ of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of a dear friend of mine, Mr. William C. Martin. This month Mr. Martin will be receiving the Sixth Biannual Humanitarian Award from the Jewish Federation of Washtenaw County, an organization in my district. Bill's integrity, modesty and selfless devotion to the betterment of society make him an embodiment of the ideals represented by this award.

He has used his success as a businessman and influence as a community leader to help those in need. When he was still an MBA student at the University of Michigan, he took on the challenge of helping unemployed, and seemingly unemployed, men find jobs in the community.

Bill Martin's reputation of honor and integrity has led others to look to him in times of difficulty. When he was asked to become the University of Michigan's athletic director at a time when the department needed reform, he not only agreed, he insisted on doing so at no salary. He succeeded in helping turn things around so effectively that he was asked to retain that position in a permanent capacity, where he remains today.

When the United States Olympic Committee, on whose board Bill served from 1992 to 2003, was shaken by scandal, he agreed to serve as president and help the organization set a better course.

Bill Martin is one of those rare individuals who combines altruism, honesty and leadership to effect positive change on the local, State and national levels. His genuine and giving nature truly represents the principles by which all our Nation's citizens should strive to live.

TRIBUTE TO THE HONORABLE JOSEPH P. RODDY OF ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI

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

Mr. CARNAHAN. Mr. Speaker, my remarks today are to pay tribute to the life of a valued public servant and mentor, the Honorable Joseph P. Roddy of St. Louis, Missouri.

Joe Roddy was associated with Presidents, Congressmen, governors and mayors for decades. He lived his life committed to his faith, his family, his Democratic party and his beloved constituents. He never lost sight of his belief that elected officials were to serve, and the public was to be served.

Mr. Roddy led his life by example and was a mentor and help to many. Whether it was advising a young candidate for office or helping a neighborhood family in need, no job was too big or too small for Joe Roddy.

Mr. Roddy was active in the Democratic Party for over 60 years, particularly in the 17th ward where he was born. He first served on the 17th Ward F.D.R. Club in 1954, where he was a block secretary, treasurer, alderman, committee, and campaign coordinator of the ward organization. In addition to these activities in the 17th ward, he was campaign treasurer for the St. Louis Democratic Central Committee for 14 years, chairman of the 3rd Congressional district for six years, and chairman of the St. Louis City Democratic Central Committee for two years. He was a delegate to four Democratic national conventions and five Missouri state conventions. In 1994, he received the Harry S. Truman Award from the St. Louis City Democratic Central Committee, the highest award given to a St. Louis City Democrat. Because of his work for the Democratic Party, he was often referred to as “Mr. Democrat.”

Mr. Roddy served as Circuit Clerk of the City of St. Louis and was Administrator-Clerk of the City of St. Louis Courts, where he retired in May 1993 after 40 years as a St. Louis City office holder. As alderman of the 17th ward, Mr. Roddy spearheaded and guided passage of one of the first municipal laws in the United States that treated alcoholism as a sickness instead of a crime. He championed the rights of the poor and led a drive that brought surplus food from the U.S. government to 64,000 impoverished people in the city of St. Louis. Mr. Roddy was instrumental in passing civil rights ordinances in the 1950s such as the Public Accommodation Law, Open Housing Law, and the Fair Employment Act. Mr. Roddy was a main figure in a Federal court case that resulted in the Missouri legislative district plan being declared to conform to the one man-one vote United States Supreme Court decision that demanded equal representation for legislative districts.

As circuit clerk, Mr. Roddy was the first to invest the funds of the court for interest, which contributed to the general fund of the city of St. Louis. Mr. Roddy was also active in many civic, business, and church groups in addition to his political associations including the Washington University Medical Center Redevelopment Corporation Advisory Committee, the Adult Rehabilitation Center of the Salvation Army Advisory Committee, and the Knights of Columbus.

He was a strong supporter of organized labor. In his early days of employment, he was a member of the Hotel Workers Union, Post Office Clerk Union-Local 8, and Teamsters Local 688. He was the only citywide office holder ever to have by consent agreement to hold the position of majority leader and the minority leader or their designees; and the previous question shall be considered as ordered on the resolution and the preamble to final adoption without intervening motion.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Texas? There was no objection.

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution shall be debatable for 1 hour equally divided and controlled by the majority leader and the minority leader or their designees; and the previous question shall be considered as ordered on the resolution and the preamble to final adoption without intervening motion.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Texas? There was no objection.

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Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution shall be debatable for 1 hour equally divided and controlled by the majority leader and the minority leader or their designees; and the previous question shall be considered as ordered on the resolution and the preamble to final adoption without intervening motion.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Texas? There was no objection.

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution shall be debatable for 1 hour equally divided and controlled by the majority leader and the minority leader or their designees; and the previous question shall be considered as ordered on the resolution and the preamble to final adoption without intervening motion.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Texas? There was no objection.
Mr. Speaker, the outpouring of support by friends, family, and the community makes it evident to all what an extraordinary person and public servant Mr. Roddy was. He was married to Lucinda "Lindy" Baumann Roddy for 50 years. They have four children—Mary, married to Michael Sawyer; Joseph D., married to Lisa Roddy; Daniel, married to Patricia Roddy; and Mark Roddy. Joe and Lue have seven grandchildren—Steven, William and Katherine Christen and Nicholas Roddy; and Joseph Patrick and Brendan Stuart Roddy. My prayers are with his family, friends, and community today, as we honor his remarkable life.

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker’s announced policy of January 4, 2005, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

COMMEMORATING GREEK INDEPENDENCE DAY

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

Mr. McCOTTER. Mr. Speaker, during our absence from session over the Easter recess, a momentous date passed which merits our observance. Greek Independence Day commemorates and celebrates the Greek people’s declaration of independence from the Ottoman Empire on March 25, 1821. From this day, until the Treaty of Constantinople officially recognized Greek independence, the Greek people waged a valiant and victorious struggle for their freedom.

The Ottoman Empire’s oppression and occupation of Greece evolved over the course of the 14th and 15th centuries. Yet during these centuries, Greek patriots arose to oppose and overthrow the Ottomans’ dominion, and in 1814 emerged the secretly formed Friendly Society, which proved a herald of Hellenic liberty.

Then 7 years later, on March 25, 1821, the Orthodox Metropolitan Germans of Patras proclaimed a national uprising, and simultaneous uprisings arose throughout Greece. Initially this courageous movement liberated many areas of Greece, but the Ottoman Empire rapidly and ruthlessly responded with innumerable acts of brutality, including the massacre of entire Greek communities.

Such Ottoman barbarism contrasted ill with Greek heroism and inspired many nations and citizens to rally to the Greek cause. Thus, in 1827, the British and French fleets delivered a crushing blow to the Ottoman fleet at Navarino, and in 1828, 10,000 French soldiers under the Peloponnesus to end the Ottoman scourge of Greece.

It was then, and after the horror of war had ebbed and ended, the Convention of May 11, 1832, recognized Greece as a sovereign state, and, again, the Treaty of Constantinople recognized Greek independence from Ottoman rule in July of 1832.

Thus, Mr. Speaker, it is both fitting and fair for us Americans as a free people to commemorate and celebrate the date of May 25, the date Greece, the Cradle of Democracy, was once again made free.

So, too, Mr. Speaker, let us reflect upon the reality that no treaty, no amount ofi participation, could ever accomplish more than to simply state the obviousness of Greek freedom, which has always endured for time immemorial, despite whatever oppression encountered.

Indeed, did not the pen of the British poet and doomed martyr to the cause of Greek independence and freedom, Lord Byron, write a testament to the Greek people’s inherent love of liberty when he wrote:

The Sword, the Banner, and the Field.
Glory and Greece, around me see!
The Spartan, borne upon his shield,
Was never more free.

And may Greece, Mr. Speaker, ever be free.

SMART SECURITY AND THE NONMILITARY APPROACH

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. Bishop of Utah). Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WOOLSEY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, Pope John Paul II has passed away. I talk about him tonight because we can learn a lesson from the way he lived his life. I did not agree with a lot of what the Pope believed in, but I agree with the way he fought against that which he believed was worth fighting.

When Pope John Paul II came into office, the Soviet Union was a dominant world power and communism was a dominant ideology. John Paul II, who grew up in Poland, knew firsthand the atrocities that were often committed in the name of communism. He fought against the evils of communism by speaking out and putting international pressures on countries like the Soviet Union, Hungary, and Poland. These countries understood the threat that they faced in this Pope, one strong-willed man, who knew firsthand the perils of the communist system. In 1989, the Soviet Union fell, partially as a result of the Pope’s actions.

Then, as now, the world faced a major conflict of ideologies. Instead of communism, the major threat to our generation is Islamic extremism perpetrated by radical groups like al Qaeda. And then, as now, the Pope believed that the proper response was to apply the same sort of pressure to alleviate a bad situation. But instead of applying international pressure and utilizing multilateral diplomacy to fight terrorism, the response by the Bush administration was to send 150,000 troops into Iraq to “liberate” the country. Liberate the country from what, exactly? One bad leader named Saddam Hussein? Make no mistake: the invasion of a country that never harbored weapons of mass destruction, and never maintained links to groups like al Qaeda is the greatest misstep to occur during George W. Bush’s Presidency.

And the sudden public about the war in Iraq is the drastic toll it has taken on the people of the United States. This war has cost the lives of more than 1,500 American soldiers. It has caused nearly 12,000 to be gravely wounded. The war has also killed tens of thousands of innocent Iraqi civilians.

And the financial cost of the war has been no less burdensome. When the Senate approves the latest $81.4 billion supplemental spending bill, the Bush administration will have appropriated over $200 billion for the war in Iraq in just over 2 years. With no end in sight, President Bush has even claimed that the thousands of troops will remain in the country for years to come, the total cost of the war could be as much as $800 billion by the time we finish blundering in the Middle East. How many will be dead or wounded by the time this war is done?

Despite the President’s solemn promises to fight terrorism, the Bush administration has overwhelmingly concentrated America’s resources on developing bigger and more expensive weapons at the expense of other more suitable security tools which will truly keep Americans safe. If our country has any hope of defeating terrorist groups like al Qaeda, we need to utilize the most important weapons in our arsenal, not bigger and more dangerous guns and bombs, but international diplomacy, nonproliferation efforts, and nonproliferation efforts.

That is why I have developed a SMART Security Resolution for the 21st Century. SMART security is a sensible, multilateral American response to terrorism, and it is just what we need to secure America for the future. SMART security emphasizes the non-military approach over the military approach, considering war as an option only when all other alternatives have been totally exhausted.

If we went to war every time we had a problem with another country’s leader, there would be nothing left of the United States. Imagine if we had bombed the Soviet Union in the 1970s during the Cold War. It would have been the start of World War III.

It is time we left Iraq. This needs to be done sooner, not later; and it is time we started relying on the smarter approach. This is the only way to resolve the complex while, at the same time, keeping our military safe. Let us support a smarter approach to the 21st century, an approach that I call SMART security.
GREEK INDEPENDENCE DAY

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

Mr. BILIRAKIS. 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 subject of this Special Order.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, today I proudly rise to celebrate Greek Independence Day and its strong ties that bind the nation of Greece and the United States.

Mr. Speaker, 184 years ago, the people of Greece began a journey that would mark a symbolic rebirth of democracy in the land where those principles to human dignity were first espoused.

They rebelled against more than 400 years of Turkish oppression. The revolution of 1821 brought independence to Greece and a brand new nation. In 1974, the Greek people rallied around the battle cry contrasting to the altar of freedom, the Greek-Cypriots themselves, responding positively. It is one thing for others to comment on the terms and conditions for settlement; but it is the Cypriots, the Cypriots who must live with whatever plan that would be adopted. Finding a fair resolution for Cyprus will help stabilize a region marked more often by conflict than accord. I urge our government to remain committed to finding a peaceful settlement for Cyprus.

Although the ties between Greece and America go back hundreds of years, the fruit of this bond is visible today. During the early 1900s, one out of three Greek males living were Americans. Today there are close to 3 million Greek Americans. I am especially proud of my fellow Greek Americans who have made contributions to our society in the fields of medicine, science, business, law, and politics, among other areas. In the words of a notable British poet, Percy Shelley, he said, “We are all Greeks! Our laws, our literature, our religion, our art have their roots in Greece.”

Mr. Speaker, on this 184th birthday of Greek Independence, we celebrate the triumph of the human spirit and the strength of man’s will. Today we commemorate the reaffirmation of the democratic heritage that our two nations share so closely. Lastly, this occasion allows me to remind you, Mr. Speaker, that we must never take for granted the right to determine our own fate.

Mr. Speaker, today I proudly rise to celebrate Greek Independence Day and the strong ties that bind the nation of Greece and the United States.

One hundred and eighty-four years ago, the people of Greece began a journey that would mark the symbolic rebirth of democracy in the land where those principles to human dignity were first espoused.

They rebelled against more than 400 years of Turkish oppression. The revolution of 1821 brought independence to Greece and a brand new nation. In 1974, the Greek people rallied around the battle cry contrasting to the altar of freedom, the Greek-Cypriots themselves, responding positively. It is one thing for others to comment on the terms and conditions for settlement; but it is the Cypriots, the Cypriots who must live with whatever plan that would be adopted. Finding a fair resolution for Cyprus will help stabilize a region marked more often by conflict than accord. I urge our government to remain committed to finding a peaceful settlement for Cyprus.

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One hundred and eighty-four years ago, the people of Greece began a journey that would mark the symbolic rebirth of democracy in the land where those principles to human dignity were first espoused.
Secretary of State, was a champion of Greece’s fight for independence. Among the most vocal was Daniel Webster from Massachusetts, who frequently roused the sympathetic interest of his colleagues and other Americans in the Greek revolution.

Many who sympathized with the “Philhellenic” cause and sent the Greeks supplies, food, and medicine; anything that could help maintain and boost the moral of the Greeks. In fact, many traveled to Greece to join the revolution in the fight for freedom. After seven years of fighting, the Greeks finally got their independence. Unfortunately, many people were killed in the struggle for freedom. We all know that the price of liberty can be very high—history is replete with the names of the millions who have sacrificed for it. Many great scholars throughout history warned that we maintain democracy only at a great cost. The freedom we enjoy today is due to a large degree to the sacrifices made by men and women in the past—in Greece, in America, and all over the world.

Freedom is America’s heart. It is central to our being. From the beginning we have recognized that freedom is not just an American right. It is a God-given right to every citizen of the world. The lessons the Greeks and our colonial forefathers taught us provide hope and inspiration to victims of persecution throughout the world today.

This year’s celebration of Greek Independence Day is especially fitting in light of the current wave of political and social movements around the world in the name of democracy. International events in recent months have brought stunning news of political upheaval and dramatic changes from the Middle East, Africa and Eastern Europe. Most notably, through peaceful demonstrations, Syria lost its political stronghold on Lebanon, Ukraine elected Viktor Yushchenko as its new president and the divided Republic of Cyprus remains a monument in Athens.

We Western civilization as we know it today owes the deepest debt and, indeed, its very origins, to the Greek nation. Greek philosophy, sculpture, and theater set standards to which today’s practitioners still aspire. And, as the cradle of democracy, Athens is the spiritual ancestor of our own Republic and, in many respects, its role model.

Mr. Speaker, the history of Greek independence is one of the inspiring stories of our time. It is the tale of the revival of an ancient and great people through sheer commitment, sacrifice, and love of freedom and heritage. Transmitted through the generations, the ideals of the ancient Greeks inspired their revolutionary descendants in the nineteenth century, and great and gallant stalwarts of the Greek cause, such as Theodore Kolokotronis and Rigas Velestinlis wrote of their belief in the rights of man.

The histories of the United States and Greece have been intimately intertwined ever since the beginning of modern Greek sovereignty. The cause of Greek independence evoked sympathy throughout the Western world. Well known is Lord Byron, whose uncompromising commitment to Greece was epitomized by his declaration “in for a penny, in for a pound.” Less renowned but no less committed were the many American Philhellenes, who repaid their debt to Greek culture by crossing the ocean to fight in the Greek liberation. I am pleased that these American citizens have been honored with a monument in Athens.

Mr. Speaker, Greek citizens also crossed the ocean in the other direction, emigrating to the United States, where they enjoyed great success and shared their prosperity with their kinfolk in their original homeland. They have served as a bridge of understanding between our two nations, and they have refreshed America’s spirit, their patriotism, and their hard work. Today, some five million Americans claim Greek ancestry, with understandable pride.
Mr. ACKERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to join millions of Greeks and Greek-Americans in celebration of the 184th anniversary of Greek independence from the Ottoman Empire.

Through it was 184 years ago this day that the Greek people fought for their unquestioned freedom, the Greek tradition of liberty and self-governance extends back thousands of years. The city-states of that storied peninsula were truly the cradle of our democratic lineage. Our own founders drew upon the teachings and experiences of the ancient Greeks in their pursuit of individual freedom.

There is no area of human thought that does not pay homage to the enduring contributions of Greece. Our greatest masters of mathematics, literature, science, art, architecture, theatre and philosophy all trace their intellectual heritage through its people. It is without question that the ancient Greeks were responsible for bringing light on what was an otherwise dark world.

In the world we have watched as a new democracy has been forged where the very idea of democracy was born. The Greek people have also helped build America as well. Greek-American communities continue to add to the richness and tradition of many of America’s states, all, in my case, including Dallas, Texas, as well as our Nation. For that I am always appreciative of the Greek beauty and culture that has enriched my entire life. I’m pleased we take time our day each year to recall how we are all enriched by the art, the ideas, and the spirit of Greece.

Mr. SPEAKER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in celebration of the 184th Anniversary of Greek Independence and to thank my colleagues, Mr. BILIRAKIS and Mrs. MALONEY, who have once again shown great leadership in their efforts to organize this special order.

On Greek Independence Day, we celebrate our special ties of friendship, history, and shared values with Greece. In doing so, we not only honor such an important day in Greek history, but also the strong and unique relationship that exists today between the United States and Greece.

Our two nations have enjoyed close relations since the people of Greece declared their independence on March 25, 1821. Our country has welcomed generations of Greek immigrants who have enhanced our culture and contributed to our country in a variety of fields, including philosophy, architecture, politics and the arts. I am proud to have a thriving community of Hellenic-Americans in the 9th District of New Jersey. I salute them and their ancestors’ struggle for freedom on the anniversary of Greek Independence Day and I commend them for their tremendous contributions to the very fabric of our community.

For nearly 200 years, the American and Greek people have reaffirmed our profound commitment to democratic principles, and have worked to create societies built on these principles. The United States and Greece have stood together in every major struggle for freedom and democracy and now they continue to work together in the fight against terrorism. The United States and Greece were it not for the influences of ancient Greek mathematics, literature, science, art. But by far the most notable of all their achievements is the notion of democracy. Our own founding fathers incorporated the ancient Greek’s political experience and philosophy when they formed our
Greek and American people. are many of us in Congress, on both sides of temporary sense, one of the staunchest de-

represents, in a historical sense, the origins of ideals. And I would like to thank the Greek

principles of democracy, freedom, and inde-

dependence. And I would like to thank the Greek people for leading the way and giving us the inspiration and strength to pursue these people for leading the way and giving us the inspiration and strength to pursue these

Today, the world needs to come together and stand on the basis of Greek principles to

protect the human and religious rights of the Ecumenical Patriarchate. While this issue that concerns the Greek community, it is one that is vital to all communities. We must protect the rights of Ecumenical Patriarchate as Turkey has: refused to recognize the Ecumenical Patriarchate’s international status and its significance to Orthodox Christians around the world; prevented the Orthodox Christian church from selecting bishops from anywhere in the world to become the Ecumenical Patriarch by requiring Turkish citizenship; con-
fiscated Ecumenical properties since 2002; and levied a retroactive tax on the Balukli arch by requiring Turkish citizenship; con-

cession to the Ecumenical Patriarch, along with the right to train clergy of all nationalities. We also call on Turkey to grant appropriate rights of the Ecumenical Patriarchate

The recent Social Security Trustees Report estimated the Social Security shortfall to be $3.7 trillion over the next 75 years. But the proposal to create these private accounts or personal accounts will not help the bottom line at all. Even the President, before we broke for our Easter recess, admitted that “personal accounts do not solve the issue.”

One thing that came out of that town hall meeting is the concern that Social Security is not broken; that saving $1.7 trillion of our national debt is, as the President says, IOUs from Social Security, and my constituents’ concern is that if we are going to pay back the 40 percent of our national debt, about $7 trillion, to the many citizens of foreign countries who loan money to the United States, why on this Earth would we not pay back the Social Security trust fund that $1.7 trillion.

I’m particularly concerned by comments made earlier this year by Secretary Rice in Turkey in which she stated: (and I quote) “We

should punish Greek Cypriots for going to the voting booth and concluding, rightly in my opinion, that the Annan Plan forced the Greek Cypriots to make far more concessions than Turkey.

I didn’t have to remind the Secretary of State that the isolation of the Turkish Cypriots derives from the ongoing occupation of the northern third of the island by Turkish troops since the Greek Cypriots rejected a United Nations reunification proposal offered by U.N. Secretary General Kofi Annan last year. I re-

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ment should punish Greek Cypriots for going to the voting booth and concluding, rightly in my opinion, that the Annan Plan forced the Greek Cypriots to make far more concessions than Turkey.
Through this particular concern, several of my constituents pointed out that the creation of private accounts is voluntary, and that is true. That is, if the folks think that the market is too risky, they do not have to open that private account, and that is true. Private accounts are 100 percent voluntary.

But what folks have often heard is that the plan also includes the proposal to change the way the benefits are calculated. This element of the so-called price indexing, would help pay for the private accounts and reduce the Social Security shortfall. But at the end of the day, the price indexing would result in a cut of guaranteed benefits for all beneficiaries, regardless of whether they choose to enroll in a private or personal account. It would cut everyone’s.

So under the administration’s plan, the private account is voluntary, but the cut in guaranteed benefits is mandatory.

Here is how price indexing works. Currently, benefits are tied to wages, which rise higher than prices, giving us an increased standard of living each year. Under the administration’s plan, the benefit calculation would be tied to prices and not wages. Under this calculation, Social Security benefits that seniors would receive would replace a smaller portion of their paycheck before retirement. Currently, Social Security benefits make up 42 percent of the average wage earner’s salary. Under price indexing, however, Social Security will only replace 27 percent of wages for retirees in 2060.

The picture is even worse for our children and grandchildren. I am proud to have a granddaughter who was born on February 1 of this year. In 2075 when she is 70 years old, her Social Security benefit will be tied to prices. As there are five drugs total, $231.04 in American dollars. But here in London, $195.95 American; in Athens, $139.15 in the United States. If you take the prices, the differentials, to be diminishing, because what we have seen is the decline in the American dollar of over 20 percent. But that is not really what has been happening. Let us look at one of the others.

Nexium, $12.23 in London, $57 in Athens, but $139 in the United States. Pravacil, $59 in London, $139.15 in the United States. If you take these drugs, Zoloft, Zyrtec, Prevacil, all of them, you add them up for a month’s supply of those five drugs in London, $195.95 American; in Athens, $211.04 in American dollars. But here in United States, those five drugs total $507.96.

Now, we have heard a lot of debate, and my colleague, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. Gene Green), just recently talked about Social Security, what we should or should not do about Social Security. Frankly I think we need to get serious about reforming Social Security, because I think the system is unfair to our kids.

But the system that we have with Medicare and with prescription drugs is unfair to everybody. And while we have a problem coming out at us relative to the cost of Social Security and the generational unfairness that particularly kids going to face, the problem with Medicare is much larger. And unfortunately, in my view, a year ago we passed a bill. We were told that it would cost no more than $400 billion, which is still an enormous amount of money, to provide a prescription drug benefit under Medicare.

Now we are told that the cost of that could be over a trillion dollars over the next 10 years. And that is only part of the bad news.

I think even worse news is that every single penny of that new entitlement cost will have to be paid by our kids, because it will have to be borrowed. What we really need to do, one of my favorite Presidents was President Ronald Reagan, and he said: "Markets are more powerful than armies. We need to use the magic of the marketplace to help bring down the cost of prescription drugs in the United States.

The reason we see these big differences essentially is this: Americans are held captive. And if you have a captive market, there is no question that any free market company is going to use monopolistic practices. The net result is Americans are paying two to three times more for many of the drugs that they have to take to save their lives. This is wrong, and we can do something about it.

Many of my colleagues say, well, shame on the pharmaceutical industry. Well, they did not really make the rules. Now, they are certainly doing all they can to defend these rules that hold Americans captive, but this year Americans will spend over $200 billion on prescription drugs.

We name on us if we do not change the rules so that Americans have access to world-class drugs at world market prices. I am asking all of my colleagues to cosponsor the Pharmaceutical Market Access Act of 2005. We have over 70 sponsors now in the House; we have a growing list of sponsors in the Senate. You can get information on my Website at gil.house.gov.

But really we should be willing to subsidize people in sub-Saharan Africa in terms of the cost of prescription drugs. We would not be required to subsidize the starving Swiss. Please join me in sponsoring the Pharmaceutical Market Access Act of 2005.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. Maloney) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mrs. MALONEY addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

EXCHANGE OF SPECIAL ORDER TIME

Mr. DeFazio. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to claim the time of the gentleman from Oregon?

There was no objection.
SOCIAL SECURITY

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

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Speaker, well, the President was on the road again today with yet another tightly controlled scripted, so-called town hall, before a carefully screened, invitation audience to tout to his plan to privatize Social Security.

Now, that is not unusual; in fact, the scripted town halls are all so similar that they can save the taxpayers a lot of money if he just stayed at Camp David or Crawford, Texas, and they just replayed the recordings of his earlier scripted, rehearsed town halls.

But the President did say today something extraordinary, in Parkersburg, West Virginia, and suggested Congress is being made.

That unrest is still there, but progress is being made. Today we have an elected government in Iraq. It is representing Iraq’s ethnic and religious factions, and they have peacefully reached an agreement to name a Kurd to the Presidency. There are two Vice Presidents; one is a Shiite, the other a Sunni. They have also agreed that the Prime Minister is a Kurd.

The naysayers said that successful elections would be all but impossible. They said that the people did not want democracy, that they did not understand democracy. But on election day, every one of those people on the face of this Earth, saw the long lines, they saw people braving potential terrorist attacks, and in the words of one Iraqi, a Nation was born in front of a watching world. I think that is very true.

They did that. They took those risks in order to vote. The result is a democratic government. And, yes, it is shaky, but it is free, and it is elected, and they are proving the naysayers wrong. They are taking those baby steps towards freedom.

Mr. Speaker, it is clear that many things have changed in Iraq since October of 2003, but, from my observation, one thing that has remained consistent over the years, and that is our military men and women, the Armed Forces. These folks in uniform have not faltered, not for an instant, in their dedication to this mission. They have demonstrated an unparalleled level of commitment toward reshaping the nation, the Middle East, and the terrorist network that runs through that region of the world.

Over the last couple of days, I have spent some time on the telephone calling our families, letting them know how proud of them, how much I appreciate their sacrifice, how much I appreciate the families and the support that they are giving their loved ones in uniform. And, you know, the progress is really remarkable. The men and women in uniform are really remarkable. I had last traveled to Iraq in October 2003, and at that time the coalition forces had removed Saddam Hussein’s regime, and the Coalition Provisional Authority had moved forward, and there was still a lot of unrest on the horizon. That unrest is still there, but progress is being made.

And, you know, this progress is really remarkable. The men and women in uniform are really remarkable. I had last traveled to Iraq in October 2003, and at that time the coalition forces had removed Saddam Hussein’s regime, and the Coalition Provisional Authority had moved forward, and there was still a lot of unrest on the horizon. That unrest is still there, but progress is being made.

Following Iraq, I was able to speak with a small business owner, an Iraqi woman who had traveled to America about a year ago and shadowed me for a day. And she thanks the American military, and because of the freedom in uniform, and talking with them about their impressions of how we are doing in the war on terrorism, talking with them about what they see as their strengths and the weaknesses and what we can be doing better.

And, you know, this progress is really remarkable.
that our men and women in uniform have helped to deliver there on the ground, her Iraqi sisters are now elected officials. Imagine that. A woman in Iraq, many women in Iraq who are holding elected office. It is change. It is a step forward.

While we were in Israel, we talked peace, not just a distant hope for peace generations from now, but of a long-term agreement and soon. This is because of our steady and dedicated commitment to involvement in the Middle East.

In Iraq, we reviewed the Iraqi military training with General Petraeus, who had been the commanding general at Fort Campbell. This American-Iraqi military training is going to help give that nation the protection, the ability to protect from the insurgents who are there every day, growing weaker; but they are there. It will help the Iraqis take responsibility for their security. We have got about 150,000 Iraqis that are trained; and some of our big Tennesseans, the 278th regiment from east Tennessee, they are working hard, and they are helping train many of the Iraqis. In Jordan, we visited with the Iraqi police training facility. We have got about 50,000 Iraqis who are now trained, carrying on the work of the police force in Iraq.

When you are there in Iraq on the ground, you cannot help but notice the green fields and the sense that order is taking place to their daily lives, not only in government but also in business.

The progress made in Iraq is sending shockwaves throughout the Middle East. We have seen the Lebanese people resist the Syrian domination of their government. In Saudi Arabia and Egypt, there is movement. It is slow, but there is movement toward democracy.

None of this would have been possible without our military men and women, and it is that change that is going to destroy terrorism.

Mr. Speaker, I just stand today to commend the men and women in uniform, to say a special thanks to our Tennesseans who are serving, and I know that America joins me in thanking them and their families for their sacrifice, their bravery, and their dedication.

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

There was no objection.

FEDERAL BUDGET DEFICIT

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

Mr. COOPER. Mr. Speaker, the Federal budget deficit is one of the gravest problems that our Nation faces. It is one of the largest it has ever been. It is $412 billion this past year. It is likely to continue at that size for the foreseeable future.

$412 billion is a whole lot of money, but the truth is that the real budget deficit is even higher than that because, due to the Social Security surplus of about $155 billion this last year, that is used by the administration to disguise the true size of the deficit. So that means the true deficit is not $412 billion, even though that is a near record setter. The true deficit this last year was $567 billion.

We have a real problem in America because that budget deficit turns into debt, debt that we have to pay interest on. We have no choice about that because America has never defaulted and will never default on its obligations.

Those interest costs add up. It took the first 204 years of our Nation’s history to get to just the first $1 trillion in debt, 204 years to do that; but now we add another $1 trillion every 2 or 3 years.

Mr. Speaker, we do that because our Nation is simply not paying its bills today. It is too easy to spend money that we do not have, too easy to spend money that we are borrowing increasingly from dangerous countries like China. We are borrowing $1.3 million a minute, over $1 billion a day; and, Mr. Speaker, that adds up to a terrible debt burden for our children and grandchildren.

We have got to do something about that. It is sad but true that it is unlikely that the Congress this year will even have a budget. We passed one in the House of Representatives and the Senate passed one, but the two are so different they are probably irreconcilable.

Guess what, Mr. Speaker, last year we did not have a budget either. So how is our Nation, the greatest nation in the history of the world, going to proceed without a budget, meanwhile running some of the largest deficits in American history, adding, as I said earlier, $1 trillion to our Nation’s debt every 2 or 3 years or two now?

Well, most Americans are not informed about this, and that is an outrage because what the leadership of this House has done is they eliminated the debt ceiling. That used to be a way that the American public could tell when the debt was being increased dramatically, when we bumped up against that debt ceiling. Now there are few, if any, recorded votes on that. No news to report. It just happens automatically.

Mr. Speaker, everybody talks about spending cuts as a way to get out of the debt hole. That is a great idea; but, Mr. Speaker, it is unlikely that a body of 435 in this House and 100 in the Senate is going to come up with spending cuts. We need Presidential leadership, and that has been conspicuously lacking for the last 4 or 5 years.

Mr. Speaker, President Bush is the first President in the United States since James Garfield never to veto a bill. Not one single piece of legislation has President Bush vetoed, the first President since Garfield, who served back in 1881; and poor Garfield was only in office for 6 months before he died. We are now in the 5th year of the Bush Presidency, and he has yet to veto a bill.

To give President Bush credit, he says he really needs the line item veto, the special narrower form of veto that would enable him to cut individual programs out of larger bills. That would be a wonderful thing for the President to have, but the Supreme Court has ruled it is unconstitutional. It would take at least 2 or 3 years to pass a constitutional amendment. Meanwhile, we would have another President.

But what the President has not acknowledged is he has got rescission power which is just about as good as the line item veto power; and guess what, just like the real veto, he has never used the rescission power either.

President Clinton used rescission power 163 times, and he won 111 of those cuts; but President Bush, in his 5 years as President, has never asked for a rescission power. Period.

Well, that is an outrage. So not only are we not seeing Presidential leadership on the veto, we are not seeing Presidential leadership regarding rescission power either.

I think the American people need to ask. We want Presidential leadership and he has provided excellent leadership in a number of areas, but regarding our Federal budget deficit, there has been almost no leadership.

We need to start a clock saying when is the President going to finally veto a bill and try to discipline a Congress that likes to spend money too much? When is the President going to rescind spending and start disciplining Congress? The American people deserve to know the answer.

STANDING BEHIND OUR MEN AND WOMEN IN HARM’S WAY

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

Mr. JONES of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, tonight I would like to read just a few paragraphs from an article written by Mona Charen, who is a well-known journalist here in Washington,
DC, and around this Nation. The title of her article: "Is the Marine Corps P.C.?” PC meaning political correct.

"Second Lieutenant Iario Pantano was making a six-figure income as an energy trader with Goldman Sachs in New York when, World Trade Center was attacked. Pantano was an airman who worked in the Twin Towers and friends among the firefighters who perished trying to save them.

"This Marine veteran had already served his country in the first Gulf War, set aside his career, which also included work in film and television, kissed his wife and two children goodbye, and headed to Quantico, Virginia, for officer training school.”

I continue Ms. Charen’s comments in her article: “A Marine Corps colleague asked, ‘How many guys do you know who would drop 100 grand a year to go sleep in fighting holes in the nasty mud and dust for, what, 25 grand a year?’

"There are a few, and the rest of us owe them more than we can possibly express, which is why it is shocking to learn that Pantano may now be facing murder charges.”

Mr. Speaker, that is why I am on the floor today to read from part of a resolution, H. Res. 167, which I introduced the day before we left for Easter:

“On April 15th, 2004, Second Lieutenant Pantano led a platoon in Mahmudiyah, Iraq, that apprehended two Iraqis who were suspected insurgents.

“Second Lieutenant Pantano ordered the suspected insurgents to be detained, then ordered them to search their own vehicle in the event that it contained explosives.

“The vehicle’s seats were not bolted down, a tactic commonly used by insurgents to retrieve weapons, and nails and bolts were found in the trunk of the vehicle, items commonly found in improvised explosive devices.

“In response to threatening movements by the suspected insurgents, Second Lieutenant Pantano took action in self-defense that resulted in their deaths.

“Accusations that Second Lieutenant Pantano’s actions were something other than self-defense did not surface until almost 2 months after the incident.

“In his Combat Fitness Report dated August 2004, nearly 4 months after the incident, Second Lieutenant Pantano’s superior officers gave the following evaluation of his performance from March through July, 2004.”

I am just going to read a couple of these. Mr. Speaker. One, ‘He is a Marine who leads from the front, always, and balances his aggressive style with true concern for the welfare of his Marines.’

“He was ‘ready for increased responsibility,’ and was a soldier who the Marine Corps should promote and assign to challenging assignments.”

Now, “Therefore be it,” Mr. Speaker, this is close of my resolution, “Second Lieutenant Iario Pantano, United States Marine Corps, was defending the cause of freedom, democracy, and liberty in his actions of April 15, 2004, that resulted in the deaths of two suspected Iraqi insurgents and that subsequently have given rise to certain charges against him.

“The United States Government should dismiss all charges against Second Lieutenant Iario Pantano arising from the actions referred to in paragraph (1).”

I hope my colleagues that may be listening tonight will join me or at least look on our Web site or call our office and ask about this resolution, H. Res. 167. I can also say, Mr. Speaker, that his mother, who I have spoken to three times, who is a wonderful lady, has set up a Web site called www.defendthedefenders.com.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, last Friday I went down to Wilmington, North Carolina, where the American Legion was holding a barbecue and a fish fry to help Lieutenant Pantano with his defense. I have never met such a fine young man in all my entire life. He’s 29 years old, a beautiful wife and two children. I met them and I hope that my colleagues here tonight and those in the office will look at this resolution, H. Res. 167. We need to stand behind him and women who are in harm’s way in Afghanistan and Iraq.

Mr. Speaker, I close by asking the good Lord in heaven to please bless our men and women in uniform and their families, and ask the good Lord in heaven to please bless the United States of America and to help us find peace in this world, and May God please, please bless America.

TRIBUTE TO POPE JOHN PAUL II

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

Mr. BURTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to a man whose life embodied the values of compassion and selflessness. Serving for the past 26 years as the spiritual and emotional beacon of the Catholic Church, John Paul II exhibited charisma, character, and conviction when carrying his divine message to millions of people across the world. He passed away this past Saturday at the age of 84 after a courageous struggle.

I join millions of mourning people across the world in honoring his remarkable life and recognizing his wondrous achievements.

Many great men and women have devoted themselves to a single cause, and to a group of people. Pope John Paul II devoted his efforts to all humanity around the world.

When he was elected Pope on October 16, 1978, he was well aware of the problems occurring not only in the Catholic Church but, throughout the world. Communism had a grip on many areas, including his beloved homeland of Poland.

John Paul II had a social and political vision of what the world should be and dedicated himself to changing the reality that we knew.

He inspired incredible change, leading with unwavering faith and exceptional sincerity. His duty to the church was to be a powerful and his love for mankind was unconditional.

He undertook the goals of sewing the schisms of Christianity, healing the wounds of the Christian-Judeo relationship, and creating a legacy for the world. He was a man of faith that on all faiths, as well as the scholar world.

As a devoted Catholic, I am honored and privileged to recognize such a special and loved person.

□ 2015

He was my inspirational compass and guided my faith through his unyielding dedication to the tenet of integrity and morality.

Mr. Speaker, today I mourn the passing of Pope John Paul II, but salute and express sincere admiration in his unparalleled life and lasting legacy, and I wrote a poem that I would like to dedicate to John Paul II that’s called “The Spirit of Life Is.”

To live is to believe. To see is to believe. To feel is to believe. To respect is to believe. To forgive is to believe. To have hope is to believe. To love is to believe. For if you possess these traits you truly can enter the Kingdom of Heaven, and the spirit of life will be within you. For you truly have touched the life of the world around us in making it a better place for humanity, changing the course of history. Your legacy will live in the lives of those who truly believe.”

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

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

MEDICARE

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

Mr. BURTON of Indiana addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.
doing much with regard to health care? And Medicare, Medicaid, veterans benefits, and other programs that the Federal Government pays for consume a massive amount of the Federal budget. And I want to point out, just to begin with, if we can look at this, that about 45 percent of all mandatory spending, all mandatory spending we spend, is on health care, and about 15 percent of all discretionary spending is spent on health care.

If we look at mandatory spending here, here, we see that the section here which is Medicare is $297 billion, or about 24 percent overall; Social Security disability is in this category here, too, about 6 percent; State Children's Health Insurance Programs, about $5 billion or 4 percent; and Medicaid is $176 billion, or about 14 percent of overall mandatory spending.

So we see that for those seniors and disabled who receive the benefits of Medicare is a large part of the Federal budget. Social Security disability has a history of providing good benefits for our seniors; benefits we are proud of, benefits we are pleased to continue to offer them.

But tonight we are going to talk about a number of things happening in Medicare. Social Security disability has a history of that of those that are staying with Medicare; some will be some positive changes, areas that are growing; some of the new parts that have to do with prescription drug benefits; some some actions on waste, fraud and abuse; some some programs that deal with prevention and new physicals for Medicare; and many, many other parts of this we will be talking about tonight.

The overall purpose here is that as we look at the amount of money we spend and the services that we provide, it is Congress’ responsibility to be constantly reviewing this and saying can we do it better to provide quality health care that is accessible for our seniors. And those who are not seniors yet recognize that about 2.9 percent of wages, half from you and half from your employer, goes to fund Medicare. Thus, every taxpayer is concerned with how this money is spent and what quality is associated with it.

Now, being the first speaker tonight, I want to talk a little bit about one area that I am introducing a bill on to improve Medicare, although it provides a lot of services in many areas of health care. One of those that I believe we need to see some changes in is in mental health coverage.

As a practicing psychologist myself for many years, I recognize that when you integrate the care of mental illness in with other aspects of medical care, it actually is something that reduces the cost of health care and improves health overall.

Let me describe to you now what Medicare does in all this. Currently Medicare beneficiaries pay about a 20 percent copayment for all outpatient health services except for mental health providers, where they have to pay a higher copayment of 50 percent.

According to the National Institutes of Mental Health, nearly 2 million Americans over the age of 65 suffer from depression. The 1999 Surgeon General’s Report on Mental Illness found that 20 percent of Americans 55 and older experience mental disorders that are part of a broad range of conditions, such as anxiety, alcoholism, and various other disorders. As many as one in two residents of nursing facilities are at risk for depression. A June 2002 report, that is the Medicare Payment Advisory Committee that recommends changes to Congress, stated that “Medicare beneficiaries are apparently having difficulty in obtaining needed mental health services. Despite the availability of proven treatments, one recent analysis found that of those beneficiaries over 65 with need of treatment, 63 percent did not receive it.” And it goes on to say, “Beneficiaries face a 50 percent coinsurance for most outpatient mental health services compared with 20 percent for most other outpatient services. Equalizing cost-sharing for outpatient mental health and other outpatient care would reduce the financial barrier to mental health care for beneficiaries with mental disorders and those with other illnesses with a small increase in Medicare spending. This change would also simplify Medicare’s cost-sharing structure.”

Now, here I am talking about the cost of Medicare and talking about something here which on the surface would appear that we are proposing more spending. And oftentimes when proposals come before Congress, they are scored in terms of what the increased spending would be, but not necessarily scored or reviewed in terms of what the savings would come from this.

Let me describe what happens when you have untreated mental illness. Patients suffering from untreated depression, for example, use health care services more often; pay one and a half to two times more for health care costs that they accrue. They also tend to have increased lengths of hospital stays. Untreated depressed parents tend to have decreased adherence to life-style changes needed for health improvement. Depression also complicates the treatment of those with heart disease. And those with increased psychological stress or depression have increased platelet reactivity to thrombosis or blood clotting, which can complicate heart disease.

Now, as a result of this, I have introduced the Medicare Mental Health Co-payment Equity Act to reduce the copayment for mental health services to seniors on Medicare to match the standard 20 percent rate. With such a high amount of seniors afflicted with mental illness, that discriminatory Medicare co-payment rate must part of that is the most conservative estimates suggest that not one penny of it is wasted and that not one penny is only want to defraud the system. When Members of Congress voted for the Medicare Prescription Drug Improvement and Modernization Act last year, we voted in favor of important measures to combat waste, fraud.

Under the MMA, which I know that the gentleman from Pennsylvania supported, the HHS Secretary was directed to conduct a demonstration of recovery audit contractors in at least two States for 3 years to identify under- or overpayments. This demonstration project allows HHS to identify more efficient ways of working with States on Medicare waste. The MMA also opened the durable medical equipment industry to competitive bidding. And why did we do that? To ensure that Medicare, that our taxpayers, get the best prices on equipment that patients use. Additionally, the MMA ended overreimbursements for prescriptions and administering costs by replacing the average wholesale price system with a more accurate and verifiable average sales price system.

More importantly, for those of us who worked in favor of the Medicare Modernization Act, we voted in favor of making health care fraud a crime, a serious crime. We voted in favor of punishing those who defraud this precious program. Instead of just slapping them on the wrist, there will be serious penalties for those caught defrauding our most vulnerable and our elderly seniors, and they should be very strictly punished.

These measures were very important steps, but more are still needed. The most conservative estimates suggest that waste, fraud, and abuse in the Medicare system is somewhere around $33 billion a year. That is billion with
a “B.” Scam artists, however, are using innovative and cunning ways to con Medicare every year. Many use computers to scour the Internet to find holes in Medicare and Medicaid payout systems.

The scam artists register also as providers and then file a slew of claims through the payment system to determine which claims would be automatically approved by Medicare and Medicaid computers. Once these claims are determined, the cons just sit back and they wait for the payments.

Others set up fake medical storefronts. In one case, actually in my home State of Florida, a “provider office” was found to be nothing more than a couple of post office boxes, cell phone, and a beeper. The owner vanished when he caught on that Medicare officials were onto him, but not before he collected $2.1 million in payments. That is real money.

“Today the Heritage Foundation released their study about waste in various Federal agencies, and guess what? They pointed to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid, CMS, because of their paying excessive prices for medical supplies and care. They pointed out that in so many instances they paid thousands, not just hundreds of times but thousands of a percent, more than what the VA pays for the very, very same service.

And my colleagues, I am sure, saw this in today’s Congress Daily. There is a story in here about how the new chairman of the House Committee on Appropriations is settling in, and getting in, and that the staff director of that committee is mandating that they go after agencies. And he said, “The first rule is: There aren’t any good government programs anyplace. They are chock-full of fraud, waste and abuse; frittering away millions in appropriated funds. Believe it, focus on it, find it and report on it.”

Obviously, Congress is getting very serious about waste, fraud and abuse in our system, and every Member of this body, I am sure, are very, very grateful for it.

Protecting Medicare against predators should be a bipartisan issue. The last time I checked, there were no Rs orDs in the word “solution.” Guaranteeing the solvency of Medicare has to be a priority of Congress, and we have to begin by ensuring that every penny going to Medicare is being spent on legitimate Medicare benefits. If both sides of the aisle do not work together to protect Medicare, the legacy of this program diminishes with every penny that is lost.

I look forward to working with the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. MURPHY) and the other Members of Congress who are serious about making sure that the Medicare system is a sound system and one that provides necessary health care for our most vulnerable, our seniors.

Mr. MURPHY. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE), and could the gentlewoman repeat how much waste, fraud and abuse is estimated? I believe it is over $20 billion a year.

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. I do not want to misquote. It is $33 billion. I think that is a much more accurate estimate than what the VA pays for the very, very same services. They pointed to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid computers to scour the Internet to find the scams artists, register also as providers and then file a slew of claims through the payment system to determine which claims would be automatically approved by Medicare and Medicaid computers. Once these claims are determined, the cons just sit back and they wait for the payments.

The gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE) brought forth an area where every senior and their family member can help deal with the spiraling cost of health care.

I have a chart here, and notice how health care costs are spiraling up. Notice the growth in terms of Federal outlays and how much it has climbed over the years. It is quite dramatic. The area of waste, fraud and abuse has grown with it. I would like to advise that one of the messages that we as Members of Congress need to get out to constituents is understand how we can help our constituents find and report waste, fraud and abuse.

Sometimes Medicare fraud is purposefully billing for services never provided, billing Medicare and another insurer for services someone never received. Sometimes, you receive equipment different from what you are billed for, and using another person’s Medicare card to get medical care, supplies or equipment, and billing Medicare for home medical equipment after it has been returned.

I have heard of constituents who have reported these kinds of things, and it is important that we do this as a mechanism to save government money, save taxpayer money, and make sure we do not have the problems with the waste, fraud and abuse that that has been talked about.

And finally, what is incredibly important for Medicare, patient choice. That is patients get to choose who is taking care of them and where they are being treated. Let me just chat a little bit about some of the challenges that we have before us and why we are in the kind of situation we are in.

This chart may look familiar because it is a chart that we have used to demonstrate some of the challenges that our Nation has as it relates to other systems, the Social Security, for example. But the demographic changes that are occurring in our society right now, the aging of our population, that really is the main reason that we have got these challenges within the Medicare system.

As Members see here, today’s workers are providing the moneys for the Medicare system, those individuals who are paying the moneys for the Medicare system, and they need a lot of workers to provide the resources with which to care for our seniors. In 1950, there were 16 workers for every
retiree or every senior. This year, there are 3.3 workers for every senior retiree. In a few number of years, there will be two workers for every retiree.

What that means for Medicare is we have an aging population and fewer resources with which to support the population's health care. I think it is important to appreciate that principle. Remember that principle of highest quality, reasonable cost, and choice for patient, and the demographics of our society, the aging of our population is driving with which of the decisions that we make that may violate some of those principles.

What is going on with the cost of health care? The gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. MURPHY) had a poster up before that talked about and showed the increasing line of money being spent for health care. That will continue of necessity because of the aging of the population.

One of the problems that we have with Medicare, though, is it is an inflexible system. A number of years ago we, the Congress, instituted a program called ARBORS, Resource-Based, Relative-Value System, which means we as a Nation will decide how much money to spend on health care for seniors; and regardless of the amount of money that is needed or regardless of the amount of care that is going to be provided, we are not going to violate that. We are going to have a pool of money and pay for the care needed out of that pool. If there is a lot more care that needs to be provided, we have challenges in our system. Remember, we wanted highest quality care, reasonable cost, and choice for patients.

What we have now is a system that oftentimes is being held together just by the altruism of the individuals involved in providing that care, the doctors and hospitals at home, those individuals who are being asked to do more with less, and oftentimes are being asked to do a whole lot more with a whole lot less.

The system we have worked well when there were a lot of workers. However, now when we have fewer workers in this pay-as-you-go system, it becomes more difficult to hold that system together. It is an inflexible system. It is not able to juggle or change with the changes in our society. I want to use an example of that to talk about a debate that has been going on over the last couple of years about a prescription drug benefit. That is important because we have moved now to a health care system that relies a whole lot more on medications than it did in the past.

My purpose in bringing that issue up is that it took us 40 years to get to a point where we had a system that provided for prescription drug coverage. That is a program, a Medicare program, that is inflexible and does not have the kind of capacity to change with the needs of patients. One of our principles is patient choice. Patients ought to be able to choose who is taking care of them, where they are being cared for, and what kind of care they are receiving. That brings me to the final point I would like to make.

I think as we move through this discussion, it is imperative that we make certain that the highest quality of care that is being delivered at reasonable cost, those principles, also have the principle of patient choice. When I was a practicing physician, I knew that the important things that patients would talk to me about, if they did not tell me what they were, I could not respond adequately to the kinds of needs that they had. That is patient choice. In an inflexible system, in a Medicare system that is inflexible, it is not possible for patients to be able to exercise their choice.

I believe as we go through this discussion and make certain that we retain a Medicare system that will provide the highest quality of care at the most reasonable cost available, but what kind of care choice is what is so incredibly important, as we allow and provide for patients to be able to have the access to the care that they so need.

Some improvements have been discussed. The gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. MURPHY) has talked about a proposal that I think has great merit. I just hope as we go through this discussion that we do not end up in the political name-calling and demagoguery that has been so evident to happen in this town. I want to talk a little bit about that, that we have heard about here. I think if we just stick to the principles of highest quality of care at a reasonable cost and make certain that one of those principles has to be that patients have choice, choice about who is taking care of them, where they are being cared for and the kind of treatment that they are receiving, that we will end up with a program that will be flexible and that will be much more responsive to patients' needs, which is the end is what it is all about.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. MURPHY) for the opportunity to participate in this incredibly important and vital issue that means so much to so many Americans.

Mr. MURPHY. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. PRICE) for his important information about other areas of care. As we continue on this evening, I want to turn to one of our colleagues, the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. JINDAL), who is an expert on Medicare. He wants to talk about the need to address premium cost and recommendations of the National Bipartisan Commission on the Future of Medicare.

Mr. JINDAL. Mr. Speaker, we come together in this body to talk about a very important topic, our Nation's Medicare program. Medicare has served our country's seniors well. However, this is a program that is in serious need of strengthening and improvement.

I was privileged to serve as the executive director of the National Bipartisan Commission on the Future of Medicare. We spent an entire year looking at the Nation's Medicare program, and we heard from dozens of witnesses. We had countless hearings. I can summarize the challenges facing the program in three ways.

First, we have a Medicare program by any measure that is facing a huge financial challenge, a program that is going to go bankrupt, quite frankly, unless we do something differently.

We can measure that as a share of the GDP, we can look at the ratio of workers to retirees, we can look at that as a share of payroll taxes, or we can look at the life of the trust funds. Quite simply, we have got a Medicare program today that goes from about four workers per retiree, it is going to eventually be about two workers per retiree, a trust fund that will not last even long enough for the baby boomers to not only finish retiring, but to finish utilizing their health care services.

So the first challenge facing the Medicare program that we believe we have got a program that is facing solvency challenges. Secondly, we have got a program that, as it is defined today, does not truly cover adequately the health care needs of our Nation's seniors, our parents, our grandparents. We have got a program that covers about half the health care costs of our parents and grandparents. We have got a program that until next year does
not really begin to cover prescription drugs, does not provide an adequate long-term care benefit; a program that charges over a $300 deductible every episode, every time our parents go to the hospital; a program that until recently did not cover many preventive services and still lags behind the private sector in terms of what is considered first-class medical care; a program that has no real meaningful catastrophic stop loss coverage; in other words, a program that looks larger than it is, but it was modeled after. In the private insurance world, we no longer get our physician insurance separate from our hospital coverage. Yet that is exactly what Medicare continues to do today.

So the second challenge facing our program is that it is a program that does not adequately cover the health care needs, does not adequately provide a modern benefits package for our Nation’s seniors. We can see that by the fact that 89 percent of our Nation’s seniors have something other than just plain Medicare fee-for-service alone. Eighty-nine percent have either some kind of wraparound coverage, supplemental coverage, Medicaid, private HMO’s, or something in addition to just plain old vanilla Medicare fee-for-service coverage.

The third challenge facing our program is a program that has not been run all that efficiently. You can look at the comparison of Medicare’s growth rates to the private insurance world, to the other Federal programs that we run, by looking at the billions of dollars, not millions but billions of dollars, we waste every year.

We all have our favorite stories. I know my colleagues have heard from their constituents, and we have heard, about the equipment that Medicare will rent but not purchase even when it would be more cost-effective to buy it. We heard about the time that Medicare would pay for a patient to go to a physician’s office to receive an injectable medication, but would not pay for that same patient to receive those drugs orally. We have heard about Medicare not paying for preventive care, not paying for more cost-effective outpatient-based care. Year after year Congress tries to put a Band-Aid and tries to improve the program and tries to catch up with the latest medical technology, but inevitably we are always a little bit behind what people are getting below the age of 65.

So we have got three challenges being faced by our Medicare program: First, a program that, by any account, faces severe financial challenges; second, a program that does not adequately cover the benefits that our seniors deserve and need; and then finally, third, a program that is not all that efficient compared to other programs.

The good news in all of this is that Medicare has done a remarkably good job taking care of our parents and grandparents. We do not need to throw the Medicare program out. Rather, we need to improve it, strengthen it, and get it ready for this next century, get it ready for the baby boomers that are beginning to enter this program.

How do we do that? I would like my colleagues to remember just two numbers that came up during the Commission’s deliberations and just two numbers that stand out to me in all the hours of testimony that I listened to. The first number is this: The CEO of the Mayo Clinic testified to our Commission that he counted 130,000 pages of rules and regulations. There has been some dispute. Everybody agrees there are tens of thousands of pages of rules and regulations. It does not really matter if you believe it is 130,000, or whether you believe it is 20-, 30-, 40,000. The bottom line is this: Tens of thousands of pages of rules and regulations telling the Mayo Clinic, telling physicians, telling hospitals how they must provide care.

I do not know about you, but to me this demonstrates to whom do we want in control of our health care. I would much rather my physician, my health care provider, working with me to make those decisions. No matter how well-intentioned, I do not want a bureaucrat making my health care decisions for me.

The American Hospital Association talks about the fact they have documented nurses in many hospital settings spend an hour filling out paperwork for every hour they provide care. At the same time, we have a shortage in this country of about 100,000 nursing vacancies, 100,000 vacancies we cannot fill today, and that number is only going to increase, and we are drowning our health care professionals in paperwork.

The second number I ask this body to remember is that we heard from an economist testifying to our Commission basically in the Medicare program that it is not that high that prices are across 3,000 counties. We call them parishes in my home State of Louisiana. But the bottom line is this: 10,000 prices in 3,000 counties. We do not buy anything else in the Federal Government that way. It makes no sense that is how we buy medical services. The problem is sometimes we will be too high, and sometimes we will be too low. We heard so many stories about how this distorts the quality of medical care that we receive. This distorts their access to services.

We have all heard the complaints from physicians about the inequities of the sustainable growth rate reductions they are going to face. We heard about physicians leaving the Medicare practice. We have heard the stories of patients, we heard it in the Medicare Commission, about patients going to the hospital. We had a patient that told us a doctor wanted to perform a procedure on him. He was in the emergency room with a wound on his leg due to a diabetes of a heart attack. Once the physician found out he was in Medicare, the physician said, I don’t need to do that service anymore. It turns out Medicare would not pay for that procedure. Not only that, Medicare would not let him pay for that procedure or his private insurance pay for that procedure. I think most of us, if we were in the hospital room with a bicuspid valve, would want a bureaucrat to make that decision. We would want our physician to make that decision.

That really is the question facing us when it comes to the future of Medicare: Who do we want making our health care decisions? Do we want our physicians working with us, or do we want bureaucrats? It is as simple as that.

The Federal Government runs a different health care program. We run a health care program that has over 300 plans competing to provide coverage. We run a health care program that has had lower inflation rates; a health care system that should be allowed to lower their prices. Why in the world would we not want our parents and our grandparents to be able to lower their premiums? Fortunately we fixed that, but we have got a lot more fixing to do.

We were pleased to try to learn from CMS. I know many of us were, that our seniors, over 90 percent of Medicare beneficiaries next year may have more choices of how they get their health care, may actually have a choice of how they get their health care plans. For those that want to stay in Medicare, they can continue to do that. Nothing has changed. But the good news is more and more of our parents and grandparents are getting more choices.

I know my time is running out, and we are limited in our time tonight, but I think if we remember one thing about the Medicare debate, it is simply this: We must give our parents, we must give our grandparents more choices.

We had a bipartisan Medicare Commission that was chaired by the gentleman from California (Mr. Thomas) of this body, chaired by former Senator Breaux of my home State of Louisiana. We came up with good bipartisan findings contained in the cochairman’s report. The bottom line is this:
If you remember nothing else but all the numbers and all the facts and all the details, Medicare has done a good job. To make sure it continues to do a good job for our parents and grandparents, let us not be scared of giving them the kind of choices they had before they were the age of 65. If we do that simple thing, not only will it be good for them, it will help us balance our budget, and it will slow down that growth by getting rid of some of those inefficiencies.

Mr. MURPHY. I thank the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. GINGREY), who worked in the administration, and I thank my colleagues for the wrap-up in our session tonight, and that is the gentleman from Pennsylvania, my cochairman of his knowledge in Medicare, but his colleagues, Mr. Speaker, the issue of health care. It is dis-

Mr. GINGREY. I thank the gentleman from Pennsylvania, my cochairman on this team, for yielding.

Once again we are bringing to our colleagues, Mr. Speaker, the issue of health care. This is something that we have committed to do, those of us who are in the health care field and interested, as our previous speaker, the gentle-

President, criticizing the Republican leadership, the Republican majority for wanting to make some meaningful changes to a 70-year-old system that needs to be brought into the 21st centu-

But we are hearing from the other side, and I hear this in my district. A lot of times it seems like they encour-

Mr. Speaker, I wanted to talk about that because we never got the opportunity to just go to the doctor and have a physical exam. As I said, it was always if one has got chest pain, if they got a nose bleed, if they have a stroke, then they get covered under Medicare.

But with the modernization program that we passed in December of 2003, when a person turns 65 and first be-

So I am very pleased to be here tonight as part of this hour, this Special Order, with my colleagues, many of whom worked in the administration, to discuss these Special Orders in the evening when I hear the other side in the Social Security debate, as we hear some of these Special Orders in the evening from the other side criticizing the President, criticizing the Republican leadership, the Republican majority for wanting to make some meaningful changes to a 70-year-old system that needs to be brought into the 21st century. Of course, I am talking about So-

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them health care providers, to remind our colleagues on both sides of the aisle what we have already done in regard to trying to fix the Medicare program and in the process, of course, to provide much greater care, a better standard of care. 21st-century medicine, to our seniors, who deserve that and have been waiting really so long for it.

They get that entry-level physical examination so that some of these catastrophic things do not happen to them. And if they choose in the Medicare B part of Medicare to have annual physicals, we get to see some cost-shifting in a program. And certainly the prescription drug part is going to be a big expensive number. I do not know exactly what it is, but what I do know is that the number crunchers, whether it is within the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services or whether it is the Congressional Budget Office or the Office of Management and Budget from the administration that have given us a number, and we heard $400 billion over 10 years and then we heard $520 billion over 10 years, and now we are hearing 750 or 950. I do not know.

But I do know this, that no credit is given for the possibility, the distinct possibility, that because of the prescription drug benefit, because of the initial complete physical when a senior turns 65, because of the multiple screening tests that are now paid for under Medicare on an annual or every-2-year basis, and I am talking about cholesterol screening, I am talking about pap smears for women to detect early cervical cancer or ovarian cancer, I am talking about colon cancer screening. Flexible sigmoid tests or colonoscopies, I am talking about osteoporosis, doing all of these things, bringing Medicare into the 21st century is going to prevent some of these catastrophic, very expensive things from occurring.

So while we are spending a little bit more money on that and maybe a lot more money finally offering a prescription drug part, we are going to save money on hospitalizations. We are going to save money on fewer days in a nursing home. We are going to prevent people from going up with a stroke, and, yes, indeed, maybe being in a vegetative state for 15 or 20 years, and we just talked about that last week in the Congress and know how expensive that kind of care is.

So really what we have done, and I am going to close with this, Mr. Speaker, and yield back to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. Murphy), but what we have done in modernizing Medicare and not ignoring it, as the other side would suggest, is we have done exactly the right thing, we have done the compassionate thing for our seniors, and we have done the cost-effective thing.

And I thank the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. Murphy) for yielding to me tonight during this hour and for our continuing to do these health care initiatives on a regular basis.

Mr. Murphy. Mr. Speaker, reclaiming my time, and in doctor from Georgia for his comments, as well as the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. Price), the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. Ginny Brown-Waite), and the gentlewoman from Louisiana (Mrs. Jindal) for their comments tonight.

And nothing new in that we have discussed tonight as we recognize that Medicare is a program that albeit is expensive in terms of what it costs the Federal Government and taxpayers to pay for it, we believe it is worthwhile to protect and ensure the health and health care of our elderly; but we also have to note here, as even the best of programs can use better care, in this case the best of care, what we want to make sure that Members do on both sides of the aisle is eliminating waste, fraud and abuse, updating the Medicare program to make sure it is providing that high-quality care, recognizing that there have been changes in how health care is provided since then when this program began, and we need to make those things work better.

We need to apply some of the changes that were recommended by the Commission on the Future of Medicare. We need to make sure that care is integrated together with examples of what I presented before, with such things as mental health care integrated with other aspects of care, making sure that we improve the system so that we have electronic prescribing that we would reduce the many medical errors that occur, reduce the about 16 million errors that occur on prescriptions every year that are written in part because we still use an old system of paper and pencil where someone may misspell a word or not able to review it correctly or a physician cannot possibly know all the medications the patient is on, all of those things to be corrected with the major moves that were in the Medicare bill that we voted on a couple of years ago, but will begin to take effect in January of next year.

These are positive changes that I believe will help reduce the thousands of deaths, the millions of errors that occur with prescription drugs, and work for the betterment of health care in America to save lives, to save money, and to improve that.

RENEWABLE FUELS

The Speaker pro tempore (Mr. Fitzpatrick of Pennsylvania). Under the Speaker’s announced policy of January 4, 2005, the gentlewoman from South Dakota (Ms. Herseth) is recognized for 90 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Ms. Herseth. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to engage in a dialogue with my colleagues about the policy choices that we must make in the coming weeks and months to address the energy needs and challenges that our country will face in the years and decades to come.

I believe that renewable fuels must play a critical role in the policy decisions that we in Congress will make this year. I have a strong interest in renewable fuels for several reasons. My home State of South Dakota is a major corn-producing state and a top five ethanol-producing States in the Nation. South Dakota alone has the capacity to produce more than 450 million gallons of clean renewable ethanol every year. This fact, of course, gives me a natural interest in renewable fuel production. That, however, is not the only reason I care about ethanol. And each of us who serves in Congress should care about renewable fuels as well.

Renewable fuels provide benefits to the economy, especially those in economically challenged rural areas. They benefit the environment, and they enhance our national security. For all of these reasons, Congress should care about renewable fuels, and renewable fuels should be a major component in our Nation’s long-term energy policy.

I sought this opportunity to address the House tonight to share with my colleagues important information about renewable fuels and to dispel some of the myths that mislead the way. Ethyl alcohol, or ethanol, is essentially pure grain ethanol that man has been making for centuries by fermenting and distilling simple sugars.

Today, ethanol is a fuel produced from crops such as corn, grain sorghum, wheat, sugar, and other agricultural feedstocks. Most fuel ethanol produced in the United States is derived from corn, and the industry uses a lot of it. The latest figures indicate that each 10 percent of the U.S. corn crop is utilized to produce ethanol. Because ethanol is produced from crops or plants that harness the power of the sun, it is truly a renewable fuel. We have consistently increased our use of corn to produce ethanol every year in the United States. We are doing so because the demand for ethanol is growing and consumers are realizing its value.

The ethanol industry is growing despite the many myths that have confronted at various points in the historical development of ethanol that misrepresent the technological advances and the state of the industry today. Some of this misinformation, or disinformation, has been promoted by opponents of the ethanol industry, and some myths have even been propagated by those in academia.

One of the most persistent ethanol myths refers to its energy balance. This myth suggests that the process used to create a gallon of ethanol consumes more energy than that gallon of ethanol contains. And despite overwhelming and irrefutable evidence to
Like many of you, I was back in my home district over the Easter work period talking to South Dakotans. We are all well aware of what the price of gasoline has done in the past few months and how it affects our constituents. The price of ethanol, however, is largely unchanged and it has not experienced the increases in price that petroleum has.

Today the net cost of ethanol to refiners is below the average wholesale price of gasoline in the United States. This means that blending ethanol into the gasoline supply actually reduces the cost of gasoline by displacing high-octane petroleum components. In fact, earlier today I checked on the gas prices in my hometown of Brookings, South Dakota. Premium gasoline at the BP gas station along Interstate 29 in Brookings is selling for $2.45 a gallon. Regular gas is going for $2.35. By contrast, E85, which is a blend of 85 percent ethanol and 15 percent gasoline, is selling for $1.88, 57 cents per gallon cheaper than premium petroleum.

American auto companies are beginning to recognize the value of ethanol as well. General Motors recently proposed a hydrogen crossover vehicle to the Governor of South Dakota as part of a campaign to promote ethanol and E85-capable vehicles. This is part of a campaign by GM and the Governor’s Ethanol Coalition designed to increase ethanol sales and use in more flexible fuel vehicles and to promote the increased use of E85 as a renewable alternative transportation fuel.

U.S. ethanol plants have produced record amounts of ethanol over the last 6 years to meet the increased demand. Without ethanol our country would be even more reliant on foreign imports of oil, and the pain at the pump would be much more severe.

In the end the ethanol industry is not resting. A recent April 2005 report by the National Laboratory, a U.S. Department of Energy laboratory operated by the University of Chicago, notes that ethanol plants also have greatly advanced in recent years. The industry itself has developed advanced enzymes that break down the starches in corn much more efficiently than in the past. Ethanol plants now employ molecular sieves that remove moisture from ethanol much more efficiently than old methods. They also utilize efficient natural gas burners to fuel the fermentation process.

One of the big reasons for these developments has significantly improved the efficiency of both corn and ethanol production and the net energy balance of the process. This efficiency is confirmed by a 2004 analysis completed by the U.S. Department of Energy and the National Laboratory, a U.S. Department of Energy laboratory operated by the University of Chicago.

These entities analyzed ethanol’s entire production cycle and concluded that ethanol yields 167 percent of the fossil energy that is used to grow, harvest and refine the grain and transport the ethanol to gasoline terminals for distribution. Ethanol can also be produced from cellulose feedstocks, such as rice straw, corn stover and sugarcane residue. As we improve the technology necessary to utilize these feedstocks, ethanol will achieve an even more favorable net energy balance.

Some have, unfortunately, propagated the myth that ethanol increases the cost of gasoline. But when you examine the facts, you see that the exact opposite is true. Ethanol expands U.S. fuel supplies and can compete with fossil fuels in the marketplace, and reduces the overall gasoline prices paid by the driving public.

As you can see by the next map, ethanol production facilities today are located in many regions of the country, but the bulk of ethanol production is located in the Midwest and the Great Plains, and the Midwest and the Great Plains constitute a region of the country that has faced many economic challenges in recent years.

It is important to note that many of these facilities have been funded or are owned by local farmers, who use them to increase the value of their corn and profit from the sale of the ethanol and allow them to get a greater percentage of the processing part of the chain of production, rather than just the cost of the commodity, of the corn, that is brought to the facilities.

As I mentioned, increased ethanol use and the corresponding increase in the localized demand for corn raises the prices that family farmers receive for their crop. This in turn lowers Federal farm program costs and saves taxpayers money.

In 2004, USDA estimated that ethanol production reduced farm program costs by $3.2 billion. The combination of spending for ethanol plant production and capital spending for new plants under construction added more than $25.1 billion to gross output in the United States economy in 2004.

As you can see from the following chart, we are utilizing an ever-increasing amount of corn to produce ethanol in this country. This increasing amount of corn utilization also reflects an increase in the percentage of corn going to ethanol production, as the following chart demonstrates.

Rather than spending billions of dollars and unleashing potentially unstable foreign countries around the world, we should be promoting the increased use of this home-grown fuel source that benefits farmers, families and small communities across the United States, and creating new jobs in the Midwest, the economic impact, as earlier charts have shown, is evident.

Ethanol is one of the best tools we have to combat pollution caused by motor vehicle emissions. Ethanol contains 35 percent oxygen. Adding oxygen to fuel greatly enhances its combustion, which in turn reduces harmful tailpipe emissions.

Adding ethanol also displaces high toxic gasoline components, such as benzene, a known carcinogen. Ethanol is nontoxic, water-soluble and quickly biodegradable. It will not cause the groundwater pollution problems that have been linked to MTBEs.

Ethanol reduces particulate emissions, especially fine particulates that pose health risks to susceptible populations, including children, seniors and those with respiratory ailments.

Importantly, ethanol is a renewable fuel. The ethanol production process represents a carbon cycle, where plants absorb carbon dioxide during growth, recycling the carbon released during fuel combustion. The use of ethanol-blended fuels reduces greenhouse gas emissions by 12 percent and is equivalent to removing conventional gasoline according to the Argonne National Laboratory. In fact, Argonne states that ethanol use in the United States in 2004 reduced greenhouse gas emissions by more than 7 million tons, equivalent to removing the annual emissions of more than 1 million automobiles from the road.

Ethanol is widely used in Federal clean fuel programs required by the Clean Air Act, including winter oxygenated fuels and reformulated gasoline, or RFG programs, in cities that exceed public health standards for carbon monoxide and ozone pollution. The American Lung Association of Metropolitan Chicago credits ethanol-blended RFG with reducing smog-forming emissions by an amazing 25 percent since 1990.

It should be noted that when ethanol is blended with gasoline, it slightly raises the volatility of the fuel, which can lead to increased evaporation for certain low-income and elderly drivers in warmer weather. But as is often the case, that is only half of the story. Blending ethanol and gasoline also dramatically reduces carbon monoxide tailpipe emissions. According to the National Research Council, carbon monoxide emissions are responsible for as much as 20 percent of smog formation.

Additionally, ethanol-blended fuels reduce the tailpipe emissions of volatile organic compounds which also can pollute the atmosphere. Thus, the use of ethanol plays an important role in smog reduction, and on balance is considerably friendlier to the environment than petroleum.

A recent study found that fuel blended with just 10 percent ethanol greatly reduces vehicle emissions. The use of E-10 results in a 50 percent reduction in tailpipe fine particulate matter emissions, up to a 50 percent reduction in carbon monoxide emissions, a 13 percent reduction in the amount of toxins emitted, and a 21 percent reduction in the potency of these toxins. Because of its demonstrated benefits to our water and air quality in this country, Congress should continue to promote the increased use of clean-burning ethanol as part of a broad national energy policy.

Ethanol also can provide significant benefits in the area of energy security. Over the past several years, we have become increasingly dependent on imported petroleum to meet our energy needs. The U.S. imports about two-thirds of its oil, and some experts predict our dependence upon foreign crude oil could climb to 70 percent in the years ahead. If this oil will come from the Middle East. Fears of additional terrorist attacks have added a risk premium to world oil prices. At the same time, developing nations such as China and India have increased their demand for oil. As a result, world oil prices are on the rise.

Just last week a study released by investment bank Goldman Sachs declared that markets have entered what they describe as a "super Judith" that could raise 1970s-style price surges that drive oil prices as high as $105 a barrel. If this occurs, it will have an even more devastating impact on farmers and ranchers, small business owners, working families, commuters, transportation companies and airlines, and the overall impacts on the national economy will worsen.

As a domestic renewable source of energy, ethanol can reduce our dependence on foreign oil and increase the United States' ability to control its own security and economic future by increasing the availability of domestic fuel supplies.

As I just noted, the U.S. imports 64 percent of its petroleum needs today. By 2025, the Energy Information Administration predicts the U.S. will import 77 percent of its petroleum.

World demand for oil will continue to increase, particularly in response to the growing economies in China, India and Brazil. If, as predicted, U.S. domestic oil production fails to keep pace, petroleum could become so expensive that we will be forced to look for other sources of energy and new technologies to deal with these challenges.

Renewable fuels such as ethanol and biodiesel can be part of meeting these goals. They are grown here at home and are virtually infinite renewable sources. Increasing production here at home, especially from renewable sources, will make us a safer and more secure Nation.

Creating a viable renewable fuels industry in the United States must be a central component of our comprehensive national energy policy. The ethanol industry has shown that it is capable of providing a significant contribution to our Nation’s energy needs. It is incumbent upon Congress to implement policies that promote the development and production of ethanol and other renewable fuels.

The ethanol industry is growing, as I have mentioned, to meet the demands of the marketplace for clean renewable fuels. And as this table shows, many States have responded to that call, as other States look to ethanol production as an increasing component of economic development. This table indicates current ethanol production capability and facilities and also reflects those currently under construction, and the overall amount of production capacity that the ethanol can withstand with current facilities and those that are under construction today.

So in addition to the over 3.6 billion gallons of current production capacity,
existing ethanol plants undergoing expansion and the 16 new plants under construction will add an additional nearly 750 million gallons of production capacity.

This continued expansion in ethanol production, in conjunction with the growing demand for alternatives to MTBE, the Federal ethanol program is providing economic stimulus to rural America, adding jobs, reducing the United States dependence on imported energy, rebalancing the trade in- balance, and lowering auto emissions in our Nation’s cities. All of these benefits accrue while consumers realize lower fuel prices at the pump for gasoline blended with ethanol.

In the coming weeks, this body will be debating and hopefully passing a comprehensive energy policy that will address the long-term energy needs of the country. Because of the obvious and proven benefits that domestically produced ethanol and biodiesel provide, our policy should continue to encourage the increased production of renewable fuels across the country.

Although the energy bill that the House passed last year did contain a renewable fuels standard, it was not adequate to meet the needs of the growing industry and adequately incentivize renewable fuels production. For that reason, in the upcoming days, I will be joining with a bipartisan group of colleagues in introducing the Fuels Security Act of 2005. This legislation, identical to a bill introduced in the Senate a few weeks ago, recognizes the benefits of ethanol and biodiesel and would promote their production in a realistic and economically viable way. It would provide benefits to rural America, benefits to our national energy security, and benefits to the environment without disrupting fuel supplies or increasing the cost of motor vehicle fuel.

Specifically, our bill will accomplish several things. It sets forth a phase-in for renewable fuel volumes over 7 years, beginning with a 4 billion gallon requirement in 2006 and ending with 8 billion gallons in 2012. It contains an escalation clause that would allow for increases in the renewable fuels requirement beyond 2012. It creates a credit program for refiners, blenders, or importers who exceed minimum obligations, thus allowing them to trade these credits with other refiners and minimize potential disruptions.

Importantly, our approach does this in a way that would not enable excess credits to overhang the market and enable refiners to stymie the goals of the renewable fuels standard. It promotes the production of non-corn ethanol by crediting 1 gallon of cellulose biomass ethanol to be equal to 2.5 gallons of corn-derived ethanol. It authorizes the EPA, in consultation with the Secretary of Agriculture and the Secretary of Energy, to evaluate the renewable fuel supply for any State that would experience severe economic or environmental harm from the mandate, or where there is inadequate domestic supply to meet the requirement. And it eliminates the 2 percent oxygenate requirement for reformulated gasoline under the Clean Air Act and ensures that fuel performance standards and toxic emissions limits under the Clean Air Act continue to be met.

Mr. Speaker, a reasonable approach to promoting these fuels, and it will provide benefits to our country for years to come.

I now want to turn time over to my distinguished colleague, the gentleman from the State of Nebraska, who serves with me on the Committee on Agriculture who has been a leading proponent of ethanol production in the State of Nebraska and throughout the Great Plains to the benefit of the country. So I yield to the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. OSBORNE).

Mr. OSBORNE. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman. She has done an excellent job of describing some of the benefits of the ethanol industry. I wish to join my colleagues from Iowa (Mr. KING) and others in introducing the Fuels Security Act, which will be introduced in the House next week.

Mr. Speaker, in 2004, the United States produced 3.6 billion gallons of ethanol. A couple, 3 years ago, that would have been an unheard of amount. At that time we were producing less than 2 billion gallons of ethanol per year. Yet two years, 1 year later, in 2005, that 3.6 billion gallon number went to 4.5 billion gallons. So the ethanol industry is really ramping up. There are a lot of new ethanol plants out there and a tremendous amount of product that is being produced. Roughly one-third of the fuels in the United States today are blended with ethanol. So we have gone from maybe 5 or 10 percent, roughly 30 percent, a tremendous increase.

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There are currently 20 States that are now producing ethanol. At one time, it was assumed that ethanol was the product of only two or three or four corn-producing States. Now we see eth- anol plants in places like California, Kentucky, and other States around the country. Eventually, I would hazard a guess that probably all 50 States at some point will produce ethanol.

The thing that we need to realize is that ethanol can be produced from almost any type of biomass. It does not have to be corn; it does not have to be sorghum. It can be switch grass, in some cases it can be garbage, it can be a lot of things that we are trying to get rid of. So we think that the industry is something that can definitely be a tremendous benefit to the Nation as time goes on.

As the gentlewoman from South Dakota mentioned, the ethanol industry significantly reduces the price of gasoline. I think almost every American today feels the impact of high fuel prices. So based on $1.50 a gallon, and almost all of us realize that it is more like $2.22, but if it is based on $2 per gallon, if you took the ethanol indus-

try out of the picture, gasoline would go up 29 cents. So a $2 gallon of gas would be $2.29. So if you are paying $2.20 in your home community, that means that if ethanol went away, you would be paying roughly $2.51, $2.52 a gallon. And that would produce a benefit for everyone; whether you burn ethanol in your tank or not, it is important to the economy.

As was mentioned earlier, refiners would have to import additional 217,000 barrels of high-grade fuel per day if ethanol disappeared. That would be very, very expensive. As my colleagues know, just normal petroleum is $56, $57 a barrel, and high-grade would be even higher than that. So certainly, imports of petroleum are a major drag on our economy. Probably the number one thing holding our economy back is the amount of money that we are spending on petroleum from other nations. It certainly provides economic stimulus to rural America, providing economic stimulus to rural America, benefits to our national energy security, and benefits to the environment without disrupting fuel supplies or increasing the cost of motor vehicle fuel.

As was mentioned earlier, refiners would have to import additional 217,000 barrels of high-grade fuel per day if ethanol disappeared. That would be very, very expensive. As my colleagues know, just normal petroleum is $56, $57 a barrel, and high-grade would be even higher than that. So certainly, imports of petroleum are a major drag on our economy. Probably the number one thing holding our economy back is the amount of money that we are spending on petroleum from other nations. It certainly provides economic stimulus to rural America, providing economic stimulus to rural America, benefits to our national energy security, and benefits to the environment without disrupting fuel supplies or increasing the cost of motor vehicle fuel.
At the outset, many people said ethanol will never be able to produce enough gallons to fill that void, but there has been a ripple. We have found that ethanol has been transported to California, to New York, other places where it was assumed that it could never be adequate to fill the demand, and we have seen that supply filled very adequately.

As was mentioned, the legislation we are proposing removes the 2 percent oxygenate requirement, which has been very burdensome in some areas, and we think that that flexibility will be very helpful. The economy, of course, benefits. We would assume that something like 150,000 new jobs will be added each year because of the ethanol industry; and over the course of this bill, between 2005 and 2012, roughly 243,000 stations will be added. It will add roughly $200 billion to the gross domestic product between 2004 and 2012, and the biggest thing that I see right now as far as trade is the thing that is causing a huge trade deficit is exactly our imports of petroleum products.

So the ethanol industry reduces that trade deficit by about $5 billion a year and between 2004 and 2012, it will cut that trade deficit about $64 billion. So that is a huge impact on our economy.

So we are doing better with ethanol. But we can do better yet, because Brazil currently mandates 25 percent of their gasoline come from ethanol. Of course, Brazil also is a major exporter to other countries of ethanol. As was mentioned earlier, we currently, I think in Nebraska, which I represent, a big part of that State, we have 5 E-85 stations which are stations that pump 85 percent ethanol. And those gallons are roughly 40 to 50 percent, or 40 to 50 cents cheaper per gallon than standard gasoline. As time goes on, we are going to see more and more of this occurring.

The other thing that I might mention is that the ethanol industry has a by-product; that is ethanol, you are producing usually feed for animals from the by-product, but the thing that many people do not realize is the spinoffs from the ethanol industry are going to be huge. Some of the by-products that are going to have, say, glycerin, which is a muscle-building substance which is safe, can be used, can be made from some of the residue. Biodegradable plastic in the wet milling plants are being created. So I think as time goes on, biotechnology is going to be important, and we will see a huge benefit from the overall ethanol industry.

I might also mention that biodiesel is going to be a major part of the legislation that we are introducing. And, of course, that usually uses soybeans in production. But biodiesel is going to make fuel cheaper, more efficient, and will cause much less wear and tear on diesel engines. So we think these things are all very important.

I am going to now turn to just a couple of visuals. As was mentioned earlier, one thing that so often people do not understand about ethanol is the assumption that it takes a lot of energy to produce ethanol. But what we see here is that for every unit of energy that goes into the manufacture of ethanol, you get 1.4 units of energy out. And so what that means is that in order to run a tractor to plant the crop, to run a combine to harvest the crop, to run a machine to make the ethanol, if you are going to pump some water out of the ground to irrigate, these are all of those energy costs which are usually petroleum fuels, which we would have to do with gasoline, or diesel or propane or whatever. So you get a net gain of four-tenths of a Btu. And in contrast, if you look at a gallon of gasoline, for every unit of energy that you use, you use 1 Btu, you get eight-tenths of a Btu back after you have processed and refined the gasoline. So you lose energy. It is a net loss instead of a net gain.

If it is MTBE that you are after, you get actually only .67 Btu back from 1 Btu of energy. So the reason for that, again is what was mentioned earlier, is that here we are harnessing the sun, it is renewable fuel, and so that gain that you get is from solar energy that is converted into fuel. And we think that is an interesting thing, it is an economy, and it certainly benefits the environment as well.

Just a few other facts and I will point out here before I yield back. The ethanol energy will add roughly $51 billion to farm economy, this is something that we think is very, very important.

We mentioned that it will reduce government farm payments. Many people in urban areas do not like to see the price supports. Well, what has happened here is because the ethanol industry raises the cost of corn, the price of corn, by 25 to 50 cents a bushel, that means that as those prices get higher, there is less farm payments, because you do not have to make up the loan deficiency payments. So as a result there is the benefit of about $5.9 billion in less tax dollars in the farm bill over the course of 10 years.

We mentioned that it reduces the trade deficit by roughly $34 billion, and that is over a period of time, and significantly reduces air pollution. As we mentioned, 7 million tons of greenhouse gases would be reduced each year. So some of this is a little redundant, but it does not hurt to repeat it.

I am sure that Mr. King will say a few of these things over. But we feel that we have a good piece of legislation here. And I would like to thank the gentleman for being part of this, for hosting this this evening, and for her part in introducing the legislation.

Mr. King also has been certainly a very strong proponent of renewable fuels, and so we hope to convince enough of our colleagues, many of whom are from urban areas, and many of whom have been imbued with the idea that ethanol is sort of a giveaway to the rural States, that this really is a win-win, this is something that is good for all of us, and it is certainly good for the country.

Ms. Herseth. Mr. Speaker, I wanted to thank the gentleman from Nebraska for sharing his insights as it relates to the State. Nebraska is an interesting State today, its capacity to meet our national energy needs, particularly in pointing out not only the use and the importance of the byproducts generated from ethanol production, and again, we mentioned specific national legislation we intend to introduce affects biodiesel production as well, and encouraging our colleagues from urban areas to take a renewed look at ethanol.

I know would like to yield as much as 18 minutes or as much as he would like to consume to the gentleman from Iowa (Mr. King), who clearly has been a leading advocate as well as introduced other important legislation in this Congress and in prior terms important to renewable energy and to ethanol.

Mr. King of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlelady from South Dakota especially for asking for this floor time tonight and bringing us together to talk about this important issue of ethanol.

And while I have the opportunity to say a few words here, while my esteemed colleague from Nebraska is in the Chamber this evening, I wanted to take the opportunity to point out that one of the byproducts of biodiesel is a glycerin product, and the closest thing I can identify on the market is Cornhusker’s hand lotion. We will have millions of gallons of that as we produce our biodiesel, and I would be looking for some new markets, because I am not sure that there are enough hands to consume all of that Cornhusker’s lotion.

But I think that expresses some of the bipartisan nature that we have in this. It is a regional issue very much as well. Us in the Corn Belt have led on renewable fuels, and the ethanol industry had to go through a lot of growing pains to establish an industry. And I would like to thank the individual, and he is in the Iowa Senate, his name is State Senator Thurman Gaskill. It was his birthday yesterday; he turned 70 years
old. He is the man that actually pumped the first gallon of ethanol in this country. And it was a unique circumstance to be there to eat a treat, to celebrate his birthday, and shake the hand that pumped that first gallon of ethanol in the United States of America. It is a hardy and long, hard slog to get here, where with the industry in ethanol. They have blazed the trail for biodiesel.

As I have watched this come together, I watched the way those in the industry have this vision that said we can take this corn product, and we can turn it into a fuel product that is clean, and it is safe, and it is kind to our air and our water, and it is kind to our engines. And as I listened to many of the stories that come out when people were concerned about the impact on their motors, and there was some old motors that had rubber products in there that did break down with ethanol, that is essentially a thing of the past. And those objections and complaints pretty much drifted past the wayside.

But I have some things that I would like to go through to address some of this, and as the coach said, most has been said. I will probably say a few over again. But it does pay to repeat some of them.

In the past 20 years, Iowa has led the biofuels industry to become one of the most important players in the search for renewable, home-grown energy resources. And if I described the district that I represent, it is roughly the western third of Iowa. And if you would draw a line there from, say, go to the South Dakota-Iowa border, and then go through counties over to the east, and from there on that Minnesota border draw a line straight down to Missouri, that roughly western third of Iowa would get most of the district that I represent.

In that district there are 32 counties, and those 32 counties, among them are six operating, functional ethanol plants, most of them with 40-million-gallon-a-year annual capacity or above. Some have grown up more than that.

And in addition to that, we have at least one other ethanol plant that is under construction in Denison, Iowa, which is right within about 2 miles of where I grew up. That plant will be up—be up and running on fairly soon. We have three others that are on the drawing board.

And while I have this opportunity to say so, I think that the plant in Denison is unique in its character. It sits just down the river a little ways from the original Iowa Beef Packer's plant that is still up and running, and that was built in 1961. And there they will be producing ethanol. They will be able to ship it by rail or by truck. There is already a grain facility there that they used to ship to store grain to with large storage capacity. And the unique nature of this plant is it has gas, has water, it has rail. It has an airport there within just a little over a mile of the ethanol plant.

I pointed out on the day that we did the ground-breaking ceremony to the amazing energy plant there in Denison, as I looked at the board of directors all sitting there I explained to them that they had made a good business decision, and I was not sure that they realized how good that business decision actually was, because you have the corn there, and you have the technology that I have just described. It is all of the components that you would want for an ideal location as well as plenty of corn around the region, but additionally they are going to be producing a dry distiller's grain that some used to think was a byproduct, but certainly it is a very, very valuable animal feed product. And I advised them that they didn't need to load that dry distiller's grain out on trucks and haul it off and market it somewhere to some of the other feeders. I suggested that they just set up an auger and put in a row of feed bunks, and line those bunks up on up river, and within about a half a mile they could bring those calves in, and they could start feeding those preconditioned calves right there. I said if you could just kind of walk sideways a little ways, and the more they gained, the further away they would get from the plant. And eventually they would fatten out at about 1,200 pounds, and they would ship it across the road right into the beef plant. The best place in the world that you can put an ethanol plant.

And I would add, though, that when you go into those plants that are up and running, and the efficiency is there, the cleanliness, the state-of-the-art technology, that art technology that used to belong, that technology that used to belong in the hands of ADM and Cargill, and they certainly have the technology, but it is being developed by good engineering companies in the Midwest, companies that are working with farmers and producers and keeping that capital and invest it back into the hands of the people that have to make a living off of the land.

But the efficiency that is there, as the energy efficiency, and it used to be the argument made that we would burn more energy producing ethanol than we would save, and our equation went the other way a long time ago. And we are up to about 2½ gallons of ethanol out of every bushel of corn, and then take the dry distiller's grain, and then ship that out and feed that to livestock without really a net loss in that feed value.

It is really something to see when you see a line-up of trucks coming into an up-and-running ethanol plant, and they are coming in dumping grain, and they dump that grain in the pit, it goes up, and it goes on up to be produced into ethanol and there are other trucks lined up in the other lane loading out dry distiller's grain, corn coming in, turned into ethanol, ethanol out on the rail, dried distiller’s grain going out sitting right beside it, some coming in with corn, others hauling dried distiller’s grain out. It is efficient. It is almost the perfect symbiotic relationship of a corn producer to see that kind of productivity.

And so there in the district, the day that I went up to do the ground-breaking ceremony in Sioux County at the Little Sioux Corn Processors, it was a chilly day, and we went up there and turned over a spade of dirt, and we celebrated the beginning of a new value-added operation up there.

And when I left I drove south, down through Buffalo Ridge. And there, in Buena Vista County, there were, at that time, there were 239 wind chargers standing there on the ridge. Today there are at least 359 in that same region. And then just a little further south, there is the ethanol plant at Galva. And as the crow flies, I believe it is about 20 miles to two ethanol plants, 359 wind chargers.

We have become, in western Iowa and in much of the Corn Belt, an energy export center, something that was not conceived of 20 years ago, not visualized 7 years ago, it could not be a reality. And, in fact, in the district that I represent, those 32 counties, those six up-and-running plants, the one more under construction, and it looks like three more likely can go, we will be, within 2 years, to that position where we can say we have built all of the ethanol production that we have the corn to supply, another astonishing accomplishment.

And as I watch the biodiesel come behind this, the biodiesel that has looked at the trail that is blazed by the ethanol producers, those people like Thurman Gaskill that pumped that first gallon of ethanol, and they see that pattern, that path that has been set by ethanol and because that, biodiesel is stepping in that path and they are following it.

And, in fact, here just a few weeks ago, I had the privilege to be at the kick-off ceremony for the fund-raising drive to build the biodiesel plant at Wall Lake, Iowa, and that happens to be about 8 or 9 miles from where I live as the crow flies. And there were maybe 100 to 150 people, and I thought they all came to have a little lunch and hear a presentation. And I was asked to give a speech, and I said I known how much investors were sitting in the room ready to invest in the capital fund drive, I would have shortened my speech up and gotten out of the way.

They began their capital fund drive that day with a significant response, and in 9 days raised the capital necessary to get the biodiesel plant off the ground and get it rolling. And it will be producing biodiesel out of soybeans and out of animal fat. And that is a byproduct that can be put to better use.

So the biodiesel, remember, has a lot of versatility in it as well. We all know
that America can no longer afford to depend on oil that flows from unstable sources and unreliable partners. Oil has reached almost $60 a barrel, and with world demand for oil increasing at an explosive rate, it is likely we may never see low oil prices again.

Clearly, this Nation is too dependent on foreign sources of oil, and even a brief rundown of the facts is a sobering exercise.

Two-thirds of the world’s known oil reserves are located in the volatile and increasingly violent Middle East, while America’s domestic oil reserves have declined 20 percent over the past 15 years. American taxpayers today spend more than $50 billion a year just to protect Middle Eastern oil supplies. This is the cost of our energy, too.

Today, the U.S. is importing more than 62 percent of its oil, and that number is expected to hit 77 percent in the next 20 years. Yet there has not been a major new refinery built in the U.S. since the Bicentennial.

So, recently, the Renewable Fuels Association announced that January’s ethanol production set an all-time record high in production. U.S. fuel ethanol reached 320 million gallons in the month of January. The previous high was 312 million, just the month before in December.

U.S. ethanol industry set an all-time monthly production record this last January now of 241,000 barrels a day, and that is an astonishing amount of production. We have a long ways to go before we get our production up to the point where we can meet the demand in this country, not just at the 10 percent rate or the 30 percent rate.

As the gentlewoman from South Dakota (Ms. HERSETH) pointed out, we have a market out there for E-85, and E-85 uses a lot more renewable fuel; and it takes a lot more pressure off our imported oils from overseas. It is a lot better for our environment, for our air and our water; and it is something that has been my life’s work in soil conservation work, water quality and air quality in preserving our resources. This is something that is good for all of us. It is good for all Americans.

It is one of those issues that when you sit back and look at it, it looks good, and you hear some criticism, you find the answers to that and it looks better. Each time you turn this ethanol and biodiesel, the renewable fuels package around, you can see it doing more and more for us.

By the way, the balance of trade, we watched our balance of trade, that deficit number get larger in the red over the last several years. A year ago, we were looking at a minus $503 billion of balance of trade, red ink. That is how much we purchased overseas greater than the amount we exported.

Last February 10, we got our new numbers for the balance of trade. It is now a minus $617.7 billion of more goods that we imported than we exported.

But the ethanol industry, the renewable fuels industry, but ethanol itself will change that balance of trade to the tune of $5 billion that will reduce the amount of foreign oil that we will have to purchase.

So this fits in very well with our economics. It fits in very well with our taxes. It fits in very well with our air and our water and our environment. It is something that is good for rural America, good for the Corn Belt, and good for the cities, especially for their air quality. It is a replacement for MTBEs.

That’s something I wish we had done a long time ago. It would save this Congress a lot of grief that we will be facing in how to deal with the MTBE issues.

It is time to move forward and solve this problem. I ask for support on this bill. Well, I will bring it out here next week, and I am glad to be a part of it. It is something I have a lot of energy and passion for.

I thank the gentlewoman from South Dakota for her efforts.

Ms. HERSETH, Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Iowa (Mr. KING) very much for sharing his perspectives based on historical development of the industry, the challenges that we faced in the past and clearly the opportunities that we need in the future to utilize ethanol and other renewable fuels as part of a national energy policy. I appreciate as well his thoughtful insights as it relates to the investment in rural America, the impact in a positive way in rural communities, how rural America has stepped up as well to provide capital for investment in the technologies that are necessary to begin and expand and construct the ethanol facilities.

Also, the points made about the potential impact, the positive impact that ethanol production and increasingly utilizing renewable energies and our national energy policy and increasing the blend that can have on our trade balance, as well as clearly the positive environmental impact of ethanol and renewable energy.

So I want to thank again both my distinguished colleague, the gentleman from Iowa (Mr. KING), as well as the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. OSBORNE), for their prior work and their commitment to ensuring that renewable energy is a core component of our national energy policy, demonstrating not only the regional support but the bipartisan support for the legislation that we are introducing.

Renewable fuels such as ethanol already constitute, as we have shown, a significant portion of our Nation’s energy portfolio. They reduce the cost of petroleum and are home grown, clean, efficient, and economically beneficial to rural America.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues not to believe the myths and misinformation of the past, and to fairly evaluate or reevaluate the role of ethanol and other renewable fuels as a core component of our national energy policy.

I firmly believe that Congress must enact policies that will facilitate the positive impact of the renewable fuels industry because it will, in turn, benefit the entire country.

We will be introducing this legislation in the coming days, and I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this important initiative, to join their colleagues such as the gentleman from Iowa (Mr. KING) and the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. OSBORNE) and a number of others who will introduce this legislation.

30-SOMETHING WORKING GROUP

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. FRUITION of Pennsylvania). Under the Speaker’s announced policy of January 4, 2005, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. RYAN) is recognized for 60 minutes.

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the opportunity to be here. I have a slight cold so please forgive me, but we are back with the 30-something Hour, and I will be joined by my two colleagues from Florida here in a few minutes.

We want to continue this debate that we have been having in the United States over the past several months, a debate that the President has initiated in saying after the campaign that he wanted to have a national discussion in regards to the issue of Social Security and the Social Security solvency and where Social Security is going to be in the next few years and the kind of changes that we have to make in the country in order to deal with it.

Those of us on this side, and I think many on the other side, have very many concerns about this because Social Security, quite frankly, has been one of the most successfully administered Federal Government programs in the history of the United States of America.

We have talked over the past few months on how Social Security runs with only a 1 percent administrative cost. So there are a lot of government programs I think we all agree in this Chamber and across the country that are inefficient, that are ineffective, that maybe do not work, that maybe take too much money without getting the kind of results that we ultimately want.

Social Security is not one of those programs. Social Security has been an enormous success, and I think what is great really about Social Security in terms of governmental benefit, I think why the President is having so much difficulty is that Social Security is a program that touches all of our lives.

We are here in the 30-something Caucus watching our grandparents receive Social Security, and the story of my great-grandfather when Social Security was first implemented, he could
think that there is going to be Social Security. Friends, and the conversation may turn we may occasionally do among our friends, my friends, when you go home about the facts as its relates to Social Security, will be allowed to divert a certain portion of that over into a certain security system, will be allowed to divert a certain portion of that over into some private annuity or private account that we would be allowed to set up, and there are all kinds of math involved in this in the President’s proposal that lead to someone who does not receive the kind of benefits that they thought they were going to get in the first place.

But the main point is this: the Social Security system, the Social Security program may need change, may need to be tweaked, but it does not need to be privatized, and the President’s plan does not fix the problem. It in no way, shape, or form fixes the long-term solvency issues that Social Security has, and there are many other ways we can go about fixing this program. It is good until 2042, into 2050 and even after that you will still get 80 percent of your benefits if we do absolutely nothing.

So there is no need to get crazy. There is no need to get crazy and try to make some radical changes to this program like privatizing it and somehow jeopardize and slash benefits for our seniors and our grandparents and our parents.

I am joined by the gentlewoman who has been on all the talk shows over the past few weeks and did a fantastic job. I yield to the gentlewoman from Florida...

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. RYAN), and it is good to be here with you once again.

Quite honestly, it is good to be here to talk about once again an extremely important issue and that is Social Security. I can tell you that I wish that is that what we had been able to talk about for the last 2 weeks as opposed to some of the other issues we have been focused on. However, I am glad we are able to refocus again.

What we have been trying to do in our 30-something Working Group over the last several months and prior to my arrival here in Congress, you and our other colleagues have done yeoman’s work on getting the message out about the facts as its relates to Social Security because our generation, your friends, my friends, when you go home and you sit down and you are having coffee or you are having a beer, which we may do among family friends, and the conversation may turn to whether you think or your friends think that there is going to be Social Security there for you when you retire. Most people our age, they believe the myth that has been put out there by the President and by the leadership of the Congress. They believe that Social Security will not be there.

My colleague and I being in our 30s and we are all 47 years when in my case, I will be 75 years old in 37 years and 85 years old in 47 years, long past retirement age, long past the point after which I would begin collecting Social Security. So like my colleague said, we are not suggesting that there is not a problem that needs to be addressed. What we are suggesting is that there is not a crisis; that there is no need to sound the alarm bells; that we need to make sure that the problem responsibly; that this is a 70-year program of success, probably the most successful program in our Nation’s history, established as an iron clad safety net that no one should have to worry about being there upon their retirement, which is why that if we are going to make changes, which we should to ensure its long-term solvency, that we take the time to do it correctly and responsibly and not rush to judgment and not make drastic changes which privatizing Social Security, I think by anyone’s definition, would be drastic.

We have got to make sure that we preserve Social Security into the future, and what is ironic is that most of the talk coming from the White House and in the leadership of this body has been about privatizing Social Security, setting up private accounts, and this has just been mind-boggling to me because, like you said, privatization does nothing to deal with the solvency issue. It is about Social Security, and all we would be doing is adding to our deficit and putting our Nation more in debt than we already are, and we are badly, badly in debt.

So you can go that far and still have to address Social Security solvency problems, and we need to make sure that we responsibly make changes to preserve Social Security into the future.

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. Absolutely. And, Mr. Speaker, when you just look at how the privatization process would be set up, you are actually taking money that is being put into this system out away from the system. And we do not even know, and the President’s proposal from all the ones I have read, is that the 4 percent that I would be able to take and move into the side account, the business match will not go into the Social Security account either. So you put in your 6.2, the business match will not go into it, and there seems to be a lot more interest in that.

Mr. Speaker, I yield once again to my colleague...

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. I thank my colleague, Mr. Speaker.
I think that statistic and those two numbers there are so illustrative. They really are. People can feel, touch, taste and understand what $26,000 means. For every single person, including an infant in this country, that is their share of the national debt. So that is a monumental change like that is very, very skeptical about how a proposal of that nature, privatizing Social Security, which are moving in opposite directions. They are moving in the direction of Social Security recipients, they are moving in the direction of moving more people hear about his vague outlines of a proposal. And if you believe that, which I found their continued checks and the continuation of Social Security for them, their continued checks and the concept of a trillion dollars into more understandable bites of information, for example, if you stacked a thousand $1 bills, you took a thousand $1 bills and stacked them on top of each other, $1 million would equal 1 foot high of thousand dollar bills. That is how high.

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. One bill that equals $1,000 stacked. Okay.

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Right. Stacked up would equal a foot. A billion dollars would equal the height of the Empire State Building in New York. One trillion dollars, stacked up on top of each other, would be a thousand times the height of the Empire State Building:

So if you are trying to think about how much $7 trillion is, that is how large, that number is. That is how huge, something that anyone can get their arms around. And think about the unbelievable irresponsibility that that is, and that there currently appears to be almost no regard for that problem and how to deal with it, and no focus here on how we are going to get a handle on the sheer size of that number and shrinking it, and no realistic proposal; only conversations like that of privatizing Social Security, which are going to make that number ever larger. It really starts to boggle your mind.

Yet, when we go home, as we just did, and I spent the last couple of weeks at home going around my district and had town hall meetings. I had a town hall meeting in my district on Social Security, and it appeared as though there is an inverse relationship between the more the President talks about his vague outlines of a proposal and the more people hear about his vague outlines of a proposal. They are moving in opposite directions.

In fact, for our age group, which is his target audience, because he has been assuring people 55 and over they have him in your account, have his private accounts among young adults absolutely plummeting. The more young people have heard about this proposal, the less they like it. They are more than twice as likely to oppose private accounts because in order to have a private account, you have to have been born before the age of 30. Democrats, we are not ticketing our events. We are not hand-picking the audience. We are saying, come on in and talk to us about Social Security. Let us talk to you about what we hear about this proposal, and you tell us what you think.

What is going on in the President’s meetings is he is saying, do you agree with me? Oh, okay, you can come in and, booting people who do not and booting people who do not agree with him is hardly not very democratic. It does not show a real ability or desire to actually get input. It is more my way or the highway politics, which is not the way we should be shaping this debate.

Mr. RYAN. And that is not the way we did it in 1983. And everyone has been talking about this monumental national discussion and Tip O’Neill sitting down with President Reagan and Bob Dole, and we had all the great political figures of that generation coming together to say we are going to put politics aside, and we are going to fix the problem.

And we are not here to bash the President or to bash the Republicans or to bash anybody, but we are here to say we have issues here that are going to affect the long-term interest of the country. In many districts across the country we are losing manufacturing jobs, one of the main problems we have with this whole thing is we do not have enough taxpayers working and making a good living and paying into the Social Security System. My own opinion is that is what would really help fix this long term. We have just here to say we want to sit down and work with you.

You cannot have a national discussion if you do not include the opposition into your town hall meetings. But if you do, it would be great to go to a meeting and never have anybody stand up and question any votes you have had or anything like that. We cannot get away with that in our congressional districts, nor should we be able to. And so the President needs to come to Congress and work with us. We want to help him figure this out.

Now, private accounts, for us, are off the table. That is ridiculous. That is not going to happen. But we want to work with the President.

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. And, Mr. Speaker, my colleague is just abnormally right on target. We are more than willing to sit down and hash out in the spirit of compromise, like the gentleman referred to what they did in 1983. But, at least in my experience, with compromise, you have to be singling off the same song sheet. You cannot not start from two completely different places and define the problem in completely different ways and ultimately reach compromise.

And let us not forget also that his proposal does not leave out the one-third of Social Security recipients who are not earners. You have people who are beneficiaries of Social Security recipients who have paid in and who are not earning an income. You have children and dependents, and you have the disabled community. Now, they are not able to benefit from private accounts because in order to have a private account, you have to have an income. So we are not even thinking about how would we address the huge pure cut that they would suffer from.

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. And, Mr. Speaker, when you look at when you would want to actually take out the money, our colleague, the gentleman from New York (Mr. WEINER), who was here a few weeks ago with us, had a great explanation of the President’s plan, which is the stock market goes down. The stock market goes up. The stock market goes down. Well, what if you are going to retire at the wrong time? What if you were planning on retiring in 2001, 2002. And, Mr. Speaker, the private accounts was cut in half? Now all of a sudden you are not retiring.

Social Security grows at a steady pace and keeps up with inflation and makes sure that you would be able to maintain the kind of buying power that you would normally have, and it is stable, and it is safe, and it is guaranteed.
Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. That is why we call it Social Security.

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. Social Security, exactly, instead of having the up and down. And that is the kind of risk you are going to have to take on if you are going to put your money into one of these private accounts.

One point more before I pull up another slide here. Your share of the national debt is $20,000, and I think we really need to start looking in terms like this, because not only do business people always worry about what the next quarter’s earnings are going to be, what is the next quarter’s profits going to be, and we tend to always think what is the next election going to be like, because we get elected every 2 years, so there is no real long-term thinking. So I think it is important for us, especially during the discussions the 30-something group has, is to have this broad discussion: What does this look like to a baby born today and you add this on?

Then we have got the number here that the average college student has $20,000 of debt after going to college; plus you put your mortgage, plus a car payment. So what we are trying to say here is that a baby born today has a tax on their head of at least, at least, and that is today, if the clock does not run, of at least $20,000 by the time they are 22 years old and graduating.

Mr. Speaker, you add in inflation and the fact college tuition is doubling, add in all of the other factors, and the bankruptcy bill, which I will not go into, we are not serving our country well and we are not serving the next generation well when we do this. I think we are being very shortsighted and selfish. It sounds good; we are going to borrow money. Wall Street is going to make a killing on the whole deal. It sounds good, and sometimes if it sounds too good to be true, most often it is.

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. Speaker, the gentleman is so right. We need to roll this down in terms that people deal with every day. When we have these conversations on the floor, I try to zero in on the impact that this proposal will have on specific groups. For example, we have some information about the impact Social Security has on children. Social Security survivor and disability benefits help almost twice as many children as welfare does. That, I think, is something that people do not just notice. I did not realize it until I received this information, and that is according to our friends at the American Congressional Research Service.

Social Security is currently the largest source of Federal funding that prevents children from falling into poverty. Social Security benefits have kept 920,000 children out of poverty, and more than one-third of families with Social Security income would be poor without these benefits.

If we look at the effects that privatization of Social Security would have on women, women comprise the majority of Social Security benefits. They represent 58 percent of all Social Security beneficiaries at the age of 65, and women represent 71 percent of all beneficiaries by the time they are age 85. Privatization disproportionately harms women, especially because women really end up having much less because of the differences in earning potential, much less opportunity to benefit from Social Security when they are planning for retirement.

There are a number of factors that leave women even more vulnerable to this really radical proposal. Women and poverty in old age is often rooted in the reality that their lives are shaped on. We earn less money. We are at 76 cents on the dollar compared to the same job a man does. The reality of care giving, we are primarily responsible for caring for loved ones, both children and our older parents, and women have jobs more often that offer very few benefits. So women who have been in the workforce are far less likely to have IRA’s and pensions and contributions, so there are a lot of people in this room that are going to have to worry about. But 2017 is when the crisis hits. Quite honestly, in the senior citizen community, this is a serious problem. That is a serious problem. That is a serious problem.

If Members went to Youngstown, Ohio, and tried to convince the residents there that the biggest crisis in the country starts in 2017, they would laugh at you.

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. And to not do anything about cost for the prescriptions I think illustrates and speaks to the point better than anything else that too much money drives what is going on down here. They are not worried about what they are going to have to worry about. But 2017 is when the Medicare trustee report says is the point at which we would literally be paying out more in Medicare benefits than we are bringing in in premiums. That is a serious problem.

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. The fix there to save Medicare solvency was to spend an additional 500 to $600 billion, not to do anything with the cost of prescription drugs, not to allow for reimportation, not to allow the Secretary of HHS to negotiate down the drug prices with some of these drug companies.

The gentlewoman is exactly right. When I think of a crisis going on in my district right now, many of the school districts that I represent, half the kids live in poverty. That is a crisis because those kids are going to be taking from the system instead of creating wealth and paying taxes and contributing to the system. That is a crisis.

In Mahoney County, which encompasses the city of Youngstown, there are thousands of kids who have lead poisoning. There are 2,000 kids, young kids who have lead poisoning in Mahoney County at a level by which it actually affects their cognitive ability which puts you on a level of slight retardation in ability. It is up there with the crises we have in the country: health, education, making sure that the poorest among us have some kind of security.

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. The fix there to stabilize Social Security is the right thing to do, to provide the financial security for women ends up being the best thing that you are going to do. Because Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid are the programs that are the lifeline of care giving, we are primarily responsible for caring for loved ones, both children and our older parents, and women have jobs more often that offer very few benefits. So women who have been in the workforce are far less likely to have IRA’s and pensions and contributions. So there are a lot of people in this room that are going to have to worry about. But 2017 is when the crisis hits. Quite honestly, in the senior citizen community, this is a serious problem. That is a serious problem. That is a serious problem.
Mr. Speaker, who would pass a $500 billion prescription drug bill that is now $700 billion, $800 billion, $900 billion, we do not even know what the real number is, and not do anything about trying to control the price of prescription drugs, and that turn around and say drugs are not the issue, cost is not the issue, Social Security is the biggest crisis in the country now?

Let us not forget as we begin to start wrapping things up, we have this administration has a lot of leash, a lot of rope with the war, with the prescription drug bill and the war that the taxpayers would not have to pay anything more than $50 billion because we would use the oil money for reconstruction and be greeted as liberators. We are going to be in and out, and all of the things we heard before the war turned out not to be true.

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. And the report said gross misrepresentation, which facts will come to reports of there being weapons of mass destruction.

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. And everyone who was telling them there were no weapons of mass destruction, they ignored them, they brushed the bill off and of some bureaucrats is unfair. And that was the war. We all know that. And then the prescription drug bill started off $400 billion as we sat in this Chamber, because many of our fiscal friends on the other side of the aisle did not want to spend more than $400 billion. After the bill was signed, 2 months later, all of a sudden the real price was $500 billion and an actuary was threatened not to give the real numbers to Congress.

After the election a few months ago, we find out this is going to be closer to a trillion dollars in cost. I am saying the track record here is not good for when the administration comes forward and we see because we have, we have been burnt; and we are certainly not going to let this happen with the Social Security system.

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. Speaker, I want to ask the gentleman because the gentleman was here. The thing I talked about and heard about on the campaign trail last year was how we ended up with a Medicare bill that added a prescription drug benefit but did not allow, in fact prohibited, the Secretary of Health and Human Services, Tommy Thompson, in a speech to the Kaiser Foundation said it was his biggest frustration in the negotiations on the Medicare prescription drug reform bill because he believed the Secretary should have that ability, that the Secretary in the VA, should have the ability to negotiate those discounts, and it absolutely ties the hands of the Health and Human Services Secretary.

In talking about this in his speech to the Kaiser Foundation, he said, unfortunately, membership of the leadership of his party, including the President, did not agree, and he was not able to get through to them that that was an important component, to reduce those prices.  

What we have here is we have a Social Security plan, or an outline of a plan, that is going to harm young people and hopefully not harm older people who are imminently collecting benefits or already collecting benefits. It is hard to get young people to think about when they are going to get that Pell grant and everything that we have, and food stamps and education, the corporate tax rate so those shareholders, and those people who benefit most from moving jobs overseas get the tax benefits there, too. And then you are cutting services here with Medicaid and food stamps and education, the PELL grant and everything that we have talked about. And now you want to go to try to mess with Social Security.

So if you see what is happening down here, if you take a step back and you see the whole process, there is all this corporate welfare going to all the big major corporations, they get all the tax cuts, the people who run those companies get tax cuts, and the rich get richer, and the poor are getting poorer. They say, well, that's class warfare. Mark Shields had a great line. He said, The war's over. The rich won. There is not much there anymore. But that is the way things are going, and that is why it is so important that at the bare minimum we keep that basic Social Security system.

I think having discussions like we are having tonight and town hall meetings, I think it has been very successful. The response I am getting, and I know the response the gentleman is getting down in Florida, and the gentleman from Florida (Mr. MEEK), who could not be with us tonight, is getting, and all our colleagues on both sides of the aisle are getting it. We yield to the gentleman for any final comments that she may like to make.

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Just a couple, because I think we again need to finish up with the impact that this proposed privatization scheme would have. The private accounts do not make up for the 46 percent cut in benefits that would be part of this proposal. A 20-year-old who enrolls in the program when they are 2245 years old would lose about $152,000 in Social Security benefits under the Bush proposal.

Social Security provides disability insurance that young families need, and there is no private insurance plan that can compete with the Social Security disability benefits that are offered. The cost of those benefits bought privately would be beyond most people's
ability to pay for them. For a worker in her mid-twenties with a spouse and two children, Social Security provides the equivalent of a $350,000 disability insurance policy, again not one that most people can afford to pay out of pocket for. And suppose, God forbid, you have a young parent that dies suddenly. Social Security provides for the children who are left behind. Social Security survivors benefits will replace as much as 80 percent of the earnings for a 25-year-old average-wage worker who dies young, for two young children and a young spouse. For that parent, Social Security survivors benefits are equivalent to a $403,000 life insurance policy.

What we have been trying to do in our Thirtysomething Working Group is explain to our generation what the reality would be in their lives without Social Security as a continued safety net.

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. Absolutely. I hope from the responses we have been getting, it sounds like some people are listening.

Thirtysomething@smithmail.house.gov. Send us an e-mail, or you can go to the Web site, democraticleader.house.gov/thirtysomething, and join in our discussion. We will be happy to read some of the e-mails. We have been off for the last few weeks, so maybe next week we will read some.

I would also like to say before we close up, the President of the Ukraine, Victor Yushchenko, is going to be here tomorrow. If you had followed everything that was going on with the West and the Russians and the poisoning, it was like a soap opera going on. I think it is an important point for us to make, that what is going on down here day in and day out is not everyone has to be involved to the extent they make a career out of it, not everyone has to run for office, not everyone has to be a politician, not everyone has to explain to our generation what the reality of the United States was like.

Mr. MCCOTTER of Florida. By the way, Ukraine was led by young people. His uprising and his move to power in the election and his assumption of Congress, his election and his presidency, was like a soap opera going on. I think it is important that we establish to the young people that are here today, that the young people are the ones who are going to be involved in the longer than all of us are because they are younger. It is important for their voice to be heard.

Thank the gentleman from Florida. We missed the gentleman from Florida, but I know he will be back with us next week.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Ms. WATERS (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today and April 6 on account of a funeral in the district.

Mr. NEUGEBAUER (at the request of Mr. DELAY) for today on account of illness.

Mr. YOUNG of Florida (at the request of Mr. DELAY) for today and the balance of the week on account of illness.

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,)

Ms. WOOLSEY, for 5 minutes, today.
Mr. PALLONE, for 5 minutes, today.
Mrs. MALONEY, for 5 minutes, today.
Mr. VAN HOLLEN, for 5 minutes, today.
Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas, for 5 minutes, today.
Mr. DEFAZIO, for 5 minutes, today.
Mr. COOPER, for 5 minutes, today.
(The following Members (at the request of Mr. GUTKNECHT) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material,)

Mr. MCCOTTER, for 5 minutes, today.
Mr. BILIRAKIS, for 5 minutes, today.
Mr. GUTKNECHT, for 5 minutes, today and April 6.
Mrs. BLACKBURN, for 5 minutes, today.
Mr. JONES of North Carolina, for 5 minutes, today and April 12.
Mr. FENCE, for 5 minutes, today.
Mr. BOUSTANY, for 5 minutes, April 6.
Mr. DUNCAN, for 5 minutes, April 6 and 7.
Mr. BURTON of Indiana, for 5 minutes, today and April 6.
Mr. POE, for 5 minutes, April 6 and 7.

ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

Mr. TRANDAHL, Clerk of the House, reported and found truly enrolled a bill of the House of the following title, which was thereupon signed by the Speaker:


SENATE ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

The SPEAKER announced his signature to an enrolled bill of the Senate of the following title:

S. 686. An act for the relief of the parents of Theresa Marie Schiavo.

BILL PRESENTED TO THE PRESIDENT

JEFF TRANDAHL, Clerk of the House reports that on March 23, 2005 he presented to the President of the United States, for his approval, the following bill:

H.R. 1270. To amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend the Leaking Underground Storage Tank Trust Fund financing rate.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 10 o’clock and 52 minutes p.m.), the House adjourned until tomorrow, Wednesday, April 6, 2005, at 10 a.m.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 8 of rule XII, executive communications were taken from the Speaker’s table and referred as follows:

1321. A letter from the Principal Deputy Associate Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency’s final rule — Thiophenate-methyl; Pesticide Tolerances for Emergency [OPP-2005-0011; FRL-7699-3] received March 18, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

1322. A letter from the Principal Deputy Associate Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency’s final rule — Mesotrione; Pesticide Tolerance [OPP-2005-0049; FRL-7703-1] received March 18, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

1323. A letter from the Principal Deputy Associate Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency’s final rule — Dinotefuran; Pesticide Tolerance [OPP-2005-0003; FRL-7695-5] received March 18, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

1324. A letter from the Deputy Chief of Naval Operations (Manpower and Personnel), Department of Defense, transmitting notification of a decision to implement performance by the Most Efficient Organization for the Public Works Center Maintenance and Repair of Building and Structures in San Diego, CA (initiative number NC20020795); to the Committee on Armed Services.


1326. A letter from the Deputy Assistant Secretary for Labor-Management Programs, Department of Labor, transmitting the Annual Report of the U.S. Department of Labor Office of Labor-Management Standards (OLMS), covering OLMS activities from October 1, 2003 through September 30, 2004; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

1327. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the FY 2004 Performance Report for the Animal Drug User Fee Act (ADUFA), enacted on November 18, 2003 (Pub. L. 108-199); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

1328. A letter from the Principal Deputy Associate Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency’s final rule — Approval and Promulgation of State Implementation Plans; Designation of Areas for Air Quality Planning Purposes; State of Arizona; Maricopa County Area; Technical Correction [AZ 135-0085; FRL-7879-3] received March 8, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

CONGRESSIONAL RECORD — HOUSE

1330. A letter from the Principal Deputy Associate Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency’s final rule — Finding of Failure to Submit an Application Implementing the Agency for Interstate Transport for the National Ambient Air Quality Standards for 8-hour Ozone and PM 2.5 [FRL-7885-7] received March 18, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.


1332. A letter from the Principal Deputy Associate Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency’s final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Maine; Control of Total Reduced Sulfur From Kraft Pulp Mills; Withdrawal of Final Rule; Final Rule and Correction [R01-OAR-2004-ME-0002; A-1-FRL-7884-7] received March 15, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.


1335. A letter from the Principal Deputy Associate Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency’s final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Maine; Notice of Maintenance Plan Revisions; Ohio [R05-OAR-2005-OH-0001; FRL-7886-7] received March 15, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

1336. A letter from the Principal Deputy Associate Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency’s final rule — 10% of the National Emergency, pursuant to Executive Order 13124 of September 24, 2000; to the Committee on International Relations.

1337. A letter from the Acting Under Secretary for International Trade and Development, Department of Commerce, transmitting a report that the Department intends to impose new foreign policy-based export controls on certain entities associated with the State Department under the Iran-Iraq Arms Nonproliferation Act of 1992 (Pub. L. 102–484), the Iran Nonproliferation Act of 2000 (Pub. L. 106–179), and Executive Orders 11902 of 1979, and on a specific entity, the Tula Instrument Design Bureau of Russia; to the Committee on National Relations.

1338. A letter from the Acting Under Secretary for Policy, Department of Defense, transmitting the Department’s Findings Under the Cooperative Threat Reduction Act of 2006 Cooperative Threat Reduction Annual Report, pursuant to Public Law 106–398, section 1306; to the Committee on International Relations.

1339. A letter from the Principal Deputy Associate Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency’s final rule — National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants; Delegation of Authority to Louisiana; Correction [LA-62-9–7617c; FRL-7887–2] received March 18, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Government Reform.

1340. A letter from the Director, International Cooperation, Department of Defense, transmitting pursuant to Section 271(c) of the Arms Export Control Act and Section 1(c) of Executive Order 13188, a copy of Transmittal No. 02–05 which informs of an intent to sign the Treaty on the Nonproliferation of Nuclear Weapons (SDSN) between the United States and Singapore, pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 2761(f); to the Committee on International Relations.

1341. A letter from the Assistant Legal Adviser for Treaty Affairs, Department of State, transmitting Copies of international agreements, other than treaties, entered into by the United States, pursuant to 1 U.S.C. 112(b)(a); to the Committee on International Relations.

1342. A letter from the Secretary, Department of the Treasury, transmitting as required by section 401(c) of the National August 1, to Executive Order 13131 of July 31, 2001, a summary report on the national emergency with respect to persons who commit, threaten to commit, or support terrorism that was declared in Executive Order 12334 of September 24, 2001; to the Committee on International Relations.

1343. A letter from the Acting Under Secretary for International Trade and Development, Department of Commerce, transmitting a report that the Department intends to impose new foreign policy-based export controls on certain entities associated with the State Department under the Iran-Iraq Arms Nonproliferation Act of 1992 (Pub. L. 102–484), the Iran Nonproliferation Act of 2000 (Pub. L. 106–179), and Executive Orders 11902 of 1979, and on a specific entity, the Tula Instrument Design Bureau of Russia; to the Committee on National Relations.

1344. A letter from the Principal Deputy Under Secretary for Policy, Department of Defense, transmitting the Department’s Findings Under the Cooperative Threat Reduction Act of 2006 Cooperative Threat Reduction Annual Report, pursuant to Public Law 106–398, section 1306; to the Committee on International Relations.

1345. A letter from the Acting Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting pursuant to Section 260A(c) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961, as amended, and in accordance with section 1(a)(6) of Executive Order 13313, a report prepared by the Department of State and the National Security Council on the progress toward a negotiated solution of the Cyprus question covering the period December 1, 2004 through March 31, 2005, to the Committee on International Relations.

1346. A letter from the Assistant Attorney General, Department of Justice, transmitting a report required by the Antitrust Division of the Department to the Committee on International Relations.

1347. A letter from the Assistant Attorney General, Department of Justice, transmitting a report required by the Antitrust Division of the Department, to the Committee on International Relations.


1351. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Policy, Management, and Budget, Department of the Interior, transmitting the Department’s inventory of commercial and inherently governmental activities prepared in accordance with the Federal Activities Reform (FAIR) Act of 1998 (P.L. 105–270) and the Office of Management and Budget Circular No. A-76; to the Committee on Government Reform.

1352. A letter from the Acting Deputy Director of Management and Administration, Competitive Sourcing Official, Department of Labor, transmitting the Department’s Inherently Commercial and Inherently Governmental Activities Inventory for FY 2004, as required by the Federal Activities Inventory Reform Act of 1998 (the FAIR ACT) and OMB Circular A-76; to the Committee on Government Reform.

1353. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Administration and Management, Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, submitting the Commission’s annual report on the Government in the Sunshine Act for Calendar Year 2004; to the Committee on Government Reform.

1354. A letter from the Director of the Office of Communications and Legislative Affairs, Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, submitting the Commission’s annual report on the Government in the Sunshine Act for Calendar Year 2004; to the Committee on Government Reform.

1355. A letter from the Chairman, Federal Mine Safety and Health Review Commission, transmitting a copy of the annual report in accordance with the Government in the Sunshine Act during the calendar year 2004, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 552(h); to the Committee on Government Reform.

1356. A letter from the Inspector General, General Services Administration, transmitting the Office’s Audit Report Register for the period ending September 30, 2004, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. app. A, section 458(b); to the Committee on Government Reform.

1357. A letter from the Acting Director, Office of Government Ethics, transmitting a report evaluating the financial disclosure process for employees of the executive branch and recommendations for improving that process, pursuant to Public Law 106–458; to the Committee on Government Reform.

1358. A letter from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration’s final rule — Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska, Proposed Inclusion of Information Collection; Comment Request; Aleutian Islands Subarea Directed Pollock Fishery [Docket No. 04117321–0352–02; I.D. 02R–0488] received March 16, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Resources.
1359. A letter from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration’s final rule — the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska: Species in the Rock Sole/Flathead Sole/“Other Platfish” Fishery Category by Vessels Using Trawl Gear in Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Management Area [Docket No. 041123932-5039-02; I.D. 0122085E] received March 16, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1); to the Committee on Resources.

1360. A letter from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration’s final rule — Fisheries of the Northeastern United States; Atlantic Mackerel, Squid, and Butterfish Fisheries; Closure of the Quater I Fisheries; and Longline Pollock fisheries in the Gulf of Alaska [Docket No. 041221388-4388-01; I.D. 021105A] received February 28, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1); to the Committee on Resources.

1361. A letter from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration’s final rule — the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Pacific Cod by Catcher Vessels 60 Feet (18.3 Meters) Length Overall and Longer Using Pot Gear in the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Management Area [Docket No. 041223388-4388-01; I.D. 021105A] received February 28, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1); to the Committee on Resources.

1362. A letter from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration’s final rule — Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Pacific Cod by Catcher Vessels 60 Feet Length Overall and Longer Using Hook-and-Line Gear in the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands [Docket No. 061124297-4909-02; I.D. 030005F] received March 23, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1); to the Committee on Resources.

1363. A letter from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration’s final rule — Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Pollock in Statistical Area 619 of the Gulf of Alaska [Docket No. 041129332-5040-02; I.D. 030005C] received March 23, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1); to the Committee on Resources.

1364. A letter from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration’s final rule — Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Pacific Cod by Catcher Vessels Less Than 60 Ft. (18.3 m) LOA Using Jig or Hool-and-Line Gear in the Bogoslof Pacific Cod Exclusion Area in the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Management Area [Docket No. 02071827-2393-02; I.D. 030005B] received March 23, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1); to the Committee on Resources.

1365. A letter from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration’s final rule — Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Pollock in Statistical Area 620 of the Gulf of Alaska [Docket No. 041122232-5040-02; I.D. 030005C] received March 23, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1); to the Committee on Resources.

1366. A letter from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration’s final rule — Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Atka Mackerel in the Central Aleutian District [Docket No. 041220238-4388-01; I.D. 021105A] received March 3, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1); to the Committee on Resources.

1367. A letter from the Acting Director, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration’s final annual report on actions taken in respect to the New England fishing capacity reduction initiative, pursuant to Section 306(b)(7) of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, as amended, covering the period December 1, 2003 through November 30, 2004; to the Committee on Resources.

1368. A letter from the Deputy Assistant Secretary for the Army for Project Planning and Review, Department of Defense, transmitting a copy of the report of the Chief of Engineers on Dallas Floodway Extension, Trinity River Basin, Texas, consistent with Section 113 of Pub. L. 108-147; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

1369. A letter from the Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works, Department of Defense, transmitting a report supporting the authorization and plans to implement the project through the normal budget process at the appropriate time, including mobilization, and the availability of funds, pursuant to Section 101(b)(20) of the Water Resources Development Act of 2000, authorizing construction of the Trinity River Waterway project, in Texas, Nebraska, ecosystem restoration project; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

1370. A letter from the Principal Deputy Associate Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency’s final rule — Extension of National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permit Deadline for Storm Water Discharges for Oil and Gas Activity That Disturbs One to Five Acres (OW-2002-0068; FRL-7882-2) (RIN: 2040-AE71) received March 8, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

1371. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Commerce, transmitting the 2004 Annual Report of the Visiting Committee on Admissions for the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST), pursuant to Public Law 100-410, section 523(b) (102 Stat. 1443); to the Committee on Science.

1372. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Labor, transmitting the second annual report of the President’s National Hire Veterans Committee to 38 U.S.C. 4100 Note; to the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs.

1373. A letter from the Board of Trustees, Federal Old-Age and Survivors Insurance and Disability Insurance Trust Funds, transmitting the 2005 Annual Report of the Board of Trustees of the Federal Old-Age and Survivors Insurance and the Federal Disability Insurance Trust Funds, pursuant to 42 U.S.C. 401(c)(2), 1395b(1)(2), and 1395t(b)(2); (H. Doc. No. 109-18); to the Committee on Ways and Means and ordered to be printed.

1374. A letter from the Regulations Coordinator, CMS, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department’s final rule — Medicare Program: Medicare Prescription Drug Benefit; Interpretation [CMS-4068-F2] (RIN: 0938-AN06) received March 23, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1); jointly to the Committees on Ways and Means and Energy and Commerce.

1375. A letter from the Regulations Coordinator, CMS, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department’s final rule — Medicare Program: Establishment of the Medicare Advantage Program; Durable Medical Equipment Regional Carrier Service Areas and Related Matters [CMS-1219-F] (RIN: 0938-AL76) received March 3, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1); jointly to the Committees on Ways and Means and Energy and Commerce.

1376. A letter from the Board Members, Federal Hospital Insurance Trust Fund, transmitting the 2005 Annual Report of the Board of Trustees of the Federal Hospital Insurance Trust Fund, pursuant to 42 U.S.C. 401(c)(2), 1395f(b)(2), and 1395t(b)(2); (H. Doc. No. 109-17); jointly to the Committees on Ways and Means and Energy and Commerce, and ordered to be printed.

1377. A letter from the Regulations Coordinator, CMS, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department’s final rule — Medicare Program: Establishment of the Medicare Advantage Program; Medicare Prescription Drug Benefit; Interpretation [CMS-4068-F2] (RIN: 0938-AN06) received March 18, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1); jointly to the Committees on Ways and Means and Energy and Commerce.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES ON PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XIII, reports of committees were delivered to the Clerk for printing and reference to the proper calendar, as follows:

[Pursuant to the order of the House on March 14, 2005, the following report was filed on March 31, 2005]

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia: Committee on Government Reform. Report on Oversight of the Social Security Administration; to the Committee on Ways and Means and Energy and Commerce. (Filed on April 5, 2005)

Mr. SENSENBRENNER of Wisconsin: Committee on the Judiciary. House Resolution 136. Resolution directing the Attorney General to transmit to the Secretary of Homeland Security to transmit to the House of Representatives not later than 14 days after the date of the adoption of this resolution documents in the possession of those officials relating to the security investigations and background checks relating to granting access to the White House of James D. Gilchrist and Jeff Gannon; adversely (Rept. 109-30). Reported 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. TOM DAVIS of Virginia (for himself and Mr. FLATTS): H.R. 1455. A bill to amend title 5 and title 3, United States Code, to include the Department of Homeland Security and the Secretary of Homeland Security in lists of executive departments and officers; to the Committee on Government Reform, and in addition to the Committee on the Judiciary, 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. TOM DAVIS of Virginia (for himself, Mrs. JO ANN DAVIS of Virginia, Mrs. DRAKE, Mr. WHITT of Virginia, Mr. BISHOP of New Jersey, Mr. GOODE, Mr. GOODLATTE, Mr. CANTOR, Mr. MORAN of Virginia, Mr. BOURCHER, and Mr. WOLF):

H. R. 1460. A bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 6200 Rolling Road in Springfield, Virginia, as the “Captain Mark Stabenhofer Post Office Building”; to the Committee on Government Reform.

By Mr. BAKER (for himself, Mr. COHN of New Jersey, Mr. HENSARLING, Mr. JONES of North Carolina, Mr. DAVIS of Kentucky, Mr. FITZPATRICK of Pennsylvania, and Mr. JONES of Alabama):

H. R. 1461. A bill to reform the regulation of certain housing-related Government-sponsored enterprises, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. RILIRAKIS:

H. R. 1462. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to reduce from age 57 to age 55 the age after which the remarriage of the surviving spouse of a deceased veteran shall not result in termination of dependency and indemnity compensation otherwise payable to the surviving spouse; to the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs.

By Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia (for himself, Mrs. JO ANN DAVIS of Virginia, Mrs. DRAKE, Mr. WHITT of Virginia, Mr. FORBES, Mr. GOODE, Mr. GOODLATTE, Mr. CANTOR, Mr. MORAN of Virginia, Mr. BOURCHER, and Mr. WOLF):

H. R. 1463. A bill to designate a portion of the Federal building located at 2100 Jamieson Avenue, West, Alexandria, Virginia, as the “Justin W. Williams United States Attorney’s Building”; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey:

H. R. 1464. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on certain pimientos (capsicum annum), prepared or preserved otherwise than by vinegar or acetic acid; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey:

H. R. 1465. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on certain pimientos (capsicum annum), prepared or preserved by vinegar or acetic acid; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey:

H. R. 1466. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on certain pimientos (capsicum annum), prepared or preserved otherwise than by vinegar or acetic acid; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey:

H. R. 1467. A bill to provide for the conveyance of certain Bureau of Land Management land in the State of Nevada to the Las Vegas Motor Speedway, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Resources.

By Ms. JOHNSON of Connecticut (for herself, Mr. RANDEL, and Mr. HULSHOF):

H. R. 1468. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide a deduction for qualified mortgage insurance premium payments for home purchases made by members of the Armed Forces; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. OTTER (for himself and Mr. SIMPSON):

H. R. 1469. A bill to direct the Secretary of the Interior shall make full payment to each unit of general local government in which Federal land is set aside pursuant to a provision of chapter 69 of title 31, United States Code, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Resources.

By Mr. PAUL:

H. R. 1470. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide a credit to individuals who make contributions to the Army Corps of Engineers; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. PRYCE of Ohio (for herself, Ms. ESCH, Mr. GILLMOR, Mr. SIMMONS, Mr. ROYBAL-ALLARD, Mr. NAY, Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN, Mr. RAMSTAD, Mr. ROGERS of Michigan, Mr. TIERNEY, Mr. WAXMAN, Mr. SHAYS, Mr. STRICKLAND, Mr. MYRICK, Mr. DOYLE, Mr. FARR, Mr. KAPTUR, Mr. RYAN of Ohio, Mr. BISHOP of New York, Mr. BRIDENSTINE, Mr. GehrLIAVA, Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. TOWNS, Mrs. JONES of Ohio, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. LINCOLN-DIAZ-BALART of Florida, Ms. ISSA, and Mr. MARIO DIAZ-BALART of Florida):

H. R. 1471. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to establish a grant program to provide supportive services in permanent supportive housing for chronically homeless individuals, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. RUSH:

H. R. 1472. A bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 107 East 24th Street, New York, New York, as the “Tito Puente Post Office Building”; to the Committee on Government Reform.

By Mr. RUSH:

H. R. 1473. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for a deferral of tax on gain from the sale of telecommunication businesses in specific circumstances; or a tax credit and other incentives to promote diversity of ownership in telecommunications businesses; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. SANDERS (for himself, Mr. LOBONDO, Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California, Mr. KUCINICH, Mr. SOLIS, Mr. PAYNE of New Jersey, Mr. LANTOS, Mr. CUMMINGS, Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts, Mr. BROWN of Ohio, Mr. ACKERMAN, Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas, Mr. MICHAUD, Mr. McDERMOTT, Mr. CLAY, Mr. HERSHETH, Mr. STARK, Mr. TOWNS, Mr. ABERCROMBIE, Mr. CUNNINGHAM of Florida, Mrs. CHRISTENSEN, Mr. MENENDEZ, Ms. SLAUGHTER, Mr. EMANUEL, Ms. DELAURIO, and Mr. BISHOP of New York):

H. R. 1474. A bill to designate certain functions performed at flight service stations of the Federal Aviation Administration as inherently governmental functions, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Government Reform.

By Mr. SATXON:

H. R. 1475. A bill to require door delivery of mail sent to persons residing in senior communities; to the Committee on Government Reform.

By Mr. TIAHRT:

H. R. 1476. A bill to amend the Eisenhower Exchange Fellowship Act of 1960 to authorize additional appropriations for the Eisenhower Exchange Fellowship Program Trust Fund, and for other purposes; to the Committee on International Relations.

By Mr. TURNER (for himself and Mr. KLEIN):

H. R. 1477. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to clarify the treatment of differential wage payments made to employees called to active duty in the uniformed services, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. TURNER (for himself, Mr. COOPER, Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, Mr. BROWN of Ohio, Mrs. MCCAUGHTRY, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. PASTOR, and Mr. PETERSON of Minnesota):

H. R. 1478. A bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to provide limited TRICARE program eligibility for members of the Ready Reserve of the Armed Forces, to provide financial support for continuation of health insurance for mobilized members of reserve components of the Armed Forces, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, Education and the Workforce, and Ways and Means, 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. UDALL of Colorado (for himself, Mr. RANGEL, and Mr. SALAZAR):

H. R. 1479. A bill to expand rural access to broadband services; to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, 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. VAN HOLLEN:

H. R. 1480. A bill to require that a conversion to contractor performance of an activity or function of the Federal Government may not result in the loss of employment of any Federal worker with a severe disability employed in that activity or function; to the Committee on Government Reform.

By Mr. WYNN (for himself and Mrs. WYNN):

H. R. 1481. A bill to ensure reliability of electric service to provide for expansion of electricity transmission networks in order to support competitive electricity markets and to modernize regulation, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, 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. WYNN (for himself and Mr. SHIMKUS):
H. Res. 1482. A bill to provide for the research and development of advanced nuclear reactor, solar energy, and wind energy technologies for the production of hydrogen, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Science, 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. RANGEL.

H. J. Res. 120. Joint resolution proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States respecting the right to a home; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. DAVIS of Illinois.

H. Con. Res. 121. Concurrent resolution congratulating the public schools of Westchester Public School District 92 1/2 in Westchester, Illinois, on the occasion of the District's 70th anniversary, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. DAVIS of Illinois:

H. Res. 122. Concurrent resolution expressing the sense of Congress regarding the need for further study of the neurological disorder dystonia; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. ENGEL (for himself, Mr. OWENS, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. WEXLER, Mr. MERRIN, Mr. FARR, Ms. WOOLSEY, Mr. NORRIS, Mr. DELAHUNT, and Ms. SCHAUKOWSKY):

H. Con. Res. 123. Concurrent resolution supporting the goals and ideals of the Day of Silence with respect to discrimination and harassment faced by lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender individuals in schools; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce, and in addition to the Committee on the Judiciary, 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. MCCOTTER:

H. Res. 183. A resolution honoring the life, and expressing the condolences of the House on the passing of Pope John Paul II; to the Committee on International Relations.

By Mr. ISTOOK (for himself, Mr. LUCAS, Mr. COLK of Oklahoma, Mr. SMITH of Nebraska, Mr. GEORGE of Oklahoma, Ms. WATERS, Mr. HUMMEL of Georgia, Mr. TURCOTTE, Mr. TAYLOR of Texas, Mr. ISHIBASHI of Hawaii, Mr. AXHILL of South Dakota, Ms. SMITH of California, Mr. ENSIGN, Mr. ROY of New Mexico, Mr. BURTON of Indiana, Mr. THOMSON of West Virginia, Mr. LEE of New Jersey, and Mr. HUSBAND):

H. Res. 186. A resolution honoring the life's work of Pope John Paul II; to the Committee on International Relations.

By Mr. HIGGINS:

H. Res. 187. A resolution expressing support for a National Week of Reflection and Tolerance; to the Committee on Government Reform.

By Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi (for himself, Mr. COX, Mr. PASCRELL, Mr. KING of New York, Mr. WELDON of Florida, Mr. CARLOTTI, Mr. ANDREWS, Mr. JACKSON-LEE of Texas, Mr. HARMAN, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. DICKS, Mr. DeFazio, Mr. MEENY, Mr. CHRISTENSEN of Washington, Mr. ETHERIDGE of North Carolina, Mr. LOFGREN of California, Mr. RANGEL of Texas, Ms. NORTON, Mr. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California, Mr. LOWEY, Ms. HARRIS, Mr. SHAYS, Mr. ROY of Alabama, Mr. PEARCE, Mrs. JONES of Ohio, Mr. RUPPERSBERGER, Mr. SIMPSON of New York, Mr. BURTON of Pennsylvania, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, Ms. WOOLSEY, Mr. MCNULTY, Mr. BUTTFIELD, Mr. MCINTYRE, Mr. OBERSTAR, Mr. ROHRABACHER, Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California, Mr. MCCUAil of Texas, Mr. SOUDER, Mr. REHERG, Mr. JINDAL, Mr. LINDEZ MILLANDER of Florida, Mr. LEAL of Massachusetts, Mr. FREIHING-HUYSEN, Mr. LOBIONDO, Mr. ENGL, Mr. POMPO, Mr. JACKSON of Illinois, Mr. LAWRS of Georgia, Mr. BERRY, Mr. JEFFERSON, Mr. MANZULLO, Mr. EHlers, and Mr. FITZPATRICK of Pennsylvania):

H. Res. 188. A resolution recognizing and honoring firefighters for their many contributions throughout the history of the Nation; to the Committee on Government Reform.

By Mr. SWEENEY:

H. Res. 189. A resolution expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that a day ought to be established to bring awareness to the issue of violence in the workplace; to the Committee on Government Reform.

PRIVATE BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 3 of rule XII, private bills and resolutions of the following titles were introduced and severally referred, as follows:

By Mr. DAVIS of Illinois:

H.R. 1483. A bill for the relief of Roger Paul Kriz; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

H.R. 1484. A bill for the relief of Syon Simeon Stoyanova; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. DAVIS of Illinois:

H.R. 1485. A bill for the relief of Alzoubi Haseel;

H.R. 1486. A bill for the relief of Alzoubi Haseel.

By Mr. HINOJO:

H.R. 1487. A bill for the relief of Candelaria P. Tas;

H.R. 1488. A bill for the relief of Mehmet Kenan Tas; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. DAVIS of Illinois:

H.R. 1489. A bill for the relief of Johnnie Kenan Tas; to the Committee on Government Re-
George Miller of California, Mr. Grijalva, Mr. Delahunt, Mr. Owens, Mrs. Maloney, Mr. Blumenauer, Mr. Oberstar, Ms. Levin, Mr. Moran of Virginia, Mr. Al Green of Texas, Mr. Payne, Mr. Clay, Mr. Wynn, Mr. McGovern, and Mr. Hastings of Florida.

H. Res 67: Mr. Cummings, Mr. Reyers, Ms. Norton, and Ms. Waters.
H. Res. 76: Mr. Honda.
H. Res. 84: Mr. Schwarz of Michigan and Mr. Wamp.
H. Res. 90: Mr. Bishop of Georgia.
H. Res. 120: Mr. McCotter.
H. Res. 121: Mr. Peterson of Minnesota, Mr. Israel, Mrs. Tauscher, Mr. Baca, and Mr. Cramer.
H. Res. 123: Mr. Paul.
H. Res. 136: Mr. Allen.
H. Res. 145: Mr. McGovern.
H. Res. 164: Mr. McNulty, Mrs. Davis of California, Mr. Waxman, Mr. McHugh, Mr. Grijalva, Mr. Kildee, Mr. Payne, and Mr. Butterfield.
H. Res. 167: Mr. Goode.
H. Res. 169: Mr. Boucher.
H. Res. 170: Mr. Wexler and Ms. Carson.

DELETIONS OF SPONSORS FROM PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS
Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were deleted from public bills and resolutions as follows:
H.R. 298: Mr. Pombo.
The Senate met at 9:45 a.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.

Our Father, in whose patient hands the mighty seasons move with quiet beauty, we acknowledge today our great need for Your guidance. Lord, we are challenged by complexities that require more than human wisdom. We sometimes feel like children grasping in the darkness, lost without light.

Bless this Government of the people, for the people, and by the people. Guide its leaders to strive to possess that righteousness that exalts a nation and to inspire others to pursue truth. Enlighten the Members of this body with Your wisdom, lest the darkness of our times hide the paths of Your providence.

We commit this day to You, Lord, for You are able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we can ask or imagine, according to Your power, working in and through each of us. We pray this prayer in Your holy Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable Ted STEVENS 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.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, 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 up to 60 minutes, with the first 30 minutes under the majority leader or his designee and the second 30 minutes under the Democratic leader or his designee.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

SCHEDULE

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, today we will have a period for morning business for up to 60 minutes. Following that hour for debate, we expect to begin consideration of the State Department authorization bill. We have not yet locked in that agreement, but I am hopeful we will be able to reach a consent agreement shortly. Chairman LUGAR is ready to proceed with the bill. We hope to make substantial progress during today’s session.

Under the order last night, we have scheduled a vote for 4:45 p.m. today on the adoption of a resolution relating to Pope John Paul II. I anticipate we will have additional votes today on amendments to the State Department bill.

Also this evening, once we complete our business for the day on the State Department legislation, we will have a 70-minute period for debate on the issue of Social Security. I encourage all Members to remain for this important question-and-answer period.

I also remind our colleagues that on Wednesday, there will be a joint meeting of the House and Senate to receive an address by Ukrainian President Viktor Yushchenko. That address is scheduled for 11 a.m. Senators should be in the Senate Chamber at 10:30 so we may proceed to the Hall of the House of Representatives.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Florida is recognized.

HONORING POPE JOHN PAUL II

Mr. MARTINEZ. Mr. President, this morning, as the world has taken notice of the passing of Pope John Paul II, I rise to speak. I know the Senate today will be taking a resolution to speak to the issue of the Pope’s passing.

As a person of the Roman Catholic faith myself, I thought it important and appropriate that this morning I take a few moments to speak to the greatness of this man and the contributions he made not only by enriching the faith life of those of us who practice the Roman Catholic faith, but to the people of the world as a great statesman and moral leader.

Pope John Paul was one of the remarkable people of our times. His papacy lasted 26 years, which is the third longest in the over 2,000-year history of our church. But it was during tumultuous and difficult times. Pope John Paul was prepared for this papacy, prepared for this mantle of leadership through tremendous hardships in his life. As a young person, he lost his mother very early in life, only to be followed by the very dramatic loss of his only brother, and only a very few years later the loss of his beloved father. So at a very young age, as a very young man, Pope John Paul was left alone in the world without any close family. He developed a long and strong network of friendships that he maintained all through his life, and even through the days of his papacy.

In addition, the Pope’s youth was tempered by living under tyranny, by the fact that in his youth he had to be subjected to the tyrannical occupation by Germany of his Polish homeland and the persecution of people such as himself—people of faith.

In addition, once that was over and he began to seek his vocational pursuit in the priesthood, he had to do so alone in the world without any close family. He developed a long and strong network of friendships that he maintained all through his life, and even through the days of his papacy.

In addition, once that was over and he began to seek his vocational pursuit in the priesthood, he had to do so underground, because subsequent to the German occupation and the Nazi regimes, and immediately thereafter, it was followed by the Communist takeover of Poland, Eastern Europe, as we
all know, became engulfed and contained by what came to be known, in the words of Sir Winston Churchill, as the Iron Curtain, with Poland falling behind the walls of that Iron Curtain, where religion was suppressed, faith was not practiced openly, and where he could not attend seminary openly. He would have to do it in an underground fashion.

The Pope’s preparation for his priesthood and his papacy was forged in the difficult times that he faced not only personally but also in his life as a citizen of Poland. It then fell upon him to be Pope at a time when the world was undergoing change, and at a time when the people of his beloved Poland were energized as no other in history by his papacy and his theme of “be not afraid.” His trip back to Poland in the early years of his papacy was punctuated by his remarkable reception by the people of Poland—people thirsty for freedom, thirsty for an opportunity to end the tyranny and the sadness of communism. So the papal visit was a transcending moment in the history of Poland. As we now know, it was a transcending moment in the history of our world because it did signal the beginning of the end of Communist rule in Poland. We know Pope John Paul worked closely with several U.S. Presidents but none more closely than President Ronald Reagan, in those crucial years when the Cold War came to a head, and when we saw the beginning of the fray—of what was a failed system, a system that had only been maintained through terror and fear. His theme of “be not afraid” began to be heard and responded to, and the people of Poland began that surge toward freedom, which was inevitable in all of Eastern Europe. So the Pope’s contribution there was crucial, critical, and was something that I think we all saw as a tremendous inspiration.

Of course, the Pope also visited the United States on many occasions. I believe I have heard over the last several days it was the second most visited country after his beloved Poland. It was with great significance that we received him here, and it made a tremendous difference in the life of our own country. More recently, he visited Cuba 8 years ago. Cuba is an imprisoned land where there had never been a papal visit before, and under the same tyrannical communism he saw in his native Poland during his youth and he battled all during his adult life being suppressed in his ability to worship freely.

Cuba happens to be the place where I was born, where I began my life, and where the principles of the Catholic faith were taught to me early in life by my family and my church. It was in that same land that I came to understand the meaning of oppression, tyranny and religious freedom, the Pope had experienced in his youth. He and I, in different parts of the world, in a sense shared a common experience and understanding of the limitations of freedom that are sometimes placed upon people by governments that do not respect what we find so basic and so rightful, which is the right of free speech and the right of practice of religion freely. And the Pope’s trip to Cuba was most meaningful because it helped the people to begin again to practice their faith in a more open way. His theme of “be not afraid” was heard by Cuba, and thousands of Cubans were for the first time expressing their faith in an open way, in a way they had not been permitted to do before, but which now they dare to do.

The Pope’s visit did not have the same galvanizing political effect it had in Poland, where it also led to political change, but it did have a strong pastoral theme, a message that the people of Cuba welcomed with open arms. It also inspired the archbishop in Santiago, Cuba, the second largest city in Cuba, to speak forcefully about oppression of religious freedom, and continuation of oppression—the kind of religious oppression I felt in my life that led me to seek freedom in the United States, with the very help of the same church the Pope came to lead, the Catholic Church. His fight against atheists and communism over the years also led him to conduct a program called Operation Peter Pan, which took 14,000 young people from Cuba to freedom in the United States. I was one of these people, and so my life began under the care of the Catholic church.

I understand fully the religious oppression the people of Cuba have suffered, which continues to this day but which the Pope made a little better. He gave them a window, an opening, a moment, for the first time in over 35 years. Christmas was celebrated in anticipation of the papal visit. Unfortunately, Cuba has now fallen back into a more repressive practice, and freedom of religion is curtailed even more today.

As we look at the Pope’s life, at this moment in history, as we reflect on this remarkable man, his remarkable life, and the contributions he made, we also must continue to understand there is work still to be done. There are people in the world who still are hungry and suffer, and there are those who still lack the religious freedoms to openly express their faith, much as the Pope in his youth was curtailed. People today in Cuba and other places around the world still yearn for that opportunity to freely worship and do what we do. As we began our proceedings this morning, the Chaplain of the Senate offered a word of prayer.

I conclude by simply saying that we have been touched in our lives by this remarkable man, this life which has shaped the world in which we live. It is a life well lived. As he has come to the end of his journey, I hope those of us who share in his faith and in his ideals of the respect of every human life and every human being will continue to carry on the wonderful legacy he left for us.

The President pro tempore. The Senator from Montana is recognized.

Mr. Burns. Mr. President, today I join in mourning the loss of Pope John Paul II. In my lifetime, he was the first Pope I can remember who could actually be put in the category of being an evangelist.

No other Pope ever traveled as much as this Pope did, and no man ever took the Word to the different corners of the world like this man did, and that is why he is so revered around the world.

The remarks of Mr. Burns pertaining to the introduction of S. 696 are printed in today’s Record under “Statements on Introduced Bills and Joint Resolutions.”

Mr. Burns. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. Martinez). The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. Burns. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGREEMENT—S. 600

Mr. Burns. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTABILITY

Mr. Dorgan. Mr. President, I rise this morning to talk about three areas of accountability as we begin discussing a range of things in the Senate this week. The first is the issue of accountability as it rises on the question of the report offered to the American people and to the Congress by Judge Laurence Silberman and former Senator Chuck Robb. It deals with the question of intelligence preceding the Iraq war.

The 600-page report given us was largely a useless retelling of what we know already. I do not want to completely diminish the effort, and there are some things in that report that are interesting, but the fact is, we already knew that the intelligence with respect to Iraq was dead wrong. The major question is, How was the intelligence used and for what purpose was it used?
We know what we were told prior to the Iraq war. All of us went to briefings up in the room in the Capitol where we receive top secret briefings, and we heard all kinds of language there and in the popular press by people in this administration and others who said that there was certainty, that they knew where the weapons of mass destruction were in Iraq; it was urgent; there were unmanned aerial vehicles to deliver weapons of mass destruction; this is a slam dunk.

Now we find out not only from this report but from previous reports that this intelligence was gathered, for example, with respect to one of the issues, as our Secretary of State told the world in the United Nations presentation, concerning the prospect that the Iraqis were developing a mobile chemical weapons lab to produce weapons of mass destruction. Now we discover that information came from a source named “curve ball.” It was a single source of information. Some suspect that “curve ball” was a drunk, at least when he met with our intelligence folks. It says that he was suspected of having a hangover. We know that he was a fabricator.

So on the basis of a fabricator, a drunk, single source, we told the world through our Secretary of State that Iraq had mobile chemical weapons labs that threatened our country.

The aluminum tubes are another story. I am not going to go through all the stories, but the question is, Where is the accountability? We get a 600-page report that tells us what we already know; that the intelligence with respect to Iraq was dead wrong. Where is the accountability? Where does the buck stop?

Mr. Tenet, who was the head of the CIA—and this 600-page report points certainly to him among others—was brought to the Oval Office, to the White House, given the information of the Freedom after he left the CIA. Where is the accountability? Is there accountability in this country for having gotten it not just wrong but, as the 600-page report says, dead wrong? Will this Congress require accountability? I think it is very important.

This 600-page report is half the story. The other part of the story is not only bad intelligence, but how was it used, how was it used in bad intelligence, but how was it used, how was it used by the administration, by the independent counsel, by the Congress? We had testimony from truckdrivers who worked in Iraq, and he said: We told the soldiers used the towel in order to have the contractor to buy towels for U.S. soldiers. He said: We told the soldiers used the towel in order to have the contractor to buy towels for U.S. soldiers. He said: We told the soldiers used the towel in order to have the contractor to buy towels for U.S. soldiers. He said: We told the soldiers used the towel in order to have the contractor to buy towels for U.S. soldiers. He said: We told the soldiers used the towel in order to have the contractor to buy towels for U.S. soldiers. He said: We told the soldiers used the towel in order to have the contractor to buy towels for U.S. soldiers. He said: We told the soldiers used the towel in order to have the contractor to buy towels for U.S. soldiers.

I come from a small town, and they call that cheating in my hometown. That contractor is still the largest contractor in Iraq being paid by the U.S. taxpayer.

We had testimony from truckdrivers who were hired to transport goods around Iraq, including fuel coming into Iraq by contractors. Truckdrivers testified that $85,000 brand new trucks were left on the side of the road to be torched and looted because they had a clogged fuel pump or because they had a flat tire. Could they do that? They did it. They did it. They did it. They did it. They did it. They did it.

We had a guy testify and show us a picture of the bags of cash that were used to give to contractors in Iraq. One contract company started business in Iraq with $450. They have been paid tens of millions of dollars now. Two of their employees, by the way, became whistleblowers and said: What we are seeing is making us sick, so we are going to tell somebody about it.

Here is what they said: These two people who started this company and are contracting with the U.S. Government—it is called the Coalition Provisional Authority that we created in Iraq; it was us, we paid for it—we were providing security at an airport, and they were alleged by the employees to have taken forklift trucks off the airport property to a warehouse, repaint them blue, and then bring them back to the airport and sell them to the U.S. taxpayers through the Coalition Provisional Authority. Again, in my hometown, they call that fraud.

We had a big picture that one of the other whistleblowers had taken who worked in Iraq, and he said: We told contractors in Iraq that when it was time to get paid, just bring a big bag because we are going to give you cash. He showed us one picture of the contractor I discussed, the one with respect to the forklift trucks. He showed one picture of $2 million wrapped in Saran Wrap in bundles sitting on a table and the contractor comes with a big bag and they get their $2 million and walk off.

This contractor, by the way, was also alleged to have created a subsidiary in the country of Lebanon for the purpose of buying and selling to and from itself so it could inflate prices and therefore further cheat the United States taxpayer.

It is unbelievable what we have learned about contracting in Iraq. One whistleblower came forward and said he would buy the buyer who was supposed to buy towels for U.S. soldiers. He said this is the towel I bought under orders from my superiors. The company wanted to pay almost double the price of the towel in order to have the company’s name embroidered on the towel the soldiers used. He said this is the towel I bought under orders from my superiors. The company wanted to pay almost double the price of the towel in order to have the company’s name embroidered on the towel the soldiers used. He said this is the towel I bought under orders from my superiors. The company wanted to pay almost double the price of the towel in order to have the company’s name embroidered on the towel the soldiers used. He said this is the towel I bought under orders from my superiors. The company wanted to pay almost double the price of the towel in order to have the company’s name embroidered on the towel the soldiers used. He said this is the towel I bought under orders from my superiors. The company wanted to pay almost double the price of the towel in order to have the company’s name embroidered on the towel the soldiers used. He said this is the towel I bought under orders from my superiors. The company wanted to pay almost double the price of the towel in order to have the company’s name embroidered on the towel the soldiers used.

When you think of what is happening, this Congress is shedding out tens of billions of dollars in pursuit of...
all of this and nobody is watching the store. You hear the stories about us paying for reconstruction of a building in Iraq—and we are doing it for thousands of buildings. We decide we are going to put an air conditioner in that building, so it is subcontracted to an Iraq contractor company. First it goes to the contractors who are in Iraq being paid by our Government, some of whom I have described here, and then it goes to an Iraq subcontractor, and then the subcontractor for that subcontractor. Very soon that the air conditioner in the building became a ceiling fan and we paid for an air conditioner and the ceiling fan doesn’t work. So there you are.

The question is, who in this Congress is going to decide this matters at a time when we are up to our neck in debt, the largest debt in the history of this country, with a fiscal policy that is way off track, a President who sends us a budget with the highest Federal budget deficits that are the highest in history, and trade deficits that are the highest in history, a combined fiscal policy and trade deficit of over $1 trillion in the past year? We are sinking and drowning in debt. Who is going to care about this kind of waste, fraud, and abuse in Iraq, the most serious I have seen in all the years I have served in the Congress?

I raise this because it relates to accountability, accountability with respect to the use of intelligence prior to the war, accountability with an independent counsel who spent $21 million 10 years after the fact when he was supposed to investigate a Cabinet official who lied about paying money to his mistress. This is an independent counsel who is still operating and has spent $21 million. Who is accountable for that? Who is accountable for waste, fraud, and abuse in Iraq?

Harry Truman had the famous sign on his desk: “The buck stops here.” This buck doesn’t seem to stop anywhere. Nobody seems to be accountable for anything.

I intend to offer another amendment. I don’t know whether I will offer it on the existing bill or on the supplemental, but I will offer it again, setting up a Truman committee of sorts. In 1941, at the start of the Second World War, Harry Truman, then a Democratic Senator when a Democrat was in the White House, traveled around this country and saw waste, fraud, and abuse in military spending. He created a special committee and as a result of the investigation of that committee they unearthed massive fraud and massive waste. That was when a Democrat in the Congress did it, when a Democrat was in the White House.

These days nobody wants to raise any questions. You don’t want to make any waves because we have one-party control and we don’t want to talk about this, that, or the other thing. The fact is, I have never seen the kind of waste that now exists with respect to our operations in Iraq. It undercuts and undermines our soldiers’ efforts, in my judgment. It cheats America’s taxpayers, and it represents the worst of Government.

We ought to be able to hire contractors who will do the job without allowing waste, fraud, and abuse to represent the impact of what we see happening in Iraq in those days with respect to these contractors.

Part of this stems from greed. Part of it stems from the fact that many of these contracts in Iraq are no-bid contracts—we don’t count them. I have not mentioned Halliburton, but I could because a lot of it deals with Halliburton and KBR—not exclusively, but a lot of it. Any time somebody mentions Halliburton, somebody says: Oh, you are attacking the Vice President. Not a bit. This happened after the Vice President left Halliburton. These are of recent vintage, these activities in Iraq. It is not an attack on anybody. It is in support of the taxpayers of this country. We ought not allow this to happen. Rep. Pelosi and Rep. Finkenauer all ought to stand on their feet and demand accountability and demand that the waste, fraud, and abuse stop—$8,000 a month to rent an SUV; $40 for a case of pop or soda—Coca-Cola.

There were 50,000 pounds of nails ordered by a contractor to Iraq. They were the wrong length, so they dumped them. If anybody wants to pick up 50,000 pounds of nails, they are laying in the sand in Iraq. It is unbelievable that there was waste, fraud, and abuse we heard about.

The reason I have held the hearings in the Democratic Policy Committee is nobody else will hold hearings. No one else wants to hold these contractors accountable. There are whistleblowers all over who are disgusted with what they saw, working for contractors and supervising contractors in Iraq.

I have only described a brief portion of what we learned in these hearings. We intend to conduct additional hearings. My preference would be that we not conduct these hearings in my committee. My preference would be that the authorizing committees and the relevant committees that should be assuming oversight of this would hold aggressive hearings, but they don’t and they probably won’t, and as a result we will continue to do this.

I am intending to offer an amendment to create a Truman-type committee here in the Congress, as we did some decades ago, to take a hard look at what is happening through that kind of committee, an investigative committee that would include Republicans and Democrats, all of whom I hope would be committed and dedicated to the task of deciding that waste, fraud, and abuse is not something that should happen on any of our watches here in the Congress.

Again, I think the key issue here is accountability. There seems to be none of these in any direction. I hope in all of these areas we can begin to decide there is accountability, at least here in the Congress.

I yield the floor and make a point of order a quorum is not present.

The PRESIDING OFFICIAL. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. SALAZAR. Mr. President, I rise this morning, just having returned to Washington from Colorado, to share a few comments about the Holy Father, Pope John Paul II.

My family’s faith tradition—like yours, Mr. President—since time immemorial has been Roman Catholic. In Pope John Paul II, we witnessed a great spiritual leader, a conscience and a statesman.

Pope John Paul II exemplified the values and teachings of Jesus Christ in his humility, service to others, and in his struggle to have the world recognize the dignity of every human being. John Paul II lived the creed of Jesus Christ set forth by St. Matthew, Chapter 23, Verses 11-12, where Jesus, speaking to the crowds and his disciples, said:

The more lowly your service to others, the greater you are. To be the greatest, be a servant. But those who think themselves great shall be disappointed and humbled; and those who humble themselves shall be exalted.

More than 26 years ago, in the eighth round of voting, Karol Wojtyla was elected to head the Roman Catholic Church. His predecessor, Pope John Paul I, had died after only 32 days as Pope. The selection of the charismatic Polish cardinal—the first non-Italian pope in 455 years—surprised many people both inside and outside the Catholic Church.

In the quarter-century since then, Pope John Paul II continued to surprise—and challenge—not only members of my church but, indeed, the entire world to recognize and celebrate the dignity of each and every person.

But that was not all “the Pilgrim Pope” revolutionized. Where previous pontiffs had often seemed distant from their flocks, Pope John Paul II traveled the world to recognize and encourage the many people—often times in their language—than any other pontiff in the history of the Roman Catholic Church.

His first trip abroad as pontiff was to a region in crisis. Latin America, home of half the world’s Roman Catholics, was ravaged not just by poverty and hunger but by violence and civil war that claimed tens of thousands of innocent lives.

His next trip was to his homeland, Poland, a land that been subjugated for decades under the kind of communism. One journalist wrote that the pope’s visit to Poland “helped bring about such profound, irreversible
changes that Poland then became a country which was clearly ceasing to be a communist country.”

John Paul also visited America during the first year of his Papacy, attracting huge crowds wherever he went. In 1993, he came to Denver, bringing a message of substance and hope to the young people of the world. I remember that visit fondly—and recall my father’s excitement after he reached over a fence to touch the Pope.

This Pope is organized—and rightly so—as a sort of patron saint for the Solidarity movement in Poland and a catalyst for the demise of communism in the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe.

But that was only part of this pope’s message. He has also warned repeatedly about the shortcomings of capitalism. He reminded us all that we have an obligation to help the poor and the oppressed.

In 1998, he traveled to Cuba, strengthening a Church that is doing more and more to help that country’s forgotten, and breathing life into an opposition movement that surprised the world—and that country’s backward regime—with a grassroots call for reform.

In 1999, he again visited the US, reminding us of our duty to not forget the poor and oppressed and continuing his special outreach to America’s young people and challenging them to fight for a better America and a better world.

And in 2000, a visibly frail Pope visited the Holy Land to mark the Millennium and in an attempt to bring Jews, Christians and Muslims together. Both Jews and Muslims and Christians welcomed him—and recognized and celebrated his visit—and applauded of optimism in his words and hope.

His efforts to heal the rift between the Vatican and Jews had to be colored by his own experience with the brutality of anti-Semitism that he had witnessed. In September 1939, he saw his university in Krakow shut down and eventually saw several of his friends and classmates sent to Auschwitz after the Nazis invaded Poland.

His efforts at healing historical rifts continued, evidenced by meetings with the Archbishop of Canterbury, the highest ranking official in the Episcopal Church. Many wished he could have done more on these hurtful rifts, but no one doubted that he began to confront these challenges like no Pope has ever done in the history of our Church.

For these nearly 27 years, the Pilgrim Pope John Paul II—an accomplished poet, an intellectual and a mystic in that fine Catholic tradition—was hailed as a visionary and attacked as a relic. Within the Church itself—as in the scores of countries he visited—his words were criticized by critics on both the left and the right. That is because in the Church and on each of his many trips, he brought not only comfort and hope—hope for peace in Latin America, freedom in Eastern Europe, reconciliation in the Middle East, and improvement in America—but he also brought discomfort and challenges for all of us to do better.

In 2003, the Vatican had this to say about the role of the Church in public life.

The Church does not wish to exercise political power or to eliminate the freedom of opinion of Catholics regarding contingent questions.

Instead, it intends—as is its proper function—to instruct and illuminate the conscience of those particularly those involved in political life in light to their actions may always serve the integral promotion of the human person and the common good.

None of us lived up to the challenges and prescriptions the Pope mapped out in 27 years in a perfect way. We could not because Pope John Paul II challenged all of us to do more, to be better.

Physically, the frail, stooped Pope we saw in the last weeks bore little resemblance to the athletic 58-year-old who ascended the throne of Peter nearly 27 years ago. But inwardly, he remained deeply consistent—challenging us to uphold the dignity of each and every person, and illuminated and instructed, as well as challenged and surprised the entire world.

We will miss Pope John Paul II, but his vibrant legacy lives on in each of us and in the lessons and challenges he placed before us.

I thank the President and yield the floor.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, Zbigniew Brzezinski, the Polish-born national security advisor to President Jimmy Carter, tells a story about how the news of Cardinal Karol Wojtyla’s election as Pope was received by the communist rulers of Poland.

On that day in October 1978, Mr. Brzezinski said, a group of communist writers and party leaders were meeting in Krakow. A police colonel was speaking, complaining about the opposition of the church, when a woman ran into the room and said, “Wojtyla has been elected Pope!”

The second secretary of the party, not realizing his microphone was still on, turned to the first secretary and said, “My God, my God, now we will have to kiss his”—and he did not say “rings.”

The first party secretary, understanding the enormity of the moment, replied, “Only if he lets us.”

In neighboring Czechoslovakia, a dissident playwright was with friends when news of the new Polish Pope came. Vaclav Havel, who would go on to become the first elected president of the Czech Republic, said he and his friends literally danced with joy when they heard the news. “We felt,” he said, “that he was a great and charismatic man who would open the door to an unprecedented renaissance in Christianity and through it, to human spirituality in general, and who will fundamentally influence the future destiny and political order of the world.”

More than 26 years later, those stories seem prophetic. Karol Wojtyla, Pope John Paul II, did indeed change the world.

He is being mourned not only in his beloved Poland, and not only by Catholics, but by people throughout the world: Christians, Jews, Muslims, Hindus, Buddhists, people from every faith tradition, and many with no religious connections.

Last Friday, when it was clear the Pope was dying, a man in Havana, a self-described communist, told an Associated Press reporter, “I don’t believe in God. But if there is a God, let him send us a Pope as good as this one.”

In Istanbul, Turkey, the brother of the man who nearly killed the Pope said his brother is grieving. “He loved the Pope,” his brother said.

In this country where this Pope’s death has left many with an aching sadness is the Five Holy Martyrs Church on the southwest side of Chicago, the historic heart of Chicago’s large Polish community. More Poles live in Chicago, IL, than any other city in the world, other than Warsaw.

In October 1979, when Pope John Paul II made his first visit to America as Pope, he said Mass at the Five Holy Martyrs Church where the Eucharist was celebrated on an altar in the church parking lot, surrounded by more than 17,000 people.

Today, the altar still stands in the parking lot; it is used once a year for a special commemorative Mass. A portion of 43rd Street near the Five Holy Martyrs Church has been renamed in the Pope’s honor. And many who saw him still recall it as one of the greatest days of their lives.

Think of this: half the people in the world today were not even born when Karol Wojtyla became Pope John Paul II. Most people under 40 have no memory of any other Pope, and remember John Paul only as an elderly and frail man.

Those of us who are a little older, though, remember just as clearly what a strong, athletic man he was before age and Parkinson’s disease began to take their toll. “God’s athlete,” some called him, and he showed in his life how much strength he had.

He was a traditionalist and a revolutionary, a son of Poland, and a citizen of the world. He was a mystic and a man of prayer, but he was also a man of action and seemingly inexhaustible energy. Reporters decades younger who accompanied him in his travels even in recent years, said they returned home exhausted. But John Paul never stopped.

He was more than a spiritual leader; he was a major player on the world diplomatic stage in Polish, on an altar in the church parking lot; it is used once a year for a special commemorative Mass. A portion of 43rd Street near the Five Holy Martyrs Church has been renamed in the Pope’s honor. And many who saw him still recall it as one of the greatest days of their lives.

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the distance from the Earth to the Moon.

He spoke more languages than many people can name. In 1993, he visited Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia—his first trip as Pope to the former Soviet Union. He learned his 14th language, Lithuanian, which I am sure my Lithuanian-born mother was very happy to hear.

Everywhere, his message was the same as he told his fellow Poles on his first visit home as Pope in 1979: “Be not afraid.” There is more to this life than what you can see here and now. “The moral arc of the universe is long,” as another great moral leader told us, “but it bends toward justice.”

He sided always with the oppressed, the marginalized, the voiceless, the victims of war and injustice.

He was fearless and unflinching in the face of leaders of governments that suppressed human rights and crushed human hopes. He defied the Nazis who occupied Poland when he was a young man, and the communists who followed them. He showed real strength that all of us can try.

His role in ending communism in Poland and bringing about the end of the Soviet empire is well documented and rightly praised. He also helped to bring an end to apartheid by refusing to visit South Africa until that repugnant form of government was abolished.

Peace, non-violence, the sanctity of life, the dignity of work, the realization that we are all part of one human family that every person on earth shares “a common dignity and a common destiny,” the belief that those who have much owe those who have less true justice, not mere charity, these are the lessons John Paul preached.

He taught us about reconciliation. He apologized for the Church for the Crusades, the Inquisition and the persecution of the Jews.

He showed us how to ask for forgiveness on his first trip home to Poland, when he visited the Nazi death camp at Auschwitz and knelt in prayer before a memorial to Holocaust victims. He showed us again on his first visit to Israel, in 2000, when he reached out his shaking hand to touch the Western Wall and leave a written prayer, a plea for forgiveness.

He showed us how to grant forgiveness when he visited the prison cell of the man who tried to kill him, and prayed with him.

He was the first Pope ever to visit the United States. He brought the message of peace and justice to the millions of Americans who came with the dream of opportunity who come with the dream of opportunity. He was a symbol to millions on these shores and beyond that they, too, if they worked hard and stuck to their principles and moral values, could enjoy a better life.

After terrible tragedy struck our city that awful day 4 years ago, the Pope’s poignant statements reassured all New Yorkers and all Americans. He said at that time: ‘May the Blessed Virgin, bring comfort and hope to all those who are suffering because of the tragic terrorist attack that profoundly wounded the beloved American people in response. To all the survivors of that great nation I now address my heartfelt thoughts and participation. May Mary receive the dead, console the survivors, sustain the families which have been especially tried and help everyone not to give in to the temptation toward hatred and violence, but to commit themselves to serving justice and peace.

And he didn’t stop there. After the attacks he convened an inter faith pilgrimage for peace to Assisi, the birthplace of St. Francis. He only led such a pilgrimage twice before—one during the Cold War, once during the Balkans conflict. He led leaders of Orthodox, Anglican, Protestant, Jewish, Muslim, Buddhist, Hindu, Sikh, Jain, Zoroastrian, Tenrikyo, Shinto and traditional African faiths in prayer and meditation. It was only a delegation he could have led.

I will never forget the Pope’s visit to New York City in 1979. One glance at him and you saw that his nobility and his common touch combined so well in one human being was unforgettable for the millions of New Yorkers who lined the streets to greet him. People of all faiths and background mourn his passing. I join the billions of citizens around the world in a solemn prayer and remembrance of this great, wonderful, and holy man, Pope John Paul II.

I yield the floor.

Mr. GRAHAM. Mr. President, I add my voice to the millions of people throughout the world as we try to put in perspective the passing of Pope John Paul II.

As has been said many times in many ways, probably more than anything what struck me the most about the Holy Father was his ability to understand what could be when other people only saw what couldn’t be. He understood compassion and expiessive system. He lived under Nazi rule, and as he had the power to bring about change, he used that power for the
good. He went back to his home country of Poland and challenged his people to expect better and to demand better. That is what he did for the world.

He tried to challenge his church, to stick to the principles of the church as he saw those principles to be. He challenged the world to do better when it came to the less fortunate. He was consistent. He saw war as a bad thing. He understood that life was sacred and that the state should not take life. He was in opposition to the death penalty. There I may disagree, an honest disagreement.

But he had a consistency about him. When we try to put his beliefs in secular terms of being liberal or conservative, we totally miss the mark of understanding the Pope. He understood the past, he changed the present, and the future will be better because of his time on Earth.

His passing has left a void in a great religion. The Catholic faith has lost a great leader. The world has lost a great voice for humanity, for decency, for love, for caring, and that voice will echo throughout the ages. As the Catholic Church embarks on picking a new Pope, I can understand the legacy that will be fulfilled.

The great religion called the Catholic faith is in mourning for the loss of a great leader, but all of us are in mourning for the loss of a great leader. Anyone who loves freedom, anyone who believes that a right and wrong when it comes to certain issues, has lost a great guidepost. I believe his legacy will be in challenging the status quo for the common good, seeing pain and hearing the cries of the oppressed when other people only heard faint noises, and having the courage of his convictions. He said, Be not afraid, and that is a lesson for us all.

He has gone to his eternal home. He deserves all the accolades he has been given because the world is better for his time on Earth.

I yield the floor.

Ms. MIKULSKI. Mr. President, also part of the greatest generation is someone whom I rise to pay tribute to today and that is to Pope John Paul II. I was saddened at the passing of Pope John Paul II. The Holy Father was an inspiration to me as well as to millions around the world. His faith, his compassion, his eloquence, transcended religious and political boundaries. We saw an extraordinary example of His Holiness because he stood for those who suffered, those who were oppressed, those who could not give voice through their own advocacy for human rights. He offered faith and hope and courage with his famous phrase, Be not afraid. He reached out to young people to give them a moral compass that they needed—that we all need to guide our lives.

Pope John Paul was the true people’s Pope. God has revelved to over 180 countries. He didn’t just speak from the pulpit; he reached out and touched people. He moved into the crowds, and he spoke the language of the people, often literally because he spoke so many languages. The Pope was the father of the church, but he was also a son of Poland, my own cultural heritage. I remember when I heard the news about the new Polish Pope, the first non-Italian in over 400 years. I live in a Polish parish, including many Utahns, and of course St. Stanislaw’s in Fells Point. We felt such pride and joy. The bells rang, the tugboats tooted. We closed the streets and had a fantastic party. We were so excited.

In Baltimore we even knew him before he became Pope. He came to visit us as the cardinal from Krakow. He visited Holy Rosary Church, again one of the Catholic churches serving large numbers in the Polish community. I was so pleased to be there that day for this young, vigorous, athletic man who came from Poland to speak to us, wanting to know about our own country, speaking to us in English also about our own hopes and aspirations. And he shared that he had grown up under Nazi fascism and lived under the boot of communism, he spoke to us about what it was like to live behind the Iron Curtain.

As you so well know, he came from the nations, I was proud to have him then to be part of the American delegation when he was Invisted over 2 years later. And even then we could see the hint of things to come. There was a mass for hundreds of thousands of people in the White House. His Holiness gave his first blessing and spoke the Word to the people in many tongues. Before he came over to greet the diplomatic corps, he went over to a special section of children, and not just ordinary children but extraordinary children—the mentally retarded, those with birth defects, cerebral palsy. And the first touch of the Pope was to those children. I think it touched us all.

One of my best memories was taking my daughter to the White House when Jimmy Carter was President and Brzezinski was his National Security Adviser. I took my mother and father through the receiving line, and they had a chance to talk with him in both Polish and English. He turned and smiled with his wonderful humor in a way and said: Don’t forget to listen to your mother and father and to the Holy Father.

Twenty-five years later, I joined my colleagues that evening at the White House when President Ronald Reagan was his National Security Adviser. I took my husband and father and they had a chance to talk with him in both Polish and English. He turned and smiled and said: Don’t forget to listen to your mother and father and to the Holy Father.

The Pope visited this country seven different times, both as a bishop and as Pope. And during those times, he always spoke up for human rights, to speak about the marginalized and oppressed. Today we grieve the death of the Pope. We express our gratitude for his remarkable life and his remarkable leadership and legacy of faith and freedom and the enduring promise of the Gospels calling us to feed the hungry, care for the sick, and turn our spears into plowshares.

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, when Pope John Paul II died over the weekend, the Catholic Church lost its spiritual shepherd. The world lost a giant of a man. As successor of St. Peter, he began his papacy by reminding the world to “Be not afraid.” The captive nations, both as a bishop and as Pope. And during those times, when he was the captive nations, speaking to the world as successor of St. Peter. He was the true people’s Pope. God has traveled to over 180 countries. He didn’t just speak from the pulpit; he reached out and touched people. He moved into the crowds, and he spoke the language of the people, often literally because he spoke so many languages. The Pope was the father of the church, but he was also a son of Poland, my own cultural heritage. I remember when I heard the news about the new Polish Pope, the first non-Italian in over 400 years. I live in a Polish parish, including many Utahns, and of course St. Stanislaw’s in Fells Point. We felt such pride and joy. The bells rang, the tugboats tooted. We closed the streets and had a fantastic party. We were so excited.

In Baltimore we even knew him before he became Pope. He came to visit us as the cardinal from Krakow. He visited Holy Rosary Church, again one of the Catholic churches serving large numbers in the Polish community. I was so pleased to be there that day for this young, vigorous, athletic man who came from Poland to speak to us, wanting to know about our own country, speaking to us in English also about our own hopes and aspirations. And he shared that he had grown up under Nazi fascism and lived under the boot of communism, he spoke to us about what it was like to live behind the Iron Curtain.

As you so well know, he came from the nations, I was proud to have him then to be part of the American delegation when he was Invisted over 2 years later. And even then we could see the hint of things to come. There was a mass for hundreds of thousands of people in the White House. His Holiness gave his first blessing and spoke the Word to the people in many tongues. Before he came over to greet the diplomatic corps, he went over to a special section of children, and not just ordinary children but extraordinary children—the mentally retarded, those with birth defects, cerebral palsy. And the first touch of the Pope was to those children. I think it touched us all.

One of my best memories was taking my daughter to the White House when Jimmy Carter was President and Brzezinski was his National Security Adviser. I took my mother and father through the receiving line, and they had a chance to talk with him in both Polish and English. He turned and smiled with his wonderful humorous way and said: Don’t forget to listen to your mother and father and to the Holy Father.

Twenty-five years later, I joined my colleagues that evening at the White House when President Ronald Reagan was his National Security Adviser. I took my husband and father and they had a chance to talk with him in both Polish and English. He turned and smiled and said: Don’t forget to listen to your mother and father and to the Holy Father.

The Pope visited this country seven different times, both as a bishop and as Pope. And during those times, he always spoke up for human rights, to speak about the marginalized and oppressed. Today we grieve the death of the Pope. We express our gratitude for his remarkable life and his remarkable leadership and legacy of faith and freedom and the enduring promise of the Gospels calling us to feed the hungry, care for the sick, and turn our spears into plowshares.
witness to hope, his faith that life would triumph over death, that the light would prevail over the darkness, was more powerful than any army.

As a result of his simple faith, this humble man from Krakow, Poland, emerged from the Iron Curtain, his words became the first non-Italian Pope in nearly 500 years, and concluded his life as one of the towering figures of the Twentieth Century. I have no doubt that his example will guide us in the Twenty-first Century as well, and I understand why it is that so many Catholics are already referring to him as John Paul the Great.

My career as a public servant began shortly before John Paul II became Pope. I am fortunate to have spent time with him on two occasions over the years, and so it was no surprise to me to watch the world's and this country's admiration and love for him grow. I was struck by his joyful and his charitable spirit. Yet behind that peaceful demeanor, he challenged the totalitarian assaults on human dignity that stained much of the last century.

As a young man he was witness to the Nazi terror in his native Poland, and he went to church and encouraged the Solidarity movement. He understood that all persons are created in the image and likeness of God and that no matter how small, old or weak, no person is without significance. He did not leave this out of the equation.

As is clear from the different languages one hears in Rome as people wait to file past the Pope, this was a man who belonged to the world. And the Pope's trips to this country will never be forgotten. People in this country stood in the rain to attend papal masses in Boston and Miami, New Orleans and New York. Youth from around the world came to celebrate with him in Denver. Though this was a man with a universal message, I think that his most powerful witness to the dignity of all people contributed as much to the downfall of the horror of communism as anything we accomplished in Washington. A year after he assumed the papacy, John Paul II went to Poland and awakened a sleeping giant. Today, I hear that over a million thankful Poles are en route to Rome to pay their respects to their native son.

As the Pope grew older and he lost his youthful vigor, his own suffering served as a powerful reminder of the need to nurture a culture of life. Catholics and non-Catholics alike have heard his call.

But, in the last days of his功率, he was a powerful witness to the dignity of all people certainly do. As is clear from the different languages one hears in Rome as people wait to file past the Pope, this was a man who belonged to the world. And the Pope's trips to this country will never be forgotten. People in this country stood in the rain to attend papal masses in Boston and Miami, New Orleans and New York. Youth from around the world came to celebrate with him in Denver. Though this was a man with a universal message, I think that his most powerful witness to the dignity of all people contributed as much to the downfall of the horror of communism as anything we accomplished in Washington. A year after he assumed the papacy, John Paul II went to Poland and awakened a sleeping giant. Today, I hear that over a million thankful Poles are en route to Rome to pay their respects to their native son.

As the Pope grew older and he lost his youthful vigor, his own suffering served as a powerful reminder of the need to nurture a culture of life. Catholics and non-Catholics alike have heard this call. As President Bush put it the other day, it remains the duty of the strong to protect the weak.

It only took about twenty-four hours before some commentators came out to declare the Pope's legacy a mixed one. The Pope was too strident on certain issues, they say. He left certain groups unsatisfied. But I think that these criticisms really miss what this man was about. John Paul II reminded us of the meaning that our human lives can have. This truth is not something that you can focus group. The truth about the universe, about our duty to God and to our fellow man, is not something that you can triangulate.

Still, some fault the Pope for not being more like a politician. He was not accommodating enough. He should have compromised and found a middle ground. As elected officials, that is our charge. But as the spiritual head of the Catholic Church, the Pope's duty was greater than what we work to accomplish. He was a witness to truth. His message was not always one that people on either side of the aisle wanted to hear, but the call to the faithful is not often an easy one to swallow. The Pope reminded us of the splendor of truth. I reminded the secular critics of the Pope of the knee-jerk aversion by some to the very idea that there are eternal truths. The Pope should be commended, not criticized, for reminding us of them.

The world was taken with his holiness, and I leave this exactly backward. They think that it was the Pope who was inconsistent because he was not easily labeled as politically liberal or conservative. It never occurs to them that it is we who are conflicted; that our divisions are something to be overcome. The Pope spoke to what Abraham Lincoln called the better angels of our nature. He was not someone seeking political advantage or gain. He sought peace and unity, and nowhere was this more clear than in his historic outreach to non-Catholic Christians, to the Jewish people, and to moderate Muslims.

Our commentators might not get this, but the Pope does. He is more like a politician. He was more powerful than any army. He was a witness to truth. His message was not always one that people on either side of the aisle wanted to hear, but the call to the faithful is not often an easy one to swallow. The Pope reminded us of the splendor of truth. I reminded the secular critics of the Pope of the knee-jerk aversion by some to the very idea that there are eternal truths. The Pope should be commended, not criticized, for reminding us of them.

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special responsibility to the world calling on our Nation to be “for the world, an example of a genuinely free, democratic, just and humane society.”

In recent years, even as his health deteriorated, he refused to give up. And in that he modeled for millions of people throughout the world about how faith and willpower can overcome adversity.

Indeed, I cannot remember a Pope who has been more warmly received and revered. I had the great honor to meet him at the Vatican in 1982 where I presented him with a cross sculpted from handguns melted down after being turned into police when they were banned in San Francisco. He received my gift warmly, giving me a rosary in return.

The world has lost a strong voice for peace, justice, and human dignity. Pope John Paul II will be dearly missed.

Mr. CONRAD. Mr. President, I watched with great sadness this weekend as the world lost a remarkable leader and faithful servant. Pope John Paul II, born Karol Wojtyla, was the leader of the world’s largest church and shepherd to more than a billion Catholics throughout the world. In my home of North Dakota, more than 130,000 Catholics are mourning the Pope’s death this week and praying for the repose of his soul. I join these faithful and millions of others in grieving for the Holy Father who spread a message of peace and charity during this period, he found comfort in his Catholic faith and challenged the Nazis to respect human dignity and the worth of all humankind.

I am saddened by the loss of this just and holy man; however, I am joyful that he surely has passed to a more perfect place and is in communion with the God he served so faithfully. My thoughts and prayers are with the Catholic community and all those who mourn the death of Pope John Paul II.

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Morning business is now closed.

FOREIGN AFFAIRS AUTHORIZATION ACT, FISCAL YEARS 2006 AND 2007

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the pending business.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (No. S. 800) to authorize appropriations for the Department of State and international broadcasting activities for fiscal years 2006 and 2007, for the Peace Corps for fiscal years 2006 and 2007, for foreign assistance programs for fiscal years 2006 and 2007, and for other purposes.

Mr. LUGAR. Mr. President, today, the Senate will be considering S. 800, the Foreign Relations Authorization Act for Fiscal Years 2006 and 2007. The Foreign Relations Committee passed this bill on March 3 by a vote of 18-0. This is the third successive year that the Foreign Relations Committee has reported out a comprehensive Foreign Affairs Authorization bill by a unanimous vote. We are pleased to have this opportunity to bring it to the floor for the Senate’s consideration. I want to especially thank the majority leader and the Democratic leader for their assistance and support in bringing this measure to the floor.

This legislation gives voice to Senate views on issues touching every continent—from the threat of terrorism and weapons of mass destruction, to the safety of American workers and our Peace Corps volunteers, as well as the programs and policies that they manage on behalf of the United States.

These people are our civilian soldiers—they pursue a bold war on terrorism and a noble and far-sighted battle against disease, poverty, and humanitarian disasters. Most work in circumstances where the threat level is severe. American diplomats and aid workers, frequently themselves having been targets of terrorism while serving overseas. But they understand the importance of representing the United States, and they go anyway.

At this time in our history we are experiencing a confluence of foreign policy crises that is unparalleled in the post-Cold War era. Our Nation has lived through the September 11 tragedy, and we have responded with a worldwide war against terrorism. We have fought wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, where we are likely to be engaged in security and reconstruction efforts for years to come. We have been confronted by nuclear proliferation problems in North Korea and Iran that threaten our national and regional stability. We are continuing efforts to safeguard Russia’s massive stockpiles of chemical, biological, and nuclear weapons and to prevent proliferation throughout the world. We have experienced soaring oil prices, the rise of China, India, and Brazil, and they both must be unsurpassed in their views on issues touching every continent.

We have four nuclear-weapons states that refuse to be bound by nuclear agreements, and we have refused to deal with them. They both understand the importance of diplomacy, but there is a difference in approach and influence the attitudes of governments and peoples. They both gather openings in the Middle East peace process and spur the advance of democracy in many countries. Emerging powers, including China, India, and Brazil, may soon reconfigure the world economically and politically in ways that we do not yet comprehend.

There is a tendency in the media and sometimes in this body to see diplomatic activities as the rival of military solutions to problems. We have to get beyond this simplistic view. We have to understand that our military and our diplomats are both instruments of U.S. national power that depend on one another. They both help shape the international environment and influence the attitudes of governments and peoples. They both gather information and provide expertise that is vital to the war on terrorism. And they both must be unsurpassed in their capabilities, if the United States is going to survive and prosper.

Americans rightly demand that U.S. military capabilities be unrivaled in the world. Should not our diplomatic strength meet the same test? If a greater commitment of resources can prevent the bombing of one of our embassies, or the proliferation of a nuclear weapon, or the spiral into chaos of a vulnerable nation wracked by disease and hunger, the investment will have yielded dividends far beyond its cost.

In considering this legislation today, it is important to remember that since the end of the Cold War, the Foreign Affairs Account frequently has suffered
from inadequate funding. The American public generally understands that the United States reduced military spending in the 1990s following the fall of the Soviet Union. Few are aware, however, that this peace dividend spending reduction theme was called even more unsparingly to our foreign affairs programs. In constant dollars, the foreign affairs budget was cut in six consecutive years from 1992 to 1998. This slide occurred even as the United States’ heavy added costs of establishing new missions in the fifteen emergent states of the former Soviet Union. In constant dollars, the cumulative effect was a 26 percent decrease in our foreign affairs programs. As a percentage of GDP, this six-year slide represented a 36 percent cut in foreign affairs programs.

By the beginning of the new millennium, these cuts had taken their toll. The General Accounting Office reported that staffing shortfalls, lack of adequate skills, and security vulnerabilities plagued many of our diplomatic posts. In 2001 the share of the U.S. budget devoted to the international affairs account stood at a paltry 1.18 percent—barely above its post-World War II low and only about half of its share in the mid-1980s, during the Reagan administration.

Under President Bush, funding for the Foreign Affairs Account has increased substantially. The President has requested increases in each of the last four budgets. In this year’s budget, the President has requested a 13 percent increase over last year’s appropriated amount for the Foreign Affairs Account—the largest percentage increase of any major account in the budget. This is a tangible demonstration of the President’s commitment to diplomatic strength. Congress must now do its part by providing the resources and authorities that the President needs to carry out an effective foreign policy.

The bill before us preserves the funding decisions in the President’s request. Inevitably, members will have some differences with the specifics of the President’s request. But we should recognize that this bill represents a generous attempt to raise the profile and effectiveness of U.S. diplomacy. Those of us who have advocated funding increases for the 150 Account should be grateful for an answer. Accordingly, I believe that if amendments are offered to increase funding for a particular program, they should include offsets.

The bill funds the Millennium Challenge Corporation at the President’s requested level of $3 billion. Some have argued that the President should have requested $5 billion—the amount he originally had conceived for the corporation’s third year of funding. Others have argued that $3 billion is too much for a program that is just getting off the ground, and that some of this money should be shifted to other priorities. My own view is that $3 billion is a reasonable amount, given the scope of the program and its potential for spurring democratic reforms overseas. The credibility of the program, which foreign nations are observing closely, would be strengthened if the Senate endorses the President’s funding request. For those reasons, I will support amendments that seek to use MCC funds as an offset for other priorities.

This bill contains numerous policy initiatives, most notably the bipartisan Stabilization and Reconstruction Act of 2002. The Civilian Management Act, which was developed in the Foreign Relations Committee and included in last year’s bill. The bill before the Senate also includes a 10 percent increase in danger pay for State Department employees who serve in dangerous posts overseas, funding for refugee assistance, and provisions designed to improve protections for women, children, and other vulnerable populations in the context of war or disaster.

Since the mid-1980s, Congress has not fulfilled its responsibility to pass an Omnibus Foreign Assistance Act. Several discrete measures, such as the Millennium Challenge Account, the global AIDS bill, the Freedom Support Act, and the Balkan Recovery Fund and the East and Central European Democracy Act, have been enacted. But in the absence of a comprehensive authorization, much of the responsibility for providing guidance for foreign assistance policy has fallen to the appropriations committees. Appropriators have kept our foreign assistance programs going, but in many cases, they have had to do so without proper authorization. In some years, the Congress did pass a State Department authorization bill, but that bill only authorizes about 35 percent of the Function 150 Account. To fund the remaining accounts, appropriators frequently had to waive the legal requirement to appropriate funds only following the passage of an authorization bill. Passing a comprehensive Foreign Affairs authorization bill is good politics, as well as good policy. It is good politics because it underscores the leadership of this Senate at a time when our country is in peril. It is good politics because foreign assistance is an instrument of national power in the war on terrorism. It is good politics because it recognizes that our standard of living, the retirements of our parents, and our children’s educational advancements in our health care, and the security of Americans can be undermined by what happens overseas. It recognizes that American prosperity is far more likely to be sustained if we are successful in spreading democracy, stability, and free markets throughout the world.

I thank the members of my committee for their hard work during the authorization process. Members on both sides of the aisle devoted many hours and much thought to constructive solutions to a number of very difficult foreign policy questions. Although this is a new bill developed during the last several months, it reflects much work that has been done by the Committee during the previous Congress. Committee hearings during the last 2 years on post-conflict stabilization and reconstruction, U.S. policy in the Middle East, developments on the Korean peninsula, relations between the United States and Pakistan, and foreign assistance, and numerous other topics have been well attended. In fact, no Senate committee held as many hearings or met as often as the Foreign Relations Committee during the last Congress.

I especially thank the ranking member of the Foreign Relations Committee, Senator Biden, for his support of this process and his leadership in foreign policy matters. We have agreed on the vast majority of provisions in this bill, and when we have disagreed, we have worked hard to bridge our differences and find bipartisan solutions. We have always shared the common goal of bringing good legislation to the floor for the Senate’s judgment.

It has long been my intent that the Senate Foreign Relations Committee approach foreign policy problems in a bipartisan spirit. This legislation reflects the committee’s success in that regard. Republicans and Democrats have worked together closely to seek consensus, reason together, make compromises and craft excellent legislation. Our committee is united in the belief that passing a comprehensive Foreign Affairs authorization bill will enhance U.S. national security.

I am looking forward to the debate on this bill and the constructive contributions of Members at this important time in our Nation’s history.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

AMENDMENT NO. 266

Mr. LUGAR. Mr. President, I send an amendment to the desk and ask for its immediate consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The assistant legislative clerk will report.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Indiana [Mr. LUGAR] proposes an amendment numbered 266.

Mr. LUGAR. I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The amendment is as follows: (Purpose: To strike the amendment to the limitation on the United States share of assessments for United Nations Peacekeeping operations)

On page 55, strike lines 3 through 11.

Mr. LUGAR. I rise to offer an amendment that strikes section 401, a section which establishes a permanent cap of
Mr. MCCAIN. Mr. President, as we all know, the recent Orange Revolution in Ukraine marked a huge victory for the advancement of democracy in the world. The people made it clear that they would not stand idle as a corrupt regime sought to deny them their democratic rights. Now that the people of Ukraine have seized control of their destiny, the United States must stand ready to assist them as they do the hard work of consolidating democracy.

The purpose of the amendment is to repeal the so-called and well-known Jackson-Vanik amendment, for it to be terminated with respect to Ukraine. At his appearance with President Viktor Yushchenko, President Bush pledged to seek the termination of Jackson-Vanik. In a White House statement yesterday, both Governments stated that they support “immediately ending the application of Jackson-Vanik to Ukraine.” We should all agree. This 31-year-old legislation is, with respect to Ukraine, now anachronistic and inappropriate. I am pleased to offer this amendment along with Senator DeWine. And I know there will be others.

Specifically, this amendment would authorize the President to terminate the application of Jackson-Vanik, which is title IV of the Trade Act of 1974, to Ukraine. Ukraine would then be eligible to receive permanent normal trade relations status in its trade with the United States. Several Members in the Senate and House have also introduced legislation to terminate Jackson-Vanik. These bills in the Senate have been pending in the committee since the start of this session. I am hopeful that today the Senate will agree to adopt this amendment.

Beyond any benefits to our bilateral trading relationship, lifting Jackson-Vanik for Ukraine constitutes an important symbol of Ukraine’s new democracy and its relationship with the United States. In February, along with three other Senators and six representatives, I went to Kiev, where we met with President Yushchenko, Prime Minister Tymoshenko, and students who led protests in Independence Square. I was struck by the great enthusiasm for democracy that has taken hold in Ukraine, and I know we all wish the new leaders all the best as they begin the challenge of governing. I pledged to them that we would work toward the lifting of Jackson-Vanik on Ukraine, and today I am happy to move toward that end.

Tomorrow, President Yushchenko will address a joint session of Congress, an honor which we bestow on few foreign leaders. As we have the privilege of welcoming this true hero of democracy, I think it is a better gesture than today terminating the anachronistic and inappropriate Jackson-Vanik restrictions on Ukraine.

I note the presence of my most respected colleague, Senator Lugar, who has gained the respect and appreciation of all of us with his knowledge and expertise on issues of national security and foreign affairs and his chairmanship of the Foreign Relations Committee. I hope he would see his way to support this amendment, and I would obviously seek his support.

Mr. President, we who follow events in that part of the world were thrilled at the Orange Revolution. We saw a flawed election that was repudiated by the people of Ukraine in a peaceful manner. It was one of the remarkable events in that part of the world.

I remind my colleagues that Ukraine is a very pivotal and important country with its own rich and tragic history of bloodshed and sacrifice but also, when its geostategic location is considered, a very important part of the world. Dr. Henry Kissinger once wrote Jackson-Vanik was quoting our saying: Russia with Ukraine is a Western power, without Ukraine is an Eastern power.

I fully agree with our President’s stated commitment yesterday for repeal of Jackson-Vanik as far as Ukraine is concerned.

Jackson-Vanik was a very incredibly important tool in asserting our support and advocacy for human rights in then-Iron-Curtain countries. I think it is
very clear that neither Senator Jackson nor Congressman Vanik envisioned this anachronistic provision to apply to a country that is now on the verge of a functioning democracy in a free and exuberant nation.

I add that my staff told me that somehow the chairman of the Finance Committee, or probably more likely one of his zealous staffers, has said they would object to this provision because of the fact there are certain problems with the application of property or other reasons. I would hope that assertion of jurisdiction, or reluctance to approve of this, particularly in light of this particular moment, would disappear in light of the priorities that this repeal of Jackson-Vanik and the Ukraine would send as a sign of strong support and advocacy for democracy and process of an open and free society which is obviously taking place in Ukraine.

So if there is a problem that we have with Ukraine, I would think the President of the United States would have articulated those views in his meetings with President Yushchenko yesterday. And if the President had a problem, he certainly would have not come out after the meeting and advocated the repeal of Jackson-Vanik.

Not many Americans even know what Jackson-Vanik is. But a whole lot of people in these countries that this law still applies to are very aware of it. I think it would not only be appropriate to send a signal with the repeal of Jackson-Vanik and, in addition, has expressed a strong desire to abide by free market principles and good governance.

Last November 21, I served as President Bush’s personal representative to the runoff election between Prime Minister Yanukovich and Viktor Yushchenko. During that visit, I promoted free and fair elections that would strengthen worldwide respect for the legitimacy of the winning candidate. Unfortunately, that was not possible at that time. The Government of Ukraine allowed, or aided and abetted, widespread fraud and abuse that changed the results of that November 21 election. It is clear that Prime Minister Yanukovich did not win that election.

In response, the people of Ukraine rallied in the streets and squares and demanded justice. After tremendous international pressure and mediation, Ukraine repeated the runoff election. It was held on December 26. A newly named Central Election Commission and a new set of election laws led to an improved process. International monitors concluded the process was generally free and fair. Viktor Yushchenko was inaugurated as President of Ukraine, and tomorrow he will address a joint session of our Congress.

Extraordinary events have occurred in Ukraine over the last several months since the December 26 election. A free press has revolted against Government intimidation and reasserted itself. An emerging middle class has found its political footing. A new generation has embraced democracy and openness. A society has rebelled against the illegal activities of its Government. It is in our interest to recognize and to protect these advances in Ukraine.

The United States has a long record of cooperation with Ukraine through the Nunn-Lugar Cooperative Threat Reduction Act. Ukraine inherited the third largest nuclear arsenal in the world with the fall of the Soviet Union. Through the Nunn-Lugar Program, the United States has assisted Ukraine in elimi-
our debate and votes, with disposition of amendments that are now pending. I simply mention, Mr. President, that I recognize, as does the Chair, many Senators are under some urgent requirements in terms of scheduling in this particular passage of the bill, as we mourn the death of Pope John Paul II. Some Senators are contemplating potential travel to the funeral of the Pope. Others have other requirements. So it would be my intent, as we conclude these amendments that are available, to move to the passage of the bill to conclude activity on this bill today and as early today as possible.

My understanding is a potential debate on the Social Security issue will ensue at some point this evening after we have concluded activities on the authorization bill. So we might make that more readily available and that time more certain. I mention this because for Senators who do have amendments, even if they are not completely formal, but they bring those to the floor so that staff on both sides of the aisle can work through those amendments to find an acceptable form. It would be at least our general view of a liberal policy of adopting amendments that enhance the authorization process and do no violence at least to the foreign policy objectives of the United States.

With that in mind, hopefully those listening to the debate will hear our plea, proceed with amendments, and help us with the activities. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. LUGAR. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. DURBIN. Having spoken to the chairman of the committee, I ask unanimous consent to speak as in morning business for no more than 10 minutes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

The remarks of Mr. DURBIN are printed in today’s RECORD under “Morning Business.”

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. BURR). The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. LUGAR. I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

AMENDMENTS Nos. 268, 269, 270, 271, 272, 273, 274, 275, 276, and 277, EN BLOC

Mr. LUGAR. Mr. President, I send to the desk a group of amendments to S. 600 that have the approval of the managers of the bill. The package has bipartisan support. I intend to ask they be agreed to by unanimous consent as soon as the ranking member has joined me in the Senate.

I have received word that the presence of the ranking member will not be required. Staff on both sides of the aisle have cleared these amendments; therefore, I ask they be agreed to en bloc by unanimous consent.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The amendments were agreed to, as follows:

(Purpose: To permit grants to be used for broadcasting outside the Middle East region)

On page 59, strike lines 16 through 25 and insert the following:

(a) AUTHORITY.—Grants authorized under section 305 shall be available to make annual grants to Middle East Broadcasting Networks for the purpose of carrying out radio and television broadcasting.

(b) FUNCTION.—Middle East Broadcasting Networks shall provide radio and television programming consistent with the broadcasting standards and broadcasting principles set forth in section 303.

(Purpose: To limit the compensation paid to employees of the Middle East Broadcasting Networks)

On page 60, between lines 20 and 21, insert the following:

(C) not more than 5 officers or employees of the Middle East Broadcasting Networks may be provided a basic compensation at such rate authorized for Level II of the Executive Schedule provided in section 5313 of title 5, United States Code, and such compensation shall be subject to the provisions of section 5307 of such title.

(Purpose: To require payments from the Broadcasting Board of Governors for costs resulting from the creditable service of employees of the Middle East Broadcasting Networks)

On page 64, strike lines 3 through 6, and insert the following:

(4) CREDITABLE SERVICE.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Section 5332(b)(11) of title 5, United States Code, is amended by inserting “and (iii) the Middle East Broadcasting Networks;” after “the Asia Foundation;”.

(B) OTHER REQUIREMENTS.—With regard to creditable service of employees of the Middle East Broadcasting Networks, the Broadcasting Board of Governors shall—

(i) pay the amount required by paragraph (i) for fiscal year 2006 are authorized by inserting the funds appropriated pursuant to paragraph (1) for fiscal year 2006 are authorized to remain available until September 30, 2007.

(B) Fiscal Year 2007.—Fifteen percent of the funds appropriated pursuant to paragraph (1) for fiscal year 2007 are authorized to remain available until September 30, 2008.

(Purpose: To provide a short title)

On page 1, after line 2, insert the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE. This Act may be cited as the “Foreign Affairs Authorization Act, Fiscal Years 2006 and 2007.”

(Purpose: To require a determination to provide assistance for destruction of small arms and related ammunition)

Beginning on page 150, strike line 18 and all that follows through page 151, line 4, and insert the following:

CLARIFICATION OF AUTHORITY.—Section 551 of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2346) is amended by adding at the end “Such assistance may also include assistance for demining activities, clearance of unexploded ordnance, destruction of small arms and related ammunition when determined to be in the national security interest of the United States, and any such assistance notwithstanding any other provision of law.”.

(Purpose: To require a determination to provide assistance for the safeguarding, removal, or elimination of conventional weapons and related ammunition)

On page 272, line 15, strike “weapons,” and insert “and related ammunition when determined to be in the national security interest of the United States.”.

(Purpose: To waive the passport fees for a relative of a deceased member of the Armed Forces proceeding abroad to visit the grave of such member or to attend a funeral or memorial service for such member)

On page 74, between lines 2 and 3, insert the following new section:

SEC. 603. PASSPORT FEES.

Section 1 of the Act of June 4, 1920 (22 U.S.C. 214) is amended in the third sentence by striking “or from a widow, widower, child, parent, brother, or sister of a deceased member of the Armed Forces proceeding abroad to visit the grave of such member or to attend a funeral or memorial service for such member”.

Mr. LUGAR. I simply point out these are amendments that followed the consideration of the bill in the Committee on Foreign Relations and were suggested by the administration. They have been carefully considered over the course of several days, and there has been unanimous consent on the list that was agreed to. I encourage Senators who have amendments, once again, to come to
the Senate to make their presence known so we can work with them. It would be our hope we could accept most of those amendments or work on modifications so they can be part of the legislation, as has been the case with the package we just agreed to.

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. LUGAR. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.


to help his constituents out that were meant to be time off as well as the quorum call be rescinded.

TRIBUTE TO SENATOR HOWELL HEFLIN

Mr. SHELBY. Mr. President, I rise today with a heavy heart to pay tribute to the passing of my good friend, our former colleague, Senator Howell Heflin.

Judge Heflin, as we often called him, was a stalwart in the Senate, devoted to improving my State of Alabama and the Nation with each decision he made and I believe every vote he cast.

When I first entered the Senate in 1987, Judge Heflin was the senior Senator from my State of Alabama. I considered him a good friend and colleague over the 18 years he served here. He embodied the qualities of hard work, honesty, humility, and humor, and left this earth with a great legacy. Senator Heflin died on March 29, 2005, last week. He is survived by his wife Elizabeth Heflin; a son, Howard Thomas Heflin, Jr.; a daughter-in-law, Cornelia Hood Heflin; grandson Wilson Charmichael Heflin; and a granddaughter, Mary Catherine Heflin.

Mr. BIDEN. Mr. President, very shortly there will be a unanimous consent request on how to proceed on the Boxer amendment, which has not been introduced yet but will be spoken to shortly. I would like, with the permission of my friend from California, to make a brief statement relative to the overall bill.

Mrs. BOXER. Would the Senator also then make the unanimous consent request for the 40/20 so I know that is in line.

Mr. BIDEN. Mr. President, I say to my friend, we are just clearing it with the leadership. We are working that out. I am sure we will be able to move the amendment immediately after my statement which I don’t think will take more than a few minutes.

Mr. President, under the leadership of Chairman LUGAR, we tried very hard to move this bill in the last couple of years. I hope the third time is a charm.

I believe the chairman has explained. The bill contains authorization for all the major foreign affairs agencies and programs at the Department of State, foreign assistance programs, the Broadcasting Board of Governors, and the Peace Corps.

The bill contains initiatives I would like to briefly highlight.

I am glad the bill includes the Global Pathogen Surveillance Act, which we have been trying to enact over 3 years. In recent years, the SARS epidemic and the avian flu epidemic have made us acutely aware of how vulnerable the world is to a rapid spread of infectious diseases. We face that same vulnerability for diseases that might be used as weapons of bioterrorism.

The Global Pathogen Surveillance Act will combat the bioterrorism threat by improving other countries’ capabilities to detect and limit disease outbreaks and by improving international investigation of disease outbreaks—whether they are natural occurrences or man-made—have no respect for borders, we are only as safe as the weakest link in the chain is strong. This bill will go a long way to help other countries at an early stage detect the existence of these diseases, these potential biodeseases that can be spread via what we call bioterrorism.

The majority leader, who cosponsored the original version of the act in 2001, is once again pressing for action on this bill. He added a very useful provi- sion to the act, which Chairman LUGAR and I have happily endorsed, calling for the executive branch to develop a real-time data collection and analysis capability to serve as a warning sign for a possible bioterrorism event. With the majority leader’s support, I hope and believe this year we will finally enact this important measure.

From also proud of the work the committee has done, with the chairman’s leadership, to help the U.S. Government strengthen its capacity to handle postconflict reconstruction.
In the last decade, the United States has taken on stabilization missions in countries such as Bosnia, East Timor, Haiti, Somalia, Afghanistan, and Iraq. In the decade to come, whether we like it or not, nation-building and postconflict resolution and reconstruction will remain important to our security. As the Presiding Officer knows because of all the work he has done in the Balkans, this is not something that gets done in a day and we are able to leave behind in a year. We should not attempt the wheel every time we are faced with a stabilization crisis, such as the one we faced in the last decade. It is inefficient and ineffective. Rather than address crises by cobbling together plans and personnel each time they occur as we have been doing, we need to be better prepared.

This bill establishes a special office in the State Department for reconstruction and stabilization. It establishes a special corps of civilian reconstruction officers who would be ready to be deployed on short notice. The bill also creates a special emergency fund to deal with such crises.

Finally, I am pleased the chairman and I are able to agree on the inclusion of a provision to protect vulnerable persons during humanitarian emergencies—an undated version of a bill I first introduced in 2003 called the Women and Children in Conflict Protection Act.

I have been concerned about the vulnerability of women and children affected by conflict and humanitarian emergencies for some time now. Since the accusations were made about sexual exploitation of refugees by humanitarian workers in West Africa nearly 3 years ago, that concern has been heightened.

Most recently, we have been confronted with cases of rape used as a weapon of war in Darfur, sexual exploitation of U.N. peacekeepers in the Democratic Republic of Congo, and concerns that the children affected by the tsunami in Asia could be vulnerable to human trafficking.

This provision in the bill establishes a coordinator at the Department of State or AID specifically charged with ensuring that our assistance programs not only provide food and shelter, but also support programs to protect sexual exploitation and abuse of those living in camps and internally displaced persons camps. It prohibits U.S. funding of humanitarian organizations that do not sign a code of conduct prohibiting improper relations between aid workers and beneficiaries. Finally, the provision authorizes the President to provide aid specifically for things such as security for refugee camps or something as simple and inexpensive as buying firewood so women will not have to leave these camps, which they have to do now, in order to find material with which to make a fire, or to find themselves subject to rape and exploitation outside the confines of these camps.

We have a very good bill that was passed out of our committee 18 to 0. I urge my colleagues, as Senator BOXER, is about to do, to come forward with their amendments because I, like the chairman, would very much like to move this bill forward. It is within the President’s budget and would not violate United States Federal law if provided in the United States; and (2) shall not be subject to requirements relating to the use of U.S. Government funds for advocacy and lobbying activities other than those that apply to United States nongovernmental organizations receiving assistance under part I of such Act.

Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, today I am offering an amendment to overturn the so-called Mexico City policy which undermines some of our country’s most important values and goals. The Mexico City policy is also known as the global gag rule.

Most of my colleagues know the history of this policy. It was named the Mexico City policy because that is what it was announced in 1984. But it is also known, as I said, as the global gag rule because that is exactly what it does—it gags international organizations that receive USAID family planning funds. What does that mean? It means, for example, that a family planning clinic in Nepal that receives USAID funding is prohibited from using its own funds—the clinic’s own funds—to provide, advocate for, or even talk about abortion to the women they serve, even talk to a woman about her options.

Let’s be clear what we are talking about one more time. We are not talking about spending one slim dime or one penny of U.S. money to pay for abortions abroad because that has been illegal under the Helms Act since 1973. So since 1973, U.S. funds abroad cannot be used in any way to advocate for abortion, to allow women to have an abortion, or to refer her for an abortion. U.S. funds since 1973 can never be used for any of those purposes.

We can debate that, but I am not going to debate that. What I am going to debate is why the greatest, freest country in the world, the United States of America, would put a global gag rule, put a tape over the mouths of organizations that are trying to help the women in their country if they use their own funds—not U.S. funds but their own funds—for those purposes.

I cannot understand for the life of me how any leader can in good conscience be promoting democracy in the world, sending our troops abroad—and they are dying every day for freedom of speech and for the kind of constitution we hope others will have—how we could put a global gag rule on those organizations when in this country we could not even consider it for 2 seconds because it would be completely unconstitutional.

This is a free country. We are proud of the fact that it is free. We are proud of the fact that we do not tell our citizens what they can say, if it is on their own dime. Yet abroad, in some of the poorest countries in the world, we are saying if they...
want to get a penny of Federal funds, USAID or the like, they cannot use their own funds in any way they would like. We are telling family planning clinics that are in the toughest of circumstances, treating women in the direst poverty, that they are gagged if they talk about abortion. Again, these restrictions we are placing on these nonprofit agencies would be unconstitutional and unacceptable in the United States of America.

Ironically, what is very interesting is the global gag rule is even stricter than the requirements put on by the Helms amendment. So this is an unbelievable move by this administration, after these restrictions were removed in 1999, to place these restrictions back.

It is true that the White House, depending on who is in the White House, has shifted back and forth on the advisability of the gag rule. The Senate has always said it has no place as part of American law. The Senate has stood proud. Democrats and enough Republicans, yes, to make sure that we do not have a double standard, that we stand with the one hand to these countries we want democracy for them, we want freedom for them, we want freedom of speech for them, and then on the other hand say, but if they exercise it they are going to be punished.

Tell me how that makes sense for America. Tell me how that makes any sense for our credibility in the world.

The last time we debated this global gag rule and the Mexico City policy in this Chamber was about 2 years ago. I introduced this exact amendment, and it passed with bipartisan support. We hope we will achieve that same outcome today. It will be a close vote—we have had three changes in this. We have cast a balance. We still think and hope we have the votes. We will find that out.

What is at stake is do we want to have an America that lives what it says, the American Constitution, the one hand in with the one hand to these countries we want democracy for them, we want freedom for them, we want freedom of speech for them, and then on the other hand say, but if they exercise it they are going to be punished.

Tell me how that makes sense for America. Tell me how that makes any sense for our credibility in the world.

For example, let’s say there is a law on the books in one of these poor countries that says if a person is raped or a victim of incest they cannot have an abortion, and in this country we changed that. If one is a victim of rape or incest we say Federal funds can be used for abortion. Yet in that country there is a country that has a total restriction, even if someone is raped or there is incest involved, and the nongovernmental entity is trying to change that law in their country. Under the global gag rule all of this is prohibited. They cannot use their Federal American dollars if they advocate to change what I would call ignorant laws.

This global gag rule tells clinics that they cannot use their own funds to even tell a woman who comes before them what her options could be. Even if the woman asks what she can do, they cannot tell her. In our country, that would be illegal, unconstitutional. But, no, we put this on the poorest nations of the world. Uncle Sam, that is Imperial Sam, and none of us wants to be imperial. At least that is my impression. We want to be democratic. But we are not acting in a democratic fashion when we have this double standard around the world.

We believe in freedom of speech and yet the global gag rule tells foreign nongovernmental organizations they cannot in any way express an opinion on this subject without losing their funds. If we have democracies of the United States of America what they can say and what they cannot say in this country, even if we find it offensive. There are a lot of organizations that I find would be better off without it. I do not think their advocacy is right, but I have no right as a Senator to tell any organization in America I am tired of hearing what they are saying, do not say it anymore. We, for example, can do research and help, but not the question of freedom of speech we are talking about, and the gag rule tells us that we cannot become involved.

We do it to foreign nongovernmental organizations.

Some Senators just came back from Iraq. I was one of those people. We saw the unimaginable challenges facing our soldiers, government officials, and the Iraqis themselves as they struggle to deal with a very dangerous insurgency in that country. Our soldiers are putting their lives on the line so that the Iraqis have a chance to live in freedom.

One of the foremost freedoms in our country that we wish for other people is freedom of speech. Government will not interfere with a person no matter what they say. As long as they are not hurting anybody or inciting anybody, they can hold an opinion. That is why our soldiers are over there fighting so that the Iraqi people can write a constitution that gives them the same freedoms we have.

We heard the Iraqis tell us, the up and coming leaders: We read your constitution, we read your history, we know about your filibuster, and how it protects minority rights. These are the Iraqis. We heard our soldiers say they are willing to risk their lives so the Iraqis can have freedom. Well, that includes freedom of speech. Yet we take away the freedom of nongovernmental organizations to tell the truth to the women who may come before them and help with their reproductive freedom.

Our policy should be a model for the world, but the gag rule instead sends a bad signal. It enforces a dangerous code of silence. It tells people if the government does not agree with them, then they should put a gag over their mouth and just suck it up and not tell the truth about how they feel and keep vital information from the women they are serving. Whether one is pro-choice or anti-choice, this has nothing to do with it. It is a question of freedom of speech. I hope that regardless of how we come down on the issue of choice, we would agree that it is fair to debate it. I may not like to hear your point of view, but if I do not hear it, it may be hard for me to handle, but that is part of this great country. We have to listen to each other. We have to debate and we have to respect each other’s views. But I am not showing respect if I walk up to a Senator on the floor and say, you know what, I am tired of hearing your point of view and I am going to put a gag over your mouth. How ridiculous. If they did that to me? How ridiculous. It is freedom of speech we are talking about, and the gag rule tells us that we cannot become involved in the Constitution, to our credibility, and I think just knocks us down in the eyes of the world. And it makes hypocritical what we are asking our soldiers to do across this globe.

I want to give some examples. In Peru, for example, family planning NGOs funded by the U.S. were barred from advocating against a constitutional clause banning abortion. It was not the Peruvian Government gaging their own people, it was the United States government. And it was not all Peruvian NGOs who were barred from participating in that debate, it was only those who opposed the abortion ban. The other people were free to talk about it.

What is that about? America comes in and says if you want our money you can only advocate for the position that the Government in power wants. You cannot have another opinion. I think that is beyond outrageous.

Just listen to what one nongovernmental organization leader in Peru said, and I am quoting this individual:

We used to hold debates, invite medical doctors, produce research publications. We cannot speak as freely now. No one knows what point it becomes prohibited speech. USAID told us we couldn’t lobby for abortion liberalization or decriminalization. If we attend a general conference and the issue of abortion comes up, we don’t know how much we can talk about it before it crosses over to not being permitted anymore. We, for example, can do research on high-risk abortions, but any conclusions someone can say, “that’s lobbying.” [and we will lose all of our money.]
This is a terrible thing, this global gag rule. I am so proud of the Senate. Every time we have brought it up we overturned it. I hope that will be the case today.

I want to tell you a story about a real case in Nepal. In 2001, this issue came to my attention. There was a nongovernmental organization that had to make a Hobson's choice: Do we take USAID money which we desperately need to help our people if it will force us to remain silent on the issue of reproductive health, and lose our freedom? What should we do? Should we give up the money and retain our freedom?

Let me tell you what this organization did. It gave back the USAID money, even though it put them in a very precarious financial position. They did it because of a 13-year-old girl named Min Min. I brought her picture with me to the Senate floor 2 years ago because I wanted my colleagues to see the face of what we are talking about here—“family planning.” It is not just about freedom of speech. This is about real, live people and what happens to them if they cannot get reproductive health care.

Min Min was raped by a relative. She was raped by an uncle. She became pregnant, and it was a shame upon the family and the family said you must have an illegal abortion. As a result of that illegal abortion of a girl 13 years old who was raped by her uncle, someone was sentenced to 20 years in prison. Who was it? Was it the rapist? No. Was it the parents who said you have to end the pregnancy? No. It was this tiny girl, 13 years old, who was sent to jail for 20 years for the crime of being raped by a relative and being forced by her family to have an abortion.

The nongovernmental organization wanted to go to bat for this child, so they turned back American money. Can you believe it? We punished an organization that wanted to go to bat for a 13-year-old rape victim—incest victim, really. We took the side of the rapist. That is what we did. We said to the NGO: If you want to help this child, give back the money because you cannot advocate for changing the law in your land.

So this clinic in Nepal turned back their money—our money—and fought for Min Min. She had her 14th birthday in prison. She had her 15th birthday in prison. But then, because they did not take American money and they were free to lobby in behalf of Min Min, they succeeded in changing the laws of Nepal, and they helped set that little girl free.

For their valor and their courage and their success in freeing a child from prison who was put there after she was raped by her uncle, this is what they had to do. They had to give up $100,000 in USAID funding, and they had to let 60 staff members go. They couldn’t hold more than 50,000 other people who desperately needed them.

These are the real stories behind this Presidential edict of the President, when he steps up to the plate and says I am putting in place a gag rule. I am ashamed. I am ashamed that we were on the side of the rapist and against the side of a little girl who was a victim of incest. How can this Senate look at that and say, you know what, that’s right, we want to be on the side of the rapist? Why should the rapist suffer? We don’t want to change the laws in Nepal. To me, this example alone is enough reason to do away with this global gag rule.

Here is another point. We should always look at our policies and ask the question: Are our policies decreasing the number of abortions that take place worldwide because all of us want to decrease the number of abortions taking place worldwide. Frankly, the Mexico City global gag rule makes it far tougher to reduce the number of abortions. We support family planning counseling and care. We support family planning. I thought, because we want to decrease the number of abortions, but the global gag rule makes it far tougher to do that. It is a known fact, but sometimes we seem to forget it. So what happens when we punish a nongovernmental organization that is involved with family planning, such as that clinic in Nepal? I talked to you about, that had to give back $100,000 and lay off 60 people? They could no longer serve the women who so desperately needed their help.

Is this President saying he wants to keep contraception away from women who are asking for it? Because if that is what he wants to do, this global gag rule is doing just that. This is a radical thing we are dealing with because when you tell agencies they have to make a deal with the devil, take money and then be gagged, many of them will say: I don’t want your money. I would rather be able to advocate.

And if they do not take the money, then they are in a terrible circumstance because they have to lay off people who would otherwise go out and counsel young women about family planning. Then, when those young women, in the poorest of the poor nations, are impregnated, unfortunately they may seek what we called here, when abortion was illegal, back-alley abortions—and women died. Many women have died, thousands every year across this globe, because of illegal, unsafe abortions.

I believe very much that family planning is the answer. It can bring us all together, whether we believe in a woman’s right to choose or we believe the Government should be involved in it, we should not tell a woman, tell a family how to run their lives regardless of what side you are on. My goodness. Family planning ought to bring us together.

For those of us who believe abortion should be safe, legal, and rare, the way to get to that place is to have adequate family planning. For those of us who believe the Government should prohibit the jailing of women and doctors who have or give abortions, they should want to support family planning services so we have fewer abortions.

Why don’t we hold hands on this vote as we have in the past and walk down the aisle together across those divides and do what family planning is the way to make abortion rare? That is the key. But the global gag rule has the opposite impact. The global gag rule is causing more abortions because the nongovernmental organizations will not take the funding; they won’t be gagged, and they won’t have the staff to go out and give those women the advice and the contraceptions that they are asking for.

There is another issue that comes into play here, and that is the issue of freedom of speech. Frankly, this is the most important. The use of modern family planning methods will help us prevent AIDS.

This global gag rule is dangerous. It is dangerous directly, and it is dangerous indirectly. It goes against our Constitution and freedom of speech. If this President tried to put this kind of gag rule on in America, he would be laughed out of the courts. Of course, they do not do that because we have something called the Constitution and freedom of speech. We don’t go around putting a gag on doctors who have their own practices. We let them do what they think is right—to do no harm and to help people.

I want to talk about a school in a village in Uganda where three of its students died from unsafe abortions. The same man impregnated the three girls. It was a horrible tragedy. But the local clinic still didn’t know what to do since it received USAID funding. They had a situation where three girls were impregnated by the same man, and they didn’t want to give back the money they had gotten from the United States of America. This is what they said.

What should the school do? Refer the girls to the clinic? It is a very difficult situation for the nurses. What can they counsel about? It is a problem if the provider is a member of that community. A person cannot even speak as a family planning counselor because they cannot be a reproductive health counselor and be a family planning counselor. Because they work for a nongovernmental organization that is asking for it. Because if that is what he wants to do, this global gag rule is doing just that. This is a radical thing we are dealing with because when you tell agencies they have to make a choice between freedom of speech and freedom of speech. We don’t go around putting a gag on doctors who have their own practices. We let them do what they think is right—to do no harm and to help people.

What should the school do? Refer the girls to the clinic? It is a very difficult situation for the nurses. What can they counsel about? It is a problem if the provider is a member of that community. A person cannot even speak as a family planning counselor because they cannot be a reproductive health counselor and be a family planning counselor. Because they work for a nongovernmental organization that is asking for it. Because if that is what he wants to do, this global gag rule is doing just that. This is a radical thing we are dealing with because when you tell agencies they have to make a choice between freedom of speech and freedom of speech. We don’t go around putting a gag on doctors who have their own practices. We let them do what they think is right—to do no harm and to help people.
to a woman who comes to you in desperate need or shut down your doors because you have to give back the funding from the United States of America. It is really a stunning and unfair policy.

One of the Planned Parenthood chapters in my State is in Ethiopia right now. They are seeing firsthand the impact of the global gag rule on women's lives. Think about what it means to the victims of rape, the victims of incest. They are seeing firsthand the impact of the global gag rule on women's lives. They are the second leading cause of death among women only, behind tuberculosis.

Because of the global gag rule that this administration has put in place, supplies for family planning providers in Ethiopia have been cut. They have been cut because they refuse to be gagged. The people in Ethiopia are looking to America with our Constitution and our freedom and our freedom of speech, and they are saying: We are not going to allow the President of the United States of America and this Congress to gag us. We will have to give back the money. That is the most counterproductive thing we can do. Why? Because they are running out of the contraceptives because they don't have the money. They are less able to serve rural areas, only 7 percent of which have access to basic sanitation. They are less able to curb the rising tide of HIV which is sweeping over the population, leaving shattered lives and families in its wake.

Why would we want to be responsible for that? We don't have to be today. We have a chance to do what the Senate has done year after year after year. We have stood up for women's health. We have stood up for freedom of speech. We have stood up for the right of people—even the poorest of the poor—to get access to health care, to find out what their options are, to know what the possibilities are, to fight for changes in the law.

The amendment I plan to offer and which we have actually set aside is identical to the one we passed 2 years ago. It is very simple. It simply says that nongovernmental organizations cannot be denied funding solely because the medical services they provide cannot be denied funding solely because they use their own funds to advocate for new laws. That is all we say.

In this amendment we admit very straightforwardly that no NGO can violate its own country's law. If abortion is illegal and you cannot refer people in your country, if they say that is the law of the land, of course, we support people paying attention to the laws of their country. But we do not say, and we shouldn't say and we wouldn't say it here, that these NGOs shouldn't be able to lobby for new laws. This is very important.

In Nepal they sent a 13-year-old girl away for 20 years. She was a victim of an uncle's incest. They let the rapist go free and there were no penalties for the parents who forced her to have an abortion. That NGO, that clinic that turned back USAID funding, said we are not selling out our people. We are not selling out a child for some dollars. I cannot believe the side that we were on. The global gag rule put us on the side of a rapist. That is what the global gag rule did. That is not a side we want to be on. Everyone in this Chamber will vote to be on the side of the women who were the victims. They need us to be by their side.

Basically, what we are saying in our amendment is we believe in human rights. We believe in freedom of speech. We believe other countries should have the same freedoms we have in this country. And if we cannot gag people in this country, let's not do it abroad just because we can. Almost 60 years ago in the dark shadows of World War II, it was our country that championed the universal declaration of human rights, setting a standard for human rights all over the world. This is what that declaration said:  "The advent of a world in which human beings shall enjoy freedom of speech and belief and freedom from fear and want has been proclaimed as the highest aspiration of the human race."

That is America after World War II. Can someone explain to me how America feels it is on the side of the good when we will punish a nongovernmental organization that goes to bat against abortion. That is why I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to do what they have done over and over again: Stand up and be counted on the side of freedom and justice and the American way. It is the American way to foster freedom and justice, to allow people, even when we do not agree with them, to take their complaints and their points of view to their government. That is the right of people who are fighting for and dying for in Iraq, yet with this policy we stand on the side of tyranny.

I urge my colleagues to stand with us again. This is a bipartisan Boxer-Snowe amendment. I urge Members when the time comes—and I hope the chairman will let us know at what point we will be voting—I urge Members to stand with Senators BOXER and SNOWE in this bipartisan amendment to end the global gag rule. I yield the floor.

Mr. LUGAR. Mr. President, once again the distinguished Senator from California has presented her case, as always, with conviction and with eloquence. She is an able and a remarkable advocate for her position on this very important and controversial issue.

When President Bush restored the so-called Mexico City policy upon coming into office in 2001, he stated his conviction that United States taxpayer funds should not be used to pay for abortions or to fund NGOs that actively promote abortions as a means of family planning. It should be made clear this does not lessen our country's commitment to strong international family planning programs. Indeed, President Bush's fiscal year 2005 budget requests $425 million for population assistance, the same funding level appropriated during fiscal year 2001. President Clinton's final year in office.

President Bush has confirmed his commitment to maintaining those funding levels for population assistance because he knows that one of the best ways to prevent abortions is to promote voluntary family planning services. This is the policy of our Government today and it is one that President Bush advocates in the future.

I expect we will continue to have debates in the Senate on the Mexico City policy. As the distinguished Senator from California has pointed out, that has been the case for several years. Over the years there have been numerous attempts to reach compromise language that would address President Bush's concerns on this important issue, but no acceptable accommodation has thus far been found. This is why President Bush has advised us he will veto any legislation that seeks to override the Mexico City policy.

USAID can and does provide the family planning information services in developing countries through many foreign NGOs. The President has determined that such family planning assistance is provided only to those foreign grantees whose family planning programs are consistent with the policies of this administration.
President since 1984 has exercised that right.

As manager of the President’s bill, I, along with every other Senator, must take seriously the President’s statements that he would veto the legislation we proposed to him without the Mexico City policy intact. If I believe it is highly unlikely that he will change his mind at this point. The President has been very clear and the directives with regard to administration policy on this legislation are also clear.

I will oppose this amendment. I ask other Senators to do so for the reasons I have given.

I yield the floor.

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to add Senators CORZINE and MIKULSKI to the amendment.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. COLEMAN). Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, women around the world should have access to safe health care, especially those who are struggling in some of our world’s poorest nations. That is why I am in this afternoon to support the Boxer amendment. I thank Senator BOXER for standing up on an issue that affects women around the globe. I am very proud to be a cosponsor and supporter of this amendment.

This is about ensuring that women around the world have access to health care that they need, especially reproductive health care. It does not get much attention, but in the developing world, complication from pregnancy is one of the leading causes of death for women. It ranks right up there with tuberculosis. According to the World Health Organization, more than half a million women die every year of causes related to pregnancy or childbirth. That is more than one woman dying every minute of every day. That is what we are talking about with this amendment. That is a crisis.

Now, you know when there is a medical crisis, something that kills hundreds of thousands of people every year, we do not just stand by. We work to make things better. In poor countries around the world, medical professionals and nongovernmental organizations are simply trying to make things better. They have set up clinics. They have done an excellent job. They are reaching out to poor communities. And they are opening the doors of access to women and families who desperately need health care. They are doing great work. But today their hands are tied because the Bush administration has imposed a political ideology on the world. We cannot allow this undemocratic policy to deny women and their children health care and ultimately safety.

As my colleague, Senator BOXER, has talked about, when President Bush took office in 2001, he signed an Executive order known as the global gag rule. It denies U.S. funds to any overseas health clinic unless it agrees not to use its own—its own—private, non-U.S. funds for anything related to abortion. If you are a medical professional living in an impoverished country trying to help people, save lives, you are gagged for anything—anything—not certain reproductive health services.

We would not stand for that in the United States. We know how important the doctor-patient relationship is. When we go to a doctor, we want to know that we can trust them and that they will give us the advice we need—not holding something back because of a gag rule imposed on him by someone else. But that is exactly what the global gag rule does. It is forced on women in poor countries around the world, and that is just simply wrong.

I am not going to take the time to go into detail on why I believe this gag rule is so wrong, but I just want to mention a few things. Simply put, the global gag rule—framing unsafe and deadly reproductive health care, it hurts our efforts to prevent HIV and AIDS, and it limits access to contraceptives. The gag rule places limits on women and doctors that we would never accept here in the United States.

But here is the bottom line and something all of our colleagues should remember as we go to vote on this amendment: This is about protecting women’s lives. Today, the women around the world are being denied the health care they need because of an ideological policy, and they are dying as a result. We cannot tolerate that as Americans, and that is why I have come to the floor this afternoon, to urge my colleagues to support the Boxer amendment.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Kansas.

Mr. BROWNBACK. Thank you very much, Mr. President. I thank my colleagues for discussing this important issue and I appreciate Senator BOXER’s concern. This is well-plowed ground that we have traveled over several times. We have been over this issue a number of years. The Mexico City Policy was first introduced by Ronald Reagan. It is a commonsense policy that President Reagan first put forward in 1981, based in part on his belief that U.S. taxpayers should not be forced to fund or actively promote abortion as a method of population control. This administration, on a practical level, is putting forth and implementing programs in great strides to assure women’s rights around the world, and they should be congratulated for that and thanked for all their efforts.

Now, you can try to tie this question of taxpayer funding for abortions overseas back into that issue, but I do not think that is a fair point of the debate. The fair point of the debate is, it is taxpayer dollars. It involves the very difficult, sensitive issue of “when does human life begin?”—a question which we have failed to resolve in this country. The stain upon them. Brave women are demonstrating their rights and standing up to defend their rights around the world. This administration, on a very practical level, is putting forth and implementing programs in great strides to assure women’s rights around the world, and they should be congratulated for that and thanked for all their efforts.

Should American taxpayers be funding abortions in many countries all around the world? People say: Well, there is more family planning now. The dollars do not go directly for abortion. The money is fungible. It can go into an organization and be used to replace dollars that can then be used for abortion. Why should we put that sort of ideology forward on another country when we have not resolved it ourselves?

I think the Bush doctrine, formerly the Reagan doctrine, the Mexico City Policy, should stand for good reason. It stands with the American public. We
should not be using Federal taxpayer dollars to fund abortions overseas. That is the view of 75 to 80 percent of Americans.

Many Americans do not like the way we handle foreign assistance now anyway. I personally think we should be generally assisting our foreign assistance and in some cases do substantially more to alleviate poverty. But if you frame the debate into these sorts of issues alone, you start to drive away people's support for foreign aid and for supporting the good that is taking place in other countries. That is not a good thing to do, particularly when we have been given so much as a nation. I would hope we could help more overseas, but it has to be in a sensible way that the American public agrees with.

So while I appreciate being able to work with my colleague from California on many issues, this is one where we will have to part company. I really think President Reagan got this principle right and the continuation of the Mexico City Policy by President Bush is right as well. Respectfully, I urge my colleagues to vote against the Boxer amendment.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from California?

Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I so appreciate my colleague coming to the floor and taking time to express his views, but I think it is very important to straighten out the record.

What my colleague is talking about is putting strings on U.S. taxpayer funds. That is the Helms amendment, and that has been the law since 1973. What the global gag rule does is different. It tells nongovernmental organizations abroad that they will lose U.S. funding if they use their own funds not ours, but theirs—to lobby to change egregious laws in their country.

In order for a nongovernmental organization to fight to change an egregious law, one that used to exist in Nepal—which I know my friend would not agree with—that nongovernmental organization, I tell my friend, had to give back their USAID money because they were using their own funds to change the laws of Nepal. So we gagged this nongovernmental organization from helping a child who was raped. The rapist did not go to prison. The rapist—the uncle—was free. The parents did not go to prison even though they forced her to have an illegal abortion. The only way the nongovernmental organization was able to work to change the law in that country, which punished a child who was a victim of incest, was to give back the USAID money. Otherwise, they could not lobby for law changes in their own country.

Now, I use that example because it shows why this law is so egregious. And again, to make the point to my friend, the Helms amendment, which has been in place since 1973, already precludes U.S. Federal funds from being used by nongovernmental organizations in any aspect having to do with abortion. They already cannot use our funds to perform abortion. They already cannot use our funds to refer.

They already can't use funds to advocate, that is taken care of. The global gag rule is different. It is putting a gag around the very people who are trying to help prevent pregnancies, who are trying to help girls such as Min Min in Nepal who was the victim of incest. That is plain wrong. I don't mind my friend disagreeing with me. Mr. Chairman, you are working on many issues and have worked together and will continue to. But I would hope we would not confuse the Helms amendment, which has been in place since 1973 and does not allow a penny of taxpayer funds to go in any way to the provision of abortion services. Don't confuse that with the gag rule, which keeps non-governmental organizations from being able to use their own funds as they see fit to help women and girls in tragic circumstances such as the one I described by changing the repressive laws in some of their countries.

I urge my friends to please be clear that these are different issues. We already deny the use of Federal funds for anything having to do with overseas abortion or its lobbying. But the gag rule takes it a step further and says these organizations that work so hard in the toughest environments cannot use their own funds in the way they see fit to help women and girls in tragic circumstances. It is a change in the law, to help women understand what their options are. And it is antithetical to the United States of America, to freedom of speech. My friend knows we couldn't do that here. We couldn't tell people here that they can't talk to their patients. That would be unconstitutional.

I urge my colleagues to please vote on what this issue is, not on what this issue is not. We live with the Helms rule, the gag rule, and stated that organizations could not continue to. But I would hope we would not confuse that with the Helms amendment, is that part of it? Mr. LUGAR. That would be correct, no second-degree amendments.

Mrs. BOXER. Then I have no objection. The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. LUGAR. Mr. President, I ask that debate be of 20 minutes duration, that the time be under control of the Senator from California and the Senator from Kansas, and that the Senator from California be able to conclude the debate.

Mrs. BOXER. Reserving the right to object, 10 minutes each and no second-degree amendments; is that part of it? Mr. LUGAR. That would be correct, no second-degree amendments.

Mrs. BOXER. Then I have no objection.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Kansas.

Mr. BROWNBACK. Mr. President, responding to a couple of the comments of my colleague from California, I would like to cite and include in the RECORD a Congressional Research Service report on international family planning, the Mexico City policy. This report is dated April 2, 2001. And then one, an updated one on population assistance and family planning programs, issued for Congress, May 19, 2003.

In the 2003 report, I want to cite this briefly because we are getting involved in a discussion about what the wording of the Boxer amendment does and what it does not do. I contend that clearly what could take place with the passage of the Boxer amendment, is that money could go to a foreign organization that performs abortions. These organizations can't use the money directly for abortions, but they can move private money to do abortions while using the government money for advocacy. That is what I am saying. My colleague is giving the illustration of this tragic situation that has occurred where there has been a rape in Nepal and this is a heart-rending example of these types of cases right before us now.

Regardless of how you view life, and when human life begins, we are going to set that issue aside but I hope we get to debate that issue one of these days. In this CRS report dated 2003, USAID issued additional guidelines on the implementation of the Mexico City Policy and stated that organizations could not “perform abortions in a foreign country except where the life of the mother would be endangered or in cases of forcible rape or incest.” So where my colleague is talking about a case of forcible rape, taking place and a choice of an organization having to choose between performing an abortion or losing their funding, the USAID policy says that performing such an abortion is a specific exemption from this Mexico City policy that is squarely on point in the CRS report.

I ask unanimous consent to print in the RECORD selections from the two CRS reports that I have mentioned.
There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the Record, as follows:

At Mexico City, Reagan Administration officials emphasized the need for developing countries to adopt sound economic policies that strengthened open markets and an active private sector.

Again nearly a decade later, the Clinton Administration changed the U.S. position on family planning and reproductive health services, recognizing that, while the U.S. opposed funding for family planning and reproductive health services, improving the status of women, and providing access to safe abortion, eight years later, the Clinton Administration changed the Clinton Administration position on family planning and abortion, reemerging in full the Mexico City restrictions in force during the 1980s and early 1990s. Throughout this debate, which at times has been the most contentious foreign aid policy issue considered by Congress, the cornerstone of U.S. policy has remained the commitment to international family planning programs based on principles of voluntarism and informed choice that give participants access to information on all major methods of birth control.

Nevertheless, the controversy spilled over into U.S. foreign aid policy almost immediately following Reagan's approval in late 1981 of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1981 (Section 104(f)) prohibiting the use of foreign aid to support the performance of abortions or involuntary sterilizations, to motivate or coerce any person to have an abortion or to help pay for the performance of abortions or involuntary sterilizations. In 1983, Congress enacted nearly identical restrictions in annual Foreign Operations Appropriations bills.

For the past 25 years, both congressional actions and administrative directives have restricted U.S. population assistance in various ways, including those set out in the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (Section 104(f)) prohibiting the use of foreign aid to support the performance of abortions or involuntary sterilizations, to motivate or coerce any person to have an abortion or to help pay for the performance of abortions or involuntary sterilizations. In 1983, Congress enacted nearly identical restrictions in annual Foreign Operations Appropriations bills.

The new Administration Mexico City guidelines established a new U.S. policy to help assist foreign NGOs which perform or actively promote abortion as a method of family planning in USAID-recipient countries, or that are affiliated with foreign NGOs that conduct such activities.

Examples of what constitutes the promotion of abortion include: operating a family planning clinic where abortion is available; providing information regarding the benefits and availability of abortion; providing advice that abortion is an available option or encouraging women to consider abortion; lobbying a foreign government to legalize or to continue the legality of abortion; or attempting to alter the laws or governmental policies concerning circumstances under which abortion is permitted, regulated, or restricted.

The regulations also contain exceptions to these policies: abortions may be performed if the life of the mother would be endangered if the fetus were carried to term or abortions performed following rape or incest; health care facilities may treat injuries or illnesses caused by legal or illegal abortions (post-abortion care).

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“Passive” responses by family planning counselors or health care providers to the abortion histories of pregnant women who have already decided to have a legal abortion are not considered an act of promoting abortion. Conversely, health care providers must refer women to other health care facilities where abortion is legal or allowed.

Recipients of USAID grants, however, could use their own funds to engage in abortion-related activities, but were required to maintain segregated accounts for U.S. money in order to show evidence they were in compliance with the abortion restrictions.

Mr. BROWNBACK. Furthermore, I want to back up to an earlier point that I engaged on with my colleague. We have laws in this country to be a helpful country. We have laws in this country to feed, to educate people in this country.

But we need to be smart about what we are doing. We need to be sure that we are not funding something that is not appropriate. We need to be sure that we have a good understanding of what we are funding.

So, I think that the Department of State and the Administration have a tremendous opportunity and obligation to do a better job of understanding what it is they are funding.

This is an important issue, and I want to emphasize that.

Mr. BROWNBACK. Mr. President, I want to begin by saying that I have been a supporter of the President's budget in terms of health care. I think that it is a significant budget, and I think that it is important to make sure that we take care of the health care needs of our citizens.

But I think that it is important to understand that we have a responsibility to make sure that we are funding something that is appropriate.

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she had a 15th birthday in prison. But they succeeded. One would think we would be on their side. One would think the United States of America would be on the side of a child who was raped and against a man who performed that act. One would think that is the side we would be on, not the side of this child. But, oh, no, the global gag rule told that clinic: You cannot change the law because if you do that, you are violating the global gag rule.

That is the point. It is true there is an exception for rape and incest in the rule, but it does not apply if the country does not make an exception for rape and incest. So what we should say in those cases—at least work with me on this—is allow them to keep their money if they are working to change the law on rape and incest in their country. But my friend is not doing that. He wants the status quo.

Then we have the case in Uganda where three underage girls died from botched abortions. The same man impregnated them, and the clinic was afraid to help because they could lose all their American money. The girls died.

Is that what we are celebrating today, a policy that allows a child to rot in prison if she is raped, a policy that allows a rapist to be free, a policy that says three girls impregnated by the same man should die in a back alley? I hope not. This is very serious. This is not a matter about words. This is not a debate about when life begins. We can have that debate any day of the week.

I will tell my friend right now, I would die for his right to believe what he believes on that issue, and I hope he would die for my right to believe what I believe on that issue because that is a question between us and our God. That is not on the table today.

What is on the table is a real-life question: How do we stand? I hope when we come to this vote, which we are going to have shortly today, we are going to stand with the women and girls of the world who need our protection, not our vengeance, who need to know we are not going to gag the people who are there to help them, but, in fact, allow the people who are there to help them, to use their own funds to tell the truth about their life and their options and their health. This is a very serious matter.

Mr. President, if the other side will yield back its time, I will be glad to yield back mine; otherwise, I retain the remainder of my time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Kansas.

Mr. BROWNBACK. Mr. President, if I could have 1 minute. How much time remains?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. There is 5 minutes remaining.

Mr. BROWNBACK. Mr. President, I will yield exactly one point, if the Senator does not object. I read from the CRS document May 19, 2003, on this topic:

In USAID-issued certification forms, organizations had to state that they would not engage in three types of activities with either USAID or non-USAID funds from the date they signed the agreement to receive FY2000 USAID population funds:

- Perform abortions in a foreign country, except where the life of the mother would be endangered, or in cases of forcible rape or incest;
- Violate the laws of a foreign country concerning the circumstances under which abortions are permitted, regulated, or restricted;
- Attempt to alter laws or governmental policies concerning circumstances under which abortion is permitted, regulated, or restricted.

As I understand it, USAID is required by the Mexico City language, that in horrific difficulties and circumstances, such as the case the Senator discussed, individuals may work with organizations who provide abortions. But it is on a narrow set of circumstances because the American public does not agree with taxpayer funding of abortions overseas.

I submit the report for the RECORD, and I yield the floor. If my colleague is prepared to yield back time, I am prepared to yield back time, too.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from California.

Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I want to respond.

Again, my colleague has made my point. He read into the RECORD exactly what I said. Under the gag rule, you cannot perform abortions except for rape, incest, or life of the mother. That is right. But here is the second point: You cannot attempt to alter the laws, and that is the exact reason I cited for why the nongovernmental organization that is prohibited from altering the laws of their country had to give back their funding. That is exactly the point.

My friend made my argument for me by reading what I have been saying. This nongovernmental organization was working in Nepal so that a child who was raped or a victim of incest would not rot in prison. They were precluded from using their own money to alter the laws of their country. My friend read it right into the RECORD, and I thank him for that. He made my point.

So, yes, at the end of the day, we stand with the rapist in this case against the child, and that is wrong, and that is the reason I hope my colleagues will join with me.

I retain the remainder of my time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Kansas.

Mr. BROWNBACK. Mr. President, in an effort not to belabor this too much, there is a set of semantics being argued back and forth. I invite my colleague to submit suggestions on regulatory changes to the USAID to try to address this narrow point, if that is, indeed, the case. I hope we do not, in focusing on a particular very narrow tragic case, and said nobody is celebrating that tragedy—I hope we do not lose focus of the broader issue of taxpayer funding of abortions overseas.

We can focus in on this very narrow point of view—and it is a tragic circumstance, I will concede to my colleague. Maybe we can negotiate a regulatory change to address these important concerns if these words do not do it. I think we are arguing semantics here. It is not a fact, which is that this amendment would send taxpayer dollars to fund abortions overseas.

I urge my colleagues to vote against this BOXER amendment.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from California.

Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, it is as if we are talking past each other. My friend made the case for me. He read the restriction which is that no organization can attempt to alter the laws of their country. And so we are standing against people having their rights at self-determination. Can you imagine if we sent out a notice to our people, let’s say on both sides of the gun debate, let’s say to both sides, let’s say to both sides, let’s say that we are going to make this gun debate forbidden at our gun debate, let’s say that we are going to legislate on behalf of the people of their country.

The last point I will make is my friend keeps repeating the phrase “U.S. taxpayer funds.” He is confusing the point. According to the law that was written in 1973 by Jesse Helms which has been upheld in the Congress ever since that not a dime of U.S. taxpayer money could be used in any way, shape, or form to provide abortion. And there is another law that says you cannot use U.S. taxpayer funds to lobby. So those things are already set.

What we are talking about is an additional law put into place by the Bush administration after it was off the books for 8 years which says forget about U.S. taxpayer money, we are telling nongovernmental organizations that to get that money, they cannot use their own funds in any way to provide abortion, to counsel women, to tell women their options, or—and this is the case in point—even to lobby their legislature to change laws, such as the one that put this child in prison who is the victim of incest. I do not understand how we can stand on that side of this issue.

I can give you 100 examples. I do not want to take the Senate’s time to do that. The other case was in Uganda where the clinic was gagged and could not tell these girls where they could go to get a safe abortion to end a pregnancy forced on them by a gentleman—I should not call him a gentleman—a man who impregnated three of his students, and the clinic was scared to say anything, and these girls got illegal, what they call backdoor abortions in these countries. They committed suicide.

Now, why do we want to stand on the side of the law that is resulting in girls going to jail when they are raped by a
relative and girls dying from botched abortions because we put a gag on the clinic? I hope this Senate will pass the Boxer-Snowe bipartisan amendment that will send a signal to the world that we believe very strongly in their rights to aggressively approach their government and talk about laws that may need changing, their rights to look a woman or a girl in the eye and say, look, regardless of what your religion is or what your feeling is, these are the options you have. I do believe keeping women ignorant is a very liked policy, and anyone who votes for this global gag rule votes to keep the women of the world ignorant. I hope my colleagues will vote for the Boxer-Snowe amendment. I look forward to a successful vote.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Indiana.

Mr. LUGAR. Mr. President, I thank the distinguished Senators for this debate. A vote will occur on it at a time in the future, probably in sequence with the 4:30 vote.

At this point, I have two points of important business. These are amendments that I believe can be agreed upon.

AMENDMENT NO. 279

Mr. LUGAR. I send an amendment to the desk and ask for its consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senate from Indiana [Mr. LUGAR] proposes an amendment numbered 279.

Mr. LUGAR. 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 impose an economic sanction on foreign countries that owe parking fines and property taxes to Washington, D.C., or New York City)

SEC. (a) In General.—Subject to subsection (c), the funds made available by this Act for assistance for a foreign country, an amount equal to 110 percent of the total amount of the unpaid fully adjudicated parking fines and penalties and unpaid property taxes owed by the central government of such country shall be withheld from obligation for assistance for the central government of such country.

(b) Payment. Funds withheld from obligation for a country under subsection (a) shall be paid to the jurisdiction to which the unpaid fully adjudicated parking fines or penalties or unpaid property taxes are owed.

(c) Amounts Withheld to Be Additional Funds. —Subsection (a) shall not include amounts that have been withheld under any other provision of law.

(d) Waiver.—

(1) The Secretary of State may waive the requirements set forth in subsection (a) with respect to unpaid parking fines or penalties no sooner than 60 days from the date of enactment of this Act, or at any time with respect to a particular country, if the Secretary determines that its national interests of the United States to do so.

(2) The Secretary of State may waive the requirements set forth in subsection (a) with respect to the unpaid property taxes if the Secretary of State determines that it is in the national interests of the United States to do so.

(e) Report.—Not later than 6 months after the initial exercise of the waiver authority in subsection (d), the Secretary of State, after consensus of the City of New York, shall submit a report to the appropriate congressional committees describing a strategy, including a timetable and steps currently being taken, to collect the parking fines and penalties and unpaid property taxes and interest owed by nations receiving foreign assistance under this Act.

(f) Determinations. —In this section:

(1) The term “appropriate congressional committees” means the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate and the Committee on International Relations of the House of Representatives.

(2) The term “fully adjudicated” includes circumstances in which the person or government to whom the vehicle is registered, (A)(i) has not responded to the parking violation summons; or

(i) has not followed the appropriate adjudication procedure to challenge the summons; and

(ii) the period of time for payment of or challenge to the summons has lapsed.

The term “parking fines and penalties” means parking fines and penalties—

(A) owed to—

(i) the District of Columbia; or

(ii) New York, New York; and

(B) incurred during the period April 1, 1997 through September 30, 2000.

The term “unpaid property taxes” means the amount of unpaid taxes and interest determined by a court or other tribunal to be owed by a foreign country on real property in the District of Columbia or New York, New York.

Mr. LUGAR. I ask unanimous consent that the amendment be adopted.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The amendment (No. 280) was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 274, WITHDRAWN

Mr. LUGAR. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that adoption of amendment No. 274 be vitiated and the amendment then be withdrawn.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. LUGAR. Mr. President, I would like to raise a question with the distinguished Senator from Montana. Would the Senator and his colleague, Senator CRAIG, be prepared to enter into an agreement that the amendment should have 36 minutes of consideration; namely, between now and 4:30, with the time equally divided between opponents and proponents, no second-degree amendments? Mr. BAUCUS. I might tell the chairman that is certainly fine with this Senator.

Mr. CRAIG. Reserving the right to object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Idaho.

Mr. CRAIG. What was the Senator’s conditioning on the second degree?

Mr. LUGAR. The request is 36 minutes total for the amendment, 18 minutes per side, that concluding at the time of our voting sequence starting at 4:30.

Mr. CRAIG. Including all amendments?

Mr. LUGAR. Yes, with no second degree.

Mr. CRAIG. No objection.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Delaware.

Mr. BIDEN. Reserving the right to object, the minority leader staff tells me we have to check with other Senators on this side who may want to speak to this amendment, but why do...
we not proceed. I would object for the moment, but hopefully I can resolve this very quickly.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The objection is heard.

The Senator from Montana.

AMENDMENT NO. 281

(Purpose: To facilitate the sale of United States agricultural products to Cuba, as authorized by the Trade Sanctions Reform and Export Enhancement Act of 2000)

Mr. BAUCUS. Mr. President, I send an amendment to the desk and ask for its immediate consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Montana [Mr. BAUCUS] proposes an amendment numbered 281.

Mr. BAUCUS. 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 text of the amendment is printed in today's Record under “Text of Amendments.”)

Mr. BAUCUS. Mr. President, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Idaho.

AMENDMENT NO. 282 TO AMENDMENT NO. 281

Mr. CRAIG. Mr. President, I send a second-degree amendment to the desk on behalf of myself and Senator Roberts.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Idaho [Mr. CRAIG], for himself, and Mr. Roberts, proposes an amendment numbered 282 to amendment No. 281.

Mr. CRAIG. 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 clarify the payment terms under the Trade Sanctions Reform and Export Enhancement Act of 2000)

In the matter proposed to be added, strike section 2905 and insert the following:

SEC. 2905. CLARIFICATION OF PAYMENT TERMS UNDER TRADE SANCTIONS REFORM AND EXPORT ENHANCEMENT ACT OF 2000.

(a) In General.—Section 908(b)(1) of the Trade Sanctions Reform and Export Enhancement Act of 2000 (22 U.S.C. 7207(b)(1)) is amended by inserting after subparagraph (B) the following:

“(ii) the release of control of such commodity or product to the purchaser.”;

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by this section shall take effect on February 22, 2003.

Mr. CRAIG. Mr. President, I rise today to offer a second degree of time certainty to the most important legislation of the Senator from Montana, S. 328, that was produced in bill form and now we hope can become an amendment to the State Department’s authorization bill that deals with agricultural export facilitation. I speak to that most importantly because of the tremendous positive work that has been going on in agricultural exports between this country, our agricultural producers, and the Nation of Cuba.

I am in complete agreement with the President when he said:

Open trade is not just an economic opportunity, it is a moral imperative. When we negotiate for open markets, we are providing new hope for the world’s poor. And when we promote open trade and help nations promote political freedom. Societies that open to commerce across their borders will open to democracy within their borders, not always immediately, and not always smoothly, but in good time.

That was a quote in 2001. It is most appropriate today. Senator BAUCUS, myself, Senator ROBERTS, Senator HAGEL, Senator LUGAR, and 25 other Members of this Senate have grown increasingly frustrated with the bureaucratic effort at the Department of Treasury literally to shut down the intent of very important legislation that became law in 2000. The Trade Sanctions Reform Act recognized a need and an opportunity to sell agricultural products to Cuba for cash, that we would not ask the taxpayers of this country to facilitate. In fact, we would be very strict and very narrow in those relationships with the nation of Cuba because of competing interests in a variety of other areas at that time, and it passed the Congress.

That became law. That law began to work. In the course of its workings, Cuba grew from a trading partner that was the 226th largest against all of our trading partners to the 21st largest this past year. We have produced and sold nearly $1 billion worth of agricultural products to Cuba since that law became operative in 2000. It has become one part of the tools that the agricultural community of this Nation uses in trade.

Nearly 34 States have sold products to Cuba and that clearly speaks about the broad base of support that this legislation has.

Somehow and for some apparently very biased reason—let me be blunt—Cold War bureaucrats in the Department of Treasury at OFAC decided no, we are going to change the law by regulation.

We are going to squeeze and push and deny, and as a result we will collapse the ongoing trade with Cuba that is clearly within the law and within the Trade Sanctions Reform Act of 2000. What we do with this amendment offered to the State Department authorization bill, and my second-degree amendment, is very clear. We simply restate the law, the intent of the law. We want OFAC to understand what Congress’s intent was. We define what a cash payment in advance is. We authorize the issuance of a general license for U.S. agricultural producers to travel to Cuba for the purpose of agricultural trade. We authorize direct cash payments to U.S. banks, cash payments. It is very important we understand that. We repeal section 211 as it relates to the 1999 Omnibus Act, and trademarks, and we clarify a variety of other areas.

What is most important, and for our colleagues who support us in this effort and support the agricultural community in our country’s ability to sell to Cuba for cash, we say we are for all intents and purposes reinstating the intent of Congress as expressed in the 2000 law. That is what is important here. We do not believe it is the right or responsibility of Treasury to change the rules or the names of the game or the intent of the law. That is why the Senator from Montana and I have come to the floor, for that purpose. The Senator remains on the floor and I know wants to express his concern.

With that, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. MARTINEZ). The Senator from Montana is recognized.

Mr. BAUCUS. Mr. President, first I thank the chairman of the committee, second my good friend from Idaho, Senator CRAIG, and other Senators who have cosponsored this amendment. There are at the present moment about 30 cosponsors of this amendment. It is bipartisan. I might say there is tremendous interest in this legislation also in the other body.

To review where we are, back in the year 2000, not too many years ago, we in the Congress approved legislation called the Trade Sanctions Reform and Export Enhancement Act, otherwise known as TSREEA. What was the point of that legislation? It was legislation which authorized cash-in-advance food and medicine sales to Cuba. That is, the Congress carved out a substantive area of food and agricultural sales to Cuba. It did not provide a broad-brush authorization for trade with Cuba; rather, it narrowed it to food and to medicine for humanitarian reasons. It just made sense for the United States to be able to send its medicine and its food products, its agriculture, to Cuba.

Clearly this made a lot of sense. Food should never be used as a weapon, and surely no dictator has ever missed a meal.

Second, big government has no business telling the U.S. farmers and ranchers to whom they could sell their products, for a lot of reasons. One is agriculture is facing such dire straits in many parts of our country. In addition U.S. agriculture is facing a shrinking trade surplus. It used to be agriculture products exported overseas were the one big bright spot in the trade imbalance. That is no longer true. Agricultural programs are under tremendous pressure. Budget cuts—more so now than has been the case in the past.

We should be looking around for new markets for American products, not
cutting out export markets for American agricultural products. Cuba certainly presents a promising market for Montana and for American agriculture. Yet, unbelievably, the Treasury Department has recently issued a new rule. That rule makes it harder, it makes it much more difficult for American farmers and ranchers to sell agricultural products to Cuba. It makes it much more difficult in spite of the intent of the law we passed in 2000.

The rule by Treasury requires Cuba to pay for goods before shipment instead of before delivery, as was the case in the last 3 years after the act was passed. For some reason, here in 2005, a few years after the act has been in operation and working, the Treasury Department passes new regulations, just out of the blue, which make it much more difficult for American farmers to sell their products to Cuba. If Cuba pays for the goods while they are still on U.S. soil, these goods, under a previously become Cuban assets, which make them vulnerable to seizure to satisfy unrelated claims.

What is the effect of that? That has a very chilling effect. Treasury says it issued this rule as a “clarification” of the intent of Congress in the bill that was passed in the year 2000. Let me be clear. My colleagues and I did not vote for a bill to enhance exports to Cuba that contained payment restrictions so severe as to render U.S. exports uncompetitive. Clearly we did not pass a bill, we did not vote for a bill which makes it more difficult to sell agricultural products to Cuba rather than less difficult, and this regulation makes it more difficult. That was not the intent of Congress. We pass the laws. We decide what the laws of the Nation should be. It was our intent that agricultural sales should proceed unimpeded on a cash basis to Cuba.

When Treasury proposed this rule, I and others on both sides of the aisle in both Chambers made our point very clear that we did not intend this. It was not our intent to have this interpretation.

Why is this so important? Cuba, the largest island in the Caribbean, was worth $400 million to U.S. agriculture exporters in the year 2004. Since 2001, Cuba has purchased more than $800 million in agricultural products from 35 States in our Nation, making that island the 25th largest export market for agricultural products.

A year and a half ago, I led a trade mission to Cuba, and I walked away with what I think is a pretty good deal for my State of Montana: $10 billion in agricultural products on a cash basis; and the fact is they bought $10.4 million of agricultural products from my State of Montana. I went back last December and signed a new agreement, this time worth $15 million for Montana agricultural products. Unfortunately, that agreement is now in jeopardy because of the new rule.

In the interim, Treasury passed this new rule. It also applied this new rule even to sales completed months earlier on a retroactive basis, which is totally unfair. The rule is wrong in the first place. It makes it doubly wrong when it is retroactive. We have $3 million worth of wheat and pea shipments lined up, and now they have to be renegotiated because of this Treasury rule. That is wrong, just dead wrong. I, in this body, have worked hard to sell agricultural products to Cuba and will not stand idly by while Government bureaucrats try to undo all the work.

First, this reverses that Treasury rule and clarifies the intent of Congress for Cuba to pay cash for delivery of U.S. goods before delivery, not before shipment. This will ensure that cash sales continue as they have without interruption.

Second, the amendment gives general license to producers and port authorities to travel to Cuba whenever they have agreements to negotiate. This is a huge amount of bureaucracy and paperwork to go through when the American agricultural exporter wants to go to Cuba to negotiate an agreement. It makes it difficult to do so if we can’t go to Cuba to put the deal together.

Third, it requires greater transparency in visa processing for the Cuban buyers and inspectors who have legitimate itineraries in the United States. It requires greater transparency in visa processing for the Cuban buyers and inspectors who have legitimate itineraries in the United States related to the sale or inspection of TSRREA-authorized products.

Again, if a State has sales to Cuba, it only makes sense if the State Department can allow a representative for the Government of Cuba or the representative of agriculture, the purchaser, to come visit that State to see what products that State has in mind. So far the Government is making it very difficult for that to happen.

Fourth, this authorizes direct banking relationships that authorized agricultural sales only. We are not talking about any other product. We are talking about authorized agricultural sales—direct banking relations which would have the effect that U.S. banks can deal directly on this matter rather than as currently is the case where they would have to go through a third party, where European banks are making money off the U.S. agricultural sales.

Finally, this amendment repeals an obscure trademark law that benefits no U.S. company, but puts at risk thousands of U.S. trademarks, including those branded food products sold to Cuba in the past 3 years. Section 211’s supporters say it protects confiscated trademarks but in fact makes very clear no government—not even Fidel Castro’s—can expropriate legally registered trademark rights. It is impossible to do. That is why this provision must be enacted.

The truth is section 211 was enacted to interfere in an ongoing rum label dispute. The fight is not my concern. But what concerns me is unless we fully repeal section 211, Cuba has the right, under international trademark law, to deny U.S. trademarks reciprocal recognition. That does not make any sense.

In conclusion, I am here to urge us to pass this amendment. It allows Americans and ranchers a break. More importantly, let them do what we intended them to do when we passed that law in the year 2000. Let us send a message to Treasury that when we pass laws, we mean it. It is not for Treasury to say the laws we have passed are wrong, and they are supposed to implement the laws, not make new laws, which in effect Treasury is doing by changing its regulations. They are being totally irresponsible. There comes a time when, frankly, it is up to us to put a stop to it and say this is not right and we are going to change it.

I see many of my friends on the floor. I thank my good friend from North Dakota, Senator Dorgan, who cosponsored an amendment.

I say also that I support the trade amendment offered by Senator Craig, a perfecting amendment which will help implement the major underlying amendment which I described.

I thank the floor but reserve the time we have.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from North Dakota.

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, are we under a time agreement at this point?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. We are not.

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, let me make a couple of comments about this, and first credit my colleagues Senator Craig, Senator Baucus, and many other colleagues who have worked so hard on this. Their leadership is especially appreciated.

Go back 5 years to the year 2000 when I, then-Senator John Ashcroft, and my colleagues Senators Craig, Baucus, and others passed an amendment here in the Senate that became law. The amendment we offered which became law said that American farmers could sell food into the country of Cuba as long as Cuba paid cash for that food. Since that time, we have sold over $1 billion worth of agricultural commodities into Cuba. When we debated that 5 years ago, I was on the floor of the Senate saying I think it is almost immoral for any country to use food as a weapon. Food ought not be a weapon in foreign policy.

Does anybody here think that for 40 years when we prevented the sale of food to Cuba we injured Fidel Castro? Does anybody believe Fidel Castro missed breakfast, or lunch, or supper, or dinner, because of our embargo on food, because we decided to use food as a weapon? It didn’t hurt Fidel Castro. When we use food as a weapon, it hurts hungry, sick, and poor people. That is what happened.

One day not too long ago—a couple of years ago—22 train carloads of dried feeds left the State of North Dakota, my home State, to go from our farms
to Cuba to be fed to the Cuban people. Cuba paid cash for it. It was the first shipment in 42 years.

We have people who never liked that law; didn’t like the fact that Congress passed that law; still want to use food as a weapon, but they have happened something. The Treasury Department’s Office of Foreign Asset Control has decided to illegally, in my judgment, redetermine how they interpret that force of law that requires cash payment for food. Normally, when you buy something when they give you the product, you pay cash and they give you the product. That is the way it is. You pay the money, they give you the product.

What the Department of Treasury has decided in OFAC is that the Cubans would have to pay for this. By the way, they paid cash through a European bank because they can’t use a U.S. banking institution. They have to pay for it before that shipment even leaves the local country elevator. It dramatically changes the circumstances of being able to sell and be competitive. They are doing it for one reason, because those who did this don’t want American farmers to sell food into the Cuban marketplace. The Canadians sell into the Cuban marketplace. The Europeans do. But they want to go back to the good old days when the American farmers were paying the cost of an embargo. They are dead wrong.

It is interesting. We are told repeatedly and have been told for years that the way to move Communist countries into the mainstream toward democratic reform is through trade and travel. I have been to the country of China; I have been to Vietnam—both Communist countries. We encourage trade and travel with Communist countries, China and Vietnam. But when it comes to Cuba, a Communist country headed by Fidel Castro, who admittedly keeps sticking his finger into our country, I understand that it is not about Fidel Castro. It is about our farmers being able to sell food into the Cuban marketplace. When it comes to Cuba and Castro, he has lived through 10 Presidents and over 40 years of an embargo.

The fact is this amendment is necessary in order to stop the Treasury from doing something that the Congressional Research Service says they do not think is legal.

Let me make a rather couple of comments that relate more generally to a related issue. The Office of Foreign Asset Control is an agency down in Treasury that is supposed to be tracking money supporting terrorism. That money supporting terrorism is to be intercepted by OFAC in their investigations, trying to figure out who is supporting Osama bin Laden, and how do we shut down their funding. Guess what. This little agency, which has 21 people, triple the number of people who are supporting Osama bin Laden’s funding supply, is trying to figure out how they shut down trade and travel to Cuba. They are investigating American citizens who are under suspicion of having taken a vacation in Cuba without a license.

I have a picture of a young woman I have shown on the floor of the Senate many times. Her transgression was she went to Cuba to pass out flags on the streets of Cuba and OFAC tracked her down and fined her $10,000.

Trade and travel are two related issues that I believe would work with Cuba, China, and Vietnam. I believe the Communist countries I have described, China and Vietnam as examples, have moved toward more democratic reforms, not completely, but as a result of our policy called engagement, travel, and trade.

With respect to Cuba, we have had this some 40-plus years embargo that simply hasn’t worked. But the piece of the embargo, the piece of that issue my colleagues Senator Baucus and I and others now want to address is to correct something that is happening down at the Treasury Department that we believe misinterprets current law to correct something the Congress says is being done which they believe is not legal. We will find any way we can to force this correction.

My colleagues have suggested—I shall not go into any greater detail—the provisions. It allows generally visas for agricultural sales to Cuba. If you are going to sell and have a trade relationship, you have to go there and talk about what you have to sell. It would express the sense of Congress that we should issue visas to Cubans who want to buy U.S. agricultural goods, and want to come here. They have systematically refused to give visas to some of these top food-buying Cubans who would use cash to buy American food and try to purchase food. It also fixes payment and advance issues and resolves those kinds of problems that have arisen in recent months with the new ruling by OFAC.

One final point: The current Secretary of Treasury Secretary O’Neill, as did the previous Secretary of the Treasury, that what is happening is goofy; totally without good sense. They know that.

I had a hearing one day when I was chairing a subcommittee, and Treasury Secretary O’Neill was there. I asked him about four or five times. He didn’t answer. I knew why he wouldn’t answer; it was because he would get in trouble. But about the fifth or sixth time I asked the question—I knew he would eventually answer—he finally answered candidly. I said, Wouldn’t you, if you had the choice, rather than track people suspected of supporting terrorism than all the way to shut down agricultural trade, if you had the choice, use your assets in OFAC to track terrorist money and shut down terrorism?

He finally said, of course. The next day he was chastised publicly by the White House for saying that. We do not get that kind of answer out of anyone in the administration anymore.

This is very simple. It is not a partisan issue. It is the expression of Congress, on a bipartisan basis, Republicans and Democrats, that we ought not use food as a weapon. It is immoral. Farmers should not the pay the cost of this. The policy makers who do this know that, they know both of those circumstances and they do it, in my judgment, to perpetuate a political advantage they think exists somewhere in about two States in our country. I think they are wrong.

On behalf of this country’s farmers and the people in this country who would buy and who would need that food, I believe we ought to pass this amendment to the underlying bill.

I yield the floor and suggest the abandonment of the quorum call.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. LUGAR. 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. 273, AS MODIFIED

Mr. LUGAR. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent an amendment numbered 273, previously agreed to, be modified with language that is at the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The amendment will be so modified. The amendment (No. 273), as modified, was agreed to as follows:

On page 12, strike lines 16 through 18, and insert the following:

(2) AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS.—

(A) FISCAL YEAR 2006.—Fifteen percent of the funds appropriated pursuant to paragraph (1) for fiscal year 2006 are authorized to remain available until September 30, 2007.

(B) FISCAL YEAR 2007.—Fifteen percent of the funds appropriated pursuant to paragraph (1) for fiscal year 2007 are authorized to remain available until September 30, 2008.

Mr. LUGAR. Mr. President, I now ask unanimous consent that following the vote at 4:45 on the resolution regarding Pope John Paul II, the Senate proceed to vote in relation to the Boxer amendment; provided further that there be 2 minutes of debate equally divided between the votes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. LUGAR. 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. LUGAR. I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.
The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. LUGAR. Mr. President, I will take the time before the vote to rise in support of the Craig-Baucus amendment. I am a cosponsor of S. 328, the bill on which the amendment is based. I appreciate the views of the Senators on both sides of the Cuban embargo issue. In the Committee on Foreign Relations, concerned Senators have offered constructive ideas on how to approach Cuba with the goal of transforming an island into a democracy, even as Senators disagree on interim policy steps.

My view is within the defined limits of Trade Sanctions Reform and Export Enhancement Act of 2000. United States businesses and farmers should be able to sell products to Cuba. In the interest of expanding opportunities for U.S. agriculture, 5 years ago Congress enacted this law. It exempts from the trade embargo on Cuba commercial sales of agricultural and medical products and allows only for cash sales. No credit or subsidies to the Cuban Government are allowed.

This law has provided a new market for our farmers and ranchers. The American Farm Bureau has reported that since the passage of the bill, United States farmers have sold approximately $800 million in agricultural products to Cuba. Exports to Cuba have more than doubled since 2002, reaching approximately $900 million in 2004. Growth in the Cuban market has become especially important as the United States agricultural trade surplus has narrowed over the last 2 years.

Recently, the Bush administration issued a clarification to our Cuban export policy which changed the payment terms of cash sales to Cuba. The Treasury Department rule will make it more difficult to sell agricultural products to Cuba.

The amendment would reverse the Treasury rule by returning it to the status quo payment terms. That has worked well since 2001. It also would cut some of the retape that makes United States producers less competitive in the Cuban market.

Expanding international markets in our hemisphere and the world will have a positive impact on the lives of Americans. All sectors, especially American agricultural producers will benefit from the opportunity to sell products to other nations that create jobs in the United States. My home state of Indiana is a world leader in agricultural production and manufacturing. If we hope to sustain our economic strength in the 21st century, we must participate in an expanding global economy. We must aggressively pursue opportunities in new markets and we must keep our competitive advantage and sell our products worldwide.

As a Senator, I worked in the Congress to support trade and economic policies that I believe are in the best long-term interests of our Nation. Con-
woman by giving her options, by giving her a referral. It even says a non-governmental organization would lose all their USAID funding if they advocated to change a very restrictive law in their own country. This is clearly unconstitutional if it were applied here in America.

With our men and women dying around the world for freedom, I do not think we should say there should be no freedom of speech in these countries. We overturned this law many times. I hope we will do it again.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Kansas.

Mr. BROWNBACK. Mr. President, I thank my colleagues. This is a well-plowed ground. We have been around this issue since 1984, with Ronald Reagan putting this policy in place. The Boxer amendment overturns that policy. This is about taxpayer funding of abortion overseas.

We can separate the issue of abortion here altogether and say we are not going to talk about that, but this is taxpayer dollars used to support organizations supporting abortion overseas. We talk about different semantics. That is what it does. I urge my colleagues to vote against this amendment. Clearly, 76-plus percent of the American public would be against that. Let's work on foreign policy issues and funding of things on which we have great unity, not ones on which we are divided.

I respectfully urge a vote against the amendment of my colleague, Senator BOXER.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. All time has expired.

Mrs. BOXER. I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second? There is a sufficient second. The question is on agreeing to the amendment. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. MCCONNELL. The following Senator was necessarily absent: the Senator from Colorado (Mr. ALLARD).

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. KENNEDY), is necessarily absent.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 52, nays 46, as follows:

- [Rollcall Vote No. 83 Leg.]

YEAS—52

- Akaka
- Baucus
- Biden
- Bingaman
- Boxer
- Byrd
- Cantwell
- Chafee
- Collins
- Conrad
- Corin
- Dayton
- Smith
- Snowe
- Specter
- Stevens
- Warner
- NAYS—46
- Alexander
- Allen
- Bennett
- Bond
- Brownback
- Bunning
- Burns
- Graham
- Grassley
- Chambliss
- Coburn
- Cochran
- Cooley
- Corzine
- Crapo
- Crapo
- DeMint
- Allard
- Kennedy

The amendment (No. 278) was agreed to.

Mrs. BOXER. I move to reconsider the vote.

Mr. DODD. 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 Connecticut.

Mr. DODD. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to lay aside the pending amendment.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

AMENDMENT NO. 283

Mr. DODD. Mr. President, I send an amendment to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the amendment.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

The amendment is as follows:

The amendment is as follows:

- ใน the place in the bill add the following new section:
- SEC. .
  (a) FINDINGS.—
  (1) During most of last four years relations between the United States and the People's Republic of China have been relatively stable;
  (2) The recently released 2004 State Department Country Report on Human Rights continues to characterize China's human rights as poor;
  (3) Bilateral economic and trade relations are important components of the United States/Chinese relationship,
  (4) China's growing international economic and political influence has implications for the United States competitive position and for maintaining a strong domestic industrial base;
  (5) Taiwan remains an extremely sensitive and complex bilateral issue between the U.S. and the Peoples Republic of China;
  (6) The U.S. decision to establish diplomatic relations with the People's Republic of China in 1979 was based upon the premise that the future of Taiwan would be determined solely by peaceful means and in a manner that was mutually satisfactory;
  (7) The Taiwan Relations Act makes clear that peace and stability in the region are in the political, security, and economic interests of the United States;
  (8) The United States has consistently urged restraint by both China and Taiwan with respect to their actions and declarations; and
  (9) The anti-succeSSION law adopted by the Chinese National People's Congress on March 14, 2005 targets at Taiwan's independence advocates was a provocative action which has altered the status quo in the region.

(b) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of the Congress that—
  1. China's anti-succeSSION law is destabilizing to regional peace and stability, and is therefore of grave concern to the United States;
  2. The United States Government should employ all diplomatic means to encourage the repeal of that law so the regional stability can be restored;
  3. The United States Government should continue to speak out with respect to China's human rights practices and advocate the release from detention of all political and human rights activists;
  4. The United States Government should more effectively promote United States economic and trade interests by insisting that the People's Republic of China lives up to its international trade obligations to respect and safeguard U.S. intellectual property rights and cease artificially pegging its currency exchange rates; and
  5. The United States Government should undertake a comprehensive review of the implications of China's growing international economic and political influence that are by-products of its expanding network of trade agreements, its aggressive shipbuilding programs, its efforts to cement scientific and technological cooperation arrangements, and secure additional oil and gas contracts; and should determine what steps should be taken to safeguard the U.S. industrial base and maintain and enhance United States economic competitiveness and political interests.

Mr. DODD. Mr. President, it is not my intention to debate the amendment at this moment, but I wanted to get in the queue. I will gladly debate on the amendment until a later time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Indiana.

Mr. LUGAR. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the pending amendments be laid aside.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. LUGAR. Mr. President, we have been attempting to arrange for a vote on the Lugar amendment. Senator Bunning would like to debate that amendment, as I understand it. It may be that an arrangement can be made for a conclusion of debate tonight and a vote certain tomorrow morning. But for the moment, 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. DORGAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.
Amendment No. 284

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the amendment be considered in order.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will read the amendment as follows:

The Senator from North Dakota [Mr. DORGAN], for himself and Mr. WYDEN, proposes an amendment numbered 284.

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the amendment be considered in order.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The amendment is as follows:

(Purpose: To prohibit funds from being used for television broadcasting to Cuba)

On page 16, strike lines 13 through 21 and insert the following:

(1) INTERNATIONAL BROADCASTING OPERATIONS.—For “International Broadcasting Operations,” $620,050,000 for the fiscal year 2006 and such sums as may be necessary for the fiscal year 2007.

(2) BROADCASTING CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS.—For “Broadcasting Capital Improvements,” $10,893,000 for the fiscal year 2006 and such sums as may be necessary for the fiscal year 2007.

(3) PROHIBITION ON TELEVISION BROADCASTING TO CUBA.—None of the amounts appropriated pursuant to the authorization of appropriations in paragraph (1) or (2) may be used to provide television broadcasting to Cuba.

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, I visited with Senator LUGAR and Senator BIDEN and indicated, on behalf of myself and Senator WYDEN, I would offer the amendment. We would be prepared to discuss it in the morning, but we will be happy to have it set aside for other business on this legislation. I want to say also it is not our intention in any way to delay this legislation. It is a very important amendment to us and I think to the Senate. But when we come back tomorrow to spend some time talking about it, we will not necessarily take very much time, and we will hope for favorable consideration by the full Senate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Oregon.

Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, very briefly, I thank Senator LUGAR and Senator BIDEN, in particular, for working this arrangement out with Senator DORGAN and me. We think this is a waste of money. We are anxious to talk about this tomorrow after folks have had a chance, overnight, to look at it.

I thank the Presiding Officer for the chance to make these brief remarks.

Mr. LUGAR. Mr. President 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. DORGAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, it appears there are a couple of minutes before we move on. I will debate the amendment, along with my colleague, Senator WYDEN, more extensively in the morning. I will not take a lot of time. But as long as the floor was available, I wanted to indicate that the amendment is so ordered.

We fund broadcasts into Cuba on something called Radio Marti which are very effective. The Cuban people listen to Radio Marti. Of course, they can listen to Miami radio stations as well. But we also fund something called TV Marti, and we have done it for years. The Government of Cuba, of Fidel Castro, jams the signals. We have Fat Albert, an aerostat balloon up there thousands of feet in the air, and the American taxpayer is paying for a fancy studio down on the ground. And up through this cable to Fat Albert we actually send signals into Cuba, television signals that the Cuban people can’t see. Traditionally, they have been broadcast from 3 to 8 in the morning, and they are systematically jammed.

We have been spending about $10 to $12 million a year, and we have been doing it for years. We have spent about $21 million. But it saves money; $21 million is a lot of money in my hometown. It saves the taxpayers money and stops doing something that has always been completely ineffective.

We broadcast in Radio Marti. That is effective. The Cubans listen to it. They can listen to commercial stations from Miami for that matter. But Television Marti has never worked because the Castro government systematically jams it. So we send signals no one can receive.

This amendment, I hope, should be simple enough. I know there will be some who may have an apoplectic seizure about my offering this amendment because there are those who think that this is where the Cuban vote is very important and there are some in the Cuban community who think we are doing something very important and very worthy if we send signals from this country that can reach the Cuban people. That escapes some notion of mine that would represent logical thinking. But nonetheless there may be some who will feel that way.

We will have a broader discussion of this tomorrow. I support many of the broadcasting programs we have. Many have been very effective. But this is pure, solid, thoughtless waste. It is time for this Congress to take a stand to shut this spending down.

I yield the floor and suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. LUGAR. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The Senator from Indiana.

Mr. LUGAR. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that Senator BIDEN
be recognized in order to offer a substitute amendment to the language proposed to be stricken; provided further that there be 30 minutes equally divided for debate this evening; provided further that at 10 a.m. tomorrow, the Senate proceed to a vote in relation to the language as amended, with no amendments in order to the Biden amendment prior to the vote.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. LUGAR. I thank the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Delaware.

AMENDMENT NO. 286

Mr. BIDEN. Mr. President, I send an amendment to the Lugar amendment to the desk and ask for its immediate consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Delaware [Mr. BIDEN] proposes an amendment numbered 286 in lieu of the language proposed to be stricken by amendment No. 236.

Mr. BIDEN. 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 provide a second degree amendment related to the United States share of assessment for United Nations Peacekeeping operations)

In lieu of the matter proposed to be stricken, insert the following:

"Section 494(b)(2)(B) of the Foreign Relations Authorization Act, Fiscal Years 1994 and 1995 (P.L. 103-236) is amended by adding at the end the following:

"(v) For assessments made during calendar years 2005, 2006, and 2007, 27.1 percent."

Mr. BIDEN. Mr. President, I will be very brief. The amendment I have sent to the desk does a simple thing. It mainains the current cap on the amount that the United States contributes to the United Nations peacekeeping missions. It keeps it at 27.1 percent for the next 2 years.

For those who may be watching, they may wonder what that is all about. When a peacekeeping mission gets sent overseas, authorized by the United Nations, the countries in question have a lot of money on the table, and we want to make sure that the resources that we are contributing to the United Nations missions are the appropriate amount that the United States should be contributing.

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Let me briefly explain the history of the law and what this does to the Lugar amendment.

In 1994, Congress unilaterally limited what we would pay for the peacekeeping endeavors of the United Nations. We said that we would no longer pay any more than 25 percent. I believe at the time we were paying 31 percent. That is what the previous administrations had agreed to. That is what the U.N. was assessing us, 31 percent. We said in 1994: No, no, we are not going to pay any more than 25 percent.

What happened was, we never negotiated that rate with the United Nations. We unilaterally stated that. We did not negotiate it, and say: Look, we want to reconfigure how much we are paying. We want to go down from 31 percent, which we had been paying, to 25 percent. It never occurred, and the U.N. continued to bill us at 31 percent. So if a peacekeeping mission was $1 million and none were as cheap as $1 million—we were getting billed $310,000 and we only agreed to pay $250,000. So we were in arrears of $60,000.

The bill that my former colleague Jesse Helms and I did in the late 1990s to clear up what the United States allegedly owed—everybody used to call it dues, but it was more than dues. This peacekeeping is part of what people euphemistically refer to as dues. The amount owed was $271,000. We owed a lot to the United Nations, although somewhat in dispute, was a little over $1 billion.

Senator Helms, and many others, when he was chairman of the committee, said we should pay that amount of this; we did not owe any of these arrears. Senator Helms, after conferring with his trusted aide who has passed away, the Staff Director for the Foreign Relations Committee, Admiring Lord Helms, he realized a lot of this was owed to some of our friends such as Great Britain, Europe, and others, he said I did not realize that; OK, we should pay that amount we owe. But in the process Senator Helms, Senator LUGAR, myself, and many others also thought there should be reforms that should take place in the United Nations. In addition to setting this arrears question, we wrote a much larger bill that required some changes and commitments on the part of the United Nations as well. In the process of doing that, Senator Helms agreed and the Helms-Biden legislation said we would only pay at 25 percent.

The Ambassador to the United Nations at the time was Richard Holbrooke. Richard Holbrooke, who was in negotiation with the United Nations to try to get them to agree that we would only pay 25 percent and that they would agree with that beyond us unilaterally asserting it, worked out an agreement and United Nations agreed we would only pay 25 percent.

I know what I am talking about sounds arcane, but it is real money. Senator Helms and I said: OK, close enough. And we agreed to amend the Helms-Biden legislation to say we would only pay 25 percent.

I want to now go back and amend what passed 18 to 0 and say we are going back to the 27.1 percent level.

I remind my colleagues, and I am in no way being critical of my chairman, the bill we reported out of the Foreign Relations Committee corrects the problem. It said we are lifting the 25 percent cap passed in 1994, and we are doing it permanently. What the chairman of the committee is doing is introducing an amendment saying: I guess, on second thought, I do not like that idea very much. I want to now go back and amend what passed 18 to 0 and say we are going back to the 27.1 percent level.

I want that is complicated for all the Members, but the bottom line is my amendment does what the President’s budget request proposed. I want to do it permanently, but the President said keep it at 27 percent for another 2 years. That is what the President requested. That is what I am attempting to amend the Lugar amendment with. The bottom line is the 27.1 percent prevails. We no longer go in arrears, and we put off another 2 years reckoning with the underlying problem.
I see my colleague from Maryland is in the Chamber. With the permission of the Senator from Indiana, I would be happy to yield to him on this point. There is a time agreement. I do not know how much of my time I have used, Mr. President. I am sure we could accommodate the Senator from the time agreements.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Maryland.

Mr. SARBANES. Mr. President, I will be brief. I rise in very strong support of the amendment offered by the distinguished Senator from Delaware. I do it out of respect for his past efforts in addressing this issue, along with Senator Helms. I have to confess that, at the time, I thought we should pay all of our arrears without those conditions. We had a very difficult situation in the U.N., but in the end, the situation was negotiated out and an agreement was reached on the 27 percent. So as long as we pay that amount, we are not falling into arrears.

If we go down 27 percent down to 25 percent, as I understand the amendment of the chairman of the committee would do, we immediately throw ourselves back into a situation where we start building up arrears. In effect, we end up on an agreement that was reached after very intense negotiations with the U.N., as I recall, led by Ambassador Holbrooke at the time.

Interestingly enough, the current administration, the Bush administration, as I understand it, is supportive of the position that the Senator from Delaware is offering with this amendment. This amendment is consistent with what the administration has sought in terms of extending the 27 percent cap.

Now, the bill as it came out of the committee extended that cap permanently. This amendment would extend it for 2 years. I understand that is the administration’s position. Given all of that background, if the Senator from Delaware and Maryland pointed out, and certainly Senator BIDEN was very heavily involved in the Helms-Biden legislation of 1999, that which came after considerable argument in the committee and in the Senate, perhaps in the country, about what our fair share ought to be, the Helms-Biden decision was that the U.S. share of peacekeeping duties would decline to 25 percent of the world total. That still remains the law and important goal of U.S. policy toward the United Nations, at least for many Senators.

Expression has been made tonight that perhaps our Nation ought to be more generous, and that could very well be the result of negotiations with the United Nations, but the intent, at least, of the amendment that I offered earlier in the day would strike section 401, which established a permanent cap of the U.S. share by in essence setting the Senator’s substitute changes that permanent idea to a 2-year cap of 27.1 so that perhaps pragmatically there is some room and time to come to some agreement either up or down from that point.

I simply observe that this issue, long before Senator Helms and Senator BIDEN reached a bipartisan compromise in 1999, exercised strong feelings on both sides of the aisle. I appreciate very much the sentiment of the Senator who introduced the amendment, and what the correct presence ought to be.

Furthermore, I believe the United States has obligations of a humanitarian sort, quite apart from the pragmatic aspects of peacekeeping, which are important. Nevertheless, my hope had been that by in essence setting aside the issue out of this bill that we would give the U.S. negotiators the most leverage possible to obtain whatever our goals and objectives may be. I appreciate the Senator’s wisdom as to what those goals are. It may be ambivalence of a generous sort; namely, given all of the problems occurring in the world, we may wish to take on more. On the other hand, I would observe, as certain other Senators have, that the United Nations is in the process now of a great deal of reform thinking.

The Secretary General, Kofi Annan, has suggested very substantial reforms. We are about to have a hearing on the nominee for our country’s representative at the United Nations, John Bolton. I am certain many Senators on the committee will question Secretary Bolton on his ideas about the reform and how he could be effective in bringing about a stronger United Nations and what the correct presence ought to be and what the correct leadership ought to be. Peacekeeping ought to be a part of that negotiation.

I would further observe that in the coming weeks Congress will have further opportunities to work with President Bush and his administration to craft the most effective means of reforming the U.S. share or increasing them, as may be our preference. I believe this is an issue in which further consultation with the executive branch is desirable.

For the moment, I appreciate that Senator BIDEN will continue to have strong feelings about the United Nations generally, as well as our degree of participation financially and otherwise. That has been the nature of several debates over the years, and each time one of the authorization bills comes to the floor, this issue arises in one form or another. Nevertheless, I will oppose the Biden amendment with the recognition that, as a substitute, if it is adopted, it will be language that I hope at least goes to final passage of this legislation.

If the Senator’s substitute is not adopted, then he has assured me that by voice vote we will adopt the amendment I offered earlier on and proceed on to other considerations.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Mr. President, the Senator from Delaware will adopt my point of view because I believe it offers more latitude for our administration and offers, perhaps, a more constructive avenue for reform of the United Nations and perhaps some leverage for both. In any event, I appreciate the sincerity of the debate, the importance of the issue, the recognition of the history of this debate over several years of time, and at least recognize that tonight is the point at which I think we must take a decision. Mr. BIDEN, I fear I have no more time. I ask unanimous consent for 2 additional minutes off the time of the Senator from Indiana.

Mr. LUGAR. I am happy to yield the Senator 2 minutes of my time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. BIDEN. Mr. President, very briefly, necessarily, the administration has not asked for any latitude. The administration is quite clear. They came up and said, if you are trying to negotiate on 27 percent for dues. They didn’t ask for that. Speaking to the Secretary of State, I asked her...
about Assistant Secretary Bolton, nominee for the United Nations post. She assured me he shares the administration’s view. The administration’s view was sent to me in writing. It said we ask you to extend for 2 more years at the 27-percent number. There may be negotiations for a stronger negotiation in hand by keeping this at 25 percent.

So it may turn out to be that. The administration’s statement says—this is Executive Office of the President, Office of Management and Budget, date April 5, 2005:

Section 401 makes permanent the 27.1 percent United Nations peacekeeping rate, which is not consistent with the Administration’s 2006 year extension.

So they are asking for a 2-year extension. They didn’t want to make it permanent, but they asked for 2 years. That is the only point I want to make.

Mr. SARBANES. What does the Senator’s amendment do?

Mr. FEINGOLD. My amendment does exactly what the administration asks. I thank the Senator for the additional 2 minutes.

Parliamentary inquiry: Tomorrow the vote is set for 10, and I believe the Senator from Delaware will have 2 or 3 minutes before the vote?

I thank my colleague. I yield the floor. I see our friends are on the floor to debate another substantive issue, and I thank the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Indiana.

Mr. LUGAR. I will conclude at least my portion of the debate by saying I recognize the Senator from Delaware does visit and works carefully with our administration. I appreciate that. I think it is important that America present as united a voice and face to the world as we can. I would just observe, pragmatically, that the administration in my judgment would like to have some latitude on an issue that has divided the Senate as well as the country for some time.

I don’t think this is a monumental subject. I think it is one that, clearly, constructive people can resolve. My hope is that we can strike the peacekeeping issue from the bill so that latitude is available for whatever reform, reconstruction, and debate the administration reformers may wish to have at the U.N. in the coming months.

Having said this, I appreciate Senators staying with this debate. We understand another will be on the way and there will be a short debate on this issue at 10 o’clock or thereabouts tomorrow, and then a vote on that issue before we retire to see the distinguished return from Ukraine.

I yield back my time.

Mr. FEINGOLD. Mr. President, I wish to express my support for S. 600, the State Department and Foreign Assistance Authorization bill. I commend Chairman LUGAR and Senator BIDEN for their efforts to make the authorizing role of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee real again, and to thank all my colleagues on that committee for their hard work on this bill, which represents a strong bipartisan consensus in favor of energetic, engaged diplomacy.

I am especially pleased that this bill contains a number of provisions that I authored, including a provision emphasizing the importance of supporting press freedom in Ethiopia. Many of my colleagues may be aware of the Government of Ethiopia’s recent troubling decision to expel representatives of the National Democratic Institute, the International Republican Institute, and the International Foundation for Election Systems from the country in the lead-up to the May elections. But I suspect fewer people know about the Ethiopian Government’s well-established pattern of suppressing the independent press. According to the Committee to Protect Journalists, “in the run-up to 2005 elections, the ruling Ethiopian Democratic Front came under increasing criticism from local journalists and international media organizations for its antagonism toward the country’s private press. Authorities continued to imprison journalists and to intimidate others into silence on sensitive issues, such as government infighting and Ethiopia’s tense relations with its neighbors. Throughout 2004, local journalists and international press freedom groups petitioned the Ethiopian government to revise a repressive press bill, with little success."

The United States-Ethiopian relationship is an important and complex one. American support for a truly free press should be a part of it.

This bill also contains a provision I authored encouraging a more focused effort to combat impunity and build judicial capacity in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Burundi, Rwanda, and Uganda. In the eastern part of the DRC, government troops and rebel fighters have raped tens of thousands of women and girls, but fewer than a dozen perpetrators have been prosecuted. The brutality of these crimes and the staggering scale of the problems are reporting for years without attracting adequate international attention, demand justice. Similarly, impunity for brutal crimes against civilians is the norm in Burundi. But if Burundi’s peace process is to deliver lasting stability and bring an end to the horrifying violence that keeps families afraid to sleep in their homes at night, the international community must work to help create a strong and independent judiciary in the country. Rwanda continues to struggle with the cases relating to the 2004 genocide, and in Northern Uganda, civilians are too often trapped between the thugs of the Lords Resistance Army and a military presence that has not proven able or willing to provide security or justice. These problems are moral outrages, but they are also destabilizing factors. Over the long run, reasserting the rule of law in Central Africa must be a part of the region, and creating space for peaceful development.

This bill also contains authorizing language for the administration’s Global Peace Operations Initiative based on language that I authored for the African Peace Operations Training and Assistance program, or ACOTA, which is subsumed in the Global Peace Operations Initiative. This language will ensure that Congress and the administration have a shared set of understandings about the nature of this program and about criteria for participation as we move forward with this effort to strengthen global capacity to peacekeeping missions. By clearly stating that human rights standards and democratic governance are important factors in determining eligibility for participation, and by explicitly calling for outreach to civil society in participating countries, this bill can help build confidence in this important program and avoid the mistakes of past military assistance initiatives.

I know that the administration and colleagues on both sides of the aisle share my conviction that the global fight against HIV/AIDS is one of the most important and urgent issues of our time. This bill contains an amendment that I offered that supports efforts to provide treatment to the millions infected with HIV, by requiring full transparency regarding the price of the HIV/AIDS drugs being purchased with U.S. assistance under the auspices of the President’s Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief, or PEPFAR. Last year, we found that PEPFAR was purchasing antiretroviral drugs that differ in price by as much as $328 per person per year from corresponding generic drugs. Shining a light on what is being accomplished with U.S. taxpayer dollars will help us all to determine if there are responsible ways to stretch those dollars further to save more lives. My provision does not require that any specific drugs—be they generic or brand-name—be purchased. It simply needs to ensure that transparency is evident. One’s interest, protecting taxpayers and supporting AIDS relief efforts.

This bill also contains a provision I authored related to Indonesia. This provision simply requires that the administration report on the status of the ongoing investigation of the murder of American citizens that occurred on August 31, 2002 in Timika,
Indonesia, before releasing funds for certain military assistance programs for Indonesia in 2006. As my colleagues know, for the past two years Congress has supported language restricting Indonesia’s access to certain, very narrowly defined types of military assistance, pending a determination that the Indonesian Government and military are fully cooperating with the FBI in the investigation of the murder of American citizens that occurred on August 31, 2002 in Timika, Indonesia. Secretary Rice has made such a determination for the current fiscal year, but this issue is by no means resolved. The FBI considers this an ongoing investigation, and the FBI has not exonerated anyone. A number of questions remain unanswered, and clearly other conspirators were involved.

Most importantly, I believe that resolution of this case means that efforts are made to hold those responsible for the ambush accountable for their actions in a court of law. But even the one individual indicted by the U.S. remains at large, and has been neither indicted nor arrested by Indonesian authorities. It is important to keep Congress apprised of ongoing cooperation in the investigation, and this case tells us a great deal about the context in which our bilateral relationship is moving forward. I look forward to receiving this report, and I certainly hope it will contain positive news that will reinforce the United States-Indonesian bilateral relationship.

This bill also contains the text of several important measures that I have cosponsored and strongly support. The Global Pathogen Surveillance Act, which will help strengthen international capacity to cope with the threats of biological terrorism and infectious disease, has been turned into a threat of biological terrorism and international capacity to cope with the world’s vast youthful populations to grow into allies rather than resentful enemies, when we consider the potential for increased international cooperation in fighting terrorism, we can see that our constituents and future generations stand to gain a great deal from getting foreign policy right. At the very least, we need to start by talking about these issues seriously, authorizing important activities and programs, and giving important initiatives the support they deserve.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. KYL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

APPOINTMENT

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair, on behalf of the Vice President, pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 276h, as amended, appoints the following Senator as Chair of the Senate Delegation to the Mexico-U.S. Interparliamentary Group during the 109th Congress: the Senator from Texas, Mr. CORNYN.

FRANK PERDUE

Ms. MIKULSKI. Mr. President, I want to acknowledge the passing of a great Marylander, Frank Perdue, Sr., who helped build the poultry industry on the Eastern Shore, a leading entrepreneur, a philanthropist. He passed away of Parkinson’s disease a few days ago.

Born in Parsonburg, on the Eastern Shore of Maryland, Frank Perdue grew up working in his family’s egg business—collecting and cleaning eggs from childhood. But Frank Perdue was determined to take the family business to another level—and it was his tremendous capacity for hard work that did just that. When Perdue said, “It takes a tough man to make a tender chicken,” America listened, and Frank Perdue became both a savvy entrepreneur and a marketing icon. Today Perdue Farms employs more than 20,000 people across America and has annual sales of about $3 billion.

I am proud to work with Frank Perdue—and now with his son Jim Perdue—to fight for fair trade policies that enable Maryland chicken producers to export around the world.

As Frank Perdue’s business soared, he worked to bring Maryland with him. He moved the headquarters of Salisbury, University, establishing the Perdue School of Business with a generous gift. Once a college basketball player and always a baseball fan, Frank Perdue brought the Delmarva Shorebirds to Salisbury in 1996, and then built the team and the Eastern Shore community a stadium. It is for both his business sense and his philanthropic heart that I salute him today.

Frank Perdue and I came from different ends of the political spectrum. Yet we both believed that the best social program is a job—and that we must give help to those who practice self-help. We joked that we should do an ad for a group we both support—we would say—we’re tough birds from the right wing and the left wing—but we both support this tender cause.

Today as we grieve the loss of one of Maryland’s finest, Frank Perdue, we send our thoughts and prayers to his family and his many friends and colleagues.

HONORING OUR ARMED FORCES

STAFF SERGEANT SHANE KOELE

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, today I speak in remembrance of an Iowaan who has died in service to his country. A member of the 216th Military Police Company, SSG Shane Koele died on the 16th of March from injuries sustained when his military vehicle ran over a land mine the day before near Shindand, Afghanistan. He was 25 years old and is survived by a wife, Cheryl, a young daughter, Kiley, a mother, Mary Donnenwerth, a father, Keith Koele, and two sisters.

Staff Sergeant Koele grew up in Hartley, IA, and graduated in 1998 from Hartley-Melin-Sanborn High School. He attended college at Eastern College and Wayne State before joining the Army. After serving in Iraq for 6 months in 2003, Shane returned home to get married. He was sent to Afghanistan on March 13, 2005.

SGG Shane Koele is remembered by family and friends as a true hero. President Ronald Reagan once said, “Those who say that we’re in a time when there are no heroes, they just don’t know where to look.” Today, we don’t have to look far. We have only to remember with pride SSG Shane Koele and all those who have died in courageous service to their country. As his family and friends grieve their loss, I can only offer my prayers and my gratitude.

CHILDS LABOR

Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, it is with extreme disappointment that I...
come to the floor today. This week the New York Times ran a story detailing a recent agreement signed between Wal-Mart Stores and the Department of Labor. Wal-Mart was fined just over $135,000 for 24 child labor violations that occurred in New Hampshire, Kansas, and Connecticut. One of the most egregious violations involved a boy who injured his thumb while using a chain saw to cut Christmas trees. Others were operating cardboard balers and chain saws, which are illegal for anyone under the age of 18 to work on. The $135,000 figure is a paltry figure that demonstrates DOL’s lax enforcement policy. A $135,000 penalty against a company the size of Wal-Mart has the same financial impact as a 40-cent penalty for a million-dollar company. DOL has sent American companies a message with this settlement: violators of child labor laws needn’t worry about child labor, even if they are caught.

Beyond fining of Wal-Mart, the Labor Department recently released new regulations that place young workers at greater risk of serious injuries. The new regulations are the first since the May 2002 release of a report detailing dozens of deficiencies in our Nation’s child labor laws. The report, published by NIOSH, recommended over 40 changes in child labor laws to better protect America’s employed youth from dangerous jobs and equipment. Since the 2002 release, it is estimated that more than 600,000 child workers have been injured in the United States. Among the disappointments in the new regulations, fast food restaurants can now employ 14- and 15-year-olds to operate deep fryers and grills that are cooled to 100 degrees Fahrenheit. According to NIOSH, however, half of all burn injuries among child laborers occur in fast food restaurants. In another regulatory change, 16- and 17-year-olds are now allowed to operate balers and chain saws without any restrictions that meet specified safety standards. Since 1954, children under the age of 18 have been prohibited from any contact with these machines. As with cooking, compliance with this standard will require vigilance by employers who put youth in contact with these machines. Unfortunately, the Labor Department requires no specific training for young workers under these new regulations. Issuing regulations that undermine exposure to hazardous machinery, equipment, and hot surfaces, but not to others, is confusing both to workers and employers. It is bound to result in young workers being exposed to greater dangers. Additionally, young workers still work at dangerous heights, on tractors, in pesticide handling, and in exposure to lead and silica. These hazards and more are recognized in the NIOSH report but have yet to be addressed by the Labor Department.

Sadly, this is not the first instance of Wal-Mart employing dangerous and illegal child labor. In March 2000, the State of Maine fined the company $205,650 for violations of child labor laws in every one of its 20 stores in the State. In January 2004, a weeklong internal audit of 128 stores found 1,371 instances in which minors worked too late at night, during school hours, or for more than eight hours. In the most recent fine levied against Wal-Mart, the average fine per violation is approximately just $5,600. This is about half of DOL’s maximum penalty of $11,000 per violation. Wal-Mart banks $285 million in annual sales. This is not what one would classify a financial hardship.

The most disturbing part of Wal-Mart’s settlement with the Labor Department is not even the small and insignificant fines, however. The distressing part of the agreement are the special favors handed out to Wal-Mart. The agreement, which was signed on January 6, was not even made public until now. It took a reporter to question officials about concerns raised by several raised DOL. But the agreement gave Wal-Mart special favors. Those employees have remained anonymous, however, due to their fear of retaliation.

What special favors were given to Wal-Mart? First off, DOL promises to give the retailer 15 days’ notice prior to any “wage and hour” investigation, like failure to pay minimum wage or overtime. As my colleagues will recall, I have tried for the past 2 years to get the Department of Labor to reverse their damaging new overtime provisions which stripped overtime pay benefits from thousands of American workers. This administration’s Labor Department continues to stand opposed to respecting worker rights, child labor rights, and overtime rights. But Wal-Mart is really their perfect ally, since they do not allow their workers to unionize. DOL’s cozying up to Wal-Mart is outrageous and completely unacceptable. By doing out these special privileges, worker rights in America are taking a giant leap backwards.

The degree to which the current administration has relaxed worker rights should not be seen in a partisan light. Elizabeth Dole, U.S. Secretary of Labor in the first President Bush administration, launched a crackdown amidst record levels of reported child labor law violations in America in 1990. She reminded all Americans that “the children of America are our future. The Department of Labor will do everything within its power to protect children against those who violate our child labor laws. The first step in this process is to reassure our fine structure and take immediate action to step up enforcement.” This was the view of a previous Republican Department of Labor. Sadly, we have regressed.

According to John R. Fraser, who was our Government’s top wage official under the first President Bush and President Clinton, said the advance-notice provision was unusual. Quoting Mr. Fraser from the New York Times article:

Giving the company 15 days’ notice of any investigation is very unusual. The language appears to go beyond child labor allegations and cover all wage and hour allegations. It appears to put Wal-Mart in a privileged position that to my knowledge no other employer has.

And an anonymous DOL employee, who is a 20-year veteran of the Department’s Wage and Hour Division, said “child labor cases involving the use of hazardous machinery, why give 15 days’ notice before we can do an investigation? What’s the rationale?”

I don’t know what the rationale is, Mr. President. There is no viable excuse for this agreement in the face of our labor laws. It seems more than coincidental that this Labor Department which has taken away overtime pay is now coming close to rewarding a corporation for doing the same. Is it mere coincidence also, then, that Wal-Mart gives more money to the Republican Party than any other corporation in America? Wal-Mart’s political action committee, the biggest company PAC in America, gave Republicans 81 percent of its $1.3 million in donations in the past 2 years, the highest proportion of any of the top 25 corporate PACs, according to PoliticalMoneyLine, a nonpartisan Washington-based group.

Wal-Mart’s top three managers each gave the maximum individual contribution of $2,000 to President Bush’s campaign last year and Jay Allen, vice president for corporate affairs went one step further. He raised at least $100,000 to reelect the President, earning him the Bush campaign’s designation of “Pioneer.” I bet he had to work some overtime to fit that into his busy schedule.

It is often said that money buys influence in Washington, DC. I certainly hope that is not the case here. I would hope that just because Wal-Mart gives so heavily to the Republican Party they are not given special favors by our Republican President. So Mr. President, I urge the Department of Labor to rethink this agreement. How can child labor be investigated if companies are given 2 weeks’ advance notice? Of course they will clean up their act temporarily, but what is to stop them from again regressing into their illegal ways? Nothing. There is no incentive. This agreement was completely unwarranted and should be reversed at the earliest possible time.

NORTH CAROLINA TAR HEELS MEN’S BASKETBALL TEAM

Mrs. DOLE. Mr. President, I rise today to congratulate the University of North Carolina Tar Heels men’s basketball team on their national championship. This is the fourth NCAA Division I title for this storied program and a well deserved finish to an amazing season.

Now, I know some of you are wondering... Yes, I am a Duke graduate and a Duke fan, and as you know, Duke
and North Carolina have one of the most legendary rivalries in the nation. That being said, I truly have been behind this team—I even wore Carolina blue to several events in North Carolina last week to show my support!

On Monday night, the Tar Heels defeated the Illinois Fighting Illini 75-70 in a remarkable display of teamwork and talent. Led by the performance of Raymond Felton and Sean May, the Tar Heels played strong basketball on both ends of the court. They were able to make critical baskets when the game was on the line and played tenacious defense that stifled their opponent. With this victory, this year’s Tar Heel team has solidified its place in college basketball history alongside Carolina greats such as Michael Jordan and James Worthy.

Roy Williams, who returned to his home state and alma mater just two years ago, earned his first title and demonstrated why he is one of the best coaches in college basketball. Under his leadership, this group of talented young men developed into truly great players with heart and determination.

The Tar Heels’ Sean May was named most outstanding player in the Final Four for his dominant scoring and rebounding. Sean finished an incredible season with 26 points and 10 rebounds against Illinois.

This year started with great expectations as the Tar Heels were picked as the pre-season #1 team by Sports Illustrated. However, in recent years, such impressive rankings were not always the case. Seniors on this Tar Heel team faced great adversity early in their careers as they sought to overcome a disappointing 8-20 season their freshman year. Still, these players were determined to work hard to become a better team. And did they ever. Just 4 years later, these young men completed an incredible turnaround and are now able to call themselves national champions.

Today is a proud day for Coach Williams and the University of North Carolina. College basketball is a special tradition for so many North Carolinians. It is a pastime shared from generation to generation and amongst neighbors and friends. It’s what so many folks chat about at the grocery store, before class, over dinner, and after church. We are so proud of the North Carolina Tar Heels’ accomplishments this season and delighted that they gave us yet another memory to talk about for years to come. I yield the floor.

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS MEN’S BASKETBALL SEASON

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, Monday night in Saint Louis a dream season came to an end. The University of Illinois was defeated for only the second time this season by the Tar Heels of the University of North Carolina Tar Heels. But as painful as the loss was, it does not detract from a remarkable season.

Head coach Bruce Weber and his Illini should know there is nothing to be disappointed about. As much as I would have enjoyed seeing the Illini conclude their remarkable run with an NCAA championship, there is no doubt what the Illini have accomplished. The team finished the season with 37 victories. They made the first championship game appearance in the school’s 100-year basketball history. They won regular-season and conference tournament Big 10 championships and went on to win the Associated Press poll since early in the season.

If I could pick one word to describe the Illini this season, it would be “team.” Rarely has a group of young men worked together as well as the Illini have. After Illinois defeated Louisville 72 to 57 on Saturday evening, Louisville head coach Rick Pitino said, “I don’t know if they necessarily had the greatest talent I’ve seen from a Final Four. He is the best team I’ve seen in some time.”

The Illini are the ultimate team, and that is the ultimate compliment to coach Weber and his players.

Every man on the floor was capable of leading the team to victory, whether it was guards Dee Brown, Luther Head or Deron Williams, or forwards James Augustine or Roger Powell. Yet Illinois played within head coach Bruce Weber’s system and doesn’t allow ego, personal statistical goals, or anything else to disrupt their system and doesn’t allow ego, personal statistical goals, or anything else to disrupt their system.

Unfortunately, they came up short against North Carolina. But the State of Illinois is proud of their Illini. An orange hue has been cast across the State as Illinoisians got behind the team for their NCAA tournament run. So many people have enjoyed this tournament and they won’t soon forget where they were when the Illini shocked Arizona, or when Roger Powell slam dunked the rebound from his own three-point shot against Louisville.

I would like to congratulate B. Joseph White, who became the University’s 16th president on January 31 of this year, and the administration, faculty, staff, student body, and fans of the University of Illinois on making it to the championship game of the 2005 NCAA tournament.

To the coaches, Illini players, and their families, thanks for the memories. Thanks for showing us what teamwork is all about.

HONORING ARLEN LANCASTER

Mr. CRAPO. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to an exceptional officer in the United States Army, Lieutenant Colonel Antonio R. Baines, upon his retirement after more than 20 years of distinguished service. Throughout his career, Colonel Baines has personified the Army values of duty, integrity, and selfless service across the many missions the Army provides in defense of our Nation. As a Congressional Legislative Liaison Officer in the office of the Secretary of the Army, many of us on Capitol Hill have enjoyed the opportunity to work with Lieutenant Colonel Baines on a wide variety of Army issues and programs, and it is my privilege to recognize his many accomplishments. I commend his superb service to the United States Army and this great Nation.

Mr. CHAMBLISS. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to an exceptional officer in the United States Army, Lieutenant Colonel Antonio R. Baines, upon his retirement after more than 20 years of distinguished service. Throughout his career, Colonel Baines has personified the Army values of duty, integrity, and selfless service across the many missions the Army provides in defense of our Nation. As a Congressional Legislative Liaison Officer in the office of the Secretary of the Army, many of us on Capitol Hill have enjoyed the opportunity to work with Lieutenant Colonel Baines on a wide variety of Army issues and programs, and it is my privilege to recognize his many accomplishments. I commend his superb service to the United States Army and this great Nation.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

LIEUTENANT COLONEL ANTONIO R. BAINES

Mr. CHAMBLISS. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to an exceptional officer in the United States Army, Lieutenant Colonel Antonio R. Baines, upon his retirement after more than 20 years of distinguished service. Throughout his career, Colonel Baines has personified the Army values of duty, integrity, and selfless service across the many missions the Army provides in defense of our Nation. As a Congressional Legislative Liaison Officer in the office of the Secretary of the Army, many of us on Capitol Hill have enjoyed the opportunity to work with Lieutenant Colonel Baines on a wide variety of Army issues and programs, and it is my privilege to recognize his many accomplishments. I commend his superb service to the United States Army and this great Nation.

While Arlen’s family hails from the Burley area in my home State of Idaho, he lived in many areas due to his father’s work with the U.S. Air Force. He attended high school and college in Utah, graduating with a political science degree from the University of Utah. He is definitely a Westerner at heart and his work for me has benefited many in Idaho.

On a personal note, Arlen was great to work with. He is decisive, insightful and innovative. His easy-going personality and sense of humor permeated all that he did in his public service for the people of Idaho and the United States. He provided a certain spark to my office. In fact, he sparked so much with others that they will be getting married this summer and Arlen and Staci have my best wishes for a long, happy life together.

I am excited by Arlen’s new challenge at USDA and know he is well up to the task. Although we have the same opportunity to work with him on a daily basis, I look forward to our new working relationship and Arlen’s continuing successes. His extensive knowledge of agriculture, natural resources and other policy issues will serve Arlen well in his new capacity.
and was commissioned as a second lieutenant in the Signal Corps after graduating from North Georgia College in 1984. His first assignment was as the Battalion Signal Officer for the 6th Battalion, 37th Field Artillery, 2nd Infantry Division. He has served in multiple assignments within the United States, including two tours at Ft. Gordon, GA, and notably as the Signal Officer for 1st Squadron, 9th U.S. Calvary Regiment at Fort Lewis, WA, and the 22nd Aviation Brigade, 82nd Airborne Division at Fort Bragg, NC. Lieutenant Colonel Baines served two tours in Europe as the Signal Officer for the 3rd Battalion, 9th Armor Regiment in Stuttgart, Germany, and deployed to South West Asia as part of Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm. Later as the Assistant Division Signal Officer for the 1st Infantry Division in Wurzburg, he again deployed to Bosnia in the title to the Army, Congressional Legislative Liaison, Programs Division from June 2001 through June 2003.

Lieutenant Colonel Baines maintained constant liaison with the Professional Staff Members of the Senate and House Armed Services Committees on issues concerning the Army’s educational programs focusing on Army Research, Development, Test and Evaluation, Information Technology, and Ammunition Procurement. In 2003, Lieutenant Colonel Baines was selected to be the team chief of the hardware section of the Programs Division.

Throughout these assignments, Lieutenant Colonel Baines provided outstanding leadership, advice, and sound professional judgment on numerous critical issues of enduring importance to both the Army and Congress. Anto- nio’s actions and counsel were invaluable to Army leaders and Members of Congress as they considered the impact of important issues. On behalf of Congress and the United States of America, I thank Colonel Baines, his wife Peggy, and his entire family for the commitment, sacrifices, and contribution that they have made throughout his honorable military career. Congratulations on completing an exceptional and extremely successful career.

TRIBUTE TO ADMIRAL CARLISLE A.H. TROST, U.S. NAVY, RETIRED

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to ADM Carlisle A.H. Trost, U.S. Navy, Retired, as he steps down after 17 faithful, diligent, and honorable years as the chairman of the board of directors of the George and Carol Olmsted Foundation of Falls Church, VA. In years past it was a privilege to have worked closely with both George Olmsted and Admiral Trost.

Admiral Trost, who ascended to the position of Chief of Naval Operations during his long and distinguished career as well as served as the Services first as a director, then as chair- man of the board, of the prestigious Olmsted Foundation. Demonstrating a vital understanding of this complex world, he led the foundation in its ex- panding role to educate young, tal- ented, and dedicated military officers in learning foreign languages and in understanding foreign cultures through the awarding of scholarships to study overseas for 2 years. With our military deployed for wars in over 100 countries across the globe, the importance of having officers imbued with the cultural sensitivities and language capa- bilities provided by this special edu- cation is essential. Thanks to Admiral Trost’s innate understanding of the importance of providing to Olmsted scholars and his visionary leadership, the number of scholars studying annually doubled and the foundation’s endowment increased dra- matically.

Admiral Trost also established the Tri-Service Academy Cadet and Midshipman Overseas Travel and Cultural Immersion Program at our three service academies in 2001. He later ex- tended this important training and educational program to the three Serv- ice Reserve Officer Training Com- mands, ROTC, and the six senior mil- itary colleges, title 10 schools. Admiral Trost graduated from the Naval Acad- emy in 1953, where he was first in his class of 293. He went on to become an Olmsted Scholar in 1960, studying in the German language at the University of Freiburg from 1960 to 1962. From there he had a most success- ful tour as a submarine officer, eventually commanding the blue crew of the nuclear-powered ballistic missile sub- marine, USS Sam Rayburn, SSBN 635.

As a young captain, he was selected by his superiors to serve as a naval aide to the Under Secretary and, later, the Secretary of the Navy. It was very good of fortune to have served in these posi- tions and to have learned from this great teacher, peer, and life-long friend. Whether as a submarine group commander, a numbered fleet com- mander, Commander of the Atlantic Fleet, or as Chief of Naval Operations, Admiral Trost always served his country with honor and dignity.

Admiral Trost has provided out- standing leadership, advice, and sound professional judgment on many critical issues and at many key levels of deci- sion making for both the Navy and the Nation. Indeed, his actions and wise counsel over the years have been of en-

HONORING THIRTY YEARS FOR R.J. VIAL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Ms. LANDRIEU. Mr. President, every session in Congress, we spend a large amount of time discussing education in this country. Debates range from ac- countability to school construction to teacher recruitment. While our discus- sions are of the utmost importance, it is the implementation of our decisions by individuals within the education system that changes how our children learn. Today, I would like to honor an elementary school in Paradis, LA that has served as an example of a great school that is achieving the goals we set forth in these halls.

R.J. Vial Elementary School will turn 30 years old this Friday, April 8th. There will be festivities and celebra- tions for students, alumni, teachers, administrators, and parents. But I would like to take a minute to talk about the real celebration of this school. In the past 5 years, R.J. Vial Elementary School has steadily in- creased the number of students passing the LEAP 21 test in all four areas that the test covers. R.J. Vial is clearly meeting its mission of developing re- spectful, lifelong learners. That is what I would like to celebrate today in the United States Senate.

In the April 2005 Community News- letter of R.J. Vial Elementary School, Principal Frederick A. Treuting wrote, "Our greatest and perhaps only truly effective discipline tool is a strong re- lationship that bonds us to our children." Principal Treuting could not be more correct. If we are to succeed in educating our children to the best of our ability, we must reach out to them and work to raise academic achieve- ment in our public schools by putting the priority on performance instead of process, delivering results instead of developing rules, and on actively en- couraging bold reform instead of pass- ing it. Today, I would like to honor R.J. Vial Elementary School; you are giving the best gift you can to our youth. It has been said that it takes a village to raise a child, so we must all work together to see that we educate our children to the best of our ability. And to the students, both past
and present, of R.J. Vial, I offer my congratulations. Because of your efforts in the classroom for the past thirty years, R.J. Vial Elementary School has become the beacon of success that it is today.

Happy Birthday, R.J. Vial Elementary School! My heartfelt congratulations to all involved with the school, and best wishes to another great 30 years.

HONORING POPE JOHN PAUL II

Mr. ALLARD. Mr. President, I was unable to be present for today’s vote honoring His Holiness, Pope John Paul II. At the time of the vote, I was in Colorado attending my father-in-law’s funeral service. Having been an original cosponsor of the resolution, I would have supported the measure if present.

As we mourn the passage of Pope John Paul II, we also pause to reflect on the many blessings his life bestowed upon the world. This great man was not only a defender of his faith, but of the weakest and most vulnerable among us. He will be remembered, without doubt, as one of the most significant and influential figures of the 20th century. The influence he aspired the Roman Catholic Church and has had an impact on everyone’s relationship with the Creator. I humbly pay my respects and honor the legacy that he leaves behind.

NICOLE WAYANT AND CORMAC O’CONNOR

Mr. BROWNBACK. Mr. President, I congratulate and honor two young Kansas students who have achieved national recognition for exemplary volunteer service in their communities. Nicole Wayant of Topeka, KS, and Cormac O’Connor of Prairie Village, KS, have just been named State Honorees in The 2005 Prudential Spirit of Community Awards program, an annual honor conferred on only one high school student and one middle-level student in each State, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico.

Ms. Wayant is being recognized for creating a youth health council to promote the benefits of an active, healthy lifestyle among the students in her school district. Mr. O’Connor is being recognized for implementing an intergenerational arts program that brought senior citizens and at-risk children together for classes in visual arts, movements, theater and jazz.

In light of numerous statistics that indicate Americans today are less involved in their communities than they once were, it is vital that we encourage and support the kind of selfless contributions these young people have made. People of all ages need to think more about how we, as individual citizens, can work together at the local level to ensure the health and vitality of our towns and neighborhoods. Young volunteers like Ms. Wayant and Mr. O’Connor are inspiring examples to all of us, and are among our brightest hopes for a better tomorrow.

The program that brought these young role models to our attention — The Prudential Spirit of Community Awards — was created by Prudential Financial in 1997 in collaboration with the National Association of Secondary School Principals in 1995 to impress upon all youth volunteers that their contributions are critically important and highly valued, and to inspire other young people to follow their example. Over the past 10 years, the program has become the nation’s largest youth recognition effort based solely on community service, with more than 170,000 young people participating since its inception.

Ms. Wayant and Mr. O’Connor should be extremely proud to have been singled out from such a large group of dedicated volunteers. As part of their recognition, they will come to Washington, D.C., along with other 2005 Spirit of Community honorees from across the country, for several days of special events, including a congressional breakfast on Capitol Hill. While here in Washington, 10 will be named America’s top youth volunteers of the year by a distinguished national selection committee.

I applaud Ms. Wayant and Mr. O’Connor for their initiative in seeking to make their communities better places to live, and for the positive impact they have on their peers and others. I also salute the other young people in my State who were named Distinguished Finalists by The Prudential Spirit of Community Awards for their outstanding volunteer service. They are Shawn Bryant of Leavenworth, KS; Brad Harris of Saint Paul, KS; Amanda Knox of Clifton, KS; and Creighton Olsen of Larned, KS.

All of these young people have demonstrated a level of commitment and accomplishment truly extraordinary in today’s world and they deserve our sincere admiration and respect. Their actions show that young Americans can—and do—play important roles in their communities, and that America’s community spirit continues to hold tremendous promise for the future.

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-1454. A communication from the Acting Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, the annual report covering defense articles and services that were licensed for export under section 38 of the Arms Export Control Act during Fiscal Year 2004; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-1455. A communication from the Assistant Legal Adviser for Treaty Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a vacancy in the position of Assistant Secretary of State for Legal Affairs, received on March 28, 2005; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-1456. A communication from the Acting Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a vacancy in the position of Assistant Secretary of State for Legal Affairs, received on March 28, 2005; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-1457. A communication from the Assistant Legal Adviser for Treaty Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of the texts and background statements of international agreements, other than treaties, the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-1458. A communication from the Acting Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Act of 1978 relative to U.S. Government departments and agencies relating to the prevention of nuclear proliferation between January 1 and December 31, 2004; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-1459. A communication from the Assistant Attorney General, Department of Justice, transmitting, pursuant to the Report of the Attorney General relative to the Foreign Agents Registration Act for the six-month period ending December 31, 2003; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-1460. A communication from the Acting Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a vacancy in the position of Assistant Secretary of State for Political-Military Affairs, received on March 28, 2005; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-1461. A communication from the Acting Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a vacancy in the position of Assistant Secretary of State for Political-Military Affairs, received on March 28, 2005; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-1462. A communication from the Acting Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a vacancy in the position of Assistant Secretary of State for Non-proliferation, received on March 28, 2005; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-1463. A communication from the Acting Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a vacancy in the position of Assistant Secretary of State for Non-proliferation, received on March 28, 2005; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-1464. A communication from the Acting Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a vacancy in the position of Assistant Secretary of State for Non-proliferation, received on March 28, 2005; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-1465. A communication from the Acting Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a vacancy in the position of Assistant Secretary of State for Legal Affairs, received on March 28, 2005; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-1466. A communication from the Acting Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a vacancy in the position of Assistant Secretary of State for Legal Affairs, received on March 28, 2005; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

A communication from the Acting Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of the texts and background statements of international agreements, other than treaties, the Committee on Foreign Relations.

A communication from the Acting Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Act of 1978 relative to U.S. Government departments and agencies relating to the prevention of nuclear proliferation between January 1 and December 31, 2004; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.
EC-1468. A communication from the Acting Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a vacancy in the position of Assistant Secretary of State for East Asian and Pacific Affairs, received on March 28, 2005; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-1469. A communication from the Acting Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a vacancy in the position of Assistant Secretary of State for International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs, received on March 28, 2005; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-1470. A communication from the Acting Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a vacancy in the position of Assistant Secretary of State for International Organizations, received on March 28, 2005; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-1471. A communication from the Acting Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a vacancy in the position of Inspector General, received on March 28, 2005; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-1472. A communication from the Acting Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a vacancy in the position of Assistant Secretary of State for Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor, received on March 28, 2005; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-1473. A communication from the Acting Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a vacancy in the position of Assistant Secretary of State for Economic, Business, and Agricultural Affairs, received on March 28, 2005; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-1474. A communication from the Acting Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a vacancy in the position of Assistant Secretary of State for European and Eurasian Affairs, received on March 28, 2005; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-1475. A communication from the Acting Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a vacancy in the position of Assistant Secretary of State for European and Eurasian Affairs, received on March 28, 2005; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-1476. A communication from the Acting Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a vacancy in the position of Assistant Secretary of State for European and Eurasian Affairs, received on March 28, 2005; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-1477. A communication from the Acting Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a vacancy in the position of Assistant Secretary of State for East Asian and Pacific Affairs, received on March 28, 2005; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-1478. A communication from the Acting Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a vacancy in the position of Assistant Secretary of State for East Asian and Pacific Affairs, received on March 28, 2005; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-1479. A communication from the Acting Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a vacancy in the position of Assistant Secretary of State for East Asian and Pacific Affairs, received on March 28, 2005; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-1480. A communication from the Acting Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a vacancy in the position of Assistant Secretary of State for East Asian and Pacific Affairs, received on March 28, 2005; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-1481. A communication from the Acting Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a vacancy in the position of Assistant Secretary of State for Democracy, Human Rights and Labor, received on March 28, 2005; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-1482. A communication from the Acting Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a vacancy in the position of Assistant Secretary of State for Democracy, Human Rights and Labor, received on March 28, 2005; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-1483. A communication from the Acting Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a vacancy in the position of Assistant Secretary of State for Diplomatic Security, received on March 28, 2005; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-1484. A communication from the Acting Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a vacancy in the position of Assistant Secretary of State for Diplomatic Security, received on March 28, 2005; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-1485. A communication from the Acting Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a vacancy in the position of Assistant Secretary of State for Diplomatic Security, received on March 28, 2005; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-1486. A communication from the Acting Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a vacancy in the position of Assistant Secretary of State for Diplomatic Security, received on March 28, 2005; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-1487. A communication from the Acting Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a vacancy in the position of Under Secretary of State for Economic, Business, and Agricultural Affairs, received on March 28, 2005; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-1488. A communication from the Acting Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a vacancy in the position of Under Secretary of State for Economic, Business, and Agricultural Affairs, received on March 28, 2005; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-1489. A communication from the Acting Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a vacancy in the position of Under Secretary of State for Economic, Business, and Agricultural Affairs, received on March 28, 2005; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-1490. A communication from the Acting Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a vacancy in the position of Under Secretary of State for Economic, Business, and Agricultural Affairs, received on March 28, 2005; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-1491. A communication from the Acting Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a vacancy in the position of Under Secretary of State for Economic, Business, and Agricultural Affairs, received on March 28, 2005; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.
skilled nursing facilities and to provide incentives to skilled nursing facilities to improve the quality of care provided by those facilities by linking the amount of payment under Medicare to program to quality reporting and performance requirements, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. DeWINE (for himself, Mr. Reed, Mr. Bunn, and Mr. Dodd):

S. 709. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to establish a grant program to provide supportive services to permanent supportive housing for chronically homeless individuals, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mrs. Lincoln (for herself, Mr. Lugar, and Mr. Bingaman):

S. 710. A bill to amend titles XIX and XXI of the Social Security Act to provide States with the option to expand or add coverage of pregnant women under the medicare and State children's health insurance programs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. Akaka (for himself, Ms. Murkowski, and Mr. Stevens):

S. 711. A bill to amend the Methane Hydrate Research and Development Act of 2000 to reauthorize that Act and to promote the research, identification, assessment, exploitation, and development of methane hydrate resources; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. Chambliss (for himself, Mr. Isakson, Mr. Lott, and Mr. Cochran):

S. 712. A bill to require a study and report regarding the designation of a new interstate route from Augusta, Georgia to Natchez, Mississippi; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Mr. Frist (for himself, Mr. Reid, Mr. Durbin, Mr. Santorum, Ms. Mikulski, Mr. Akaka, Mr. Alexander, Mr. Allard, Mr. Allen, Mr. Baucus, Mr. Bayh, Mr. Bonner, Mr. Biden, Mr. Bingaman, Mr. Bond, Mrs. Boxer, Mr. Brownback, Mr. Bunning, Mr. Burns, Mr. Burre, Mr. Byrd, Mr. Cantwell, Mr. Cards, Mr. Chafee, Mr. Chambliss, Mrs. Clinton, Mr. Coburn, Mr. Cochran, Mr. Coleman, Ms. Collins, Mr. Conrad, Mr. Corzine, Mr. Craig, Mr. Crapo, Mr. Dayton, Mr. DeMint, Mr. DeWine, Mr. Dodd, Mrs. Dole, Mr. Domoini, Mr. Durbin, Mr. Ensign, Mr. Enzi, Mr. Finken, Mrs. Fein- stein, Mr. Graham, Mr. Grassley, Mr. Gregg, Mr. Hagel, Mr. Harkin, Mr. Hatch, Mrs. Hutchison, Mr. Inhofe, Mr. Inouye, Mr. Isakson, Mr. Jeffords, Mr. Johnson, Mr. Kennedy, Mr. Kerry, Mr. Kohl, Mr. Kyl, Mr. Landrieu, Mr. Lautenberg, Mr. Leahy, Mr. Levin, Mr. Lieberman, Mrs. Lincoln, Mr. Lott, Mr. Lugar, Mr. Martinez, Mr. McCain, Ms. Murkowski, Mrs. Murray, Mr. Nelson of Nebraska, Mr. Obama, Mr. Pryor, Mr. Reid, Mr. Roberts, Mr. Rockefeller, Mr. Salazar, Mr. Sianne, Mr. Schumer, Mr. Shelby, Mr. Smith, Ms. Snowe, Mr. Specter, Ms. Stabenow, Mr. Stevens, Mr. Sununu, Mr. Talent, Mr. Thomas, Mr. Thune, Mr. Vitter, Mr. Voinovich, Mr. Warner, and Mr. Wyden):

S. Res. 35. A resolution relating to the death of the Holy Father, Pope John Paul II; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. Inhofe (for himself and Mr. Coburn):

S. Res. 96. A resolution commemorating the tenth anniversary of the attack on the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 8

At the request of Mr. Ensign, the name of the Senator from Colorado (Mr. Allard) and the Senator from Virginia (Mr. Warner) were added as cosponsors of S. 8, a bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to prohibit taking minors across State lines in circumvention of laws requiring the involvement of parents in abortion decisions.

S. 35

At the request of Mr. Conrad, the name of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. Leahy) was added as a cosponsor of S. 35, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend the credit for production of electricity from wind.

S. 43

At the request of Mr. Hagel, the name of the Senator from Florida (Mr. Nelson) was added as a cosponsor of S. 43, a bill to provide certain enhancements to the Montgomery GI Bill Program for certain individuals who serve as members of the Armed Forces after the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks, and for other purposes.

S. 65

At the request of Ms. Snowe, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. Lautenberg) was added as a cosponsor of S. 241, a bill to amend section 254 of the Communications Act of 1933 to provide that funds received as universal service contributions and the universal service support programs established pursuant to that section are not subject to certain provisions of title 31, United States Code, commonly known as the Antideficiency Act.

S. 290

At the request of Mr. Inhofe, the name of the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. Cochran) was added as a cosponsor of S. 290, a bill to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to provide technical and financial assistance to private landowners to restore, enhance, and manage private land to improve fish and wildlife habitats through the Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program.

S. 269

At the request of Mr. Harkin, the names of the Senator from Indiana (Mr. Bayh) and the Senator from Vermont (Mr. Jeffords) were added as cosponsors of S. 77, a bill to provide competitive grants for training court reporters and closed captioners to meet requirements for realtime writers under the Telecommunications Act of 1996, and for other purposes.

S. 300

At the request of Ms. Collins, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. DeWine) was added as a cosponsor of S. 300, a bill to extend the temporary increase in payments under the medicare program for home health services furnished in a rural area.

S. 237

At the request of Mr. Santorum, the names of the Senator from Florida (Mr. Martinez) and the Senator from Louisiana (Ms. Landrieu) were added as cosponsors of S. 333, a bill to hold the current regime in Iran accountable for its threatening behavior and to support a transition to democracy in Iran.

S. 377

At the request of Mrs. Clinton, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. Corzine) was added as a cosponsor...
of S. 337, a bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to revise the age and service requirements for eligibility to receive retired pay for non-regular service, to expand certain authorities to provide health care benefits for Reserves and their families, and for other purposes.

S. 339

At the request of Mr. REID, the names of the Senator from Utah (Mr. HATCH), the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. CONRAD), the Senator from Colorado (Mr. SALAZAR) and the Senator from Idaho (Mr. CRAIG) were added as cosponsors of S. 339, a bill to reaffirm the authority of States to regulate certain hunting and fishing activities.

S. 347

At the request of Mr. NELSON of Florida, the names of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. BINGAMAN), the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. JOHNSON), the Senator from New York (Mrs. CLINTON) and the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) were added as cosponsors of S. 347, a bill to amend titles XVIII and XIX of the Social Security Act and title III of the Public Health Service Act to improve access to information about individuals' health care and legal rights for care near the end of life, to promote advance planning and decisionmaking so that individuals' wishes are known should they become unable to speak for themselves, to engage health care providers in disseminating information about and assisting in the preparation of advance directives, which include living wills and durable powers of attorney for health care, and for other purposes.

S. 352

At the request of Ms. MIKULSKI, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. SANTORUM) was added as a cosponsor of S. 352, a bill to revise certain requirements for H-2B employers and require submission of information regarding H-2B non-immigrants, and for other purposes.

S. 357

At the request of Mr. BINGAMAN, the name of the Senator from Washington (Mrs. MURRAY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 357, a bill to expand and enhance postbaccalaureate opportunities at Hispanic-serving institutions, and for other purposes.

S. 359

At the request of Mr. CRAIG, the name of the Senator from Wisconsin (Mr. FEINGOLD) was added as a cosponsor of S. 359, a bill to provide for the adjustment of status of certain foreign agricultural workers, to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to reform the H-2A worker program under that Act, to provide a stable, legal agricultural workforce, to extend basic legal protections and better working conditions to more workers, and for other purposes.

S. 391

At the request of Mr. LEAHY, the name of the Senator from Nebraska (Mr. NELSON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 394, a bill to promote accessibility, accountability, and openness in Government by strengthening section 552 of title 5, United States Code (commonly referred to as the Freedom of Information Act), and for other purposes.

At the request of Mr. ENSIGN, the names of the Senator from Colorado (Mr. ALLARD) and the Senator from Virginia (Mr. WARNER) were added as cosponsors of S. 403, a bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to prohibit blocking access to information in circumstances of laws requiring the involvement of parents in abortion decisions.

S. 424

At the request of Mr. BOND, the names of the Senator from California (Mrs. BOXER) and the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. BINGAMAN) were added as cosponsors of S. 424, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to provide for arthritis research and public health, and for other purposes.

S. 432

At the request of Mr. ALLEN, the name of the Senator from Texas (Mrs. HUTCHISON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 432, a bill to establish a digital and wireless network technology program, and for other purposes.

S. 438

At the request of Mr. ENSIGN, the name of the Senator from Montana (Mr. BURNS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 438, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to repeal the medicare outpatient rehabilitation therapy caps.

S. 445

At the request of Ms. STABENOW, the names of the Senator from Washington (Ms. CANTWELL) and the Senator from Wisconsin (Mr. KOHL) were added as cosponsors of S. 445, a resolution to amend part D of title XVIII of the Social Security Act, as added by the Medicare Prescription Drug, Improvement, and Modernization Act of 2003, to provide for negotiation of fair prices for Medicare prescription drugs.

S. 471

At the request of Mr. SPECTER, the names of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. DODD) and the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. BURKHARDT) were added as cosponsors of S. 471, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to provide for human embryonic stem cell research.

S. 484

At the request of Mr. WARNER, the names of the Senator from Maryland (Mr. SARBANES), the Senator from Kentucky (Mr. Bunning), the Senator from Maryland (Ms. MIKULSKI), the Senator from New Hampshire (Mr. SUNUNU) and the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. COCHRAN) were added as cosponsors of S. 484, a bill to extend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow Federal civilian and military retirees to pay health insurance premiums on a pretax basis and to allow a deduction for TRICARE supplemental premiums.

S. 489

At the request of Mr. ALEXANDER, the name of the Senator from Montana (Mr. BURNS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 489, a bill to amend chapter 111 of title 38, United States Code, to limit the duration of Federal consent decrees to which State and local governments are a party, and for other purposes.

S. 492

At the request of Mr. PRIST, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. SMITH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 492, a bill to make access to safe water and sanitation for developing countries a specific policy objective of the United States foreign assistance programs, and for other purposes.

S. 496

At the request of Mr. CORZINE, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW) was added as a cosponsor of S. 496, a bill to impose sanctions against perpetrators of crimes against humanity in Darfur, Sudan, and for other purposes.

S. 512

At the request of Mr. BURR, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. ISAKSON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 512, a bill to provide for expansion of electricity transmission networks in order to support competitive electricity markets, to ensure reliability of electric service, to modernize regulation and for other purposes.

S. 526

At the request of Mr. SANTORUM, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. KENNEDY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 526, a bill to amend the Child Care and Development Block Grant Act of 1990 to provide incentive grants to improve the quality of child care.

S. 570

At the request of Mr. NELSON of Florida, the names of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. JOHNSON) and the Senator from New York (Mrs. CLINTON) were added as cosponsors of S. 570, a bill to amend title XVIII and XIX of the Social Security Act and title III of the Public Health Service Act to improve access to information about individuals' health care options and legal rights for care near the end of life, to promote advance care planning and decisionmaking so that individuals' wishes are known should they become unable to speak for themselves, to engage health care providers in disseminating information about and assisting in the preparation of advance directives, which include living wills and durable powers of attorney for health care, and for other purposes.
At the request of Mr. Pryor, the names of the Senator from New York (Mrs. Clinton), the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. Alexander), the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. Bingaman), the Senator from Ohio (Mr. Brown), the Senator from Washington (Ms. Cantwell), the Senator from Utah (Mr. Bennett), the Senator from Delaware (Mr. Carper), the Senator from Kentucky (Mr. Bunning), the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. Shaheen), the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. Corzine), the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. Cochran), the Senator from Minnesota (Mr. Dayton), the Senator from Texas (Mr. Cornyn), the Senator from Illinois (Mr. Durbin), the Senator from Idaho (Mr. Craig), the Senator from Wisconsin (Mr. Feingold), the Senator from Ohio (Mr. Dewine), the Senator from Vermont (Mr. Jeffords), the Senator from North Carolina (Mrs. Dole), the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. Kennedy), the Senator from Indiana (Mr. Lugar), the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. Lautenberg), the Senator from Alaska (Ms. Murkowski), the Senator from Vermont (Mr. Leahy), the Senator from Oregon (Mr. Smith), the Senator from Michigan (Mr. Levin), the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. Specter), the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. Lieberman), the Senator from Alaska (Mr. Stevens), the Senator from Maryland (Mr. Mikulski), the Senator from Missouri (Mr. Talent), the Senator from Washington (Mrs. Murray), the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. Thomas), the Senator from Illinois (Mr. Obama), the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. Thune), the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. Rockefeller), the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. Vitter), the Senator from Colorado (Mr. Salazar), the Senator from Florida (Mr. Nelson), the Senator from North Dakota (Ms. Dorgan), the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. Kerry), the Senator from Louisiana (Ms. Landrieu) and the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. Johnson) were added as cosponsors of S. 582, a bill to amend Title XVIII of the Social Security Act to improve access to diabetes self management training by designating certified diabetes educators who are recognized by a nationally recognized certifying body and who meet minimum standards set forth for other providers of diabetes self management training, as certified providers for purposes of outpatient diabetes self-management training services under part B of the medicare program.

At the request of Mr. Johnson, the names of the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. Pryor), the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. Lautenberg) and the Senator from Louisiana (Ms. Landrieu) were added as cosponsors of S. 603, 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.

At the request of Mr. Frist, the name of the Senator from Alaska (Mr. Stevens) was added as a cosponsor of S. 642, a bill to support certain national youth organizations, including the Boy Scouts of America, and for other purposes.

At the request of Mr. Roberts, the name of the Senator from Utah (Mr. Bennett) was added as a cosponsor of S. 643, a bill to amend the Agricultural Credit Act of 1987 to reauthorize State mediation programs.

At the request of Mr. Lincoln, the name of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. Johnson) was added as a cosponsor of S. 647, a bill to amend Title XVIII of the Social Security Act to authorize physical therapists to evaluate and treat Medicare beneficiaries without a requirement for a physician referral, and for other purposes.

At the request of Mr. Bingaman, the names of the Senator from Colorado (Mr. Allard) and the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. Lautenberg) were added as cosponsors of S. 663, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow self-employed individuals to deduct health insurance costs in computing self-employment tax.

At the request of Mr. Santorum, the name of the Senator from Nevada (Mr. Reid) was added as a cosponsor of S. 665, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to include combat pay in determining an allowable contribution to an individual retirement plan.

At the request of Mr. Brownback, the name of the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. Inhofe) was added as a cosponsor of S. 609, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to increase the provision of scientifically sound information and support services to patients receiving a positive test diagnosis for Down syndrome or other prematurely diagnosed conditions.

At the request of Mrs. Hutchison, the name of the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. Cochran) was added as a cosponsor of S. 626, a bill to amend Title XVIII of the Social Security Act to improve access to diabetes self management training by designating certified diabetes educators who are recognized by a nationally recognized certifying body and who meet minimum standards set forth for other providers of diabetes self management training, as certified providers for purposes of outpatient diabetes self-management training services under part B of the medicare program.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. Burns:

S. 696. A bill to amend the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 regarding the transfer of students from certain schools; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

Mr. Burns. Mr. President, I rise today to introduce a bill to amend the Elementary and Secondary Education Act with regard to the transfer of students from certain schools. The No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 includes a requirement that schools not meeting adequate yearly progress—the AYP—for 2 consecutive years must provide transfer within the school district, and if no such schools exist, make efforts to provide transfers between school districts to the extent practical. This is the school choice provision. However, the current law's guidance on school choice does not adequately define practicability or feasibility, and where definitions are provided, they are overly broad and undefined.

We have just come off the Easter break. We had an opportunity to talk to a lot of educators and students. We return to our work starting today to make some significant—maybe not significant changes, but little changes to No Child Left Behind to make it more practical and make it more common sense in States such as Montana.

When we start looking at these maps, and as the President pro tempore leaves the Chamber, he understands what rural is when he looks at his State of Alaska. We are not nearly as big as Alaska. However, when we look at the State of Montana—and for those who wonder about distances and sizes, from the Yak, which is up in the north-west corner of the State, to Alzada in the southeast corner, it is farther than it is from Chicago to Washington, DC. So there is a pretty fair chunk of land out here, and we have young folks who go to school in just about every part of the State.

These are the elementary schools I am going to talk about as I speak on No Child Left Behind and the legislation I am introducing today.

The bottom line is No Child Left Behind is not a one-size-fits-all legislation. We have some of the greatest teachers there are in the country, and we have some of the brightest minds to teach. Accordingly, it is imperative that Congress continues to hear the needs and concerns of America's rural education communities.

Just to give my colleagues an idea, I had a little bit to do with the passage

S. 693

AMENDMENT NO. 204

At the request of Mr. Smith, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. Dodd) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 204 proposed to S. Con. Res. 18, an original concurrent resolution setting forth the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2006 and including the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2005 and 2007 through 2010.
and the shaping of the 1996 Tele-
communications Act. In that bill, we
had a piece included called broadband.
Back in those days, most folks had not
heard of the Internet, broadband, or
digital. There were not very many of us
around, and even computer literate. We are getting better. We are
going a little younger.
I can remember when we put the
broadband section in the bill, primarily
to do two things in my State: distance
learning, and the other school these smaller
schools in rural areas to access the
Internet and classes to be taught via a
two-way interact from another location
so that their curriculum could be
broadened, just like a school, say, lo-
cated in Billings, Great Falls, Mis-
soula. Just because someone was born
way out here and went to school in Jor-
dan, MT, where we have a county the
size of Rhode Island—it only has 1,800
folks and only one high school. It used
to be a boarding school. I do not think
it is closed. It used to be where you
took your student to school on
Monday morning, you did not see them
until Friday night after the football
game was over. So we deal in a little
bit different kind of environment and
situation.

The Federal law must recognize the
significant differences between urban
and rural school districts with regard
to student transportation, school spac-
ing, and, of course, the school-choice
options. Although No Child Left Be-
hind leaves the State of Montana in
control of determining the feasibility of
transfers between different school
districts, it is much less flexible when
it comes to transfers within the same
school district.

My legislation would add to existing
guidelines on the practicality and the
feasibility of school choice that a
school district would not be required to
provide a student with a transfer op-
tion. Although No Child Left Be-
hind leaves the State of Montana in
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transfers between different school
districts, it is much less flexible when
it comes to transfers within the same
school district.

We are pretty sparse in eastern Mon-
tana. From Miles City to Jordan is
about 90 miles. I was talking about
Jordan a while ago up on the big dry
creek. You heard me say I have a lot of
dirt between light bulbs out there.
Well, we have a lot of land between
schools out there also, and school dis-
tricts can be quite large. The centers of
Billings, Great Falls, Missoula, the
Flathead Valley, Bozeman, were grouped pretty closely. In eastern Mon-
tana, however, they are far apart. We
have elementary schools not even on
paved roads, still on gravel. I know one
that is still on a mud road. If it rains
hard or during the spring thaw, they
cannot get a car in there or a
pickup truck or even a four-wheel drive
vehicle, so they all ride horses, which
is not a bad idea. It saves on gas, and
I think this is a great idea at all. This is a map of the
elementary schools to give an idea of
where they are located way out there.
Now, I want to take a look at the
high schools. There are not as many of
them in Montana as with many rural schools in rural
areas, so they are greater
than just cost. While the law makes
sense in Billings, it does not work in
districts where the schools are farther
apart.

Take the Broadus County School Dis-
trict in southeastern Montana as an
example. As we can see, there is a lot
of distance between schools. There are
not very many schools out there. These
are high schools. These are not elemen-
tary schools but high schools. Some may
be a way to drive. It not only hurts the family
life of the students, but it disrupts what
they do and also has an adverse effect
on their academic performance.

Sometimes this type of commute
may be necessary. My legislation
makes this decision a matter for rural
States to decide instead of the politi-
cians here in Washington, DC, or by a
rule written into a law that just is un-
workable in my State.

I realize that No Child Left Behind had
some built-in flexibilities, and I also
realize that some States did not take
advantage of some of those flexibili-
ties. Now we are locked into a situa-
tion where it is almost impossible to
change unless we change the legisla-
tion and reword it. My legislation sim-
ply clarifies what is feasible and prac-
tical for school choice transfers within
school districts and gives the States,
especially my State, the ability to
take care of rural school students in
eral Rural Broadus differ-
cently because of the way some schools in more
urbanized Billings, MT.

I would imagine the Senator from
Florida who is new to this body and a
terrific addition to this body has some
rural areas in Florida, I think of
Florida as quite rural, but they have
some rural areas too, just like Montana.
That does not mean there are
kids out there whose needs should not be
addressed.

When we visit schools, we get all
kinds of questions from the students. I
was visiting a sixth-grade class the
other day. They came up with all kinds
of questions. Some of them were pretty
good, some were not so good. I did have
one that was just a little bit different.
This young man stood up in sixth
grade, and he said: Senator, what do
you want written on your tombstone?
My gosh, I never had that question be-
fore, and I did not know exactly how to
answer it, so I just told him: He's not
here yet. That is the only way I could
answer him.

These young people are very bright.
They like their schools in these areas
and the program of distance learning. And we have
telemedicine. We are delivering med-
cal care much differently now. We are
doing it with broadband services. We
have 14 counties that do not have a
doctor. It is done by physician assist-
ants and many other people.

The other day a student from our
part of the country enrolled at Mont-
tana State University at Billings. He
had taken enough courses in his senior
year in distance learning from MSUB
that he has a full scholarship completed.
So when he goes away to school, he al-
ready has half a year done.

This is why we have the Tele-
communications Act. This is why we
have the No Child Left Behind Act. We
do look at rural schools and libraries,
and some of the kinks we have to work
out in that law so that these smaller
schools and libraries can get their
moneys so they can offer this online
education. This is just another part of
tweaking the No Child Left Behind law
to make it work in rural areas.

I urge my Senate colleagues, espe-
cially those from rural States, to join
me in cosponsoring this bill because it
is very important. If we are really dedi-
cated to the program of No Child Left
Behind, we cannot leave rural children
behind either, and we have to make it
work.

Mr. BURNS. Mr. President, I ask
unanimous consent that 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. 696

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.
This Act may be cited as the “Rural Schools Geography Act”.

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.
Congress makes the following findings:

(1) There are significant differences be-
tween urban and rural school districts with regard
to student transportation, distances
between schools and school districts, and
school of choice options. Local educational
agencies (LEAs) in rural areas often
have only 1 school servicing a particular grade-
level, and the distance between these schools
is often much greater than in urban areas.

(2) In 2000, rural schools (those in commu-
nities with populations below 2,500) served about 32
percent of the children in the United States,
but rural schools accounted for $5,670,000,000
of the Nation’s spending on school transpor-
tation or nearly half of all.

(3) Rural transportation costs, per-pupil,
are double that of urban transportation
costs. As a percentage of total spending, rural areas spend 77 percent more than urban areas for education transportation.

(4) Commutes in rural areas are much more likely to be long and unpaved. This not only undermines the physical health of the students, but makes transportation during poor weather much more difficult or impossible. Long commutes are more likely to miss school because of inclement weather. School attendance is an important factor in school performance.

(5) Students who have long commutes actively avoid advanced and high-level courses because they do not have time for the extra homework. This self-imposed restriction retards maximization of educational potential.

(6) Students with long commutes are less likely to engage in in-home and out-of-home activities, such as family dinners, after-school jobs, and athletic or musical extra-curricular activities. Participation in these activities benefits overall educational progress.

(7) Section 1116(b)(10)(C) of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 instructs that the lowest achieving children be given Federal Pell Grants and transportation. Thus, the negative impacts of long commutes disproportionately affect the very students who need the most help.

SEC. 3. AMENDMENT TO THE ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION ACT OF 1965.

Section 438(b) of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 6316) is amended by adding at the end the following:

"(v) This subparagraph shall not apply to—"
“(1) any loan made or purchased after such date of enactment of the Higher Education Opportunity Through Pell Grant Expansion Act;”

“(2) any loan that had not qualified before such date of enactment for receipt of a special allowance payment determined under this subparagraph; or

“(3) any loan made or purchased before such date of enactment with funds described in the first or second sentence of clause (1) if—

“(aa) the obligation described in the first such sentence has, after such date of enactment, matured, or been retired or defeased; or

“(bb) the maturity date or the date of retirement of the obligation described in the first such sentence has, after such date of enactment, been extended.”

SEC. 6. WINDFALL PROFIT OFFSET.

Section 438 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1077-1) is further amended by adding at the end the following:

“(ii) the aggregate amount of all payments of interest received by the eligible lender from borrowers on all loans made, insured, or guaranteed under this part during the fiscal quarter, irrespective of the amount received under subparagraph (A).”

By Mr. BAUCUS (for himself, Mr. BUNNING, Mr. JOHNSON, Mr. TALENT, and Mr. CRAIG): S. 702. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to repeal the occupational taxes relating to distilled spirits, wine, and beer; to the Committee on Finance.

Mr. BAUCUS. Mr. President, it is with great pleasure that I join my colleagues Senators BUNNING, JOHNSON and TALENT today in introducing legislation that will repeal the special occupational tax on taxpayers who manufacture, distribute, and sell alcoholic beverages.

The special occupational tax is not a tax on alcoholic products, but rather operates as a license fee on businesses. The tax is imposed on those engaged in the business of selling alcoholic beverages. Believe it or not, this tax was originally established to help finance the Civil War, which was over, and this inequitable tax has outlived its original purpose. Repealing the SOT will also simplify the tax code for thousands of small businesses.

The SOT on alcohol dramatically increased the budget deficit in 1988 and has unfairly burdened business owners across the country since. From Thompson Falls to Sidney, from Chino to Billings, small businesses are burdened with yet another tax in the form of the SOT. According to the Alcoholic Beverage Tax and Trade Bureau, there are 426,193 locations nationwide that pay the SOT every year, including 399,657 retailers. These retail establishments account for $99 million out of $103 million collected in SOT revenues.

In Montana, there are 2,969 locations which together pay nearly $1 million in the SOT every year. Seasonal resorts and establishments, "moisture" and "pop" convenience stores in Butte, and bowling alleys, flower shops, and restaurants across Montana, and the United States, pay the Federal Government over $100 million per year for the privilege of running businesses that sell beer, wine, and beverages.

The SOT is extremely regressive. Retailers must annually pay $250 per location; wholesalers pay $500; vintners and distillers pay $1,000. Because the SOT is levied on a per location basis, a sole proprietorship must pay the same amount as one of the nation’s largest retailers, and locally-owned chains having to pay to per location, would have to pay as much as, if not more than, the nation’s largest single site brewhery. This is a situation we want today.

Repealing the SOT on alcohol is supported by a broad-based group of business organizations and enjoys wide support in Washington. This is the SOT Congress had a mind 150 years ago, and I don’t believe it’s a situation we want today.

The legislation preserves the TTB’s record-keeping requirements, while removing the agency’s enforcement burden, and will save over $2 million per year. The GAO examined SOT efficacy several times, and found it fundamentally flawed. The Joint Committee on Taxation called for the elimination of SOT in its June 2001 simplification study.

More than 90 percent of all SOT revenue comes from retailers—a great majority of those are small businesses. Our small business sector is a great strength of our economy. President Bush has said that the best way to encourage job growth is to let small businesses keep more of their own money, so they can invest in their business and make it easier for somebody to find work. Repealing the SOT would provide an immediate and visible tax cut to small businesses.

In recent months, there has been much talk of tax reform inside the beltway. President Bush has made tax reform one of his key priorities and established a panel that will make recommendations to the Department of Treasury for a better tax system. Getting rid of a tax that has outlived its original purpose is one small step toward reform that makes sense for Montana and our country. We urge our colleagues to pass this bill by first Congress.

I ask unanimous consent that 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. 702

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress Assembled, That the following provisions of part II of chapter 51 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (relating to occupational taxes) are hereby repealed:

(a) REPEAL OF OCCUPATIONAL TAXES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The following provisions of part II of chapter 51 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (relating to occupational taxes) are hereby repealed:

(A) Subpart A (relating to proprietors of distilled spirits plants, bonded wine cellars, etc.);

(B) Subpart B (relating to brewer). (C) Subpart C (relating to wholesale dealers (other than sections 5114 and 5116).

(D) Subpart E (relating to retail dealers (other than section 5124).

(E) Subpart G (relating to general provisions (other than sections 5142, 5143, 5145, and 5147).

(2) NONBEVERAGE DOMESTIC DRAWBACK. —

Section 5131 of such Code is amended by striking “, on payment of a special tax per annum.”

(3) INDUSTRIAL USE OF DISTILLED SPIRITS.—

Section 5276 of such Code is hereby repealed.

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

(1) The heading of section 5111 of chapter 51 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 and the table of parts for such part are amended to read as follows:

PART II—MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

Subpart A. Manufacturers of stills.

Subpart B. Nonbeverage domestic drawback claimants.

Subpart C. Recordkeeping and registration by dealers.

Subpart D. Other provisions.

Subpart E. Miscellaneous provisions.

(2) The table of sections for such subchapter A is renumbered to read as follows:

Table of Parts

Part A. Miscellaneous provisions.

Part B. Recordkeeping by dealers.

Part C. Preservation and inspection of records.

Part D. Nonbeverage domestic drawback claimants.

Part E. Miscellaneous provisions.

Subparts C, E, and F of such part are redesignated as subparts C, E, and F, respectively, of such part.

(3) Subpart B of such chapter (relating to nonbeverage domestic drawback claimants) is redesignated as subpart B of such chapter.

(4) The heading of section 5134 of such Code is amended by adding after subparagraph (A) the following new subparagraph:

"Subpart C—Recordkeeping by Dealers"

"Sec. 5121. Recordkeeping by wholesale dealers.

Sec. 5122. Recordkeeping by retail dealers.

Sec. 5123. Preservation and inspection of records.

(5) A section 5114 of such Code (relating to records) is moved to subpart C of such part.
II and inserted after the table of sections for such subpart.

(B) Section 5114 of such Code is amended—
(i) by striking the section heading and inserting the following new heading: 
"SEC. 5121. RECORDKEEPING BY WHOLESALE DEALERS."
and
(ii) by redesignating subsection (c) as subsection (d) and by inserting after subsection (b) the following new subsection:
"(c) WHOLESALE DEALERS.—For purposes of this part—
(1) WHOLESALE DEALER IN LIQUORS.—The term ‘wholesale dealer in liquors’ means any dealer (other than a wholesale dealer in beer) who sells, or offers for sale, distilled spirits, wines, or beer, to another dealer.
(2) WHOLESALE DEALER IN BEER.—The term ‘wholesale dealer in beer’ means any dealer who sells, or offers for sale, beer, but not distilled spirits or wines, to another dealer.
(3) DEALER.—The term ‘dealer’ means any person who sells, or offers for sale, any distilled spirits, wines, or beer.
(4) PRESUMPTION IN CASE OF SALE OF 20 WINE GALLONS OR MORE.—The sale, or offer for sale, of distilled spirits, wines, or beer, in quantities of 20 wine gallons or more, by the same person at the same time, shall be presumptive evidence that the person making such sale, or offer for sale, is engaged in or carries on the business of a wholesale dealer in liquors or a wholesale dealer in beer, as the case may be. Such presumption may be overcome by evidence satisfactorily showing that such sale, or offer for sale, was made to a person other than a dealer.
(C) Paragraph (3) of section 5121(d) of such Code, as so redesignated, is amended by striking the section heading and inserting the following new heading: 
"SEC. 5122. RECORDKEEPING BY RETAIL DEALERS."
(ii) by striking “section 5146” in subsection (c) and inserting “section 5123”;
and
(iii) by redesignating subsection (c) as subsection (d) and inserting after subsection (b) the following new subsection:
"(c) RETAIL DEALERS.—For purposes of this section—
(1) RETAIL DEALER IN LIQUORS.—The term ‘retail dealer in liquors’ means any dealer (other than a limited retail dealer) who sells, or offers for sale, distilled spirits, wines, or beer, to any person other than a dealer.
(2) RETAIL DEALER IN BEER.—The term ‘retail dealer in beer’ means any dealer (other than a limited retail dealer) who sells, or offers for sale, beer, but not distilled spirits or wines, to any person other than a dealer.
(3) LIMITED RETAIL DEALER.—The term ‘limited retail dealer’ means any fraternal, civic, church, labor, charitable, benevolent, or ex-service organization making sales of distilled spirits, wine or beer on the occasion of any kind of entertainment, dance, picnic, bazaar, or festival held by it, or any person under sales of distilled spirits, wine or beer to the members, guests, or patrons of bona fide fairs, reunions, picnics, carnivals, or other similar outings, if such organization is not otherwise engaged in business as a dealer.
(4) DEALER.—The term ‘dealer’ has the meaning given such term by section 5121(c).

(7) Section 5146 of such Code is moved to subpart C of part II of subchapter A of chapter 51 of such Code, inserted after section 5122, and redesignated as section 5123.

(B) Subpart C of part II of subchapter A of chapter 51 of such Code, as amended by paragraphs (1) and (2) of this section, is added at the end of the following new section:
"SEC. 5124. REGISTRATION BY DEALERS. Every dealer who is subject to the recordkeeping requirement of section 5121, or 5122 shall register with the Secretary such dealer’s name or style, place of residence, trade or business, and the place where such trade or business is to be carried on. In case of a firm or company, the names of the several persons constituting the same, and the places of residence of each person so registered.
(9) Section 7012 of such Code is amended by redesignating paragraphs (4) and (5) as paragraphs (5) and (6), respectively, and by inserting after paragraph (5) the following new paragraph:
(4) ‘For provisions relating to registration by dealers in distilled spirits, wines, and beer, see section 5121.’
(10) Part II of subchapter A of chapter 51 of such Code is amended by inserting after subpart C the following new subpart:
"SUBPART D. CONGRESSIONAL RECORDS."
(11) Section 5116 of such Code is moved to subpart D of part II of subchapter A of chapter 51 of such Code, inserted after the table of sections, redesignated as section 5131, and amended by inserting ‘as defined in section 5121(c)’ after “dealer” in section (a).
(12) Subpart D of part II of subchapter A of chapter 51 of such Code is amended by adding at the end of such subpart the following new section:
"SEC. 5132. PROHIBITED PURCHASES BY DEALERS.
(a) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in regulations prescribed by the Secretary, it shall be unlawful for a dealer to purchase distilled spirits for resale from any person other than a wholesale dealer in liquors who is required to keep the records prescribed by section 5121.
(b) LIMITED RETAIL DEALERS.—A limited retail dealer may lawfully purchase distilled spirits for resale from a retail dealer in liquors.
(c) PENALTY AND FORFEITURE.—For penalty and forfeiture provisions applicable to violations of subsection (a), see sections 5687 and 7302.

(13) Subsection (b) of section 5002 of such Code is amended—
(A) by striking “section 5121(a)” and inserting “section 5121(c)(3)”;
(B) by striking “section 5112” and inserting “section 5121(c)”;
(C) by striking “section 5122” and inserting “section 5122(c)”; and
(D) by striking “section 5123” and inserting “section 5114”.
(14) Subparagraph (A) of section 5010(c)(2) of such Code is amended by striking “section 5134” and inserting “section 5114”.
(15) Subsection (d) of section 5062 of such Code is amended to read as follows:
"(d) Breweries.—For purposes of this chapter, the term ‘brewer’ means any person who brews beer or produces beer for sale. Such term shall not include any person who produces only beer exempt from tax under section 5053(e)."
(16) The text of section 5128 of such Code is amended to read as follows:
"For provisions requiring recordkeeping by wholesale liquor dealers, see section 5112, and by retail liquor dealers, see section 5122.
(17) Subsection (b) of section 5402 of such Code is amended by striking “section 5092” and inserting “section 5052(d)”.\n"(19) A Part V of subchapter J of chapter 51 of such Code is hereby repealed.

(B) The table of parts for such subchapter J is amended by striking the item relating to part V.
(20) A) Sections 5142, 5143, and 5146 of such Code are moved to subpart D of chapter 52 of such Code, inserted after section 5731, redesignated as sections 5732, 5733, and 5734, respectively, and amended by striking “this part” and inserting “this subchapter”. (B) Section 5732 of such Code, as redesignated by subparagraph (A), is amended by striking “liquors” and inserting “tobacco products and cigarettes and tubes”. (D) The table of sections for subpart D of chapter 52 of such Code is amended by adding at the end the following:
"Sec. 5732. Payment of tax.
Sec. 5733. Provisions relating to liability for tax.
Sec. 5734. Application of State laws."
(E) Section 5731 of such Code is amended by striking subsection (c) and by redesignating subsection (c) as subsection (b).
(22) Paragraph (1) of section 7652(a) of such Code is amended—
(A) by striking “subpart F” and inserting “subpart B”, and
(B) by striking “section 5131(a)” and inserting “section 5111.”
(c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall take effect on July 1, 2005, but shall apply to taxes imposed for periods before such date.

By Mr. SARBANES:
S. 705. A bill to establish the Interagency Council on Meeting the Housing and Service Needs of Seniors, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.
Mr. SARBANES. Mr. President, today I am introducing legislation to establish an Interagency Council on Meeting the Housing and Service Needs of Seniors, which will help the Federal Government work with its partners to meet the growing housing and related needs of senior citizens around this country. The Interagency Council will work to better coordinate Federal programs so that seniors and their families can access the programs and the services necessary to allow them to age in place or find suitable housing alternatives.
It is important that we take note of the needs of the rapidly growing senior population. In 2000, the population over 65 years of age was 34.7 million. This number is expected to grow to over 50 million by 2020. By the year 2030, nearly one-fifth of the United States population will be above 65 years of age.
In recognition of the importance of this issue, in 1999 Congress established the Commission on Affordable Housing and Health Facilities for Seniors—‘Seniors Commission’—to assess the Federal role in senior housing, health and supportive services. The Seniors
Commission made a number of significant findings. For example, the commission found that seniors require a wide array of housing options with access to services, including meal preparation, transportation, health care, and assistance and support activities. According to the Seniors Commission, over 18 percent of senior citizens—over 5.8 million seniors—who do not reside in nursing facilities have difficulty performing their daily activities without assistance. Over a million of these seniors are severely impaired, requiring assistance with many of their basic tasks. Many other seniors, those that can perform their daily functions, still require access to health care, transportation, and other services. Without enhanced housing opportunities, such as service-enriched housing or assisted living facilities, these seniors find it increasingly difficult to remain outside of nursing homes or other institutional settings.

In fact, the Seniors Commission found that many seniors have the income spectrum at risk of institutionalization or neglect due to declining health and the loss or absence of support and timely interventions. For many seniors, in-home care, service-enriched housing, and apartments, and assisted living-type facilities are sorely needed so that seniors can access necessary services where they live.

While there are numerous Federal programs that assist seniors and their families in meeting these needs, they are fragmented across many government agencies, with little or no coordination. In fact, the Seniors Commission found that "the most striking characteristic of seniors' housing and health care in this country is the disconnection of one field from another." For example, housing assistance is available from the Department of Housing and Urban Development, the Department of Transportation, and the Department of Veterans Affairs, while health care and supportive services are most likely accessed through various branches of the Department of Health and Human Services, such as the Centers for Medicaid and Medicare Services and the Administration on Aging, as well as through the Department of Transportation and the Department of Labor.

The Seniors Commission concludes that "the federal government has come for coordination among Federal and State agencies and administrators." The legislation I am introducing today, the "Meeting the Housing and Service Needs of Seniors Act of 2005," answers the commission's call to action by implementing the recommendations for better federal coordination.

Through a high-level interagency council the Federal Government will take a simple, but critical, step in addressing the fragmented system. This Council will have a variety of functions. The council will review all Federal programs designed to assist seniors, identify gaps in services, make recommendations about how to reduce duplication, identify best practices for relevant programs and services, and most importantly, work to improve the availability of housing and services for seniors. The council will also monitor, evaluate, and recommend improvements to existing programs and services that assist seniors in meeting their housing and service needs at the Federal, State, and local level, and will work to more effectively coordinate programs at the federal level, as well as at the state level, to avoid the premature placement of the decisions regarding health and service needs are made. In addition, the council will be responsible for collecting and disseminating information, through a variety of means, about seniors and the programs and services relating to their needs. Through collaboration with the Federal Interagency Forum on Aging Statistics and the Census Bureau, the council will consolidate data on these needs and identify and address unmet data needs.

With improved collaboration and coordination among the Federal agencies and our State partners, we can ensure that seniors are better able to access housing and services. To ensure its effectiveness, the council will be comprised of top-level officials who oversee the programs, which assist seniors in this country, including the Secretaries of the Department of Housing and Urban Development; the Department of Health and Human Services; the Department of Labor; the Department of Transportation; and the Department of Veterans Affairs; as well as the Commissioner of the Social Security Administration; the Administrator of the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services; and the Administrator of the Administration on Aging.

This is a step we must take. It is essential that we make it easier for seniors and their families to access housing and supportive services together, so that when faced with difficult decisions, they do not have to navigate a confusing maze of programs and services, and work through multiple bureaucracies. We must also make it simpler for developers and providers to link housing and services so that greater supportive housing opportunities are available to the senior population. Through the Interagency Council, it is my hope that we will move toward a model of providing housing and services to seniors around the country.

If we are to successfully address these growing needs, it is clear that much work must be done. The establishment of an Interagency Council on Meeting the Housing and Service Needs of Seniors is a critical first step in this endeavor. I urge my colleagues to support this important legislation, and I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill together with letters of support be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

SEC. 2. FINDINGS. Congress finds the following:

(1) The senior population (persons 65 or older) in this country is rapidly growing, and is expected to increase from 34,700,000 in 2000 to 55,090,000 by 2030 and dramatically increase to over 50,000,000 by 2020.

(2) By 2020, the population of "older" seniors, those over age 85, is expected to double to 7,000,000, and then double again to 14,000,000 by 2040.

(3) As the senior population increases, so does the need for additional safe, decent, affordable, and suitable housing that meets their unique needs.

(4) Due to the health care, transportation, and service needs of seniors, issues of providing suitable and affordable housing opportunities differ significantly from the housing needs of other families.

(5) Seniors need access to a wide array of housing options, including affordable assisted living, in-home care, supportive or service-enriched housing, and retrofitted homes and apartments to allow seniors to age in place and to avoid premature placement in institutional settings.

(6) While there are many programs in place to assist seniors in finding and affording suitable housing and accessing needed services, these programs are fragmented and spread across many agencies, making it difficult for seniors to transcend or to receive comprehensive information.

(7) Better coordination among Federal agencies is needed, as is better coordination at State and local levels, to ensure that seniors can access government activities, programs, services, and benefits in an effective and efficient manner.

(8) Up to date, accurate, and accessible statistics on key characteristics of seniors, including conditions, behaviors, and needs, are required to accurately identify the housing and service needs of seniors.

SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) The term "housing" means any form of residence, including rental housing, home ownership, assisted living, or any other physical location where a person can live.

(2) The term "service" includes transportation, health care, nursing assistance, meal, personal care and chore services, assistance with daily activities, mental health care, physical therapy, case management, and any other services needed by seniors to allow them to stay in their housing or find alternate housing that meets their needs.

(3) The term "program" includes any Federal or State program providing income support, health benefits or other benefits to seniors, housing assistance, mortgages, mortgage insurance or guarantees, housing counseling, supportive services, assistance with daily activities, or other assistance for seniors.

(4) The term "Council" means the Interagency Council on Meeting the Housing and Service Needs of Seniors.

SEC. 4. INTERAGENCY COUNCIL ON MEETING THE HOUSING AND SERVICE NEEDS OF SENIORS.

(a) Establishment.—There is established in the executive branch an independent
CONGRESSIONAL RECORD — SENATE

April 5, 2005

SEC. 5. FUNCTIONS OF THE COUNCIL.

(a) RELEVANT ACTIVITIES.—In carrying out its objectives, the Council shall—

(1) review all Federal programs and services that assist seniors in finding, affording, and rehabilitating housing, including those that assist seniors in their health care, transportation, supportive services, and assistance with daily activities, where or close to where seniors wish to reside;

(2) monitor, evaluate, and recommend improvements in existing programs and services administered, funded, or financed by Federal, State, and local agencies to assist seniors in meeting their housing and service needs and make any recommendations about how agencies can better work to house seniors; and

(3) recommend ways—

(A) to reduce duplication among programs and services by Federal agencies that assist seniors in meeting their housing and service needs;

(B) to ensure collaboration among and within agencies in the provision and availability of programs and services so that seniors are able to easily access needed programs and services;

(C) to work with States to better provide housing and supportive services to seniors by—

(i) holding individual meetings with State representatives;

(ii) providing ongoing technical assistance to States in better meeting the needs of seniors; and

(iii) working with States to designate State liaisons to the Council;

(D) to identify best practices for programs and services that assist seniors in meeting their housing and service needs, including model—

(i) programs linking housing and services;

(ii) financing products offered by government, quasi-government, and private sector entities;

(iii) land use, zoning, and regulatory practices; and

(iv) innovations in technology applications that give seniors access to information on available services;

(E) to collect and disseminate information about seniors and the programs and services available to them to ensure that seniors can access comprehensive and detailed information about services administered, funded, or financed by Federal, State, and local agencies to assist seniors in meeting their unique housing and service needs and problems described in subparagraph (B) and the resources available in each, including evidence as the Council considers advisable to carry out the purposes of this Act.

(b) INFORMATION FROM AGENCIES.—The Council shall, with regard to civil service laws and regulations, appoint and terminate an Executive Director and such other additional personnel as necessary to carry out its objectives and the purposes of this Act. The Council may accept, use, or dispose of gifts or donations of services or property.

SEC. 6. POWERS OF THE COUNCIL.

(a) HEARINGS.—The Council may hold such hearings, sit and act at such times and place, and take such evidence as the Council considers advisable to carry out the purposes of this Act.

(b) INFORMATION FROM AGENCIES.—Agencies which are members of the Council shall provide all requested information and data to the Council as requested.

(c) POSTAL SERVICES.—The Council may use the United States mails in the same manner and under the same conditions as other departments and agencies of the Federal Government in meeting the needs described in subparagraph (B) and for coordinating programs and services designed to meet those needs.

SEC. 7. COUNCIL PERSONNEL MATTERS.

(a) COMPENSATION OF MEMBERS.—All members of the Council who are officers or employees of the United States shall serve without compensation in addition to that received for their services as officers or employees of the United States.

(b) TRAVEL EXPENSES.—The members of the Council shall be allowed travel expenses, including per diem in lieu of subsistence, at rates authorized for employees of agencies under subchapter I of chapter 57 of title 5, United States Code, while away from their regular places of business in the performance of services for the Council.

(c) STAFF.—

(1) In general.—The Council shall, with regard to civil service laws and regulations, appoint and terminate an Executive Director and such other additional personnel as necessary to carry out its objectives and the purposes of this Act.
as may be necessary to enable the Council to perform its duties.

(2) EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR.—The Council shall appoint an Executive Director at its initial meeting. The Executive Director shall be compensated at a rate not to exceed the rate of pay payable for level V of the Executive Schedule under section 5316 of title 5, United States Code.

(3) COMPENSATION.—With the approval of the Council, the Executive Director may appoint and fix the compensation of such additional personnel as may be necessary to carry out the duties of the Council. The rate of compensation may be set without regard to the provisions of chapter 51 and subchapter II of chapter 53 of title 5, United States Code, relating to classification of positions and General Schedule pay rates, except that the rate of pay may not exceed the rate payable for level V of the Executive Schedule under section 5316 of such title.

(d) TEMPORARY AND INTERMITTENT SERVICES.—In carrying out its objectives, the Council may procure temporary and intermittent services of consultants and experts under section 3109(b) of title 5, United States Code, at rates for individuals which do not exceed the annual rate of basic pay prescribed for level V of the Executive Schedule under section 5316 of such title.

(e) DETAIL OF GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES.—Upon request of the Council, any Federal Government employee may be detailed to the Council, without reimbursement, and such detail shall be without interruption or loss of civil service status or privilege.

(f) ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT.—The Secretary of Housing and Urban Development and the Secretary of Health and Human Services shall provide the Council with such administrative and supportive services as are necessary to ensure that the Council can carry out its functions.

SEC. 8. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this Act—

$1,500,000 for each of fiscal years 2005 through 2010.

ELDERLY HOUSING COALITION,
Washington, DC, April 5, 2005

Re support for Interagency Council on Housing and Service Needs of Seniors.

HON. PAUL SARBANES,
Chairman, Subcommittee on Housing and Service Needs of Seniors. This Council is desperately needed and will help federal, state and local governments better serve the housing and service needs of our elderly population.

According to the Congressional Commission on Affordable Housing and Health Facility Needs for Seniors in the 21st Century, we must rethink the current fragmented system of programs that seniors rely on to find the housing and services they need. As the number of seniors grows exponentially and will, in fact, have doubled by 2050, we must find a way to use our resources more effectively.

Your bill will be a great first step to bringing those federal agencies together to help the elderly. We shall identify how they can best work to maximize program efficiency and streamline access. Again, we are pleased to offer our support for this legislation establishing an interagency council and thank you for your leadership on this issue.

If there is anything that the Elderly Housing Coalition can do to help or if you have any questions about the EHC, please contact Nancy Libson or Alayna Waldrum at (202) 783-2242.

Sincerely,

Alliance for Retired Americans.

American Association of Homes and Services for the Elderly.

American Association of Service Coordinators.

Association of Jewish Aging Services.

B’Nai B’rith International.

Catholic Charities USA.

Catholic Health Association of the United States.

Council of Large Public Housing Authorities.

Elderly Housing Development and Operations Corporation.

Kinship Caregiver Resources/Intergenerational Village Project.

Local Initiatives Support Corporation.

National Association of Housing, Cooperatives.

National Association of Housing and Redevelopment Officials.

National Housing Conference.

National Low Income Housing Coalition.

National PACE Association.

Stewards of Affordable Housing for the Future.

Volunteers of America.

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF HOMES AND SERVICES FOR THE AGED,
Washington, DC, April 5, 2005.

Re Interagency Council on Housing and Service Needs of Seniors Legislation.

HON. PAUL SARBANES,
Chairman, Subcommittee on Housing and Service Needs of Seniors. This Council is desperately needed and will help federal, state and local governments better serve the housing and service needs of our elderly population.

According to the Congressional Commission on Affordable Housing and Health Facility Needs for Seniors in the 21st Century, we must rethink the current fragmented system of programs that seniors rely on to find the housing and services they need. As the number of seniors grows exponentially and will, in fact, have doubled by 2050, we must find a way to use our resources more effectively.

Your bill will be a great first step to bringing those federal agencies together to help the elderly. We shall identify how they can best work to maximize program efficiency and streamline access. Again, we are pleased to offer our support for this legislation establishing an interagency council and thank you for your leadership on this issue.

I am writing to thank you for introducing legislation to establish an Interagency Council on Housing and Service Needs of Seniors. AAHSA members serve two million older persons every day through mission-driven, not-for-profit organizations dedicated to providing the services people need, when they need them, in the place they call home. Our members offer the continuum of aging services: assisted living residences, continuing care retirement communities, health care facilities, nursing homes, and outreach services. AAHSA’s mission is to create the future of aging services through quality the public can trust.

Half of our members own or operate federally subsidized senior apartment buildings and work collaboratively with home and community based service providers that operate programs governed by a maze of departmental regulations. This unique perspective gives us and our members a bird’s eye view of how important it is for the various federal agencies to ensure that the elderly to better focus federal policy and regulatory efforts, in conjunction with states and communities. AAHSA believes that your bill is an important step to establish a permanent national platform to address many of the cross-cutting needs and issues confronting increasing numbers of frail and vulnerable older persons.

As you may know, AAHSA is a national, nonprofit organization representing professional service coordinators who serve low-income older persons and other special populations living in federal public housing facilities nationwide, their caregivers, and others in their local community. Our dedicated membership consists of service coordinators, case managers and social workers, housing managers and administrators, housing management companies, public housing authorities, state housing finance agencies, state and local area agencies on aging, and a broad range of national and state organizations and professionals involved in affordable, service-enhanced housing.

Background information on AAHSA is available on our website: www.servicecoordinators.org.

We are grateful for your leadership on the vital issue. Please let me know how AAHSA

Sincerely,

LARRY MINSKIN,
President and CEO.

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF SERVICE COORDINATORS,
Columbus, OH, April 5, 2005.

HON. PAUL SARBANES,
U.S. Senator,
Washington, DC.

DEAR SENATOR SARBANES: On behalf of the 1,600 members of the American Association of Service Coordinators (AAHSA), I want to express our support for your proposed legislation to establish an Interagency Council on Housing and Service Needs of Seniors. AAHSA believes that this bill is urgently needed to address service coordinators and others seeking to bring together the various federal and other programs needed by older persons and other special populations.

In my testimony, before the Commission on Affordable Housing and Health Facility Needs of Seniors, I stated that ‘‘even for long-term professionals, the current ‘crazy-quilt’ tapestry of support programs makes it difficult to fully grasp their complexities, let alone try to access them. The results are confusion among consumers, duplication of service delivery, government agencies not knowing who supplies what service or that some services even exist, reduction in qualified service workers, regulations that impede dedicated service providers from providing the service they were hired and want to perform.’’

One of AAHSA recommendations to the Commission was the establishment of a cabinet-level department that would encompass in one entity housing, health care and other federal services and sheltered housing. This makes it difficult to fully grasp their complexities, let alone try to access them. The results are confusion among consumers, duplication of service delivery, government agencies not knowing who supplies what service or that some services even exist, reduction in qualified service workers, regulations that impede dedicated service providers from providing the service they were hired and want to perform.

As you may know, AAHSA is a national, nonprofit organization representing professional service coordinators who serve low-income older persons and other special populations living in federal public housing facilities nationwide, their caregivers, and others in their local community. Our dedicated membership consists of service coordinators, case managers and social workers, housing managers and administrators, housing management companies, public housing authorities, state housing finance agencies, state and local area agencies on aging, and a broad range of national and state organizations and professionals involved in affordable, service-enhanced housing.

Background information on AAHSA is available on our website: www.servicecoordinators.org.

We are grateful for your leadership on the vital issue. Please let me know how AAHSA

Sincerely,

LARRY MINSKIN,
President and CEO.

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF SERVICE COORDINATORS,
Columbus, OH, April 5, 2005.

HON. PAUL SARBANES,
U.S. Senator,
Washington, DC.
can assist you to expedite enactment of this important legislation.
Sincerely,
JANICE MONKS,
President.

ELDERLY HOUSING DEVELOPMENT & OPERATIONS CORPORATION
Fort Lauderdale, FL, April 5, 2005.
Hon. PAUL SARBANES,
U.S. Senate,
Washington, DC.

DEAR SENATOR SARBANES: I am pleased that the Elderly Housing Development Operations Corporation (EHDOC) representing over 40 senior housing facilities in 14 states, is joining with other non-profit organizations involved with federally assisted senior housing to strongly support your bill to establish an Interagency Council on Housing and Service Needs of Seniors. We believe that the establishment of this Interagency Council will provide a cost-effective and efficient means to promote coordination between the various federal agencies involved with senior housing and services, particularly HUD and HHS.

EHDOC is well aware of the need to improve collaboration between the various federal agencies based on our efforts to assist low-income, frail elders in whom the Council House in Sutland, MD. Unfortunately, it is often difficult to link the various services needed to enable many frail elderly to remain in their homes, due to the existing fragmentation of federal housing, services and health care policies and programs.

The difficulty experienced by EHDOC with linking housing and services is repeated by many nonprofit sponsors of federally assisted senior housing throughout the country. As you know, I was honored to serve as your appopn for the Senior Commissions on Affordable Housing and Health Care Facilities Needs of Older Persons. We repeatedly heard testimony from public and private agencies involved with housing, supportive services and health care, older persons and others, of their difficulties in bringing together these services to meet the needs of older persons.

As stated in the Senior Commissions’ final report, “the very heart of this Commission’s work is the recognition that the housing and service needs of seniors traditionally have been provided separately, but older persons often fail to recognize or communicate with each other.” Findings of the Commission concluded “while policymakers have struggled to be responsive to the needs of seniors, the very structure of Congressional committees and Federal agencies often makes it difficult to address complex needs in a comprehensive and coordinated fashion. For example: medical needs of seniors are addressed by Medicare and Medicaid; social services are provided through Medicaid, the OAA, and other block grant programs; housing programs are administered by HUD and the Department of Agriculture’s RHS; and transportation programs are administered by the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT).”

We commend you for your leadership in addressing this critical need to effectively bring together the various federal agencies and others involved with affordable housing and service needs of older persons through the establishment of an Interagency Council on Senior Housing. Please let me know if you have any questions or how EHDOC can assist you with the enactment of this important legislation.

Sincerely,
STEVE PROTULIS,
Executive Director.

National PACE Association

Hon. PAUL SARBANES,
U.S. Senate,
Washington, DC.

DEAR SENATOR SARBANES: On behalf of the National PACE Association (NPA), I want to express our support for your bill to establish an Interagency Council on Service Needs of Seniors. NPA believes that this legislation is essential to provide effective linkages between housing, health care and services, and that the proposed Interagency Council will facilitate an effective national forum to promote coordination among key federal agencies involved with these programs, particularly HUD, HHS, CMS, and DOT.

As you may know, NPA represents non-profit organizations in 21 states, including Hopkins ElderPlus in Baltimore that are providers of PACE—a Program of All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly. PACE programs coordinate and provide all needed preventive, primary, acute and long term care services so that older persons can continue living in the community. PACE serves individuals who are aged 55 or older, certified by their state to need nursing home care, are able to live safely in the community, and live in a state designated PACE service area. PACE provides a “one stop shop” for health and care services. Our entire program is currently understood through their extensive experience with the holistic needs of frail elderly, the interrelationship between housing, services, health and long-term care.

While housing is not a direct PACE benefit, our members have long recognized the importance of housing as a vital aspect of comprehensive and coordinated care. The difficulty experienced by EHDOC with linking housing and services is repeated by many nonprofit sponsors of federally assisted senior housing throughout the country. As you know, I was honored to serve as your appopn for the Senior Commissions on Affordable Housing and Health Care Facilities Needs of Older Persons. We repeatedly heard testimony from public and private agencies involved with housing, supportive services and health care, older persons and others, of their difficulties in bringing together these services to meet the needs of older persons.

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We commend you for your leadership in addressing this critical need to effectively bring together the various federal agencies and others involved with affordable housing and service needs of older persons through the establishment of an Interagency Council on Senior Housing. Please let me know if you have any questions or how EHDOC can assist you with the enactment of this important legislation.

Sincerely,

SHAWN BLOOM,
President and CEO.

By Mr. COLEMAN:

S. 706. A bill to convey all right, title, and interest of the United States in and to the land described in this Act to the Secretary of the Interior for the Prairie Island Indian Community in Minnesota; to the Committee on Indian Affairs.

Mr. COLEMAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that 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. 706
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 “Prairie Island Land Conveyance Act of 2005”.

SEC. 2. PRAIRIE ISLAND LAND CONVEYANCE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of the Army shall convey all right, title, and interest of the United States in and to the land described in subsection (b), including all improvements, cultural resources, and sites on the land, to the Prairie Island Indian Community for the benefit of the Prairie Island Indian Community in Minnesota; and

(b) LAND DESCRIPTION.—The land to be conveyed under subsection (a) is the approximately 1280 acres of land associated with the Lock and Dam #3 on the Mississippi River in Goodhue County, Minnesota, located in tracts identified as GO-355, GO-353, GO-290, GO-277, GO-278, GO-284, GO-301 through GO-313, GO-314A, GO-314B, GO-329, GO-330A, GO-330B, GO-331A, GO-331B, GO-331C, GO-332, GO-333, GO-334, GO-335, GO-336, GO-337, GO-338, GO-339A, GO-339B, GO-339C, GO-339D, GO-340, GO-340A, GO-340B, GO-358, GO-358A, GO-358B, GO-358C, GO-358D, and GO-358E, as described in subsection (d) and shown on Survey map of the Upper Mississippi River 9-Foot Project, Lock & Dam No. 3 (Red Wing), and ‘‘Flower & Flowage Rights’’ and dated December 1936.

(c) BOUNDARY SURVEY.—Not later than 5 years after the date of conveyance under this Act, the Secretary shall cause a survey of the boundaries of the land conveyed to be surveyed as provided in section 2115 of the Revised Statutes (25 U.S.C. 176).

(d) EASEMENT.—
(1) IN GENERAL.—The Corps of Engineers shall retain a flowage and sloughing easement for the purpose of navigation and purposes relating to the Lock and Dam No. 3 project over the portion of the land described in subsection (b) that lies below the elevation of 676.0.

(2) INCLUSIONS.—The easement retained under paragraph (1) includes—
(A) the perpetual right to overflow, flood, and submerge property as the District Engineer may determine to be necessary in connection with the operation and maintenance of the Mississippi River Navigation Project; and
(B) the continuing right to clear and remove any brush, debris, or natural obstructions that, in the opinion of the District Engineer, may be detrimental to the project.

(e) OWNERSHIP OF STURGEON LAKE BED UNAFFECTED.—Nothing in this section diminishes or otherwise affects the title of the State of Minnesota to the bed of Sturgeon Lake located within the tracts of land described in subsection (b).

(f) CONSIDERATION.—The conveyance under subsection (a) is subject to the conditions that the Prairie Island Indian Community shall not—
(1) use the conveyed land for human habitation;
(2) construct any structure on the land without the written approval of the District Engineer; or
(3) conduct gaming (within the meaning of section 284 of the Revised Statutes (25 U.S.C. 270)) on the land.
resource development projects on the same basis as before the conveyance.

(b) EFFECT OF SECTION.—Nothing in this section diminishes or otherwise affects the rights of the United States pursuant to letters to July 23, 1937, and November 20, 1937, from the Secretary of the Interior to the Secretary of War and the letter of the Secretary of War in response to the Secretary of the Interior dated August 18, 1937, and November 27, 1937, under which the Secretary of the Interior granted certain rights to the Corps of Engineers to overflow the United States Army Corps of Engineers survey map of the Upper Mississippi River 9-Foot Channel Project, Lock & Dam No. 3 (Red Wing), Land & Flowage Rights and dated December 1936.

By Mr. ALEXANDER (for himself and Mr. DODD):
S. 707. A bill to reduce preterm labor and delivery and the risk of pregnancy-related deaths and complications due to pregnancy, and to reduce infant mortality caused by prematurity; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions.

Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. President, today I am reintroducing the Prematurity Research Expansion and Education for Mothers who deliver Infants Early Act, or PREEMIE Act. This bipartisan bill expands research into the causes and prevention of prematurity, babies born 3 weeks or more early, and increases education and support services for pregnant women and their children. I am proud to see that Senator DODD is once again my partner on this legislation and we hope the Senate will pass the PREEMIE Act in this Congress.

In June 2004, the Subcommittee on Children and Families, which I chaired, held a hearing to learn about the problem of prematurity birth. Unfortunately, Tennessee has the fourth highest rate of premature birth in the country. Fourteen percent of Tennessee babies are born prematurely. In an average week in Tennessee, 210 babies are born prematurely. Premature infants are 14 times more likely to die in the first year of life. It is the No. 1 cause of infant death in the first month of life. Premature babies who survive may suffer lifelong consequences including: cerebral palsy, mental retardation, chronic lung disease, and vision and hearing loss.

In February 2004, the National Center for Health Statistics, NCHS, reported the first increase in the U.S. infant mortality rate since 1958, from 6.8 infant deaths per 1,000 live births in 2001 to 7.0 in 2000. This increase is extremely disturbing because the infant mortality rate is a measure of the health of society. NCHS subsequently reported that 61 percent of this increase in infant mortality was due to an increase in the birth of premature and low birthweight babies. Almost half the cases of premature birth have no known cause—a healthy pregnant woman is at risk. We must address this issue. Finally, this is a costly problem. In 2002, the estimated charges for hospital stays for infants with a diagnosis of preterm birth or low birthweight, LBW, were $15.5 billion. The average hospital charge per infant stay with a principal diagnosis of prematurity/LBW was $79,000, with an average hospital stay of 24.2 days. Hospital charges for newborn stays without complications averaged $1,500 in 2002, with an average hospital stay of 2.0 days. Employers carry much of the burden. Almost half of that $15.5 billion was billed to employers or other private insurers according to the March of Dimes. The other half is billed to Medicaid.

As a nation, we must address this problem. The PREEMIE Act calls for expanding Federal research related to preterm labor and delivery and increasing public and provider education and support services. It is supported by the March of Dimes, the American Academy of Pediatrics, the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, the Association of Women’s Health, Obstetric and Neonatal Nurses, and many others.

I hope my colleagues will join me in the fight to ensure a healthy start for all of America’s children by cosponsoring and working with me for passage of the PREEMIE Act during this Congress.

There being no objection, the bill was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:
S. 707
Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled.

SEC. 1. SHORT TITLE.
This Act may be cited as the “Prematurity Research Expansion and Education for Mothers who deliver Infants Early Act” or the “PREEMIE Act”.

SEC. 2. FINDINGS AND PURPOSE.
(a) FINDINGS.—Congress makes the following findings:

(1) Prematurity birth is a serious and growing problem. The rate of preterm birth increased between 1982 and 2002 for every principal cause of prematurity (from 9.4 percent to 11.9 percent). In 2001, more than 480,000 babies were born prematurely in the United States.

(2) Premature infants are 14 times more likely to die in the first year of life. Premature infants are 14 times more likely to die in the first year of life.

(3) Premature infants are 14 times more likely to die in the first year of life. Premature infants are 14 times more likely to die in the first year of life.

(4) Premature survival may suffer lifelong consequences including: cerebral palsy, mental retardation, chronic lung disease, and vision and hearing loss.

(b) PURPOSES.—It is the purpose of this Act to—

(1) reduce rates of preterm labor and delivery;

(2) work toward an evidence-based standard of care for pregnant women at risk of preterm labor, and other serious complications, and for infants born preterm and at a low birthweight; and

(3) reduce infant mortality and disabilities caused by prematurity.

SEC. 3. RESEARCH RELATING TO PRETERM LABOR AND DELIVERY AND THE CARE, TREATMENT, AND OUTCOMES OF PRETERM AND LOW BIRTHWEIGHT INFANTS.
(a) GENERAL EXPANSION OF NIH RESEARCH.—Part B of title IV of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 284 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following:
“SEC. 408J. EXPANSION AND COORDINATION OF RESEARCH ON PRETERM LABOR AND DELIVERY AND INFANT MORTALITY.
“(a) IN GENERAL.—The Director of NIH shall expand, intensify, and coordinate the activities of the National Institutes of Health with respect to research on the causes of preterm labor and delivery, infant mortality, and improving the care and treatment of preterm and low birthweight infants.

(b) AUTHORIZATION OF RESEARCH NETWORKS.—There shall be established within the National Institutes of Health a Maternal, Child, and Neonatal Research Units Network, in cooperation with this subsection, the Director of NIH shall utilize existing networks.

“(c) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section, such sums as may be necessary for each of fiscal years 2005 through 2009”.

(b) GENERAL EXPANSION OF CDC RESEARCH.—Section 301 of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 284 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following:
“(c) STUDY ON ASSISTED REPRODUCTION TECHNOLOGIES.—Section 1003(c) of the Children’s Health Act of 2000 (Public Law 106-310) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (2), by striking “and”; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:
“(4) consider the impact of assisted reproductive technologies on the mother’s and children’s health and development.

(d) STUDY ON RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN PREMATURITY AND BIRTH DEFECTS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention shall conduct a study on the relationship between prematurity, birth defects, and developmental disabilities.

(2) LIMITATION.—Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a report concerning the results of the study conducted under paragraph (1).
concerning the results of the evaluation conducted under paragraph (1).

SEC. 4. PUBLIC AND HEALTH CARE PROVIDER EDUCATION AND SUPPORT SERVICES.

Part P of title III of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 280g et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following:

"SEC. 399O. PUBLIC AND HEALTH CARE PROVIDER EDUCATION AND SUPPORT SERVICES.

(a) (1) In General.—The Secretary, directly or through the awarding of grants to public or private nonprofit entities, shall conduct a demonstration project to improve the provision of information to health professionals and other health care providers and the public.

(b) Activities.—Activities to be carried out under the project under subsection (a) shall include the establishment of programs—

1. to provide information and education to health professionals, other health care providers, and the public concerning—

(a) the screening for and the treating of infections;

(b) counseling on optimal weight and good nutrition, including folic acid;

(c) smoking cessation education and counseling;

(d) stress management; and

(c) to improve the treatment and outcomes for infants born premature, including childhood morbidity, disability, and mortality;

(d) to identify gaps and provide recommendations for feasible systems of monitoring and assessing the economic and social impact of life burdens associated with prematurity;

(e) to explore the implications of the burden of premature births for national health policy;

(f) to identify community outreach models that are effective in decreasing prematurity rates in communities;

(g) to consider options for addressing, as appropriate, the allocation of public funds to biomedical and behavioral research, the costs and benefits of preventive interventions, public health, and access to health care; and

(h) to provide recommendations on best practices and interventions to prevent premature birth, morbidity, and low birthweight.

(2) Report.—Not later than 1 year after the date on which the contract is entered into under paragraph (1), the Institute of Medicine shall submit to the Director of the National Institutes of Health, the Director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and the appropriate committees of Congress a report concerning the results of the evaluation conducted under paragraph (1).

SEC. 5. INTERAGENCY COORDINATING COUNCIL ON PREMATURE BIRTH AND LOW BIRTHWEIGHT.

(a) Purpose.—It is the purpose of this section to stimulate multidisciplinary research, scientific exchange, and collaboration among the agencies of the Department of Health and Human Services and to assist the Department in targeting efforts to achieve the greatest advances toward the goal of reducing prematurity and low birthweight.

(b) Establishment.—There is hereby established an Interagency Coordinating Council on Prematurity and Low Birthweight (referred to in this section as the Council) to carry out the purposes of this section.

(c) Members.—The Council shall be composed of members to be appointed by the Secretary, including representatives of—

1. the agencies of the Department of Health and Human Services;

2. voluntary health care organizations, including grassroots advocacy organizations, providers of specialty obstetrical and pediatric care, and researcher organizations.

(d) Activities.—The Council shall—

1. annually report to the Secretary of Health and Human Services on current Departmental activities relating to prematurity and low birthweight;

2. plan and hold a conference on prematurity and low birthweight under the sponsorship of the Surgeon General;

3. establish a consensus research plan for the Department of Health and Human Services; and

4. report to the Secretary of Health and Human Services and the appropriate committees of Congress on recommendations regarding the contraction of the formula in paragraph (2) and on the status of Departmental research activities concerning prematurity and low birthweight.

(e) Authorization of Appropriations.—There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this Act, such sums as may be necessary for each of fiscal years 2005 through 2009.

Mr. DODD. Mr. President, I rise today to join Senator ALEXANDER in reintroducing the Prematurity Research Expansion and Education for Mothers (PREEMIE) Act—legislation intended to address the growing crisis of premature birth in our nation.

I think when many of us hear about a baby being born early, we don’t give much thought to what it means. After all, it is not all that uncommon—I’m sure that almost all of my colleagues knows someone born prematurely. Thanks to modem medicine it is also not uncommon for a baby born early to end up healthy and happy.

But this feeling that prematurity is somehow “normal” or to be expected masks a growing health crisis. Prematurity has real consequences in health and economic terms. We need to bring this light to bear on the affects (some of the most vulnerable members of our society: newborn babies.

As a member of the Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions (HELP) Committee I, along with my colleagues, have devoted much time and effort to improving the health of our nation’s children and infants. And yet despite our efforts, the problem of prematurity continues to persist and even grow. What is so striking about prematurity is how many cases face these enormous emotional and financial burdens. Nearly 1 out of every 8 babies in the United States is born prematurely—that’s 1,300 babies each day, and over 470,000 each year (including more than 4,900 in my home state of Connecticut).

Despite all of the health care advances of the last decades, the problem of prematurity is not in any way abating. According to recent data released by the National Center for Health Statistics, in 2002 the infant mortality rate actually increased for the first time since 1958. Much of this increase is attributable to infant death in the
first month of life—of which prematurity is the leading cause. Since 1981, the premature birth rate has increased by 27 percent. This stands in stark contrast to some of the breath-taking medical discoveries of the past two decades. We now treat and even cure many types of cancer, but we can’t prevent babies from being born too soon.

Mr. President, the consequences of prematurity are devastating. As mentioned earlier, it is the leading cause of neonatal death—a tragedy that no family should have to face. For those infants that survive, a lifetime of severe health problems is not uncommon. Prematurity has been linked to such long-term health problems as cerebral palsy, mental retardation, chronic lung disease, and vision and hearing loss. Premature babies have the deck stacked against them from the moment they are born. Some of the risk factors in the cases where there are no life-long health consequences, the experience of a premature birth takes an enormous emotional toll on a family.

Prematurity also carries a significant economic toll. According to a recent study conducted by the March of Dimes, hospitalizations due to prematurity cost a total of $15.5 billion during the year 2002—accounting for nearly half of all hospital charges for infants in this country. And this number does not even include the cost of care for problems later in life resulting from a premature birth. Much of this cost falls on employers who are already bearing the weight of skyrocketing health care costs.

Given the emotional and economic toll that prematurity takes on this country, we know remarkably little about why it happens, and how it can be prevented. Some of the risk factors associated with preterm birth are known, including advanced age of the mother, smoking, and certain chronic diseases. But nearly 50 percent of all premature births have no known cause. And we know so little about the causes of prematurity, we also do not know how to prevent it.

For such a large (and growing) problem, it is astounding how little we know. It is critical that we make a national commitment to solving this puzzle. We must do everything we can to expand research—both public and private—into the root causes of prematurity.

Senator Alexander and I are introducing the PREEMIE Act for precisely this reason. Our bill would coordinate and expand research related to prematurity at the Federal level. It would also educate health care providers and the general public about the risks of prematurity, and measures that can be taken before and during pregnancy to prevent it. Pregnant mothers need to know the warning signs and symptoms of premature labor—and they need to know what to do if they begin to notice those signs.

Finally, because we will never eliminate prematurity completely, our legislation would provide support services to families impacted by a premature birth. As we’re investigating the causes of prematurity and increasing awareness in expectant parents, we need to reach out to the mothers and fathers across our country whose children are born too soon to give them emotional support during the difficult days, weeks, and months that often follow a premature birth. We need to make sure that the doctors, nurses, and other hospital staff who care for premature babies are sensitive to the needs of their parents, their brothers, and their sisters. And we need to make sure that the time finally comes to bring a premature baby home, parents have all the information they need to make that transition.

It is my hope that this legislation will complement and support some of the efforts going on in the private sector—such as the March of Dimes ambitious campaign to increase public awareness of the rate of preterm birth. I urge all of my colleagues to join us in support of this important legislation.

By Mr. WYDEN (for himself and Mr. SMITH):

S. 708. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide medicare beneficiaries with access to information concerning the quality of care provided by skilled nursing facilities and to provide incentives and rewards for skilled nursing facilities to improve the quality of care provided by those facilities by linking the amount of payment under the medicare program to quality reporting and performance requirements, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

Mr. SMITH. Mr. President, I rise today to introduce the Long Term Care Quality and Consumer Information Improvement Act of 2005. Medicare spending for skilled nursing facilities grew rapidly during the late 1980s and 1990s increasing from almost $4 billion in 1992 to $12.9 billion in 1997. While spending has increased under Medicare, there has not been an effort to reward skilled nursing facilities that have provided exceptional care to seniors.

The bill I am introducing today with my colleague from Oregon, Senator Wyden, will establish a system to reward skilled nursing facilities that provide exceptional care. As we begin discussions on how to assure that we reward quality health care, I believe we need to include long term care as part of that discussion. Nursing homes sever some of the most vulnerable among us, and assuring quality of care is encouraged and rewarded is important. I hope that this bill will help to spark a serious debate about how we pay for quality care. This proposal establishes a voluntary system under which nursing homes providing better quality of care would receive higher payment and in turn would provide more information about the quality of care provided. Information would include nurse staffing ratios and would be made public to consumers and their families.

Historically, Americans have been paying the same for quality health care as for medicare care. Efforts have been made by some in the private sector to better recognize and provide incentives for those providers who consistently provide a higher level of care. The Institute of Medicine in its report “Leading by Example,” declared the government should take the lead in improving health care by giving financial rewards to hospitals and doctors who improve care for beneficiaries in six Federal programs, including Medicare and Medicaid. The IOM report also said the government should collect and make available to the public data comparing
the quality of care among providers. The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services has begun pilot programs. I think nursing homes should also be an area in which we explore payment policies that regard those providing a higher quality of care better. I look forward to continuing the discussion with all stakeholders about these concepts so we can assure a high level of care and find ways to help providers improve the level of care they provide.

By Mr. DEWEINE (for himself, Mr. REED, Mr. BURR, and Mr. DODD): S. 709. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to establish a grant program to provide supportive services in the first permanent supportive housing for chronically homeless individuals, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

Mr. DEWEINE. Mr. President, today I rise with my colleague, Senator JACK REED, to reintroduce the Services for Ending Long-Term Homelessness Act. I would like to thank Senator REED for his support in introducing this bill and for his good work on this issue. I also would like to thank Senator BURR for his work on this bill. Senator BURR introduced a similar version of this bill when he was a member of the House of Representatives. I appreciate his support and the support of Senator DODD. Both are co-sponsors of this legislation.

The chronically homeless represent about 10 percent of the entire homeless population, but consume a majority of the services. They are approximately 200,000 to 250,000 people who experience, chronic homelessness. Those numbers include the heads of families, as well. Tragically, for these individuals, the periods of homelessness are measured in years, rather than months. Many tend to have disabling health and behavioral health problems: 40 percent have substance abuse disorders, 25 percent have a physical disability, and 20 percent have serious mental illness. These factors often contribute to a person becoming homeless, in the first place, and are certainly an impediment to overcoming it.

The President has set a goal of ending chronic homelessness in 10 years. The President’s New Freedom Commission on Mental Health, chaired by the Ohio Department of Mental Health Director, Mike Hogan, recommended that a comprehensive program be created to facilitate access to permanent supportive housing for individuals and families who are chronically homeless. This recommendation is so important because affordable housing, alone, is not enough for this hard to reach group. And, temporary shelter-housing does not provide the stability and services needed to provide long-term positive outcomes. Only supportive housing, where the chronically homeless can receive shelter and services, such as mental health and substance abuse treatment, has been effective in decreasing their chances of returning to the streets and increasing their chances for leading productive lives.

Not only is it right to help this group of hard to reach individuals, but it is also fiscally responsible. This group is one of the highest expense groups to serve. As I mentioned previously, they represent 10 percent of the overall homeless population, however, they consume a majority of homeless services. They consume the most emergency homeless care services, which are also the most costly to provide. By encouraging supportive housing, we are providing the services necessary for these individuals and families to really get back on their feet. We can either continue to provide expensive emergency services to these needy people or we can give them the right kind of help—the type of help they need for their long-term well-being and the long-term well-being of our communities.

Unfortunately, current programs for funding services in permanent supportive housing, other than those administered by the Department of Housing and Urban Development, were not designed to be closely coordinated with housing programs. These programs also were not designed to meet the challenging needs of this specific subgroup of the homeless. That is why the bill we are introducing today would provide the authorization for services to support housing by providing grants which can be used with existing programs through HUD and state and local communities.

Our bill would encourage those who provide services to the chronically homeless, such as SAMHSA within the Department of Health and Human Services, to work with and coordinate their efforts with those who provide the physical housing, such as HUD. Under the current administration, these two departments have started to truly coordinate their efforts, and this bill would encourage and support that continued collaboration.

This is a good bill. Mr. President, and it could make a real difference in the lives of so many individuals in need. I ask my colleagues to join us in support.

I ask unanimous consent that the text of my bill be printed in the Record.

There being no objection, the bill was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 709

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 “Services for Ending Long-Term Homelessness Act”.

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress makes the following findings:

(1) Nationally, there are approximately 200,000 to 250,000 people who experience chronic homelessness, including some families with children. Chronically homeless people often live in shelters or on the streets for years at a time, experience repeated episodes of homelessness without achieving housing stability, or cycle between homelessness, jail, mental health facilities, and hospitals.

(2) The President’s New Freedom Commission on Mental Health recommended the development and implementation of a comprehensive plan designed to facilitate access to permanent supportive housing for consumers and families who are chronically homeless. The Commission found that affordable housing alone is insufficient for many people with severe mental illness, and that flexible, mobile, individualized support services are also necessary to support these consumers in their housing.

(3) Congress and the President have set a goal of ending chronic homelessness in 10 years.

(4) Permanent supportive housing is a proven and cost effective solution to chronic homelessness. A recent study by the University of Pennsylvania found that each unit of permanent supportive housing for individuals with mental illness in New York City resulted in public savings of $16,281 per year in systems of care such as mental health, human services, health care, veterans affairs, and corrections.

(5) Current programs for funding services in permanent supportive housing, other than those administered by the Department of Housing and Urban Development, were not designed to be closely coordinated with housing resources, nor were they designed to meet the multiple needs of people who are chronically homeless.

SEC. 3. DUTIES OF ADMINISTRATOR OF SUBSTANTIAL AID AND MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES ADMINISTRATION.

Section 501(d) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 290aa(d)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (17), by striking “and” at the end; and

(2) in paragraph (18), by striking the period and inserting “; and”;

(3) by adding at the end the following: “(19) collaborate with Federal departments and programs that are part of the President’s Interagency Council on Homelessness, particularly the Department of Housing and Urban Development, the Department of Labor, and the Department of Veterans Affairs, and with other agencies within the Department of Health and Human Services, particularly the Health Resources and Services Administration, the Administration on Children and Families, and the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, to design national strategies for providing services in supportive housing that will assist in ending chronic homelessness and to implement programs that address chronic homelessness.”;

SEC. 4. GRANTS FOR SERVICES FOR CHRONICALLY HOMELESS INDIVIDUALS IN SUPPORTIVE HOUSING.

Title V of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 250a et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“PART J—GRANTS FOR SERVICES TO END CHRONIC HOMELESSNESS

SEC. 596. GRANTS FOR SERVICES TO END CHRONIC HOMELESSNESS.

“(a) IN GENERAL.—

“(1) GRANTS.—The Secretary shall make grants to entities described in paragraph (2) for the purpose of carrying out projects to provide the services described in subsection (d) to chronically homeless individuals in permanent supportive housing.

“(2) ELIGIBLE ENTITIES.—For purposes of paragraph (1), an entity described in this paragraph is—

“(A) a State or political subdivision of a State, an Indian tribe, a tribal organization, or a public or nonprofit private entity, including a community-based provider of
homelessness services, health care, housing, or other services important to individuals experiencing chronic homelessness; or

(B) a consortium composed of entities described in subparagraph (A), which consortium includes a public or nonprofit private entity that serves as the lead applicant and has responsibility for coordinating the activities of the consortium, a consortium that consists of a faith-based organization, and any other entity that the Secretary determines to be necessary to carry out this section.

(b) PRIORITY.—In making grants under subsection (a), the Secretary shall give priority to applicants demonstrating that the applicants—

(1) target funds to individuals or families who—

(A) have been homeless for longer periods of time or have experienced more episodes of homelessness than are required to meet the definition of chronic homelessness under this section;

(B) have high rates of utilization of emergency public systems of care; or

(C) have a history of interactions with law enforcement and the criminal justice system;

(2) have greater funding commitments from State or local government agencies responsible for overseeing mental health treatment, substance abuse treatment, medical care, and employment (including commitment to persons in institutional settings), and Federal funds in accordance with subsection (e)(2)(B)(i);

(3) will provide for an increase in the number of units of permanent supportive housing that will serve chronically homeless individuals in the community as a result of an award of a grant under subsection (a); and

(4) have demonstrated experience providing services to address the mental health and substance abuse problems of chronically homeless individuals living in permanent supportive housing, through a coordinated treatment and recovery support services program, including monitoring the amount of non-Federal contributions made by an applicant are in accordance with this paragraph if made as follows:

(A) The contribution is made from funds of the applicant and amounts from public or private entities.

(B) of the contribution—

(i) not less than 50 percent is from non-Federal funds; and

(ii) not more than 5 percent is from Federal funds provided under programs that—

(1) are not expressly directed at services for homeless individuals whose purposes are broad enough to include the provision of a service or services described in subsection (d) as authorized expenditures under such programs; or

(2) do not prohibit Federal funds under the program from being used to provide a contribution that is required as a condition for obtaining Federal funds.

(3) DETERMINATION OF AMOUNT CONTRIBUTED.—Contributions required in paragraph (1) may be in cash or in kind, fairly evaluated, including plant, equipment, or services. Amounts provided by the Federal Government, or services assisted or subsidized to any significant extent by the Federal Government, are included in determining the amount of non-Federal contributions required in paragraph (2)(B)(i).

(f) ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES.—A condition for the receipt of a grant under subsection (a) is that the applicant involved agree that not more than 15 percent of the grant will be expended for administrative expenses with respect to the grant. Expenses for data collection and measuring performance outcomes as specified in subsection (k) shall not be considered as administrative expenses subject to the limitation in this subsection.

(g) CERTAIN USERS OF FUNDS.—Notwithstanding other provisions of this section, a grantee under subsection (a) may expend no more than 20 percent of the grant to provide the services described in subsection (d) to homeless individuals who are not chronically homeless.

(h) APPLICATION FOR GRANT.—A grant may be made under subsection (a) only if an application for a grant under this section is made to the Secretary and the application is in such form, is made in such manner, and contains such agreements, assurances, or information as the Secretary determines to be necessary to carry out this section.

(i) CERTAIN REQUIREMENTS.—A condition for the receipt of a grant under subsection (a) is that the applicant involved demonstrate the following:

(A) Compliance with all local, county, or State requirements for licensing, accreditation, or certification (if any) which are applicable to the proposed project.

(B) A minimum of two years experience providing comparable services that do not require licensing, accreditation, or certification.

(C) Certification as a Medicaid service provider, including health care for the homeless programs and community health centers.

(D) An executed agreement with a relevant State or local government agency that will provide oversight of the service provider, including the coordination of care, and expertise needed to assure the quality and effectiveness of services, which may be demonstrated by any of the following:

(A) Compliance with all local, county, or State requirements for licensing, accreditation, or certification (if any) which are applicable to the proposed project.

(B) A minimum of two years experience providing comparable services that do not require licensing, accreditation, or certification.

(C) Certification as a Medicaid service provider, including health care for the homeless programs and community health centers.

(E) An agreement with a relevant State or local government agency that will provide oversight of the service provider, including the coordination of care, and expertise needed to assure the quality and effectiveness of services, which may be demonstrated by any of the following:

(A) Compliance with all local, county, or State requirements for licensing, accreditation, or certification (if any) which are applicable to the proposed project.

(B) A minimum of two years experience providing comparable services that do not require licensing, accreditation, or certification.

(C) Certification as a Medicaid service provider, including health care for the homeless programs and community health centers.

(F) An agreement with a relevant State or local government agency that will provide oversight of the service provider, including the coordination of care, and expertise needed to assure the quality and effectiveness of services, which may be demonstrated by any of the following:

(A) Compliance with all local, county, or State requirements for licensing, accreditation, or certification (if any) which are applicable to the proposed project.

(B) A minimum of two years experience providing comparable services that do not require licensing, accreditation, or certification.

(C) Certification as a Medicaid service provider, including health care for the homeless programs and community health centers.

(G) An agreement with a relevant State or local government agency that will provide oversight of the service provider, including the coordination of care, and expertise needed to assure the quality and effectiveness of services, which may be demonstrated by any of the following:

(A) Compliance with all local, county, or State requirements for licensing, accreditation, or certification (if any) which are applicable to the proposed project.

(B) A minimum of two years experience providing comparable services that do not require licensing, accreditation, or certification.

(C) Certification as a Medicaid service provider, including health care for the homeless programs and community health centers.

(H) An agreement with a relevant State or local government agency that will provide oversight of the service provider, including the coordination of care, and expertise needed to assure the quality and effectiveness of services, which may be demonstrated by any of the following:

(A) Compliance with all local, county, or State requirements for licensing, accreditation, or certification (if any) which are applicable to the proposed project.

(B) A minimum of two years experience providing comparable services that do not require licensing, accreditation, or certification.

(C) Certification as a Medicaid service provider, including health care for the homeless programs and community health centers.

(I) An agreement with a relevant State or local government agency that will provide oversight of the service provider, including the coordination of care, and expertise needed to assure the quality and effectiveness of services, which may be demonstrated by any of the following:

(A) Compliance with all local, county, or State requirements for licensing, accreditation, or certification (if any) which are applicable to the proposed project.

(B) A minimum of two years experience providing comparable services that do not require licensing, accreditation, or certification.

(C) Certification as a Medicaid service provider, including health care for the homeless programs and community health centers.

(J) An agreement with a relevant State or local government agency that will provide oversight of the service provider, including the coordination of care, and expertise needed to assure the quality and effectiveness of services, which may be demonstrated by any of the following:

(A) Compliance with all local, county, or State requirements for licensing, accreditation, or certification (if any) which are applicable to the proposed project.

(B) A minimum of two years experience providing comparable services that do not require licensing, accreditation, or certification.

(C) Certification as a Medicaid service provider, including health care for the homeless programs and community health centers.

(K) An agreement with a relevant State or local government agency that will provide oversight of the service provider, including the coordination of care, and expertise needed to assure the quality and effectiveness of services, which may be demonstrated by any of the following:

(A) Compliance with all local, county, or State requirements for licensing, accreditation, or certification (if any) which are applicable to the proposed project.

(B) A minimum of two years experience providing comparable services that do not require licensing, accreditation, or certification.

(C) Certification as a Medicaid service provider, including health care for the homeless programs and community health centers.

(L) An agreement with a relevant State or local government agency that will provide oversight of the service provider, including the coordination of care, and expertise needed to assure the quality and effectiveness of services, which may be demonstrated by any of the following:

(A) Compliance with all local, county, or State requirements for licensing, accreditation, or certification (if any) which are applicable to the proposed project.

(B) A minimum of two years experience providing comparable services that do not require licensing, accreditation, or certification.

(C) Certification as a Medicaid service provider, including health care for the homeless programs and community health centers.
In March 2003, former Department of Health and Human Services Secretary Tommy Thompson issued a report from a work group and an interagency subcommittee that was assembled to define the issues and challenges facing the chronically homeless and develop a comprehensive plan for engaging the appropriate services and treatments to this population of individuals who typically fall outside of mainstream support programs.

Similarly, the President’s New Freedom Commission on Mental Health recommended the development of a comprehensive plan to facilitate access to permanent supportive housing for individuals and families who are chronically homeless. However, affordable housing, alone, is not enough for many chronically homeless to achieve stability. This population also needs flexible, mobile, and individualized support services to sustain them in housing.

The legislation we are introducing today is critical to the development and implementation of more effective strategies to combat chronic homelessness through improved service delivery and coordination across Federal agencies serving this population. It directs the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration to coordinate their efforts not only with the Department of Housing and Urban Development, but with other Federal departments and the various agencies within the Department of Health and Human Services that provide supportive services.

Mr. President, SELHA is an important bipartisan measure which will help to ensure that the growing number of Americans experiencing chronic homelessness have access to the range of supportive services they need to secure affordable housing that is time-limited. The legislation we are introducing today to introduce a bill to reauthorize the Act and to promote the research, identification, assessment, exploration, and development of methane hydrate resources; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. AKAKA (for himself, Ms. MURKOWSKI, and Mr. STEVENS):

S. 711. A bill to amend the Methane Hydrate Research and Development Act of 2000 to reauthorize that Act and to promote the research, identification, assessment, exploration, and development of methane hydrate resources; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

Mr. AKAKA. Mr. President, I rise today to introduce a bill to re-authorize a critical program for our energy future. It is widely believed that the U.S. must diversify its energy portfolio and explore new domestic sources and technologies for energy to curb our dependence on foreign oil. As a senior member of the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, I know we have
been assessing the potential for a variety of energy sources for the future including natural gas, clean coal technology, nuclear energy, renewable energy, and others. This bill, the Methane Hydrate Research and Development Act of 2000, will reauthorize a small but important program on methane hydrate research and development, a key and abundant non-conventional source of energy.

I would like to extend my appreciation to my cosponsors, Senators Murkowski and Stevens, who share my interest and determination in exploring the potential of methane hydrates for energy production. We share a common goal to see that we fully understand the prospects for this domestic energy resource. This new legislation will foster the research and development needed to expand our knowledge to better assess both the opportunities and challenges this potential energy resource presents. Our legislation provides for a higher level of scientific research and partnering between government agencies, academic institutions, and industry.

The United States and the world will require substantially increased quantities of oil, electricity, and transportation fuels over the next 20 years. Global competition for tightening supplies of oil and natural gas with emerging economies such as China and India will drive energy prices higher, and makes it apparent that the United States needs to capitalize upon its domestic energy resources. The United States must continue to diversify and expand the Nation’s access to natural gas supplies through continuing research and development efforts in technologies for tapping non-conventional natural gas supplies, such as methane hydrates.

Methane hydrates were discovered in the 1960s and consist of methane gas trapped in lattice-like ice. They are found largely in ocean bottom sediments lying below 450 meters and in permafrost. There are several published estimates of the total amount of methane stored in gas hydrates worldwide. These estimates vary. However, it is widely believed that there is more energy potentially stored in methane hydrates than in all other known fossil fuel reserves, combined. The National Commission on Energy Policy’s December 2000 report, Ending the Parent Stalemate—A Bipartisan Strategy To Meet America’s Energy Challenges, estimated that the United States could possess one quarter of the world’s supply of methane hydrates.

The United States will consume increasing volumes of natural gas well into the 21st century. United States natural gas consumption is expected to increase from approximately 22 trillion cubic feet in 2003 to more than 32 trillion cubic feet in 2020—a projected increase of 40 percent. Natural gas is expected to take on a greater role in power generation, largely because of the increasing demand for clean fuels and the relatively low capital costs of building new gas-fired power equipment. The National Commission on Energy Policy reported that the United States resource base may contain up to two hundred thousand trillion cubic feet of methane, offshore in the Alaskan permafrost, and offshore on much of the Nation’s deep continental shelf. If even one percent of the estimated domestic resource base proves commercially viable, it would roughly double the Nation’s technically recoverable natural gas reserves, according to the Department of Energy’s Office of Fossil Energy.

Given the growing demand for natural gas, the development of new, cost-effective supplies can play a major role in moderating price increases and ensuring consumer confidence in the long-term availability of reliable, affordable fuel. Today, the potential to extract commercially-relevant quantities of hydrates on a large scale is not yet viable. With no incentive to fund its own research and development, the private sector is not vigorously pursuing the research currently needed that could make methane hydrates technically and economically viable.

Therefore the federal government and private industry remains the best effort in which the United States can explore the viability of an energy resource whose long-range possibilities might one day dramatically change the world’s energy portfolio.

Uncertainties exist regarding the nature of these deposits and, in particular, how best to extract the enormous quantity of natural gas they contain in an economic and environmentally sensitive manner. However, some alternatives are worse. For example, transporting natural gas from foreign gas fields to the United States by shipping it in liquid form at negative 162 degrees Celsius is an expensive undertaking and one that is attractive to terrorists. Methane hydrates, on the other hand, can be found domestically, in Alaska and the Gulf of Mexico, and with our ally to the north, Canada. Hydrates are likely to provide commercially viable natural gas supplies by 2025. Their long-term potential to meet United States energy demands for natural gas is considerable.

The Methane Hydrate Research Act of 2000 mandates that the Department of Energy conduct the research, and emphasizing the need to promote education and training in the field of methane hydrate research and resource development. The bill also incorporates comments from the Department of Energy.

Mr. President, science and technology have and will continue to help us learn more about our world, and I believe, help us solve some of our toughest problems, not only domestically but globally. These are complex and significant problems relating to the impact of human activities on our environment, our heavy dependence on finite fossil fuels from sources that may not prove reliable, and limited energy supplies in the face of growing demands of expanding national economies that are increasingly intertwined in a global economic network. I believe the Federal Government must continue to foster the needed research and development in the field of methane hydrate research.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the Record.

The being no objection, the bill was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

SEC. 1. SHORT TITLE. This Act may be cited as the “Methane Hydrate Research and Development Reauthorization Act of 2000.”

SEC. 2. FINDINGS. (1) in order to promote energy independence and meet the increasing demand for energy, the United States will require a diversified portfolio of substantially increased quantities of electricity, natural gas, and transportation fuels;

(2) according to the report submitted to Congress by the National Research Council entitled “Charting the Future of Methane Hydrate Research in the United States”, the total United States resources of gas hydrates have been estimated to be on the order of 200,000 trillion cubic feet;

(3) according to the report of the National Commission on Energy Policy entitled “Ending the Energy Stalemate - A Bipartisan Strategy to Meet America’s Energy Challenges and Date the Dependence on the United States may be endowed with over 1/4 of the methane hydrate deposits in the world;
“(4) according to the Energy Information Administration, a shortfall in natural gas supply from conventional and unconventional sources is expected to occur in or about 2020; and

“(5) the National Academy of Science states that methane hydrate may have the potential to alleviate the projected shortfall in the natural gas supply.

SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.

‘‘In this Act:—

‘‘(1) CONTRACT.—The term ‘contract’ means a procurement contract within the meaning of section 6303 of title 31, United States Code.

‘‘(2) COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT.—The term ‘cooperative agreement’ means a cooperative agreement within the meaning of section 6305 of title 31, United States Code.

‘‘(3) DIRECTOR.—The term ‘Director’ means the Director of the National Science Foundation.

‘‘(4) GRANT.—The term ‘grant’ means a grant awarded under a grant agreement (within the meaning of section 6304 of title 31, United States Code).

‘‘(5) INDUSTRIAL ENTERPRISE.—The term ‘industrial enterprise’ means a private, non-governmental enterprise that has an expertise or interest related to methane hydrate research and development.

‘‘(6) INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION.—The term ‘institution of higher education’ means an institution of higher education (as defined in section 102 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1002)).

‘‘(7) SECRETARY.—The term ‘Secretary’ means the Secretary of Commerce, acting through the Assistant Secretary for Fossil Energy.

‘‘(8) SECRETARY OF COMMERCE.—The term ‘Secretary of Commerce’ means the Secretary of Commerce, acting through the Administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

‘‘(9) SECRETARY OF DEFENSE.—The term ‘Secretary of Defense’ means the Secretary of Defense, acting through the Secretary of the Navy.

‘‘(10) SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR.—The term ‘Secretary of the Interior’ means the Secretary of the Interior, acting through the Director of the United States Geological Survey and the Director of the Bureau of Land Management, and the Director of the Minerals Management Service.

SEC. 4. METHANE HYDRATE RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM.

‘‘(a) IN GENERAL.—

‘‘(1) COMMENCEMENT OF PROGRAM.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of the Methane Hydrate Research and Development Reauthorization Act of 2005, the Secretary, in consultation with the Secretary of Commerce, the Secretary of Defense, the Secretary of the Interior, and the Director, shall commence a program of methane hydrate research and development in accordance with this section.

‘‘(2) The Secretary, the Secretary of Commerce, the Secretary of Defense, the Secretary of the Interior, and the Director shall designate individuals to carry out this section.

‘‘(3) COORDINATION.—The individual designated by the Secretary shall coordinate all activities within the Department of Energy relating to methane hydrate research and development.

‘‘(4) MEETINGS.—The individuals designated under paragraph (2) shall meet not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of the Methane Hydrate Research and Development Reauthorization Act of 2005 and not less frequently than every 180 days thereafter.

‘‘(A) review the progress of the program under paragraph (1); and

‘‘(B) coordinate interagency research and partnership efforts in carrying out the program.

‘‘(b) GRANTS, CONTRACTS, COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS, INTERAGENCY FUNDS TRANSFER AGREEMENTS, AND FIELD WORK PROPOSALS.—

‘‘(1) ASSISTANCE AND COORDINATION.—In carrying out the program of methane hydrate research and development authorized by this section, the Secretary may award grants to, or enter into contracts or cooperative agreements with, institutions of higher education and industrial enterprises to—

‘‘(A) conduct basic and applied research to identify, explore, assess, and develop methane hydrate as a commercially viable source of energy; 

‘‘(B) identify methane hydrate resources through remote sensing; 

‘‘(C) acquire and reprocess seismic data suitable for characterizing methane hydrate accumulations; 

‘‘(D) assist in developing technologies required for efficient and environmentally sound development of methane hydrate resources; 

‘‘(E) promote education and training in methane hydrate resource research and development; 

‘‘(F) conduct basic and applied research to assess and mitigate the environmental impact of hydrate degassing (including both natural degassing and degassing associated with commercial development); 

‘‘(G) develop technologies to reduce the risks of drilling through methane hydrates; and 

‘‘(H) conduct exploratory drilling, well testing, and production testing operations on permafrost and non-permafrost gas hydrates in support of the activities authorized by this paragraph, including drilling of 1 or more full-scale test wells.

‘‘(2) COMPETITIVE PEER REVIEW.—Funds made available under paragraph (1) shall be made available based on a competitive process using external scientific peer review of proposed research.

‘‘(c) METHANE HYDRATES ADVISORY PANEL.—

‘‘(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall establish an advisory panel (including the hiring of appropriate staff) consisting of representatives of industrial enterprises, institutions of higher education, scientific institutions, State agencies, and environmental organizations with knowledge and expertise in the natural gas hydrates field, to—

‘‘(A) assist in developing recommendations and broad programmatic priorities for the methane hydrate research and development program set out under subsection (a)(1); 

‘‘(B) provide scientific oversight for the methane hydrates program, including assuring progress toward program goals, evaluating program balance, and providing recommendations to enhance the quality of the program over time; and 

‘‘(C) not later than 2 years after the date of the enactment of the Methane Hydrate Research and Development Reauthorization Act of 2005, and at such later dates as the panel considers advisable, submit to Congres—

‘‘(i) an assessment of the methane hydrate research program; and

‘‘(ii) an assessment of the 5-year research plan of the Methane Hydrates Program.

‘‘(2) CONFLICTS OF INTEREST.—In appointing each member of the advisory panel established under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall ensure, to the maximum extent practicable, that the appointment of the member does not pose a conflict of interest with respect to the duties of the member under this Act.

SEC. 5. NATIONAL RESEARCH COUNCIL STUDY.

‘‘(a) AGREEMENT FOR STUDY.—The Secretary shall offer to enter into an agreement with the National Research Council under which the National Research Council shall—

‘‘(1) conduct a study of the progress made under the methane hydrate research and development program implemented under this Act; and

‘‘(2) make recommendations for future methane hydrate research and development needs.

‘‘(b) REPORT.—Not later than September 30, 2009, the Secretary shall submit to Congress a report containing the findings and recommendations of the National Research Council under this section.

SEC. 6. REPORTS AND STUDIES FOR CONGRESS.

‘‘The Secretary shall provide to the Committee on Science of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate copies of any report or study that the Department of Energy prepares at the direction of any committee of Congress.

SEC. 7. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

‘‘There are authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary to carry out this Act, to remain available until expended—

‘‘(1) $15,000,000 for fiscal year 2006; 

‘‘(2) $20,000,000 for fiscal year 2007; 

‘‘(3) $30,000,000 for fiscal year 2008; 

‘‘(4) $50,000,000 for fiscal year 2009; and

‘‘(5) $50,000,000 for fiscal year 2010.

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I am proud to come to the floor today to introduce legislation of vital importance to our Nation. enactment of the Methane Hydrate Research and Development Reauthorization Act of 2005
will provide the authorizations necessary to unlock a potentially huge supply of domestic natural gas, enough to supply our Nation for generations.

However, before I introduce this legislation, I want to take this opportunity to recognize my good friend and colleague, Senator Akaka, for his dedication to helping address our Nation’s energy crisis through legislation that should dramatically increase our domestic supply of environmentally friendly, clean burning natural gas. Without Senator Akaka’s hard work and focus on this issue we would not be introducing this legislation today.

Mr. President, our Nation is facing an energy crisis. Oil and natural gas prices are at historic or near historic high levels. Oil prices are over $50 a barrel. Natural gas prices are over $7.00 a MMBtu. Indeed, United States natural gas prices have increased by almost 350 percent since 1998 and are currently the highest in the world. Despite this huge increase in cost, domestic natural gas production has declined by almost 5 percent and Canadian imports have declined by almost 25 percent from 2001 to 2004. Estimates are that during the next two decades United States natural gas consumers have paid nearly $200 billion more for natural gas than they paid in the preceding 5 years. These extraordinarily high natural gas prices are having a profound impact on every segment of our economy. Chairman Greenspan identified the current natural gas price and supply situation as a crisis that could have a devastating impact on the United States economy. In fact, estimates are that the natural gas crisis has significantly contributed to the loss of 2.5 million United States manufacturing jobs. Indeed, the ongoing “demand destruction” caused by current gas prices with its devastating impact on United States manufacturing will only continue unless we address the current natural gas supply shortage and high prices.

Today, the United States produces about 22 trillion cubic feet of natural gas each year. By 2025, the Energy Information Administration estimates that United States natural gas consumption will reach 31 trillion cubic feet. That’s an increase of more than 40 percent. Much of the new electric generation will come on line during the next two decades will require natural gas according to a study by the American Gas Foundation. Indeed, clean burning natural gas remains the premium fossil fuel for electric power generation.

The EIA estimates that by 2025 the United States will produce only 21.8 trillion cubic feet of natural gas meeting just 70 percent of the Nation’s expected demand. Thus, absent a new domestic supply of gas, the United States will have to import 30 percent of its natural gas supply. We have already done this path with our petroleum supplies. We have witnessed the unacceptable national security, balance of payments and general economic consequences of this level of reliance on foreign sources for our nation’s critical supply of oil. We must not repeat this reality with natural gas.

This is why I am proud to introduce the Methane Hydrate Research and Development Reauthorization Act of 2005. As stated in the findings section of the legislation, the National Research Council has estimated the total United States methane hydrate resource base to be on the order of 200,000 trillion cubic feet. Alaska alone is thought to have potential hydrate resources of 32,000 trillion cubic feet. Indeed, a report issued by the National Commission on Energy Policy states that the United States may be endowed with over one-fourth of the methane hydrate deposits in the world. This is an immense supply of secure, domestic energy that could supply our country for many, many years.

The Methane Hydrate Reauthorization Act of 2005 builds upon the success of the original Methane Hydrate Research and Development Act of 2000. The new act incorporates certain changes to the 2000 legislation suggested by the National Research Council of the National Academies and the Department of Energy. The 2000 act established an advisory panel to advise the Secretary of Energy on potential applications of methane hydrate and to assist in developing recommendations and priorities for methane hydrate research and development programs. The new act strengthens the role of the advisory panel to ensure that the research funds are put to their most effective use. The 2005 act also increases the use of a scientific peer review process in determining which projects will be funded. Further, the new legislation directs the funding of fellowships and graduate education and training programs and establishes a solid, scientific foundation of expertise in the United States on methane hydrates. Finally, the 2005 act authorizes increased funding for the methane hydrate program. The increased funding is critical in order to allow for the transition from a largely research oriented program to one that will foster the beginning of the commercialization of our Nation’s methane hydrate resources.

Again, I thank Senator Akaka and his staff for their hard work and commitment to this legislation that is so important to our nation’s future.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 95—RELATING TO THE DEATH OF THE HOLY FATHER, POPE JOHN PAUL II

Mr. FRIST (for himself, Mr. REID, Mr. MCCONNELL, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. SANTORUM, Ms. MUKILSKI, Mr. AKAKA, Mr. ALEXANDER, Mr. ALLARD, Mr. ALLEN, Mr. BAUCUS, Mr. BAYH, Mr. BENNETT, Mr. BIDEN, Mr. BINGMAN, Mr. BOND, Mrs. BOXER, Mr. BROWNBACK, Mr. BUNNING, Mr. BURR, Mr. BYRD, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. CARPER, Mr. CHAFEE, Mr. CHAMBLISS, Mrs. CLINTON, Mr. COBURN, Mr. COCHRAN, Mr. COLE, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. COZINE, Mr. CRAIG, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. DAYTON, Mr. DE MINT, Mr. DE WINE, Mr. DODD, Mrs. DOLE, Mr. DOMENICI, Mr. DORGAN, Mr. ENSIGN, Mr. ENZI, Mr. FEINGOLD, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. GREGG, Mr. HAGEL, Mr. HARKIN, Mr. HATCH, Mrs. HUTCHISON, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. INOUYE, Mr. ISAKSON, Mr. JEFF FORDS, Mr. JOHNSON, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. KERRY, Mr. KOHL, Mr. KYL, Ms. LANDRUEH, Mr. LAUTENBERG, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. LIEBERMAN, Mrs. LINCOLN, Mr. LOTT, Mr. LUGAR, Mr. MARTINEZ, Mr. MCCAiNS, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. NELSON of Florida, Mr. NELSON of Nebraska, Mr. OBAMA, Mr. PYOR, Mr. REED, Mr. ROBERTS, Mr. ROCKFELLER, Mr. SALAZAR, Mr. SANCHEZ, Mr. SARKIN, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. SHELBY, Mr. SMITH, Ms. SNOWE, Mr. SPECTER, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. STEVENS, Mr. SUNUNU, Mr. TALENT, Mr. THOMAS, Mr. THUNE, Mr. VITTER, Mr. VOINOVICH, Mr. WARNER, and Mr. WYDEN) submitted the following resolution which was considered and agreed to:

Whereas Pope John Paul II was one of the greatest spiritual leaders and moral teachers of the Modern Era; and

Whereas he set an extraordinary example of personal integrity and courage, not only for his fellow Catholics but for people of every religious and philosophical viewpoint; and

Whereas throughout the course of his pontificate he campaigned tirelessly for human rights and human dignity throughout the world; and

Whereas he practiced and inspired resistance to the great totalitarian systems and tyrannies that rose and, with his help, fell in the 20th Century; and

Whereas he fostered harmony between Catholics and Eastern Orthodox and Protestant Christians, reached out in friendship to Jews, Muslims and members of other faiths, and warmly promoted interfaith understanding and cooperation; and

Whereas he dedicated himself to the defense of the weakest and most vulnerable members of the human family; and

Whereas on his visits to our country he has called all Americans to be true and faithful to the great principles of liberty and justice inscribed in our Declaration of Independence and Constitution; and

Whereas his selfless service to God and man has been an inspiration to Americans and men and women of goodwill across the globe; therefore be it

Resolved, That the Senate of the United States joins the world in mourning his death, and pays tribute to him by pleading to be ever faithful to our national calling to be “one Nation, under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.” and to help our neighbors in immeasurable ways.
SENATE RESOLUTION 96—COMMEMORATING THE TENTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ATTACK ON THE ALFRED P. MURRAH FEDERAL BUILDING

Mr. INHOFE (for himself and Mr. COBURN) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

Whereas on April 19, 1995, at 9:02 a.m. Central Daylight Time, in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, the United States was attacked in one of the most cowardly attacks on United States soil, which killed 168 people and injured more than 850 others;

Whereas this dastardly act of domestic terrorism affected thousands of families and horrified millions of people across the State of Oklahoma and the United States;

Whereas the people of Oklahoma and the United States responded to this tragedy through the remarkable efforts of local, state, and federal law enforcement, firefighters, and emergency services, search and rescue teams from across the United States, public and private medical personnel, and thousands of volunteers from the community who came to the aid of the injured and wounded, comforted the bereaved, and provided meals and support to those who came to Oklahoma City to help those endangered and affected by this terrorist act;

Whereas the people of Oklahoma and the United States pledged themselves to build and maintain a permanent national memorial to the记忆 of those who were killed, those who survived, and those changed forever;

Whereas this pledge was fulfilled by creating the Oklahoma City National Memorial, which draws hundreds of thousands of visitors from around the world every year to the site of this tragic event in United States history;

Whereas the Oklahoma City National Memorial brings comfort, strength, peace, hope, and serenity to the many visitors who come to the memorial and its museum each year to remember and to learn;

Whereas the mission of the National Memorial Institute for the Prevention of Terrorism is to educate the nation’s emergency responders in preventing terrorist attacks, or mitigating their effects, should they be promoted; and

Whereas the tenth anniversary of the terrorist bombing of the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, is on April 19, 2005; therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate

(1) joins with the people of the United States in sending best wishes and prayers to the families, friends, and neighbors of the 168 people killed in the terrorist bombing of the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma;

(2) applauds Congress’ best wishes and thoughts to those injured in the bombing and its gratitude for their recovery;

(3) thanks the thousands of first responders, medical personnel, and volunteers from the Oklahoma City community and across the Nation who answered the call for help that April morning and in the days and weeks thereafter;

(4) resolves to work with the people of the United States to promote the goals and mission established by the Oklahoma City National Memorial on the tenth anniversary of that fateful day;

(5) supports the resolve for the future, written on the wall of the memorial, “We come together to remember those who were killed, those who survived, and those changed forever. May all who leave here know the impact of violence. May this memorial offer comfort, strength, peace, hope, and serenity.”;

(6) designates the week of April 17, 2005, as the National Week of Hope, commemorating the tenth anniversary of the Oklahoma City bombing;

(7) calls on the people of the United States to participate in a day of fast beginning scheduled for each day of that week to teach a lesson of hope in the midst of political violence and to teach that good endures in the world even among those who commit such acts and further to teach that there is a way to resolve differences other than resorting to terrorism or violence, including the

(A) Day of Prayer;

(B) Day of Understanding;

(C) Day of Remembrance;

(D) Day of Sharing;

(E) Day of Tolerance;

(F) Day of Caring; and

(G) Day of Inspiration;

(8) congratulates the people of Oklahoma City for making tremendous progress over the past decade and demonstrating their steadfast commitment to the ability of hope to triumph over violence;

(9) approves the people of Oklahoma City as they continue to persevere and to stand as a beacon to the rest of the Nation and the world attesting to the strength of goodness in overcoming evil wherever it arises in our midst; and

(10) directs the Secretary of the Senate to transmit an enrolled copy of this resolution to the Memorial Foundation, as an expression of appreciation.

Mr. INHOFE. Mr. President, I rise today along with my colleague, Tom Coburn, to introduce a resolution to commemorate the tenth anniversary of the attack on the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building. The attack occurred at 9:02 a.m. Central Daylight Time on April 19, 1995, in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. 168 Americans lost their lives while more than 850 others were injured. This dastardly act of domestic terrorism affected thousands of families across the State of Oklahoma and the United States. I thank the local, state and federal law enforcement, firefighters and emergency services and search and rescue teams across the United States, public and private medical personnel, and thousands of volunteers from the community who saved lives, assisted the injured, comforted the grieving, and provided meals and support to those who came to help the people of Oklahoma. I applaud the people of Oklahoma for making tremendous progress over the past decade and for demonstrating their steadfast commitment to the ability of hope to triumph over violence.

Mr. COBURN. Mr. President, I rise today along with my colleagues, Mr. Inhofe and Mr. Cornyn, to introduce this resolution on behalf of our colleagues to commemorate the tenth anniversary of the attack on the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building. The attack occurred at 9:02 a.m. Central Daylight Time on April 19, 1995, in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. 168 Americans lost their lives while more than 850 others were injured. This dastardly act of domestic terrorism affected thousands of families across the State of Oklahoma and the United States.

Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, I rise today along with my colleagues, Mr. Inhofe and Mr. Coburn, to introduce this resolution on behalf of our colleagues to commemorate the tenth anniversary of the attack on the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building.

Mr. BIDEN. Mr. President, I rise today along with my colleagues, Mr. Inhofe and Mr. Coburn, to introduce this resolution on behalf of our colleagues to commemorate the tenth anniversary of the attack on the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 266. Mr. LUGAR proposed an amendment to the bill S. 600, to authorize appropriations for the Department of State and international broadcasting activities for fiscal years 2006 and 2007, for foreign assistance programs for fiscal years 2006 and 2007, and for other purposes.

SA 267. Mr. MCCAIN (for himself, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. Kyl, Mr. CONCUMIE, Ms. COLLINS, and Mr. BURNS) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 600, supra.

SA 268. Mr. LUGAR proposed an amendment to the bill S. 600, supra.

SA 269. Mr. LUGAR proposed an amendment to the bill S. 600, supra.

SA 270. Mr. LUGAR proposed an amendment to the bill S. 600, supra.

SA 271. Mr. LUGAR proposed an amendment to the bill S. 600, supra.

SA 272. Mr. LUGAR proposed an amendment to the bill S. 600, supra.

SA 273. Mr. LUGAR proposed an amendment to the bill S. 600, supra.

SA 274. Mr. LUGAR proposed an amendment to the bill S. 600, supra.

SA 275. Mr. LUGAR proposed an amendment to the bill S. 600, supra.

SA 276. Mr. LUGAR proposed an amendment to the bill S. 600, supra.

SA 277. Mr. MCCAIN (for himself, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. Kyl, Mr. CONCUMIE, Ms. COLLINS, and Mr. BURNS) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 600, supra.

SA 278. Mrs. BOXER (for herself, Ms. SLEETE, Mrs. MURRAY, Mrs. CLINTON, Mr. JEFFORDS, Mr. ORRIN, Mr. MURRAY, and Ms. MUKULSKY) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 600, supra.

SA 279. Mr. LUGAR proposed an amendment to the bill S. 600, supra.

SA 280. Mr. LUGAR (for Mr. SCHUMER and for himself and Ms. CLINTON) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 600, supra.

SA 281. Mr. BAUCUS and Mr. HARKIN proposed an amendment to the bill S. 600, supra.

SA 282. Mr. CRAIG (for himself and Mr. ROBERTS) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 600, supra.

SA 283. Mr. DODD proposed an amendment to the bill S. 600, supra.

SA 284. Mr. DORGAN (for himself and Mr. WYDEN) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 600, supra.

SA 285. Mr. INOUYE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 600, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 286. Mr. BIDEN proposed an amendment to the bill S. 600, supra.

SA 287. Mr. ENSIGN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 600, supra.

SA 288. Mr. ENSIGN (for Mr. BIDEN) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 600, supra.

SA 289. Mr. OBAMA (for himself, Mr. INOUYE, and Mr. STEVENS) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 600, supra.

SA 290. Mr. MURRAY and Mr. BIDEN proposed an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 600, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 291. Mr. SESSIONS (for himself and Mr. BIDEN) proposed an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 600, supra.

SA 292. Mr. MURRAY (for Mr. BIDEN) proposed an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 600, supra.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 266. Mr. LUGAR proposed an amendment to the bill S. 600, to authorize appropriations for the Department of State and international broadcasting activities for fiscal years 2006 and 2007, for foreign assistance programs for fiscal years 2006 and 2007, and for other purposes.
On page 56, strike lines 3 through 11.

SA 267. Mr. MCCAIN (for himself, Mr. DEWINE, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. KYL, Mr. CORZINE, Ms. COLLINS, and Mr. BURNS) proposed an amendment to the S. 600, to authorize appropriations for the Department of State and international broadcasting activities for fiscal years 2006 and 2007, for the Peace Corps for fiscal years 2006 and 2007, for foreign assistance programs for fiscal years 2006 and 2007, and for other purposes; as follows:

On page 277, after line 8, add the following:

TITLE XXXI—TRADE TREATMENT OF UKRAINE

SEC. 3001. FINDINGS.

Congress finds that Ukraine has—

(1) made considerable progress toward respecting fundamental human rights consistent with the objectives of title IV of the Trade Act of 1974;

(2) adopted administrative procedures that accord its citizens the right to emigrate, travel freely, and to return to their country without restriction; and

(3) been found to be in full compliance with the freedom of emigration provisions in title IV of the Trade Act of 1974.

SEC. 3002. TERMINATION OF APPLICATION OF TITLE IV OF THE TRADE ACT OF 1974 TO UKRAINE.

(a) PRESIDENTIAL DETERMINATIONS AND EXTENSIONS OF NONDISCRIMINATORY TREATMENT.—Notwithstanding any provision of title IV of the Trade Act of 1974 (19 U.S.C. 2431 et seq.), the President may—

(1) determine that such title no longer apply to Ukraine; and

(2) after making a determination under paragraph (1) with respect to Ukraine, proclaim the extension of nondiscriminatory treatment (normal trade relations treatment) to the products of that country.

(b) TERMINATION OF APPLICATION OF TITLE IV.—On and after the effective date of the extension under subsection (a)(2) of nondiscriminatory treatment to the products of Ukraine, title IV of the Trade Act of 1974 shall cease to apply to that country.

SA 268. Mr. LUGAR proposed an amendment to the bill S. 600, to authorize appropriations for the Department of State and international broadcasting activities for fiscal years 2006 and 2007, for the Peace Corps for fiscal years 2006 and 2007, for foreign assistance programs for fiscal years 2006 and 2007, and for other purposes; as follows:

On page 59, strike lines 16 through 25 and insert the following:

“(a) AUTHORITY.—Grants authorized under section 365 shall be available to make annual grants to Middle East Broadcasting Networks for the purpose of carrying out radio and television broadcasting.

(b) FUNCTION.—Middle East Broadcasting Networks shall provide radio and television programming consistent with the broadcasting standards and broadcasting principles set forth in section 303.

SA 269. Mr. LUGAR proposed an amendment to the bill S. 600, to authorize appropriations for the Department of State and international broadcasting activities for fiscal years 2006 and 2007, for the Peace Corps for fiscal years 2006 and 2007, for foreign assistance programs for fiscal years 2006 and 2007, and for other purposes; as follows:

On page 60, between lines 20 and 21, insert the following:

“(C) not more than 5 officers or employees of the Middle East Broadcasting Networks may be reimbursed for compensation at such rate authorized for Level II of the Executive Schedule provided in section 5313 of title 5, United States Code, and such compensation shall be subject to the provisions of section 5307 of such title.

SA 270. Mr. LUGAR proposed an amendment to the bill S. 600, to authorize appropriations for the Department of State and international broadcasting activities for fiscal years 2006 and 2007, for the Peace Corps for fiscal years 2006 and 2007, for foreign assistance programs for fiscal years 2006 and 2007, and for other purposes; as follows:

On page 64, strike lines 3 through 6, and insert the following:

(4) CREDITABLE SERVICE.—(A) IN GENERAL.—Section 8332(b)(11) of title 5, United States Code, is amended by inserting “Middle East Broadcasting Networks,” after “Asia Foundation.”

(B) ORIGIN.—With regard to creditable service with the Middle East Broadcasting Networks, the Broadcasting Board of Governors shall—

(i) pay into the Civil Service Retirement and Disability Fund an amount determined by the Director of the Office of Personnel Management to be necessary to reimburse such Fund for any estimated increase in the unfunded liability of such Fund that results from the amendment made by subparagraph (4), computed using dynamic assumptions; and

(ii) pay the amount required by clause (i) in 5 equal annual installments, together with interest on such amount computed at the rate used in the computation required by such clause.

SA 271. Mr. LUGAR proposed an amendment to the bill S. 600, to authorize appropriations for the Department of State and international broadcasting activities for fiscal years 2006 and 2007, for the Peace Corps for fiscal years 2006 and 2007, for foreign assistance programs for fiscal years 2006 and 2007, and for other purposes; as follows:

On page 110, between lines 4 and 5, insert the following:

SEC. 812. UNITED STATES ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON MIDDLE EASTERN DIPLOMACY.


SA 272. Mr. LUGAR proposed an amendment to the bill S. 600, to authorize appropriations for the Department of State and international broadcasting activities for fiscal years 2006 and 2007, for the Peace Corps for fiscal years 2006 and 2007, for foreign assistance programs for fiscal years 2006 and 2007, and for other purposes; as follows:

On page 47, line 13, strike “and”;

On page 47, line 15, strike the period at the end and insert as semicolon and “and”.

On page 47, between lines 15 and 16, insert the following:

(3) by striking “or allowances” and inserting “allowances, or annuities.”

SA 273. Mr. LUGAR proposed an amendment to the bill S. 600, to authorize appropriations for the Department of State and international broadcasting activities for fiscal years 2006 and 2007, for the Peace Corps for fiscal years 2006 and 2007, for foreign assistance programs for fiscal years 2006 and 2007, and for other purposes; as follows:
2006 and 2007, and for other purposes; as follows:

On page 74, between lines 2 and 3, insert the following new section:

**SEC. 601. PASSPORT FEES.**

Section 3121 of the Act of June 4, 1920 (22 U.S.C. 214) is amended in the third sentence by striking “or from a widow, widower, child, parent, brother, or sister of a deceased member of the Armed Forces proceeding abroad to visit the grave of such member” and inserting “or from a widow, widower, child, parent, grandparent, brother, or sister of a deceased member of the Armed Forces proceeding abroad to visit the grave of such member or to attend a funeral or memorial service for such member”.

**SA 278. Mrs. BOXER (for herself, Ms. SNOEWE, Mrs. MURRAY, Mrs. CLINTON, Mr. JEFFORDS, Mr. CORZINE, and Ms. MIKULSKY) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 600, to authorize appropriations for the Department of State and international broadcasting activities for fiscal years 2006 and 2007, for the Peace Corps for fiscal years 2006 and 2007, for foreign assistance programs for fiscal years 2006 and 2007, and for other purposes; as follows:**

On page 172, after line 23, insert the following:

**SEC. 2227. GLOBAL DEMOCRACY PROMOTION.**

Notwithstanding any other provision of law, regulation, or policy, in determining eligibility for assistance authorized under part I of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2151 et seq.), foreign nongovernmental organizations:

(1) shall not be ineligible for such assistance solely on the basis of health or medical services including counseling and referral services, provided by such organizations with non-U.S. government funds if such services do not violate the laws of the country in which they are being provided and would not violate United States Federal law if provided in the United States; and

(2) shall not be subject to requirements relating to the use of non-United States Government funds for advocacy and lobbying activities or to any United States nongovernmental organizations receiving assistance under part I of such Act.

**SA 279. Mr. LUGAR proposed an amendment to the bill S. 600, to authorize appropriations for the Department of State and international broadcasting activities for fiscal years 2006 and 2007, for the Peace Corps for fiscal years 2006 and 2007, for foreign assistance programs for fiscal years 2006 and 2007, and for other purposes; as follows:**

On page 24, strike lines 1 through 5.

**SA 280. Mr. LUGAR (for Mr. SCHUMER (for himself and Mrs. CLINTON)) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 600, to authorize appropriations for the Department of State and international broadcasting activities for fiscal years 2006 and 2007, for the Peace Corps for fiscal years 2006 and 2007, for foreign assistance programs for fiscal years 2006 and 2007, and for other purposes; as follows:**

(Purpose: To impose an economic sanction on foreign countries that owe parking fines and penalties or unpaid property taxes to Washington, D.C. or New York City.)

At the appropriate place, insert the following new section:

**SEC. 281. Mr. BAUCUS (for himself and Mr. HARKIN) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 600, to authorize appropriations for the Department of State and international broadcasting activities for fiscal years 2006 and 2007, for the Peace Corps for fiscal years 2006 and 2007, for foreign assistance programs for fiscal years 2006 and 2007, and for other purposes; as follows:**

On page 277, after line 8, add the following:

**SEC. 2901. SHORT TITLE.**

This title may be cited as the “Agricultural Export Facilitation Act of 2005.”

**SUBTITLE I. FINDINGS AND PURPOSE.**

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

(1) The export sector of United States agriculture creates an estimated contribution to this country’s trade balance.

(2) The total value of United States exports of agricultural products shipped to Cuba under this Act in 2003 was almost $2 million. The Department of Commerce reports that Congress is authorized by a continuing resolution to approve sales of approximately $14,000,000 in food and agricultural products. In 2002, Cuba purchased approximately $138,000,000 in food and agricultural products.

(3) To be competitive in sales to Cuban purchasers, United States exporters of agricultural products and their representatives, including representatives of United States air or sea carriers, ports and shippers, must have ready and reliable access to Cuba. Such access is currently uncertain because, under existing regulations, United States exporters and their representatives must apply for and receive special Treasury Department licenses to engage in sales-related activities. The issuance of such licenses is subject to both administrative delays and periodic denials.

(b) PURPOSE.—Congress finds that the purpose of this title is to:

(1) increase the volume and diversification of agricultural exports to Cuba; and

(2) improve the ease of doing business with Cuba.

(c) SALARIES.—Conversely, under existing regulations, United States exporters and their representatives must apply for and receive special Treasury Department licenses to engage in sales-related activities.

(d) IMPLEMENTATION.—The Secretary of State, acting through the appropriate officials of the Department of the Treasury and the Commerce Department, shall implement this Act to the extent that is consistent with the trade policies of the United States and the foreign policies of the United States.

**SEC. 2902. IMPLEMENTATION.**

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of State shall provide, consistent with the trade policies of the United States and the foreign policies of the United States, for the implementation of this title.

(b) DUTIES.—The Secretary of State shall, in consultation with the Treasury Department and the Commerce Department, coordinate the implementation of this title, as determined by the Secretary of State.

(c) GUIDELINES.—The Secretary of State shall develop and issue guidelines for the implementation of this title, as determined by the Secretary of State.

(d) AUTHORITY.—The Secretary of State may, at any time, adjust the guidelines issued under this section, as determined by the Secretary of State.

(e) REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of State shall submit a report to the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate and the Committee on International Relations of the House of Representatives with respect to the implementation of this title.
Cuba. Indeed, late last year payments due United States exporters from purchasers in Cuba were frozen in United States banks while the terms of those payments were reviewed. This action in legislative history has created a climate of commercial uncertainty that has inhibited agricultural sales under the Trade Sanctions Reform and Export Enhancement Act of 2000 to Cuba.

(6) There is nothing in either the Trade Sanctions Reform and Export Enhancement Act or the legislative history to support the view that Congress intended payment to be made in advance of the shipment of goods to Cuba. Indeed, the United States makes it clear that is the intent of Congress that a seller of a product authorized under the Trade Sanctions Reform and Export Enhancement Act of 2000 route their payments through third country banks that charge a fee for this service. Allowing direct payments between Cuban and United States financial institutions will permit the United States exporters to receive payment directly to their financial institutions in Cuba, instead of days and will eliminate an unnecessary transactional fee, thereby allowing Cuban purchasers to purchase more United States origin agricultural products.

(7) Trademarks and trade names are vital assets of the United States companies that export branded food products, including those who sell in the future the same branded products to Cuba under the Trade Sanctions Reform and Export Enhancement Act of 2000. Hundreds of United States companies have registered their trademarks in Cuba in order to ensure the exclusive right to use those trademarks when the United States trade embargo on that country is lifted. Moreover, following the enactment of the Trade Sanctions Reform and Export Enhancement Act of 2000, many United States companies are today exporting branded food products to Cuba with the intention of establishing their brands with Cuban purchasers in order to benefit from current sales under the Trade Sanctions Reform and Export Enhancement Act of 2000, as well as position themselves for the larger post-embargo market for United States goods in Cuba.

(8) Trademarks and trade names are vital assets of the United States companies that export branded food products, including those who sell in the future the same branded products to Cuba under the Trade Sanctions Reform and Export Enhancement Act of 2000. Hundreds of United States companies have registered their trademarks in Cuba in order to ensure the exclusive right to use those trademarks when the United States trade embargo on that country is lifted. Moreover, following the enactment of the Trade Sanctions Reform and Export Enhancement Act of 2000, many United States companies are today exporting branded food products to Cuba with the intention of establishing their brands with Cuban purchasers in order to benefit from current sales under the Trade Sanctions Reform and Export Enhancement Act of 2000, as well as position themselves for the larger post-embargo market for United States goods in Cuba.

The Secretary of the Department of Commerce shall promulgate such regulations as are necessary to carry out the provisions of this subsection.

SEC. 2904. SENSE OF CONGRESS THAT VISAS SHOULD BE ISSUED.

(a) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that the Secretary of State should issue visas for temporary entry into the United States of Cuban nationals whose itineraries documents an intent to conduct agricultural business in the United States. Such visas shall be issued without regard to any such itineraries documents an intent to conduct agricultural business in the United States. Such visas shall be issued without regard to any antiterrorism inspection to purchasing United States agricultural goods under the provisions of the Trade Sanctions Reform and Export Enhancement Act of 2000.

(b) PERIODIC Reports.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 45 days after the date of enactment of this Act and every 6 months thereafter, the Secretary of State shall submit to the Committee on Finance, Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry, and Foreign Relations of the Senate and the Committees on Agriculture, Ways and Means, and International Relations of the House of Representatives a report on the implementation of this Act.

(2) CONTENT OF REPORTS.—Each report shall contain a full description of each application received from a Cuban national to travel to the United States to engage in purchasing activities pursuant to the Trade Sanctions Reform and Export Enhancement Act of 2000 and shall describe the disposition of each application.

SEC. 2905. CLARIFICATION OF PAYMENT TERMS UNDER TRADE SANCTIONS REFORM AND EXPORT ENHANCEMENT ACT OF 2000.

Section 908(b)(1) of the Trade Sanctions Reform and Export Enhancement Act of 2000 (22 U.S.C. 7207(b)(1)) is amended by inserting after subparagraph (B) the following:

“(C) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the term ‘payment of cash in advance’ means the payment by the purchaser of an agricultural commodity or product and the receipt of such payment by the seller prior to travel to Cuba of title of such commodity or product to the purchaser; and

“(ii) the release of control of such commodity or product to the purchaser.”

SEC. 2906. AUTHORIZATION OF DIRECT TRANSFERS BETWEEN CUBAN AND UNITED STATES FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS.

Notwithstanding any other provisions of law, the President may authorize direct transfers from a Cuban financial institution to a United States financial institution executed in payment for a product authorized for sale under the Trade Sanctions Reform and Export Enhancement Act of 2000.

SEC. 2907. ADHERENCE TO INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENTS FOR THE MUTUAL PROTECTION OF INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY, INCLUDING REPEAL OF SECTION 211.

(a) REPEAL OF PROHIBITION ON ENFORCEMENT OF RIGHTS TO CERTAIN UNITED STATES INTELLIGENT PROPERTY AND TRANSFER OF SUCH PROPERTIES.—

(1) REPEAL.—Section 211 of the Department of Commerce and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 1999 (section 101(b) of division A of Public Law 105–277; 112 Stat. 2688–2698) is repealed.

(2) REGULATIONS.—The Secretary of the Treasury shall promulgate regulations necessary to carry out the repeal made by paragraph (1), including removing any prohibition on transactions or receipts to which subsection (a)(1) of section 211 of the Department of Commerce and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 1999 applied.

(3) FURTHER REGULATIONS.—The Secretary of the Treasury shall amend the Cuban Asset Control Regulations (part 515 of title 31, Code of Federal Regulations) to authorize under general license the transfer or receipt of any trademark or trade name in which a designated national has an interest.

SEC. 2906. AUTHORIZATION OF DIRECT TRANSFERS BETWEEN CUBAN AND UNITED STATES FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS.

Notwithstanding any other provisions of law, the President may authorize direct transfers from a Cuban financial institution to a United States financial institution executed in payment for a product authorized for sale under the Trade Sanctions Reform and Export Enhancement Act of 2000.

SA 282. Mr. CRAIG (for himself and Mr. ROBERTS) proposed an amendment to amendment SA 281 proposed by Mr. BAUCUS (for himself and Mr. HARKIN) to the bill S. 660, to authorize appropriations for the Department of State and international broadcasting activities for fiscal years 2006 and 2007, for the Peace Corps for fiscal years 2006 and
2007, for foreign assistance programs for fiscal years 2006 and 2007, and for other purposes; as follows:

In the matter proposed to be added, strike section 2905 and insert the following:


(a) In General.—Section 908(b)(1) of the Sanctions Reform and Export Enhancement Act of 2000 (22 U.S.C. 7207(b)(1)) is amended by inserting after subparagraph (B) the following:

“(b) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the term ‘payment of cash in advance’ means the payment by the purchaser of an agricultural commodity or product and the receipt of such payment by the seller prior to—

“(i) the transfer of title of such commodity or product to the purchaser; and

“(ii) the release of control of such commodity or product to the purchaser.”.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by this section shall take effect on February 22, 2005.

SA 283. Mr. DODD proposed an amendment to the bill S. 600, to authorize appropriations for the Department of State and international broadcasting activities for fiscal years 2006 and 2007, for the Peace Corps for fiscal years 2006 and 2007, for foreign assistance programs for fiscal years 2006 and 2007, and for other purposes; as follows:

At the appropriate place in the bill add the following new section:

SEC. 283a. (a) During most of last four years relations between the United States and the People’s Republic of China have been relatively stable;

(b) The recently released 2004 State Department Country Report on Human Rights continues to characterize China’s human rights as poor;

(c) Bilateral economic and trade relations are important components of the US/Chinese relationship;

(d) China’s growing international economic and political influence has implications for the United States competitive position and for maintaining a strong domestic industrial base;

(e) Taiwan remains an extremely sensitive and complex bilateral issue between the US and the People’s Republic of China;

(f) The US decision to establish diplomatic relations with the People’s Republic of China in 1979 was based upon the premise that the future of Taiwan would be determined solely by peaceful means and in a manner that was mutually satisfactory;

(g) Taiwan’s relations Act makes clear that peace and stability in the region are in the political, security and economic interests of the United States;

(h) The United States has consistently urged restraint by both China and Taiwan with respect to their actions and declarations; and

(i) The anti-succession law adopted by the Chinese National People’s Congress on March 14, 2005 targeted at Taiwan’s independence advocates was a provocative action which has altered the status quo in the region.

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

1. China’s anti-succession law is destabilizing to regional peace and stability, and is therefore of grave concern to the United States;

2. The United States Government should employ all diplomatic means to encourage the repeal of that law so the regional stability can be restored;

3. The United States Government should continue to speak out with respect to China’s human rights record and the release from detention of all political and human rights activists;

4. The United States Government should more effectively promote United States economic and trade interests by insisting that the People’s Republic of China live up to its international trade obligations to respect and safeguard US intellectual property rights and cease artificially pegging its currency exchange rates;

5. The United States Government should undertake a comprehensive review of the implications of China’s growing international economic and political influence that are by-products of the existing network of trade agreements, its aggressive shipbuilding programs, its efforts to cement scientific and technological cooperation arrangements, and secure additional oil and gas contracts; and

6. The United States Government should determine what steps should be taken to safeguard the United States industrial base and maintain and enhance U.S. economic competitiveness and political interests.

SA 284. Mr. DORGAN (for himself and Mr. WYDEN) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 600, to authorize appropriations for the Department of State and international broadcasting activities for fiscal years 2006 and 2007, for the Peace Corps for fiscal years 2006 and 2007, for foreign assistance programs for fiscal years 2006 and 2007, and for other purposes; as follows:

On page 16, strike lines 13 through 21 and insert the following:

(1) INTERNATIONAL BROADCASTING OPERATIONS.—For “International Broadcasting Operations,” $260,050,000 for the fiscal year 2006 and such sums as may be necessary for the fiscal year 2007.

(2) BROADCASTING CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS.—For “Broadcasting Capital Improvements,” $10,893,000 for the fiscal year 2006 and such sums as may be necessary for the fiscal year 2007.

(3) PROHIBITION ON TELEVISION BROADCASTING TO CUBA.—None of the amounts appropriated pursuant to the authorization of appropriations in paragraph (1) or (2) may be withheld for any United Nations program without identifying an offsetting decrease elsewhere in the United Nations budget during that calendar year and that for such calendar years the United Nations will not exceed the spending limits of the initial 2004–2005 United Nations biennium budget adopted in December, 2003.

SA 285. Mr. INOUYE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 600, to authorize appropriations for the Department of State and international broadcasting activities for fiscal years 2006 and 2007, for the Peace Corps for fiscal years 2006 and 2007, for foreign assistance programs for fiscal years 2006 and 2007, and for other purposes; as follows:

On page 59, between lines 4 and 5, insert the following new paragraph:

SEC. 405. UNITED NATIONS OFFICE OF THE INSPECTOR GENERAL.

(a) WITHHOLDING OF PORTION OF CERTAIN AUTHORIZATION.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, 27.1 percent of the funds made available in each fiscal year under section 102(a) for the assessed contributions of the United Nations shall be withheld from obligation and expenditure until a certification is made under subsection (b).

(b) CERTIFICATION.—A certificate under this subsection is a certification by the Secretary in the fiscal year concerned that the following conditions are satisfied:

(1) ACTIONS BY THE UNITED NATIONS.—

(A) The United Nations has met the requirements of paragraphs (1) through (6) of section 401(b) of the Foreign Relations Authorization Act, Fiscal Years 1994 and 1995 (P.L. 103-236).

(B) The Office of Internal Oversight Services has fulfilled the directive in General Assembly Resolution 48-218B to make all of its reports available to the General Assembly, with modifications to those reports that would violate confidentiality or the due process rights of individuals involved in any investigation.

(C) The Office of Internal Oversight Services has an independent budget that does not
require the approval of the United Nations Budget Office.

(D) The length of the fixed, non-renewable term of the Under-Secretary-General of the Office of Internal Oversight Services is seven years.

(2) ACTIONS BY THE OIOS.—The Office of Internal Oversight Service has authority to audit, investigate each program, project, or activity funded by the United Nations, and each executive board created under the United Nations has been notified of this authority.

SA 289. Mr. OBAMA (for himself, Mr. INOUYE, and Mr. SENSENIG) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 600, to authorize appropriations for the Department of State and international broadcasting activities for fiscal years 2006 and 2007, for the Peace Corps for fiscal years 2006 and 2007, for foreign assistance programs for fiscal years 2006 and 2007, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

SEC. 227. ASSISTANCE TO THE PHILIPPINES.

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

(1) On May 19, 2003, President George W. Bush and President of the Philippines Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo issued a joint statement that stated that "[t]he Presidents agreed that relations are deeper and warmer today than at any time in recent history and noted that those ties are rooted in shared history, shared values, and a common interest in global peace and prosperity. President Bush and President Macapagal-Arroyo paid tribute to a revitalized and maturing bilateral partnership further in the years ahead."

(2) According to the Department of State, "[t]he U.S. has important security, commercial and political interests in the Philippines, a treaty ally that straddles important air and sea lanes... In recognition of the critical nature of Philippine support to the Global War on Terrorism, President Bush designated the Philippines as a major Non-NATO ally.

(3) On February 16, 2005, the Director of Central Intelligence stated: "In the Philippines, Manila is struggling with prolonged Islamic and Communist revolutions. The presence of terrorist and subversive elements, safe havens in the country, and training bases adds volatility and capability to terrorist groups already in place.

(4) According to the United States Agency for International Development, "[c]orruption and conflict continue to impede the Philippines’ economic and social development. Forty-six percent of the country’s population lives on $2 per day or less... The Philippines continues to suffer some of the worst effects of underdevelopment: a 2.36 percent rate of population growth; destructive exploitation of natural resources; and vulnerability to political instability. Nevertheless, the Philippines has maintained its democratic institutions and its market-based economic system, as well as its historic ties with the United States."

(5) Despite the importance of the bilateral relationship between the United States and the Philippines, the Philippines, a treaty ally, "[t]he alien has not and will not receive any funds or other support to visit the United States;"

Mr. LUGAR. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Finance be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on April 5, 2005, at 2:30 p.m., in open session to receive testimony on active component, reserve component, and civilian personnel programs, in review of the defense authorization request for fiscal year 2005.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.
and Pensions, Subcommittee on Education and Early Childhood Development, be authorized to hold a hearing during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, April 5, 2005 at 9:30 a.m. in SD-450.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON INDIAN AFFAIRS

Mr. LUGAR. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Indian Affairs be authorized to meet on Tuesday, April 5, 2005, at 9:30 a.m. in room 362 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building to conduct a hearing on S. 113, a bill to modify the transportation/Merchant Marine be authorized to meet to conduct a hearing on Tuesday, April 5, 2005 at 10 a.m. for a hearing entitled, "Oversight of the Medicare Prescription Drug Benefit.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

Mr. LUGAR. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on the Judiciary be authorized to meet and conduct a hearing on Tuesday, April 5, 2005, at 9:30 a.m. on "Oversight of the USA PATRIOT Act." The hearing will take place in the Hart Senate Office Building room 216.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Witness List

Albuquerque, New Mexico, Department of Justice, Washington, DC, and Robert S. Mueller III, Director, Federal Bureau of Investigation, Department of Justice, Washington, DC.

SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE

Mr. LUGAR. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Select Committee on Intelligence be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on April 5, 2005 at 2:30 p.m. to hold a closed hearing.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

AUTHORITY TO APPOINT A COMMITTEE

Mr. KYL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the President of the Senate be authorized to appoint a committee on the part of the Senate to join with a like committee on the part of the House of Representatives to escort His Excellency Viktor Yushchenko, President of Ukraine, into the House Chamber for the joint meeting tomorrow.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

ORDERS FOR WEDNESDAY, APRIL 6, 2005

Mr. KYL. Mr. President, on behalf of the leader, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, the Senate stand in adjournment until 9:30 a.m. on Wednesday, April 6. I further ask 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 resume consideration of calendar No. 48, S. 600, the State Department authorization bill, provided that the time until 10 a.m. be equally divided between the chairman and ranking member, provided further that at 10 a.m. the Senate proceed to the vote in relation to Biden amendment No. 286 as provided under the previous order.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. LUGAR. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Subcommittee on Surface Transportation be authorized to meet to conduct a hearing on Tuesday, April 5, 2005 at 10 a.m. on Highways, Motor Carrier, and Hazardous Materials Transportation Safety, and Transportation of Household Goods in SR-253.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR

Mr. BURNS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the privilege of the floor be granted to Rexon Ryu, a detaillee with Senator Hagel's office, during consideration of S. 600, the State Department authorization bill.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. LUGAR. I ask unanimous consent that Jennifer Gergen and Joseph Bowab, two details from the State Department who are serving with the Foreign Relations Committee staff, receive floor privileges during consideration of S. 600.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Order for Adjournment

Mr. KYL. Mr. President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate stand in adjournment following the scheduled debate with respect to Social Security.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SOCIAL SECURITY

Mr. KYL. Mr. President, let me make a couple of comments and then I will yield to Senator DORGAN a couple of minutes as respective chairman of the policy committees of both parties to describe what is going to happen briefly. Sometimes, people watching C-SPAN will see a lone Senator giving a speech on the floor of the Senate and that passes for debate, and they ask, Where is the debate? Where is the joiner of the issues with one side asking the other a question and one side responding to the other’s questions? As a result of the fact that we don’t have enough of that real debate in the Senate, what Senator Dorgan and I and our respective parties have agreed to is to conduct real debate, such as high school or college debates that many are familiar with, where there is a set time—in this case, 70 minutes—and each of four speakers, two on the Republican side and two on the Democratic side, have a few minutes, in this case 6 minutes, to make a presentation. Then when those presentations are over, each will ask the other questions. They will take a minute to ask the question with 2 minutes to respond; then, when the questions are over, there will be a brief summing up period.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

PROGRAM
of time. That can allow the positions of the parties to be articulated well and yet permit an exchange of rebuttal and surrebuttal, which actually enables the parties to question each other, to challenge each other's premises and then to respond; in effect, conduct a real debate. The exact time limits are known to the parties.

At this time, I ask unanimous consent, without reading the agreement which has been agreed to by both parties respecting the relative time and order of presentation, that the agreement be deemed read and agreed to, and that it be deemed self-executing in the event that either Senator DORGAN or I should not be on the floor for purposes of yielding time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. KYL. Mr. President, for the next 70 minutes, as soon as Senator DORGAN is done with his preliminary comments, we will conduct this debate. This is Senator's topic. I invite those who are watching C-SPAN, as well as our colleagues, to tune in here because this may be one of the few real debates that we have until this subject actually is taken up on the floor of the Senate.

Finally, the subjects are chosen by mutual agreement, and we hope to have more of these debates this year and the following year, conducted roughly in this same kind of format so we can engage on other subjects as well.

I yield to the Senator from North Dakota.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from North Dakota.

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, I thank the Senator. We are the chairmen of our respective policy committees, Republican and Democratic parties. We have on previous occasions decided to arrange some debates on the floor of the Senate about some significant issues. I participated in previous debates. For this evening, however, the debate will occur between Senator DURBIN and Senator STABENOW on the Democratic side, Senator DeMINT and Senator SANTORUM on the Republican side. This debate is about Social Security, the larger issue, and also the merits of private accounts in Social Security.

I assume this will be a spirited discussion because it is a discussion that has been moving around the country at a very significant pace in recent weeks. It was said once that when everyone in the room is thinking the same thing, no one is thinking very much. I happen to think that strengthens democracy of ours.

I recall several years ago I picked up the Washington Post and there was a big debate going on about something very controversial, and someone was quoted in the Washington Post. They said, This whole thing has degenerated into a debate about principles. I read that, and I guess that is why I came here. I hope so. I hope that is what debate is about.

Tonight, we will one more time begin a discussion and a debate, in this case on a subject that is very important in this country. I thank the two Republican and two Democrats, distinguished colleagues, who have agreed to participate in this debate. As my colleague Senator KYL indicated, this debate will be self-executing. The rules are known to all participants.

With that, let me turn this debate period over to the participants who have agreed to begin.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader or his designee is now recognized for 6 minutes.

Mr. SANTORUM. Thank you, Mr. President. I thank both chairmen for structuring this debate.

I am here to talk about the problems confronting the Social Security system. Then my colleague Senator DeMINT will talk about the details we are putting forth, many of us on the side of the aisle are putting forward.

The problem with Social Security is it is driven by demographics. Social Security is a pay-as-you-go system. Money is taken from people working and put into the system for those who are retired. The system worked well when you had a lot of people working and only a few people retiring. But that has fundamentally changed over the years. As a result of that change, what you see in the red line is a dramatic increase in taxes—from 2 percent, which is what the tax was on Social Security in 1936, now up to 12.4 percent. It was 2 percent on the first $3,000 you made. That is the green bar. Now it is up to 12.4 percent of the first $90,000 you make. If you are working in the system now, that is when you start, high based; in other words, almost every dollar more people make is going to be taxed at a very high rate.

This is a big tax burden on future generations of America as we stand today. But this tax right now doesn't pay for the benefits that are going to be provided for future generations.

Why? Demographics are changing.

The first thing to happen is the fact that we are not having as many children. There are some exceptions to that. But we are not having as many children as we had in previous years. If you look back over the last 40 years, from 2 percent, which is what the tax was on Social Security in 1936, now up to 12.4 percent. It was 2 percent on the first $3,000 you made. That is the green bar. Now it is up to 12.4 percent of the first $90,000 you make. If you are working in the system now, that is when you start, high based; in other words, almost every dollar more people make is going to be taxed at a very high rate.

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now, put it into personal accounts. If we don’t do that, we will have a cashflow problem in our ability to pay benefits. We cannot pay benefits with IOUs. The President showed that today in Parkersburg, WV. You have to pay benefits with cash. That is the cash deficits we will be running in the Social Security Program alone: $63 billion in 10 years, $250 billion cashflow. What does that mean? Someone will have to pay more in taxes in 10 or 15 years, someone will get less benefits, or we will be bankrupt in the short current benefits—not doing anything about saving money, not doing anything about having a better benefit, just to pay the current benefits being promised and that we cannot deliver on.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate’s time is expired.

The Senator from Illinois.

Mr. DURBIN. I thank my colleagues. Some things happen by accident in the Senate. They slip into something which perilously resembles debate. This may be one of those moments.

For those who are following it, welcome to the Senate as I hoped it would be. I congratulate my colleagues on the Republican side, my colleagues Senator STABENOW for engaging in this debate.

The first question the American people ought to ask is a very basic question: Congress, if you did nothing, if you gave no advice, what would the Social Security law, how long would the Social Security system make payments to every retiree with a cost-of-living adjustment every single year? To listen to my colleague from Pennsylvania, it sounds as though doomsday for Social Security is right around the corner. But the professionals tell us it is 35 to 45 years away; 35 to 45 years if we do nothing.

President Bush and Senator SANTORIUM and others have said, but what about beyond that date? That is a legitimate challenge to all of us. When I came to Congress in 1983, I faced that challenge on a bipartisan basis. We met that challenge. We extended the life of Social Security for 59 years with common sense changes. That is what we should do again.

Yet the President comes to us and proposes privatization. Now I have said it. I said the word which drives the Republican side. They say, is it privatization? It is as Senator Bumpers said, they hate privatization like the devil hates holy water. But the fact is when the Cato Institute dreamed up this scheme, that is exactly what they called it.

So now the Republicans have a softer side of privatization; they call it personal accounts. But it comes down to the same thing. If you are going to take money out of the Social Security trust fund to invest it in the stock market, which is a fine obvious question you have to ask is, does this strengthen Social Security? The President has already answered that question: It doesn’t. It weakens Social Security. It means the Social Security trust fund will run out of money sooner. That is obvious. You are taking money out of the trust fund.

What else does it do? It forces you to cut benefits for future retirees. There is less money in the trust fund. You cannot pay out as much in a pay-as-you-go system. That is fairly obvious.

How would they achieve that? The White House memo that was released said they would move to this new price index. Wage index to price index does not mean much to the average person until you sit down and ask, what does that mean in realistic terms? So we ask, what does that mean for today’s retirees? What if we had dealt with a price index instead of a wage index?

The yellow line on the chart suggests current law; the red line price indexing. What it tells us is 20 or 30 years from now, under the President’s approach, we are at a 40 percent cut in benefits paid to Social Security, forcing millions of seniors below the poverty line. That is part of privatization. The other part, the part which they hate to talk about, is that as you drag Social Security out of the Social Security trust fund, the only way to make it up is to add it to our national debt. $2 trillion to $5 trillion of national debt over 20 years, debt that is financed by Japan, China, Korea, Taiwan, debt our children would carry.

So there we have the perfect storm. All three have come together: A privatization plan that doesn’t strengthen Social Security but weakens it; a privatization plan that is going to cut benefits dramatically in the outyears; and a privatization plan that is going to create a deficit of $2 trillion to $5 trillion.

If we moved to the President’s plan immediately, the Social Security system would go bankrupt even sooner, be insolvent even sooner. How can that be the right approach?

Now, let’s get down to the politics of this situation. This is all about choices. We have made some choices. We had a vote as to whether we were going to cut taxes in America or save Social Security. Look at these Bush tax cut votes where we asked our Republican friends who wanted to join us in saying, yes, we will vote to sacrifice a penny in tax cuts to make Social Security stronger. Time after time after time, to amendments offered by Senator BYRD, Senator HARKIN, Senator CONRAD, Senator REID, Senator Hollings, they have said no, we would prefer tax cuts even for the wealthiest people in this country rather than to strengthen the Social Security trust fund. The reason the Social Security trust fund may be in peril in the outyears is we have taken so much out of it to finance tax cuts.

I have a chart which shows what the tax cuts mean, the Social Security shortfall and the cost of other administrative politizes over the next 75 years. The Social Security shortfall is about the same as the President’s tax cuts for the top 1 percent of Americans. If we took the money we are giving in tax cuts to the wealthiest people in America and put it back into the Social Security system, we would be talking about this debate. We would be talking about other issues that are equally if not more important.

Look at this chart. As a percentage of gross domestic product, Social Security is a great American success story. Senator DURBIN and I, while we were not around when it was created, are very proud of the fact that we as Democrats led the way to create a great American success story. Our goal today is to keep the security in Social Security. That is the fundamental issue, I believe, for each American family.

We are very proud of the fact that Social Security is a great American success story because prior to Social Security, half of the seniors in our country, half of older Americans, were in poverty. Today it is about 10 percent. We still need to work on the 10 percent but this is a great American success story. We want to make sure nothing is done to unravel this.

It is important we have this debate, though, and we talk about the fact that Social Security is America’s insurance policy. It is our families’ insurance policy because it is more than just retirement, which is so critical. But it is also a disability policy. Most of us do not have a private disability policy. In fact, 75 percent of us do not. It is a disability policy; it is a survivors policy.

Heaven forbid if mom or dad lose their life, where they are not there to care for their children. In fact, in my own family, my son was 10 years old, his father died. His mom was older and not well, and he and his mom literally survived on Social Security.
This is a great American success story. Anything we do that pulls dollars out of an insurance policy will cut those who are left. No matter how forcefully the President or our colleagues say that somehow some folks can be protected, when you pull dollars out of the system, it is not possible. I think it is very important for us to understand that as well.

Also, we can each have our own opinions but not our own facts. There are a couple of different numbers floating around regarding the trust fund. The folks whom we are obligated to look to, the Congressional Budget Office—the folks where nobody is appointed by the President, such as the Social Security trustees—those who are the nonpartisan folks we refer to all the time, they tell us, as has been said, that the trust fund can pay 100 percent of its obligations until 2052, and after that, if nothing was done, it would be about 80 percent, maybe 78, 80 percent. The trust fund could pay.

There is no question there is a gap, and we are here to say we want to work with you to address that gap. That is what we ought to be doing.

What we know, and the President has already admitted, as have others, is the privatization scheme proposed does nothing to fix this; nothing. It does not add a day, does not add an hour to 2052. In fact, it makes it worse.

There is a solution. In fact, there are a number of things we can talk about. But 2 weeks ago we had a vote on the floor on the budget resolution. This was a vote based on an amendment that Senator KENT CONRAD and I had to put Social Security first. I know people are concerned about Social Security, those who support continuing it. But the reality is, we had a vote 2 weeks ago on an amendment that simply said, before we permanently extend tax cuts predominantly for the wealthiest Americans for 75 years. And I believe we ought to do that later. Thank you.

The PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE..."
personal accounts is wounding them to the current Social Security system. As you will see with the first bar on the chart, this year, in 2005, all of the benefits to today's retirees are being paid from the current system. But what we are proposing, since the current system is eating up money, is to begin to add personal savings within the Social Security system. By 2025, over half of the benefits that will be paid—and it is important to see that the benefits will be the same—will be paid from personal savings and in part by the traditional system.

Now, by the time my children retire, in 2045, all of the benefits will be paid from a funded Social Security system, from real savings, and people will actually get better benefits in the future than they do today.

Let me point out on a second chart, it is important to recognize no money is going out of the system. It is all part of a system that has a new foundation of real money.

This is something we require of every corporation in the country that offers a pension plan, that they have real money in it. That is what we need to do to Social Security.

One of the benefits of this—in addition to structuring a program where we can guarantee benefits; we don't change disability; survivors benefits can be even better—is the average American worker, if you look at 2035, average median income at $35,000, is already close to $400,000 that they can work with their current system. The benefit there is that if you die before you are 65 instead of today when you have nothing; it is left to your heirs. It is part of your estate. More people can inherit wealth.

We can continue to talk about this as we go through the questions and answers.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The minority is now recognized and has 1 minute to pose a question.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I will ask the first question. If you take up to 2 percent out of the Social Security trust fund—and it is a pay-as-you-go system—it is clear you don't have enough money to pay the benefits. The White House memo suggested that the way to deal with this is to reduce the amount of benefits paid to Social Security retirees. So I would like to ask my Republican colleagues if they support the White House memo that called for the price index that would cut benefits for Social Security retirees in years to come up to 40 percent.

Mr. SANTORUM. I would answer that and say that as you see, we have a surplus right now that can be used to fund these accounts for the next 10 years. After that we run a deficit in the Social Security Program, and we would have to come up with a way of financing that deficit.

What the President has suggested is that with Social Security, if we fix it the old-fashioned way, the way you did in 1938, which was increase taxes and cut benefits, workers would be paying more and getting less. With personal accounts, you have the opportunity of getting more because you use the compound interest, you use the miracle of the markets, and a balanced investment portfolio that is being used by the wealthiest people in this country to fund their accounts. And so what we would suggest is you initially use the surplus money and then you balance for future workers—again, no reduction in benefits today, but you balance for future workers.

What the President has talked about is a promise, a lower promise of benefits but a better opportunity for a return because you have the personal savings accounts which can exceed the promised benefit. So you have at least the opportunity to do as well as the current system promises but cannot pay—promises but cannot pay—and you have the opportunity of not having to have future tax increases, again, because you have the ability to compensate with the amount of money that is earned in these accounts, again, because of the compounding of interest and because of the diversified portfolio of investments you have.

To me, this is a balanced approach. It takes the good part of the Social Security system which is the security of having money go into this old system, keeps that in place for about two-thirds of the money, and a third of the money, they are able to do better. That is what it is all about. So there is a guarantee of lower benefits to Social Security and the possibility of making more money on your investment.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The time of the Senator has expired. The majority is now recognized for 1 minute to ask a question.

Mr. SANTORUM. I thank the Chair. I would like to ask a question about the 6 percent of the workforce that does not participate in Social Security. They are State and local workers. My first question is, Do you support requiring—just as you did in 1983 by requiring Federal workers to participate in Social Security—those State and local workers to participate in Social Security?

Mr. DURBIN. I might say that many of these people are teachers and fire-fighters and policemen who pay into their pension systems. They understand the arrangements when they went in and usually pay as much or more than Social Security requires. And for us to now change their system and bring them into Social Security fails to solve the Social Security solvency problem. It is worth about 20 percent of the total that we are dealing with. And second, it is going to deplete their own pension plans. So you are going to find these people who are being interrupted into their current employment paying into pension plans which will now either pay more into Social Security and/or less into their pension plans.

Is the Republican side willing to make changes in the Social Security trust fund? Do we want to take pension plans that people paid into for a lifetime and weaken them? Is that our way to solve the Social Security crisis? I don't think so. I listened to my friends on the Republican side likening the Social Security trust fund to Santa Claus, the Easter Bunny, and a file cabinet. They may not recall it, but it hasn't been that long ago, 6 or 7 years ago, when we generated surpluses in the federal budget. The Social Security Program was stronger. We were borrowing less money from it.

Since President Bush arrived we have borrowed $800 billion out of the Social Security trust fund. The so-called file cabinet has been very generous to the President when he wanted to finance his tax cuts. If he hadn't given tax cuts to the wealthiest people, that file cabinet would have been full of money for Social Security recipients, lengthening the life of this program.

Also, this whole thing about the miracle of the markets.

I commend my colleague from Pennsylvania. Thank you for finally saying the words. You said we are talking about lower benefits but the opportunity to do better. That is what it is all about. So there is a guarantee of lower benefits to Social Security and the possibility of making more money on your investment.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The minority now has 1 minute to pose a question of the majority. The Senator from Michigan.

Ms. STABENOW. Mr. President, to follow up on the fact that we are hearing that there is no money in the trust fund, I am quite shocked to hear that because back in the 1980s, when the decision was made to come together, President Reagan, based on Alan Greenspan's recommendation, and President Bush, had the surplus money go into Social Security—Bob Dole and Tip O'Neill, they came together and on purpose designed a system that could create surpluses for all of us. And do the phrase "past performance is no indication of future results" ring a bell? That is what you see at the bottom of every ad for stocks and bonds and mutual funds. There is risk involved. Some may profit, others may not.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The time of the Senator has expired. The majority is now recognized for 1 minute to ask a question.

Mr. SANTORUM. I thank the Chair. I would like to ask a question about the 6 percent of the workforce that does not participate in Social Security. They are State and local workers. My first question is, Do you support requiring—just as you did in 1983 by requiring Federal workers to participate in Social Security—those State and local workers to participate in Social Security?

Mr. DURBIN. I might say that many of these people are teachers and fire-fighters and policemen who pay into their pension systems. They understand the arrangements when they went in and usually pay as much or more than Social Security requires. And for us to now change their system and bring them into Social Security fails to solve the Social Security solvency problem. It is worth about 20 percent of the total that we are dealing with.
My question is this: We are giving those same kinds of assurances to those who buy our foreign debt, that we have the full faith and credit of the United States behind it. Would you suggest that we would pay China back and Japan back and our foreign creditors that we would pay back the people of America who have paid into the Social Security trust fund and have been given a secured IOU?

Mr. DEMINT. An excellent question. Those are legal obligations of the Federal Government which we have an honor. But the Supreme Court has said Americans have no legal right to a Social Security benefit. It is not their money. They don’t own it. Unfortunately, the Social Security trust fund could not write one check to a Social Security retiree today. There is no money.

The only place the money can come from for the trust fund is if it comes back from the general fund to the trust fund, in other words, that the babies that we have talked about are the money that has to come out of the General Treasury, out of our education fund, our transportation fund, out of our military, in order to pay these IOUs that are in this so-called trust fund. And we don’t have the money to do that.

And the talk of tax cuts hurting the Social Security trust fund, I am afraid, is ridiculous. The money was all being spent anyway. If we had not had a tax cut, more would have been spent. This year there is $75 billion in a Social Security surplus that we are spending.

My question to the Senator is, would the Senator support a proposal that actually saved the Social Security trust fund—that is all we do—save the money that is surplus between now and the time that runs out in 2017—and that is when the program is in trouble because that is when we have to start pulling money out of the general fund? But my question to both of my Democratic colleagues is, would they support a proposal to save the Social Security surplus today?

Ms. STABENOW. Mr. President, first I say to my friend and colleague, I am shocked to hear him say the people of America who have paid into the Social Security trust fund, the baby boomers, do not have a secured obligation by all of us. Is the Senator saying whether it is moral or whether it is legal, or is he saying do we have to pay those benefits? He is actually saying that for the folks who have paid in as baby boomers that we are not obligated to pay those benefits?

Mr. DEMINT. That is what the Supreme Court.

Ms. STABENOW. I want to make it clear that we Democrats believe with all our hearts and souls we have a responsibility to pay and we will pay those obligations. To somehow say that it is different to pay a foreign country than it is to pay our own people the obligations when they are both secured obligations—this is not something written down on a little piece of paper. This is a secured obligation with the full faith and credit of the United States of America behind it.

So I ask my colleagues in return, the simple thing to do here, the very simple thing to do, is go back and vote again on simply making a policy statement. Why didn’t my colleagues, either of my colleagues, vote to say “put Social Security first,” let’s make sure we secure the obligation, keep it secure for 75 years, and then we can give 70 percent of the tax cuts; to say to those most blessed in this country, will you take 70 percent of $11.6 trillion rather than 100 percent so every single person cannot only have retirement, but have a disability policy, have survivor benefits?

Isn’t that based on the great values of America in terms of paying into a system, knowing it is going to be there, working hard all your life and creating a way for people to care about your family for each and every penny? To me this would be the easiest thing, and we could do it tomorrow if we had the votes to do it.

Mr. SANTORUM. Mr. President, I suggest the chart is not accurate. According to the CBO, extending the tax cuts would cost about .7 percent of the gross domestic product between now and 2050, whereas the Social Security deficit is 1.4 percent of GDP. Even if we repeal all the tax cuts, it is still on the wealthiest but on everybody that we provided—that is child credit, that is marriage penalty, all of those things— if you take all of those tax reductions the President has put forward, they only make up half, according to the Congressional Budget Office, of the shortfall. It does not solve the problem, No. 1, and it also would be mixing apples and oranges.

We have never in the history of this system had a general fund tax transfer to Social Security. We have always funded Social Security within the Social Security system through payroll taxes, and I showed the increases of taxes over time. So now we are talking about something fundamentally different. We are talking about general fund revenue to fund Social Security. I do not think most people would see that as an insurance policy anymore. I think they start to see it as a transfer program, not just a welfare program than what has historically been a social insurance program.

I do not think we want to head down that road. I think we want to keep the integrity of the Social Security system in place. That is why we are suggesting, which is personal retirement accounts, where the money stays in the system—there is a lot of talk saying you are taking money out to put in these accounts. Remember, these accounts pay Social Security benefits. The system does not come out of the system. It is used as a way of actually saving and capturing this money that right now is going to the Federal Government to spend, and in exchange we are getting this IOU.

Is the IOU an obligation to pay? Yes. How does the Government pay benefits? It pays benefits on the ability to pay taxes, that money is going back or borrow money and pay out benefits.

What we are suggesting with this chart of showing the cashflow problems is the deficits are going to be huge in the future, and that is going to be a problem. In 2016, cash-flowing benefit payments in the future. It is not that we will not pay them; it is the deficits are going to be huge.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator’s time has expired. The majority has 1 minute to pose a question to the minority.

Mr. SANTORUM. Mr. President, I ask either of my colleagues, they have heard of the solution we have put forward, and I guess the question I have is, the Senator from Illinois suggested we can fix it the way we fixed it in the past. The way it was fixed in the past is we raised the payroll tax from about 10.4 percent to 12.4 percent and we raised the base and indexed it. And then secondly, we increased the retirement age. It is a two tier system, paying benefits for the first time on higher income individuals. We taxed benefits, increased the retirement age, and we raised taxes.

My question is this: If my colleagues do not want to do the personal account route, and if they accept at some point—pick the time—at some point there will be a shortfall in the system, how are we going to solve this problem? What tax are we going to increase or by how much? How much are we going to cut benefits, or how much are we going to tax benefits?

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I think it is an honest question, and it is one we should face honestly. The last time we did this was in 1983. Mr. Greenspan’s commission came up with a list of recommendations and said: Choose from this chart and you will lengthen the life of Social Security dramatically.

Finally, we came up with a package, as the Senator from Pennsylvania described. A final vote in the House of Representatives included 81 Republicans voting with 158 Democrats. When it came to the Senate, there were more Republicans than Democrats supporting the Greenspan Commission proposal.

Yes, it gets down to basic math, and that is what troubles me about some of the statements made by my colleagues on the floor. It seems we think we can defy the laws of gravity and the laws of mathematics, and it simply gets down to this: If you want to strengthen a program such as this, you are either going to raise taxes, cut benefits, or find some new way to generate money into that system. My colleagues propose a program that does not put money into the system. It takes money out of the system that then can be invested, that may have a good return, and if it
has a very good return, you are going to be the winner. If it goes soft on you, if you happen to have a bad investment, you are a loser. You have fewer benefits under Social Security, less money from your investments. The risk is there.

But I think we need to get down to basics. The Senator from Carolina suggested earlier that we might as well have tax cuts; otherwise, we will spend the money. But in the years when we were generating surpluses under President Clinton, before President Bush was elected, we had the largest increase in longevity in Social Security in modern history. In a matter of 3 years, as we are building up surpluses, not spending the money on tax cuts or new programs, Social Security is getting stronger by 8 years because we are being fiscally responsible.

Now with President Bush, with the largest deficits in the history of the United States brought on by a Republican administration, Social Security is going the wrong way. The latest estimate says it has lost a year in solvency. They are connected.

You cannot take the money and overspend on programs or on tax cuts and not have a negative impact on the Social Security trust fund.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The minority has 1 minute to address a question to the majority.

Ms. STABENOW. Mr. President, given the fact the President has indicated that the privatized accounts do not solve the solvency problem for Social Security, and given the fact that at this point colleagues have said they are not interested in putting Social Security first before additional tax cuts or new mandatory spending, what would my colleagues' proposals be at this point? Assuming the privatized accounts, as has been said—that is a philosophy of folks may not wish to privatize Social Security, but it does not add a day to the solvency of the Social Security trust fund.

I ask my colleagues, what would your proposals to protect and secure Social Security be for the future?

Mr. DEMINT. Mr. President, I appreciate the question because I actually do have a proposal. The fact is, if you add personal savings within the current system, you fix the system permanently. The example on this chart is while right now the traditional benefits are paying 100 percent of our promise, and Social Security is a promise we need to keep—Republicans are committed to it, and the President is, and that is why we are looking at this house that is on a cliff. We want to figure out how to build a foundation that will keep it there for our children and grandchildren.

But is this how personal accounts to work with the traditional system, when we get out to the year 2045, we not only have a permanently solvent system, we have one that is completely funded. In other words, it would meet the legal criteria of pension plans today.

I think all of my colleagues know that if corporate America asked us to set up a plan such as Social Security, they would do it today, where we spend it all, and then we try to pay benefits out of future revenues, we would say no and we would probably put them in jail.

The plans we are talking about eliminate risk, they guarantee a future benefit and they are slanted toward giving the poor a better deal than they have had under the current system. We can design a Social Security system with personal accounts that eliminate risk and help the poor more than this current program and make the program permanently solvent.

My question back to the Senator would be, if the Senator is not for personal accounts—and I guess if the Senator is thinking Social Security is going to pay benefits after 2017 even though last week the Social Security actuaries in their report said in 2017 payroll taxes will no longer be enough to pay promised benefits, so we will have to start pulling money from the general fund—then how is the Senator going to fix Social Security and pay benefits in 2018?

Ms. STABENOW. With all due respect, I am trying to figure out the new math in my head because the math that the Senator is talking about certain does not add up to anything that I have seen. I would encourage folks who are watching to go to demo-crats.gov and use the calculator based on a 6 percent rate of growth that some financial folks put together where they can put in their date of birth and their average yearly earnings and find out for themselves how they would do. So far we have not found anybody who does better under these privatized accounts.

So when one is talking about what we ought to do, we need to start with the reality that the privatized accounts turn Social Security into a guaranteed benefit into a guaranteed gamble. No. 1. Secondly, there is nothing in what the Senator is talking about that has a relationship to what we are hearing about these private accounts.

I said to Secretary Snow in a committee hearing that I understand folks have to pay some of this back, so let me give an example. My daughter is 25. Let us say I give her $1,000. At retirement, let her I want the $1,000 back, 3 percent interest, plus inflation. Is that what you are talking about? And he basically said yes. He did not disagree with that.

What we are seeing is a lot of hocus-pocus, a lot of where is the pea on the table moving things around. Of course, we have nothing specifically in writing yet from the President, which is one of the problems. But what we are seeing is an admission of a relationship to reality. The reality is that for the first time, in 2017 we begin to dip into the surplus that the Senator and I have been paying into as baby boomers all of our working lives. It is a commitment. It is a secure obligation and we are going to pay that to folks.

So the question is, what happens in 2052 when that surplus is no longer available? And if we can take privatization off the table, the Senator has very willing and able colleagues on this side of the aisle who want to work with the Senator to do those things that will secure it for the future.

Mr. SANTORUM. Mr. President, the Senator from Illinois.

Mr. DURBIN. President Bush created a commission that was stacked to be for privatization and personal accounts, but notwithstanding that the closest option to what the President has described, option 2 from that Commission—option 2 in the first iters $2 trillion would be added to the national debt, in the second 10 years $4.9 trillion to the national debt. We have asked the administration repeatedly how are they going to deal with doubling America's national debt, doubling our indebtedness to the rest of the world. How can they believe America will be stronger in years to come when America's mortgage grows and America's mortgage holders, Japan, China, OPEC, Korea, and Taiwan, if they end their love affair with the dollar, will sink us by demanding higher interest rates to continue to finance our debt? How can this be fiscally conservative, I ask my Republican friends?

We need a commitment and we need a commitment to the future. The majority now has 1 minute to pose a question to the majority.

The Senator from Illinois.

Mr. DURBIN. President Bush created a commission that was stacked to be for privatization and personal accounts, but notwithstanding that the closest option to what the President has described, option 2 from that Commission—option 2 in the first iters $2 trillion would be added to the national debt, in the second 10 years $4.9 trillion to the national debt. We have asked the administration repeatedly how are they going to deal with doubling America's national debt, doubling our indebtedness to the rest of the world. How can they believe America will be stronger in years to come when America's mortgage grows and America's mortgage holders, Japan, China, OPEC, Korea, and Taiwan, if they end their love affair with the dollar, will sink us by demanding higher interest rates to continue to finance our debt? How can this be fiscally conservative, I ask my Republican friends?

Mr. SANTORUM. I thank the Senator. This is really an interesting question, and I think everyone admits that there is a gap between the amount of money coming in and the amount of money that we are going to need to pay, and that is shown by this cash deficit. The fact is, we have to somehow or another in Social Security bring these two lines together. I think everyone would agree that is the option.

What we have to do is the life of the program is $11 trillion between the revenue line and the benefit line—the benefit line being up here, the revenue line down here. How do we bring those lines together, and how do we keep solvent, and how do we keep solvent over the next 15 to 20 years to prefund Social Security, just like we prefund every other retirement system?
in America. In fact, they are required by law to prefund. We put the money into a diversified portfolio of investments and then that borrowing at the beginning creates an elimination of the $1 trillion long-term problem. So I would argue that a $1 trillion investment now worth about $11 trillion by changing the system permanently solvent in the future?

I would answer that question with a resounding yes, and we put the Social Security on a stable funding forever and have it supported by ownership. Of course, we all know ownership has its privileges. One of the things is it can be passed to the next generation. One can do better than the current system program cannot pay for. Let me repeat that. The promised benefits we cannot pay for for my generation and for future generations of Americans.

What we want to give is ownership to future generations. We want to give them a good chance. This gamble—go to every union pension plan and tell them their union is gambling.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator has expired.

Mr. SANTORUM. Now my question. I asked this question, Senator DeMINT asked the same question of both of my colleagues, and in neither instance did we get a response. So I will give my colleagues one last try. We asked, what would my colleagues do, what is their plan? I just want to get the transcript. In neither case did either my colleague from Michigan or my colleague from Illinois put forward specifically what increases in taxes do they recommend, what reduction in benefits do they propose, or how much are we going to tax existing Social Security benefits to make up the shortfall. Pick the date as to when my colleagues want to solve the problem. Whatever they want to wait until 2018 or 2042 or 2052, whatever the case may be. How are they going to solve this problem that at least some on their side of the aisle admit exists?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Illinois.

Ms. STABENOW. I will answer that for my colleague. As Senator Durbin just said to me on the sideline, it will not be privatization, and that is absolutely true. The American people, American families, can absolutely count on the fact that it will not be privatizing Social Security.

I would argue that the amendment we passed 2 weeks ago that simply says in the overall budget process, which is the value system for our country, the blueprint, is represented in what we do in our Federal checkpoint. The reality is, if we said we were going to take about 40 percent of what is being given over the next 75 years to those most blessed in this country, who are not worried about Social Security or Medicare or other kinds of opportunities, if we just ask them to take a little bit less, we would be able to secure Social Security for 75 years.

The other thing I would say about the issue of asking folks about pensions, we have all been told by our folks that retirement is about a three-legged stool: Social Security, pension, and savings. When it comes to savings, the risk is with us to save. I believe we ought to create more opportunities for that. When it comes to pensions today for workers, it is more of a risk for the worker, not a defined benefit but a defined contribution.

The leg of the stool that has been secure, that we will fight to keep secure, is Social Security. I will never forget people working for Enron who came into my office 2 years ago, men in their fifties who worked all their lives and played by the rules and invested in their company, and one man with tears in his eyes said to me: Thank God for Social Security. It is the only thing I have left, and I never thought I would be in this situation.

Social Security is not a 401(k). It is not meant to be a pension system. It is America’s families’ life insurance policy, retirement, and survivor’s benefits. It has worked now for years and years. The issue is how do we keep it going.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator’s time has expired. The minority now has 2½ minutes to respond.

The Senator from Illinois.

Mr. DURBIN. Thank you, Mr. President, and thank you to my colleagues for taking time for this debate. I don’t know how much we have lit up the face of our Brilliance, but at least we did our very best to explain our points of view.

My colleague from South Carolina uses an interesting analogy of the house sliding off the hill. What they have suggested for that house that is starting to slide off the hill in privatizing Social Security is, before it slides off the hill, let’s rip the roof off and start a fire in the kitchen. That is what privatization does. It doesn’t create a stronger Social Security or for that house. It makes it weaker. It weakens Social Security. It cuts benefits, it drives more seniors into poverty, and it creates $2 trillion to $3 trillion more in debts.

If you want to make that house stronger, you have to backfill. You have to take the money you took out of the Social Security trust fund, money you took out for tax cuts, money you took out for things we shouldn’t be paying money, that has driven us into the deepest deficits we have ever seen in America under this President. That is how you backfill a foundation to save this house on the hill.

This debate is not about solvency. I think we know now that it is about the legitimacy of Social Security. I believe in it. Most Americans believe in it. It is a safety net we have counted on for almost 65 years and we will continue to count on.

But some of my friends on the Republican side see the world much differently. They have what they call the so-called ownership society. If you can just own it, then it has to be great. The model of the ownership society is, just remember, we are all in this alone.

But we are not in this alone. When Franklin Roosevelt created Social Security, he said the American family, the worker, would make through their payroll to make sure, if all bets fall, if your pension system fails, if you don’t have enough in savings, you can always count on Social Security. That, he said, is what the American family needs.

They need it today more than ever. Pension systems are failing. These corporations are going bankrupt and throwing their shareholders and retirees and employees to the wolves. We cannot do the same with Social Security.

We ought to be able to stand together and make even difficult choices, as we did in 1983, when a larger number of Republican Senators joined Democratic Senators to find a bipartisan solution to Social Security. Ripping the roof off that house and starting a fire in the kitchen is not going to make it any safer.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority is now recognized for 2½ minutes to reply. The Senator from South Carolina.

Mr. DeMINT. Thank you again. I have enjoyed this tonight. Our talk, I guess, has gone in some interesting directions. My opinion is that Social Security is not now nor to be just an insurance policy. When Americans paid $60 a year when the program started, yes, maybe it was an insurance policy. But today, with Americans averaging over $5,000 a year, for many it is their only savings plan. We cannot assume that the average American can save, after we take 12.5 percent of their income, additional money for retirement. We have to transform Social Security into a program that is not only secure but helps people create real savings to build a foundation of the program.

We are as committed to Social Security as you are. In fact, we wouldn’t be here talking today if Social Security was secure. In fact, we see that it is running out of money, and the best way to fix it is to save some of the money that we are putting into Social Security.

I know there are plans that don’t put people at risk because I have one and several other Republicans do. The plan I have introduced, which has been scored by the Social Security Administration, guarantees that no American will ever receive less from Social Security than is promised by the current system. It is very cost effective and is everybody’s policy. It reduces the deficit for Social Security by two-thirds. It is a program that makes every American a saver and investor.
as our economy flourishes, this is what Social Security can be in the future—just as secure, but it can contain real savings for the first time.

That is all we are asking today. Let’s not cut benefits. We don’t want to cut benefits. Let’s not raise taxes. The problem with Social Security is that the foundation does not include real savings, and that is what we are proposing. Let’s save Social Security with real savings.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The minority is now recognized for 2½ minutes to close.

Ms. STABENOW. Mr. President, I thank you and my colleagues very much. This is an important debate, and I appreciate being able to participate in it.

The President’s privatized accounts, we know, will do three things, and that is why my colleagues and I are opposed to the privatized accounts.

First, it will greatly increase the national debt. In fact, do you know what folks are going to own with this? Seventeen thousand dollars more in debt for every man, woman, and child in the United States. That is what they are going to own. It is a lot more than higher interest rates as a result of this plan. This is a bad idea.

The other thing that doesn’t make any sense to me is that right now Social Security, which is retirement and we do not have any obligation to make sure that we pay it, but it is retirement, disability, and it is a life insurance policy. For that we pay about a half a percent in administration. On average we are told that it could be upwards of 20 percent, maybe 10, maybe 25, but we are told by the experts, 20 percent in order to administer an annuity or other kind of private account.

One of the things I find interesting is that among folks who are really pushing for this idea around here are those folks who would be paid to administer these accounts. I understand we now have something like five financial services lobbyists for every one Senator now here on Capitol Hill. Certainly there are folks who will make a lot of money from this, but it is wrong. This system works right now and we pay a half a percent.

The final thing I would say is it is estimated that the average person over 20 years of age who will retire will lose $152,000 under the approach the President is talking about. This is wrong. This is not better for people. This is, in fact, worse.

I agree with my colleagues, and in fact let me also say I would welcome folks going to my Web site or any of my colleagues’ Web sites to learn more about Social Security and the facts. We do need to be working together, not only to secure Social Security for the future past 2052, but we also need to work on other ideas that have this opportunity for people. One of my great concerns is that one-third of the cuts proposed by the President in the budget are in education. That is opportunity. That is the opportunity for ownership in the future. Why don’t we focus on jobs and health care and those things immediately that need to be addressed?

We welcome those debates as well and we welcome working with our colleagues to keep the security in Social Security.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The time of the Senator has expired.

Mr. SANTORUM. I thank my colleagues from Illinois and Michigan, and my colleague from South Carolina and my colleague in the chair on this debate. I think it was a good and spirited debate. Hopefully, we added a little light to the issue. Let me try to focus a little bit.

The Senator from Illinois used a quote: We are not in it alone. If you are a 20-year-old today, you are feeling pretty lonely because there are only two of you going to be paying for every one retiree. When FDR said that, there were 42, and he could say we are not in it alone. You are pretty close to being in it alone today, and that is why we need a different system, a system that prefunds, that actually uses the money, the surplus today, and saves it for future retirees.

We are not taking money out of the system. We are putting the money, instead of for the Government to spend and giving an IOU to replace it, we are putting it in real assets that will be real benefits when real workers really retire.

Second, I want to comment on the cost of administering the program. The cost of administering the program has been estimated by the Congressional Budget Office, not at 20 percent—I can maybe understand the difference—it is 20 basis points. That is .2 percent, not 20 percent. It is 20 basis points, which is .2 percent of the amount of money. So I believe it is a dramatic difference. It is actually less expensive to administer this system than to administer the current Social Security system.

The other thing I would like to mention, if we can go to the next chart, three times we asked the question. How are you going to fix the Social Security system? The only answer we got was to repeal the Bush tax cuts which, of course, does nothing to the Social Security system because the money is not paid to the Social Security system. So repealing the Bush tax relief would simply put more money in the general fund, but it would have no impact at all, no actuarial impact at all on the Social Security system. So when the Senator from Illinois said we had to make difficult choices in 1983, that may have been the case in 1983, but so far we have not heard word one of the difficult choices that the other side would like to present to the American people.

Several Republicans have come forward with plans, plan after plan after plan of details of how we are going to save this program, and all we have gotten from the other side is sniping at the plan that we put forward and no answers. If we do not solve the problem, the time of the Senator has expired.

Mr. SANTORUM [continuing]. Of what the promised benefits are, we are looking at taxes of 18 to 20 percent if we wait until 2041 or later. That is not a plan fair to future generations.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator’s time has expired.

ORDER OF PROCEDURE

Mr. SANTORUM. I ask unanimous consent there now be a period for morning business with 10 minutes equally divided between Senators CORNYN and DURBIN, and following the use or yielding back of the time, the use of a 15-minute period.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The Senator from Texas.

COURTHOUSE VIOLENCE

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, thank you. I appreciate the opportunity for Senator DURBIN and me to speak for a few minutes.

The purpose for my rising is to follow up on some remarks I made yesterday, Monday, on the floor of the Senate. The full transcript of those remarks, which has to do with judges and recent decisions of the U.S. Supreme Court is available, of course, in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, but it is also available on my official Web site for anybody who would care to read it.

As a former judge myself for 13 years, who has a number of close personal friends who still serve on the bench today, I am outraged by recent acts of courthouse violence. I certainly hope no one will construe my remarks on Monday otherwise. Considered in context, I don’t think a reasonable listener or reader could.

As I said on Monday, there is no possible justification for courthouse violence. Indeed, I met with a Federal judge, a friend of mine in Texas, this past week to make sure we are doing everything we can to help protect our judges and courthouse personnel from further acts of violence. And like my colleague from Illinois, I personally know judges and their families who have been victims of violence and have grieved with those families. But I want to make one thing clear. I am not aware of any evidence whatsoever linking recent acts of courthouse violence to the various controversial rulings that have captured the Nation’s attention in recent years.

My point was, and is, simply this: We should all be concerned that the judiciary is losing respect that it needs to serve the interests of the American people well. We should all want judges
who interpret the law fairly—not impose their own personal views on the Nation. We should all want to fix our broken judicial confirmation process. And we should all be disturbed by overheated rhetoric about the judiciary from both sides of the aisle. I regret that my remarks have been taken out of context to create a wrong impression about my position, and possibly be construed to contribute to the problem rather than to a solution.

Our judiciary must not be politicized. Rhetoric about the judiciary and about judicial nominees must be toned down. Our broken judicial confirmation process must be fixed once and for all.

Thank you, Mr. President. I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Illinois.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I rise to speak in morning business.

First, let me commend my colleague from Texas. I think his remarks yesterday were subject to interpretation which he obviously does not want them to be, and I think he has clarified his position, and I am glad he has.

Some of the quotes in the newspapers were difficult to resolve, and they seemed inconsistent with my knowledge of him, his service on the court of Texas, and his service with me in the Senate Judiciary Committee. I think he would understand, as I do, that I have a personal interest in this issue.

I recommended the nomination of Joan Lefkow to the Federal bench in Chicago. On February 28, a bitter plaintiff in a medical malpractice lawsuit murdered her husband and her 89-year-old mother, Judge Lefkow had dismissed that individual’s lawsuit. She was not engaged in judicial activism.

This tragic incident in my home State has been a wake-up call about the need for more judicial security. I met with the Director of the U.S. Marshals Service to discuss it, and sent a letter to the Senate Appropriations Committee today urging that we allocate more funds to protect our judges.

In mid-March, at a trial for rape in Georgia, a man took a gun, killed a deputy, a court reporter, and a judge presiding over the rape trial.

In both of those tragedies, the killers were driven not by political philosophy but by inner demons. Neither of these incidents appear to be politically motivated in any way whatsoever. They were horrible deeds committed by deranged men.

A recent New York Times article indicated that 10 State and Federal judges have been murdered since 1970. None were related to the judges’ politics or ideology. Rather, the murders were committed by embittered or mentally ill litigants in emotion-laden cases, many of which involved notions of self-esteem.

I hope Senator CORNYN’s clarification now will make it clear to everyone who has followed this debate that we need to respect our judiciary and its independence, even when we disagree with their decisions. I disagreed strongly with the decision of the Supreme Court in Bush v. Gore after the 2000 election. But never, ever did it cross my mind, nor should it have crossed the mind of anyone feeling as I did, that you should take it out on the judges. They are doing their duty. I may disagree with them, but to suggest that they should pay a price for it is wrong.

Notwithstanding what I consider to be a very positive statement made by the Senator from Texas clarifying his position, I am afraid there is another mark during the past week. Congressman TOM DELAY is the majority leader of the House. In response to the death of Terri Schiavo, the House majority leader from Texas said:

We will look at an unaccountable, arrogant, out-of-control judiciary that thumb their nose at Congress and the President.

He went on to say:

The time will come for the men responsible for this to answer for their behavior, but not today.

Mr. DELAY was asked whether the House would consider impeachment against the judges involved in the Schiavo case, and he said:

There’s plenty of time to look into that.

This is not an isolated statement by Congressman DELAY. He has said things such as this time and time again. He has said:

It’s a sad day for America . . . The legal system failed Terri Schiavo.

According to the New York Times, he said:

Congress for many years has shirked its responsibility to hold the judiciary accountable. No longer.

Earlier this year, Mr. DELAY publicly condemned members of the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals for “writing laws instead of interpreting laws.”

When he was asked a few years ago about Federal judges by a reporter, he said:

I woke up one day realizing the judiciary had turned themselves into a regulatory branch. We can impeach judges who get drunk, so why not impeach those who get drunk with power?

In 1997, in reference to Federal judges, he said:

As part of our conservative efforts against [this] judicial activism, we are going after judges.

DELAY also said the House Republican leadership was prepared to go after activist judges “in a big way.”

Then he went on to say in the Houston Chronicle:

For too long we’ve let the judicial branch act on its own, unimpeded and unchallenged. And Congress’ duty is to challenge the judicial branch.

He went on to say in the Houston Chronicle in 1997:

I want to bring one (an impeachment) to prove my point. And I want to make sure that one sticks.

He said he and other Republicans had a “whole, big file cabinet full” of judges who may be candidates for removal.

This type of intemperate rhetoric, sadly, does great harm to the reputation of our judiciary, and the relationship between the legislative branch and the judicial branches.

I have felt as strongly, I am sure, as he has about decisions made by judges, but those of us in positions of leadership should be careful about the words we use, and that the actions we threaten are entirely consistent with the law at every moment. What we have heard from Congressman DELAY when it comes to judges crosses that line way too often.

I think we understand that deranged people, for reasons beyond political speeches, beyond differences on political issues, will do tragic things, and often that violence is visited on public servants doing their duty as judges serving America.

I yield the floor.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 9:30 A.M. TOMORROW

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate stands in adjournment until 9:30 a.m., Wednesday, April 6, 2005.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 7:50 p.m., adjourned until Wednesday, April 6, 2005, at 9:30 a.m.
EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

FIRST BIODIESEL FACILITY IN THE 26TH DISTRICT OF TEXAS

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS
OF TEXAS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, April 5, 2005

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend the City of Denton, under the leadership of Mayor Euline Brock, for its commitment to renewable energy. The City of Denton has teamed up with Biodiesel Industries, Inc., to construct the world’s first renewable biodiesel facility. This facility opened at the City of Denton Landfill on March 29, 2005.

Biodiesel is a nontoxic, biodegradable alternative to petroleum diesel that substantially reduces air pollution. The Denton facility demonstrates a further commitment to clean energy by powering the facility by renewable biogas extracted from the adjacent City of Denton Landfill. The facility’s expected initial production capacity will be approximately three million gallons of pure biodiesel per year. The fuel will be used by the City of Denton’s entire diesel fleet and will also be sold through regional distribution channels to promote private participation.

The City of Denton’s use of a biodiesel fuel mix is expected to reduce emissions by twelve tons per year. The opening of this facility demonstrates Denton’s dedication to cleaning up the air we breathe—this is especially important in the North Texas region as we work to comply with Clean Air Act requirements. Additionally, this opening shows Denton’s commitment to reducing air pollution, foreign oil dependency and generating local economic development.

As a nation, we need to look for affordable renewable fuel sources for our future. The City of Denton has shown how partnerships between local governments and private firms can help to protect the environment in an economically feasible way. I would like to applaud the City of Denton for their leadership on this issue.

HONORING THE LIFE OF ANDREW J. MAIR

HON. MARILYN N. MUSGRAVE
OF COLORADO
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, April 5, 2005

Mrs. MUSGRAVE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of an extraordinary American, Andrew “Andy” Mair. Through Andy’s incredible career, he has traveled the world and had many exciting experiences. I am glad to take this opportunity to share with you his life.

At age twenty-two, Andrew J. Mair married his wife Norma Asmus. In the following several years they had two daughters, purchased a farm, and settled in Fort Collins. He became President of the Larimer County Farm Bureau. He was a member of the Boxelder School Board, and Elder in the Fort Collins Presbyterian Church.

At age thirty-three, Andy sold his farm and moved to Denver so he could attend the University of Denver. After graduating he took a job with the Colorado Farm Bureau. Andy also worked for the United States Department of Agriculture as the Director of the Denver Office of Conservation and Stabilization. Three years later, he was transferred to the U.S. Department of Agriculture in Washington, DC.

With the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Andy made his first trip around the world. One year later, Andy was appointed as Administrative officer in the American Embassy in Rome, Italy. There, Andy met Pope John Paul VI and handled logistics for President John F. Kennedy, including three trips for Jacqueline Kennedy, and two trips for Vice President Johnson.

Another exciting point in Andy’s career was when he was appointed as the Deputy Assistant Secretary for International Affairs and Commodity Programs. He served as the head of the U.S. State Department’s Food and Agricultural organizations in Rome. He also represented the United States at the United Nations headquarters in New York for their World Food Program.

Through his vast experiences while working for the government, Andy has earned several awards including the U.S. State Department’s Meritorious Honor Award, and the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Award of Distinguished Service. He received his most cherished award in 1983, the National Farm Bureau Award. To this day, Andy is still the only Coloradan to have received this award.

Andy’s accomplishments are numerous and ongoing. Just this year, Andy was approached by Colorado State University’s Agriculture Department requesting his papers, records and letters to be placed in the CSU Agriculture Archives. Andy’s philosophy is to make the most of every opportunity.

I ask my colleagues to join me to recognize the outstanding acts of service by Andrew J. Mair.

HONORING MADELEINE GOLDE

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS
OF NEW YORK
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, April 5, 2005

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in honor of Madeleine Golde who has dedicated her career to strengthening our health care system for hard working Americans across this country.

As the Deputy Director for Health Care Legislation and Senior Legislative Advocate for the Service Employees International Union (SEIU) national office in Washington, DC, Madeleine has been a key healthcare advocate on Capitol Hill regarding federal policy. After nearly 7 years of service, Madeleine is retiring from SEIU. SEIU represents 1.8 million working people in the areas of health care, public service, building service, industrial and allied trades.

Madeleine has been instrumental in fashioning both the strategy and substantive health care policy to advance the goals of SEIU. She has made countless visits to Capitol Hill on the behalf of American workers to meet with congressional staff on important health care policy issues. She has also worked with numerous organizations that share SEIU’s goal of improving our nation’s health care system.

Most important, Madeleine has been an important partner with the City of New York in advancing several important health care issues, including fiscal relief for Federal Medicaid matching rates, bioterrorism, Bioshield I and II, Ryan White Title I, Disproportionate Share Hospital (DSH) funding, smallpox vaccinations, indigent care costs for undocumented immigrants, Capital Asset Realignment for Enhanced Services (CARES) Commission, disaster response capabilities, immunizations for children, the adult vaccine program, and Medicare.

Most recently, she worked with New York City to insure the passage of the Smith-Bingaman amendment, which blocked Senate passage of $14 billion in budget resolution cuts to Medicaid and called for Congress to have a bipartisan commission on Medicaid.

Mr. Speaker, Madeleine Golde has been a leader in advocating for a health care system that ensures all Americans have quality and affordable health care coverage. As such, she is more than worthy of receiving our recognition today and I urge my colleagues to join me in honoring this truly remarkable person.

HONORING SODUS SPARTANS’ BOYS BASKETBALL CLASS C STATE CHAMPIONSHIP

HON. JAMES T. WALSH
OF NEW YORK
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, April 5, 2005

Mr. WALSH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Sodus Spartans for their victory over Faith Heritage to capture the 2005 Class C State Championship title. The 76–65 win marked the first state championship for the boys’ basketball team as well as the Sodus School athletic program.

Emanuel Reaves and Gregory Logins led the team, scoring 17 and 22 points, respectively. They are currently 27–0 and are looking to capture the number one spot in the state within their class. Coach Jim Sergeant and the team deserve recognition for their consistent hard work and attaining the championship title.

Coaches Jim Sergeant, Alan H. Granger, and Robert Miranda, as well as players Robert McDowell, Emanuel Reaves, Johnny McCray, Roderick Johnson, Gregory Logins, Matthew Bomback, Antonio Parker, Jeffrey Kuhn, Dennis Gorobchtschuk, Jaroslaw Konikiewicz, Hauke Bruns, Brian Hanagan, Lionel Webber, and

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

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.
Paul Morales were all instrumental in reaching state champion status. I commend the Sodus basketball team for their determination and exceptional season. Their outstanding achievements have set a standard that other teams should follow. Congratulations and good luck on future seasons.

HONORING THE RETURN OF SOLDIERS FROM IRAQ

HON. JEB HENSARLING
OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 5, 2005

Mr. HENSARLING. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to honor several members of our Nation’s military who have recently returned home after serving our country with distinction in Iraq.

Specialist Rocky Padgett, Specialist Chad Sumner, Specialist James Tyson Zigler, Specialist Bud Rath, Specialist Bradrick Graves, Specialist James Arnold, Specialist Jason Yanna, Specialist Michael Easdon, Corporal Jason W. Fitzgerald, Sergeant Christopher Callaway, and Sergeant John L. Tety all deserve our deepest appreciation and respect. In the face of tremendous danger, these 11 men bravely answered the call of duty to fight our enemies abroad so that we would not have to fight them here at home. Because of their efforts, America is safer today than it was just 2 years ago.

On behalf of the grateful citizens of the Fifth District of Texas, it is my pleasure to welcome these heroes home. America owes these men, and all who serve beside them in the War on Terror, a tremendous debt, one that we will probably never be able to fully repay. Today, we thank them for their courage, their patriotism, their service, and their sacrifice.

As these men return to their families, friends, and the lives they left behind, I want to ensure that they do so secure in the knowledge that it is through their service that America will one day be free from the horrors of terrorism. It is because of their service, that future generations of Americans will be able to enjoy freedom, peace, prosperity, and the many other blessings that God has bestowed upon this great land, the United States of America.

Gentlemen, on behalf of a grateful Nation, welcome home.

JOHN LAFAULCE’S VIEWS ON BASEL II

HON. BARNEY FRANK
OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 5, 2005

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, my predecessor as the Ranking Minority Member of the Committee on Financial Services, John LaFalce, made enormous contributions during his tenure in Congress to our deliberations on financial services issues, and as a private citizen, he continues to do so. I have myself benefited in a number of conversations from his knowledge and wisdom about a range of issues. One of those about which he is most concerned is the current plan for a change in international financial regulations known as Basel II. On March 11, John LaFalce published a very thoughtful, well-informed article in the American Banker, outlining his concerns about the implications of Basel II. This is a subject currently before us in the Financial Services Committee, and while not widely known, is of particular importance to our financial system. Because of that, I ask that the article by John LaFalce expressing his deep reservations about Basel II be printed here.

BASEL II PLAN IS A CRISIS IN THE MAKING

In the context of the ongoing congressional and U.S. bank regulators will decide whether to adopt new capital regulations that would impact the entire U.S. banking system.

Current discussions about Basel II are focusing on the minute details, rather than the more important question of whether the proposed accord makes any sense at all. In my view, Basel II is fundamentally flawed, and actually dangerous, for numerous reasons.

First, it is based on a fanciful premise that sophisticated risk-management models enable bank regulators to support that is neither too low, nor too high, but just right. I hope my former colleagues and others do not gamble the stability of our domestic and global financial system on this theory.

Recent financial crises, such as at Long-Term Capital Management, should serve as a stark reminder that no matter how sophisticated, are subject to unpredictable market forces and, most important, human judgments, mistakes, and even manipulation.

With every large bank in the world lining up to play the Basel II capital game, and a financial system that is increasingly interdependent, the threat of even an inadvertent mistake could be devastating. The odds are too high that Basel II, if adopted, could trigger a systemic financial crisis.

Second, Basel II’s proponents have been too quick about the most fundamental tenet of banking regulation—safety and soundness—and the critical role that an adequate capital cushion plays in the safe and sound operation of our banks and banking system. A Basel II regime would be reckless, unsafe, and unsound, all at once.

It would allow banks to use complex risk-based models that few if any corporate executives or directors will ever comprehend. It requires that the banks and the regulators will lack the resources and technical skills to supervise adequately.

It is an ominous sign that the regulators recently published a formula that would have caused banks to underestimate their capital needs for retail credits by 60 to 70%.

Banks will implement Basel II only if they know the Federal Reserve and the Federal Reserve, because.

That will also create powerful incentives, competitive pressures, and irresistible temptations for the nation’s largest banks to revalue their models downward to ensure that they achieve the lowest amount of capital reserves possible.

Banks will be able to artificially improve their performance by manipulating capital levels, much as we have seen some companies manipulate earnings.

The new capital regime will severely undermine competitive viability of small or medium-size banks because of the dramatically lower capital levels that the largest banks will achieve. We now know that two former top Wall Street economists came to that very conclusion in a paper that is being published independently.

Third, Basel II is overly optimistic about the ability and resources of regulators to supervise the new and complex capital rules. As Standard & Poor’s has pointed out, “National bank regulators could be overwhelmed by the implementation of Basel II, with its intensive need for verification of the internal systems and databases of individual banks.”

In addition, although the new accord allows regulators to make discretionary capital adjustments, banks will likely resist or seek to evade those requirements, particularly after spending tens and even hundreds of millions of dollars developing their models.

As for market oversight, I discount that almost entirely. We are already seeing resistance by banks to making public disclosures about their models because of concern over the potential litigation exposure. Neither the markets nor the regulators nor most corporate officers or directors will likely position themselves to second-guess the foundational assumptions and idiosyncrasies built into the banks’ models or to react quickly enough to emerging crises.

Fourth, some in the Federal Reserve would like us to believe that adoption of Basel II is necessary and inevitable. It is neither. Despite the perceived momentum behind Basel II, I ask that we consider that we are beyond a few forceful players at the Federal Reserve and the handful of the largest banks that stand to gain the most because of reduced capital requirements.

I am convinced that the seasoned executives of some, if not most, of the nation’s largest banks would themselves, in private conversations, acknowledge that Basel II is a bad idea. Many former regulators have expressed serious reservations about, if not outright opposition to, Basel II, including Jerry Hawke, Bill Issac, Bill Seidman, and others. Powell is apparently sufficiently concerned that he has reignited the debate over the FDIC’s authority to examine banks already being examined by exams conducted by the Fed.

The fact that the chairmen and ranking members of both the House Financial Services Committee and its financial institutions subcommittee introduced legislation Thursday that would slow down or even prevent adoption of Basel II should also send a strong signal to the regulators.

Fifth, I am not even convinced that the Federal Reserve itself fully embraces Basel II, or even adequately understands many of its implications. Some members of the Federal Reserve may still mistakenly believe that regulatory capital does not affect competition or the pricing and strategic decisions that banks and counterparties make. A better explanation could help explain their preference for theoretical models rather than practical realities.

Chairman Greenspan has been largely silent in the Basel II debate, although the irony is that he prudently questions the sufficiency of the capital levels at Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac. But he has withheld judgment on Basel II and has thus far allowed banks to hold less capital for the same mortgage assets than Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac are required to hold, estimates of which are that Basel II banks would have to hold for mortgage assets would also be at or below the capital level that led to the savings and loan crisis.

Some at the Federal Reserve appear to be still expressing concern that Basel II’s proponents have been too quick about the most fundamental tenet of banking regulation—safety and soundness—and that the models of the largest banks would themselves, in private conversations, acknowledge that Basel II is a bad idea.
... needs to produce a higher level of financial soundness than might be indicated by measures of economic capital or expected by shareholders and creditors of the institution.  

Sixth, proponents like to argue that Basel II is necessary to create competitive equity among internationally active banks. No capital accord will ever accomplish that objectivity, both because of significant differences in accounting standards and the wide disparity in the quality of regulation abroad, as Jerry Hawke has stated.

Global regulatory consistency will never be achieved, particularly when foreign banks abroad are examined only sporadically and without the same thoroughness as U.S. banks. The reality is that U.S. banks have proven stronger, more profitable, and more resilient than their foreign counterparts in recent economic cycles.

Seventh, there clearly is an effort afoot, pending Basel II's adoption, to abolish the leverage ratio as inconsistent with the principles of Basel II. Congress and U.S. regulators must not weaken our country's important regulatory protections such as the leverage ratio and prompt corrective action regulations that enable the questionable supervisory oversight abroad.

Although some at the Federal Reserve have provided assurances that the leverage ratio will be maintained under Basel II, some have left that question open. And powerful institutional and lobbying forces have already voiced their preference for capital regulations based exclusively on risk-based credit models, and have called for the elimination of the leverage ratio.

This cannot be allowed. Among other things, the leverage ratio ensures that regardless of the risk-based models used by banks, there is at least a base level of protection in the event of a crisis, rather than relying primarily on an insurance fund or taxpayer bailout.

In sum, decades as a legislator have convinced me that the most effective regulations are those that are easy to understand, can be applied objectively and consistently, are not subject to manipulation, and can be monitored effectively by supervisors, managers, and market participants. This is particularly the case when dealing with issues affecting the stability of our domestic and global financial systems.

With some reasonable updating, the existing Basel I approach can continue to meet these goals and ensure that sufficient capital is available as a cushion against mistakes or unanticipated crises. Basel II would take us in a dangerous direction toward subjective self-assessments of capital and a dependence on complex theoretical models that are subject to manipulation and incapable of being effectively monitored.

I see no consideration of safety and soundness at II, debate, and no recognition of the danger of adopting a new capital regulation that goes in the exact opposite direction from the recent reforms concerning corporate governance, regulatory oversight, and internal controls.

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor posthumously William "Bill" Bell of Madera, CA. Exuding a strong entrepreneurial spirit, Mr. Bell worked to enhance the way of life for many in his community. Mr. Bell's life will be celebrated in a special edition of his former newspaper, The Ranchos Independent. In the late 1980's, Mr. Bell's family migrated from Kansas to California in search of new opportunities. After settling in Madera, CA, Bill's parents relocated the family to Southern California where he attended elementary and high school.

As a young adult, Bill capitalized on the post-WWII housing boom by opening an upholstery business to serve Southern California's growing furniture industry. Later, Bill went to work for an independent insurance agency where he taught insurance classes to agents for Century 21. In the early 1980's, Bill relocated to Manteca to work in the real estate industry where he gained great success and eventually opened his own Century 21 franchise.

Mr. Bell was involved in various organizations. He was a proud member of the Ontario Motor Speedway and Riverside Speedway Booster Clubs. In addition, he was a charter member of the Madera Ranchos Kiwanis Club and helped to organize the widely-popular Friends Day Parade. Bill was a charter member of the Golden Valley Chamber of Commerce and is the former Owner, Editor, and Publisher of The Ranchos Independent, a newspaper dedicated to serving the Madera Ranchos community.

Bill is survived by his wife Pat, and their two children James and Jennifer.

Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor posthumously Mr. William Bell for his service and dedication to his community. I urge my colleagues to join me in remembering and celebrating the life of William "Bill" Bell.
be deeply missed and his service was greatly
Francisco G. Martinez. I extend my deepest
sensible while stationed in Korea. Even though
the right thing to do. SPC Martinez worked to
agree with political philosophies surrounding
graphics designer.
Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to
give remembrance to Specialist Francisco G.
Martinez, from the 26th Congressional District
of Texas, for serving our country during Iraqi
Freedom. Spec. Martinez suffered a fatal
wound to the hip when his unit made contact
with small arms fire from the insurgents. Spec.
Martinez was assigned to 1st Battalion, 9th
Infantry Regiment, 2nd Infantry Division, Camp
Hovey, Korea. He was 20 years old.
I would like to recognize and celebrate Spec.
Martinez’s life today. SPC Martinez grew up
with a military background. His father,
Francisco Thomas Martinez, served in the
Martinez swore off the military in high school
and his father later explained to SPC Mar-
tinez’s life today. SPC Martinez
October 4, 2004 marked the 65-year wed-
ding anniversary of Fern and Warren Wolaver.
Their lives together have been spent in serv-
ice to their community and family. They have
lived for 35 years in their present home, lo-
cated in a dry lakebed, with the road leading
to their home being the dry streambed. War-
ren was born on the bluff that overlooks their
current home.
Warren’s great grandfather traveled on a
covered wagon and settled on Milner Moun-
tain, close to the current Wolaver home. His
grandfather was a sheriff and a State Rep-
resentative.
Big Thompson School has played a large
role in the lives of Fern and Warren since they
attended as children. Four generations of
Wolavers have attended this school including
their children, grandchildren and great grand-
children. They have gone to Big Thompson
School for many chill suppers, Parent Teacher
Organization meetings, Christmas concerts
and other programs. There was only one year
that Fern and Warren missed a function at the
Big Thompson School and that was in 1984
when there was four feet of snow on the ground.
Fern and Warren have had some interesting
careers as farmers and ranchers. Through
their farm, Wolaver Cherry Company, they
have grown massive amounts of cherries in-
cluding one year in 1960 when they were able
to harvest 100 tons of cherries. They’ve also
grown wheat, barley and corn, and raised tur-
keys and steers.
Fern worked in the family factory, Wolaver
Packing, and served as a trustee. Fern was
also a congressional aide to former Colorado
Senator Hank Brown for ten years, and
worked for Congressman Wayne Allard for five
years. She worked as the clerk at their church,
Buckhorn Presbyterian, for twelve years.
In addition to farming their cherry orchard
and other crops, Warren has an extensive his-
tory in public policy. He was appointed to the
100 Man Committee on Local Government”
in 1963 and served in 1970, he spent eight
years on the state board of Social Services. In
1976 he served as vice chair of the Big
Thompson Flood Recovery Committee, as
well as serving two terms on the Big Thompson
School Board. He was also a Larimer
County Commissioner from 1960 to 1976.
Looking at the lives of Fern and Warren,
one cannot help but be amazed at their expe-
riences. I invite my colleagues to join me in
honoring the Wolaver’s and to wish them the
best in health and prosperity for years to
come.
Mrs. MUSGRAVE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today
to honor the lives of Warren and Fern Wolaver.
They are literally a walking history book of Larimer County, Colorado, and I
would like to share with my colleagues a little
about their lives in my district.
Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in honor of
Reverend William F. Wright, Jr. who has been
a leader in his community and is celebrating his 25th Pastoral Anniversary at New Zion
Missionary Baptist Church.
Reverend Wright was born in Aiken, South
Carolina to William Frank Wright and Willie
Weaver Wright. He was reared in Nash Coun-
ty, North Carolina and graduated from Nash
Central High School and North AT&T State
University, where he obtained a Bachelor of
Arts Degree. In 1979, he received a Master of
Divinity Degree from Shaw Divinity School
in Raleigh, North Carolina.
Wright was invited to the gospel min-
istry in 1975 and was licensed to preach by
the East White Oak Baptist Church that same
year. In 1977, Rev. Wright was ordained by
the Guilford Association. His pastorate was at
West End Baptist Church in Reidsville, North
Carolina. Under his leadership, West End ex-
tensively renovated the sanctuary. After nine-
teen years with Lorillard Corporation, Rev.
Wright retired as a manager to become the
full-time pastor of New Zion Missionary Baptist
Church in Greensboro, North Carolina. He is a
past member of the Board of Directors of the
Lorillard Credit Union.
As a gospel preacher and community serv-
ant, Rev. Wright has served with and led
many community and interfaith coalitions and
groups. Under his leadership, the Greensboro
Pulpit Forum undertook some of its most chal-
 lenging work, including the community buying
and stewardship program, which led to a
decent labor contract between the K-Mart work-
ers and Unite, their labor union. From the
helm of the Pulpit Forum, he has served his
fellows as motivator, leader, and confidant.
Rev. Wright has served on the
Board of Directors for Greensboro Urban Min-
stries, the Greensboro Housing Resource
Board, the Greensboro Fair Housing Board,
the Greensboro Human Relations Commis-
sion, the Greensboro 100, and the NAACP.
His honors and awards are many. Under his
leadership, New Zion has been named
“Church of the Year” by the NAACP more
than five times. Rev. Wright, himself, has been
given the “NAACP Man of the Year” for 1995.
He was recently honored at the NAACP Na-
tional Meeting with a community service award
for his role in the K-Mart struggle.
Rev. Wright’s leadership in the church is
matched by his leadership in the community.
Five years before it became fashionable,
Wright had the Pulpit Forum release a thirty-
two (32) page position paper in which the
church was challenged to enter into the busi-
ness of confronting the problem of youth and
drugs in the community. This work included
workshops, direct contact actions, and visits
into the communities where our youth suffer.
In the spring of 1993, there was a daylong
event where thirty young men admitted to
gang involvement and being members of rival
gangs. Everyone joined together in a joint
commitment declaring an end to his gang rival-
ancies.
On a personal level, this Pastor is known in
the Greensboro community as a “Pastor’s
HONORING THE VAN VANDALS

HON. JEB HENSARLING
OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 5, 2005

Mr. HENSARLING. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to honor the Van Vandal boys' basketball team who won the Texas 3A championship on March 11, 2005. In their first trip to the state finals in sixty-three years, the Vandals beat Graham High School to return home with the state championship trophy. This is an accomplishment that the young men on the team will remember for the rest of their lives.

As the community representative of the members, coaches, and supporters of the Van Vandals, it is my pleasure to recognize their outstanding accomplishment today on the floor of the United States House of Representatives.

SUN CHRONICLE HAILS APPOINTMENT OF ATTLEBORO NATIVE

HON. BARNEY FRANK
OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 5, 2005

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, since 1982, my congressional activities have been covered by the Sun Chronicle, which provides news for the Greater Attleboro, Massachusetts area. It is a newspaper which understands the importance of solid and thoughtful coverage of events that happen within its area. At the same time, it pays due attention to national issues, and it has also been an important advocate for fair treatment for that part of Massachusetts in which it circulates.

Its interest in all of these elements came together on March 18 when the Sun Chronicle published a gracious and thoughtful editorial about the appointment of an Attleboro native, Joe Solmonese, to be the head of the Human Rights Campaign. The Human Rights Campaign is a non-profit organization that fights discrimination for gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgendered people, and I am among those who was very pleased that Mr. Solmonese was selected, given the combination of skill and talent that he brings to the job.

As the Sun Chronicle noted, “Attleboro is honored by the appointment of a city native to head the Human Rights Campaign” and it is also honored and fortunate to have a newspaper with the generosity of spirit to editorialize as well as it did on this subject. I ask that this editorial be printed here.

(From the Sun Chronicle, March 18, 2005)

ACTIVE EYES TOUCH FRONT

(By David Crary)

NEW YORK.—After 12 years advocating for abortion rights, Attleboro native Joe Solmonese might have opted for a less divisive field of work. Instead, he is taking over leadership of the largest national gay-rights group at a time when the same-sex marriage debate riles voters for volatility and virulence.

“My challenge is to talk about why the equality we seek is not just important to our community, but should be important to everyone,” Solmonese said. “I have to believe in the optimism and fair-mindedness of the American people.” Solmonese was named last week as the new president of the Washington-based Human Rights Campaign and will formally assume the post April 11.

He plans to start his tenure by traveling around the country, meeting with state and local activists. Since 1993, Solmonese has been a strategist for EMILY’s List, a political action committee supporting state and federal candidates of Democratic women who favor abortion rights. He was its chief executive for the past 2 1/2 years, helping break fund-raising records but also seeing candidates his group endorsed lose 2004 Senate races in Florida, South Carolina and Missouri.

Solmonese graduated from Boston University with a degree in communications after growing up in Attleboro. One of his role models was the local congressman, Barney Frank, who became wealthy in 1987 when openly gay politicians were almost unheard of.

“Barney Frank is an incredibly heroic person, but also someone who is absolutely in touch with his constituency,” Solmonese said in a telephone interview. “He’s a man who values family more than anyone I know.”

Solmonese came out as gay in his early 20s; he recalls attending a Human Rights Campaign dinner when he was 22. Before joining EMILY’s List, he was an aide to former Massachusetts Gov. Michael Dukakis and a fund-raiser for Frank.

He credits his parents, both schoolteachers, with inspiring him to pursue a career of political activism. Solmonese Elementary School in Norton is named after his father, Joseph.

“After a decade in the reproductive rights movement, I see myself having been in the fight for a progressive America,” he said. “Groups like the HRC are very much at the forefront of that fight.

Another common denominator for the abortion-rights and gay rights movements is their determined and politically well-connected constituency. Those who focus on those two issues have claimed credit for the Republicans’ strong showing in the 2004 election.

“The American people fear a whole range of things right now, from terrorism to their economic future,” Solmonese said. “Our opposition has been pretty crafty at capitalizing on that fear, using whatever means necessary to make political gains.

Many conservative groups are now waging a twopronged fight against gay marriage. They are lobbying Congress to approve a federal constitutional amendment defining marriage as the union of a man and a woman; they also hope more states will join the 17 that already have amended their constitutions to ban gay marriage.

The Human Rights Campaign was among numerous gay-rights organizations participating earlier this month in a strategy session aimed at competing effectively in upcoming state ballot campaigns regarding gay marriage.

Solmonese says he hopes Massachusetts will continue to be a leader in the gay rights movement. He believes that its pioneering legalization of same-sex marriage has positive, not negative, results. “Massachusetts is still there, with loving, committed families,” he said. “We want to shine a light on what happened in Massachusetts, and tell the American people who we truly are.”

He replaces another Massachusetts political activist, former state Sen. Cheryl Jacques, who stepped down as HRC president last year, citing differences with its board.

Her departure coincided with speculation in the gay media, and elsewhere, about discord among the HRC’s general counsel and some of its major gay-rights groups. Solmonese said he has detected no serious rifts since his hiring was announced.

(From the Sun Chronicle, Mar. 18, 2005)

ATTLEBORO HONORED BY ANOTHER ACTIVIST

Attleboro is honored by the appointment of a city native to head the Human Rights Campaign—the nation’s largest gay civil rights group—and just days prior to a welcome re-opening on the West Coast of the bans on same-sex marriage.

Joe Solmonese, 40, who is gay, brings to his new role a history of activism that began when he was a student council vice president while a junior at Attleboro High School in the early 1980s.
HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS OF TEXAS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, April 5, 2005

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend Flower Mound High School, located in the 26th Congressional District of Texas, for its recognition in the Gold List of Grammy Signature Schools.

I congratulate Flower Mound High School’s performing arts department, under the leadership of Danna Rothlisberger, Lewisville ISD director of performing arts, and Mark Rohwer, chair of the performing arts department, for their outstanding achievement. Flower Mound High School was only one of seven schools in the nation promoted to the Gold List from their original recognition as a Grammy Signature School.

Flower Mound High School received $7,000 cash reward for its performing arts department as part of their promotion. Mr. Rohwer has promised to spend a portion of the money to hiring composers to write specific pieces for the band, orchestra and choir, and to buy new equipment.

Flower Mound High School’s performing arts department is a stellar example from which Texas schools should model their performing arts departments. Their commitment to educating students through the arts is to be admired and replicated.

I am proud of the education system in Texas; especially our involved parents and teachers at Flower Mound High School who commit their lives and time to fostering growth in their students.

HONORING THE LIFE OF WILLIAM “SLIM” SOMERVELL
HON. MARYLIN N. MUSGRAVE OF COLORADO
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, April 5, 2005

Mrs. MUSGRAVE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and service of Willis “Slim” Somervell, who has dedicated his life to God, his family, and the United States of America.” Slim has said, “You need to be true to yourself and you need to have beliefs and a value system. Without those, what are we?” These are wise words. As I learned about the life of service that Mr. Somervell has led, I am inspired by his beliefs and his values.

Service to America is one value Slim holds dear. He entered the United States Navy in 1941. In 1944, Slim was commissioned as a gunnery and navigation officer for the USS Landing Ship Medium 142.

In addition to having command of the Landing Ship Medium, he also commanded Patrol Craft 1262, which conducted air and sea rescues in the Caribbean. He was also Executive Officer of the Patrol Craft Escort 877.

Slim worked in the Fleet Weather Center in Washington, DC and conducted Navy weather research in Norfolk, Virginia. He served on the Forrestal, CVA-59. He was also the staff meteorologist for the commander of the U.S. Second Fleet, later for the Western Pacific 7th Fleet and ultimately commanded the Navy Research Facility in Norfolk, Virginia.

Devotion to family is another value that is important to Slim. While on assignment in Monterey, California, he met his wife Mary. They married in 1949 in Kerville, Texas. They had five children, four girls and one boy. Slim and Mary are now grandparents of thirteen.

Slim will often tell you, “What more can a person ask for than children and grandchildren who turn out to be good citizens.” As you can tell, Slim is quite proud of his family.

After 30 years of faithful service to our country, Slim retired. But this did not slow him down. Slim took a job with the Bureau of Reclamation in their cloud seeding program. Later, Slim worked for the Department of Atmospheric Science at Colorado State University. Slim spent 15 years in that department as a manager, researcher and also a teacher.

In addition to service to family and service to our country, Slim also strongly believes in service to God. Slim and Mary attend Saint Joseph’s Catholic Church in Fort Collins, Colorado. There, Slim serves as a lector and a communion minister.

Slim has been truly blessed with a great career and a great family. I invite my colleagues to join me in honoring Mr. Somervell. May God continue to bless the Somervells for years to come.

A TRIBUTE TO MAE CATHERINE GREESE
HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS OF NEW YORK
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, April 5, 2005

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in honor of Mae Catherine Greene in recognition for her dedication to her community.

Mae Catherine Greene fondly known as “Cat” by family and close friends is almost a life long resident of the east New York community of which she has been an integral and staunchly loyal advocate. She was born in Chadbourn, NC in March of 1957, the ninth of ten children of a proud and independent working mother.

Mae obtained her education in the neighborhood she so greatly loves and adores. She attended P.S. 149, I.S. 292 and William H. Maxwell High School in east New York. Mae, who has been married for almost 27 years to her childhood sweetheart, Richard Greene, is the proud mother of six children who still live in east New York as well.

HON. STEVE ISRAEL OF NEW YORK
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, April 5, 2005

Mr. ISRAEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the contributions of the American Airpower Museum in Farmingdale, New York to the commemoration of the 60th anniversary of the liberation of American POWs at the end of World War II.

Sixty years ago this spring, over 100,000 American and Allied POWs were liberated by Soviet troops as they swept aside enemy forces in Eastern Europe. This liberation marked the end of forced marches, stinging gunnery and navigation officer for the USS Fleet and ultimately commanded the Navy Research Facility in Norfolk, Virginia.

Forrestal, and conducted Navy weather research in Norfolk, Virginia. He served on the Forrestal, CVA-59. He was also the staff meteorologist for the commander of the U.S. Second Fleet, later for the Western Pacific 7th Fleet and ultimately commanded the Navy Research Facility in Norfolk, Virginia.

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In addition to service to family and service to our country, Slim also strongly believes in service to God. Slim and Mary attend Saint Joseph’s Catholic Church in Fort Collins, Colorado. There, Slim serves as a lector and a communion minister.

Slim has been truly blessed with a great career and a great family. I invite my colleagues to join me in honoring Mr. Somervell. May God continue to bless the Somervells for years to come.

A TRIBUTE TO MAE CATHERINE GREESE
HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS OF NEW YORK
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, April 5, 2005

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Mae obtained her education in the neighborhood she so greatly loves and adores. She attended P.S. 149, I.S. 292 and William H. Maxwell High School in east New York. Mae, who has been married for almost 27 years to her childhood sweetheart, Richard Greene, is the proud mother of six children who still live in east New York as well.
Having six children in the public school system and being a concerned, loving and dedicated parent, Mae took a strong interest in the neighborhood’s public school system. She was very involved and an active presence in many different capacities. She served as President and Secretary of the Community Board 9 and President of the P.T.A. at P.S. 213, I.S. 171 and I.S. 292. Additionally, she was Chapter 1 Chairperson for the District for both P.S. 213 and I.S. 171 as well as P.A.C. President for the Board for two day care centers, Georgia-Livonia and Einstein in East NY.

Mae is not only an advocate for education, but she is also very involved in community and politically based issues and activities. She has been a longtime advocate for senior citizens, immigrant and housing rights. Mae has served as Secretary to the Tenants’ Advisory Board and Property Manager at Elva McZeal Houses Housing Development and as a Community Advisor at Beekman Houses in the Bronx, NY. She also set up a parents’ rights advocacy for immigrant parents at P.S. 213, was a community liaison for Health Plus, and an advocate for the senior citizens at Elva McZeal Houses.

Mr. Speaker, Mae Catherine Greene has strengthened her community through her numerous volunteer efforts with the PTA, the Community Board, and local housing associations. As such, she is more than worthy of receiving our recognition today and I urge my colleagues to join me in honoring the truly remarkable person.

HONORING MSGT ROBERT F. GREEN, JR.

HON. JAMES T. WALSH
OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, April 5, 2005

Mr. WALSH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the accomplishments of MSGT Robert F. Green. Master Sergeant Green, a resident of Ontario, New York is retiring from the United States Air Force after years of dedicated service.

His retirement allows for reflection on what can only be considered a sterling career. He has admirably served his country without question. His fellow servicio members attest that Master Sergeant Green sets the standard regarding attributes such as honor, respect, duty and country.

On behalf of my colleagues, and myself, I extend my gratitude, great appreciation and well wishes for prosperous retirement years. Thank you for your service to our country.

HONORING THE LIFE OF MRS. ANNE DORA MOORE HALL

HON. JEB HENSARLING
OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, April 5, 2005

Mr. HENSARLING. Mr. Speaker, today I would like honor the life of Mrs. Anne Dora Moore Hall, 4 passed away on March 16, 2005. Mrs. Hall was born in Cherokee County, Texas to Miles Cleveland and Mattie Edwards Moore. She lived most of her life in Dallas and had a long, successful career as an insurance executive.

A mother to two children, Robert and Steven, and wife to Bergen Hall, Mrs. Hall was also very active in her community. She was an officer in the Pierce Brooks Gospel Foundation, served on the Texas Safety Council, and worked with the Crippled Children’s Foundation of America. She was also engaged in politics as a member of the White Rock Women’s Republican Club, the Public Affairs Luncheon Club, and working at her local precinct during elections.

As a mother, a wife, a businesswoman, and a community leader, Mrs. Anne Dora Moore Hall has served her community through her dedicated service.

HON. BARNEY FRANK
OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, April 5, 2005

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, one of the saddest and most disheartening of our current political dialogue is that partisanship has extended into the intellectual sphere. That is, I very much agree that people should pick one party or the other as being more representative of their views than the alternative and generally support that party. That is legitimate partisanship. Excessive partisanship comes when people are never willing to admit that their “side” ever makes mistakes, or that the “other side” ever has any virtues.

It is for this reason, as well as the substance of his well-reasoned articles, that I was very gratified to read Boston Globe Columnist Jeff Jacoby’s two-part series on torture. Mr. Jacoby is a strong, outspoken conservative who supports the war in Iraq. But unlike many, he does not let his general ideological position in this set of issues make him an apologist for the use of torture. Instead, he does not let his general ideological position in this set of issues make him an apologist for the use of torture.

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Jeff Jacoby shows integrity on torture issue

WHERE’S THE OUTRAGE ON TORTURE?

(By Jeff Jacoby)

In August 2003, when he was commander of the military base at Guantanamo Bay, Major General Geoffrey Arendt told a Pentagon psychiatrist with some advice for US interrogators at Abu Ghraib prison. As Brigadier General Janis Karpinski, the military police commander in Iraq, later admitted in a taped call, Miller’s bottom line was blunt: Abu Ghraib should be “Gitmo-ized.” Iraqi detainees should be exposed to the same aggressive techniques being used to extract information from prisoners in Guantanamo.

“Where’s the outrage on torture?” Karpinski quoted Miller as saying. There can be “no mistake about who’s in charge. You have to treat these detainees like dogs.”

Whether or not Miller actually spoke those words, it is clear that harsh techniques authorized for a time in Guantanamo forced nudity, hooding, shackling men in “stress positions,” the use of dogs were taken up in Afghanistan and Iraq, where they sometimes degenerated into outright violence and even torture. Did the injunction to “treat these detainees like dogs” give rise to a prison culture that winked at barbarism? Should Miller be held responsible for what Abu Ghraib became?

The latest Pentagon report on the abuse of captives, delivered to Congress last week by Vice Admiral Albert “Al” Thurman, doesn’t point a finger of blame at Miller or any other high-ranking officials. It concludes that while detainees in Iraq, Guantanamo, and elsewhere were brutalized by military or CIA interrogators, there was no formal policy authorizing such abuse. (On occasion it was even condemned in December.) For example, some Navy officials denounced the Guantanamo techniques as “unlawful and unworthy of the military services.”

But surely, Church was asked at a congressional hearing, someone should be held accountable for the scores of abuses that even the government admits to? “Not in my charter,” the admiral replied.

So the buck stops nowhere. And fresh revelations of horror keep seeping out.

Afghanistan, 2002: A detainee in the “Salt Pit,” a secret, CIA-funded prison north of Kabul, is stripped naked, dragged across a concrete floor, then chained in a cell and left overnight. By morning, he has frozen to death. According to The Washington Post, which sourced the story to four US government officials, the dead man was buried in an unmarked grave, and his family was never notified. What had the Afghan done to merit such lethal handling? “He was probably associated with people who were associated with Al Qaeda,” a US official told the Post.

Iraq, 2003: Manadel al-Jamadi, arrested after a terrorist bombing in Baghdad, is brought in handcuffs to a barred window, hoisting his arms painfully behind his back a position so unnatural.

Torture, Sergeant Jeffrey Frost later tells investigators, that is supposed to be “painful in a natural, ‘other side’.” Frost and other guards are summoned when an interrogator complains that al-Jamadi isn’t cooperating. They find him lying, motionless. When they remove the chains and attempt to stand him on his feet, blood gushes from his mouth. His ribs are broken. He is declared dead.

Then there is the government’s use of “extraordinary rendition,” a euphemism for
By “extreme circumstances” he meant what is often called the “ticking-bomb” scenario: A deadly terror attack is looming, and you can prevent it only by getting the information you need to stop it. The CIA says it always gets an assurance in advance that a prisoner will be treated humanely. But of what value are such assurances when they come from places like Syria and Saudi Arabia?

Of course the United States must hunt down terrorists and find out what they know. Better intelligence means more lives saved, more atrocities prevented, and a more likely victory in the war against radical Islamist fascism. Those are crucial ends, and they justify means that betray core American values. Interrogation techniques that flirt with torture can involve beatings, electric shocks and other torture. The CIA says it always gets an assurance in advance that the prisoner will be treated humanely. But of what value are such assurances when they come from places like Syria and Saudi Arabia?

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Loch-Lon, dealt with builders and typed warranty papers. Amos was active with the Board of Realtors where he served as a legislative liaison.

Through hard work, the Allards have been quite successful in Larimer County. They have two sons, current U.S. Senator WAYNE ALLARD and Kermit Allard, both living in Larimer County. They have four granddaughters and 6 great grandchildren.

Jean Allard has witnessed much change in Larimer County. The timeless value of hard work has truly been demonstrated by Jean. I wish the best for the Allard’s and hope that their legacy will continue for many years to come.

A TRIBUTE TO THE COUNCIL OF JEWISH ORGANIZATIONS OF FLATBUSH

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS
OF NEW YORK
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, April 5, 2005

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of a distinguished organization the Council of Jewish Organizations of Flatbush. It is an honor to represent the Council of Jewish Organizations of Flatbush in the House of Representatives and it behooves us to pay tribute to their selfless endeavors of more than a quarter century.

Mr. Speaker, the Council of Jewish Organizations of Flatbush, was founded twenty six years ago to assist families in need in the greater Brooklyn area. Over the course of its many years of dedication to the Brooklyn community the Council of Jewish Organizations of Flatbush has truly emerged as a premier organization committed to assisting those who have nowhere else to turn.

Under the leadership of their Executive Director, Rabbi Yechezkel Pikus, The Council of Jewish Organizations of Flatbush has established itself as Brooklyn’s central address for social services, immigration services and many forms of crucial emergency assistance.

The Council of Jewish Organizations of Flatbush has been instrumental in creating successful employment programs and developing Small Business services. Through the Leader Family Employment Center and the South Brooklyn Business Outreach Center they have empowered people with the tools to succeed in their professional endeavors. Additionally, they are renowned for providing vital outreach to the elderly and homebound with particular attention and sensitivity to Holocaust survivors. They have also developed a scholarship fund to send children from disadvantaged families to summer camp.

Mr. Speaker, I believe that it is incumbent on this body to recognize the achievements of the Council of Jewish Organizations of Flatbush. Their uncompromising commitment to Jewish ideals and ethics is an inspiration for us all.

Mr. Speaker, may our country continue to benefit from the civic actions of the Council of Jewish Organizations of Flatbush and community groups similar to them.

RECOGNIZING FIRE CAPTAIN BUTCH FLANAGAN AND HIS YEARS OF COMMUNITY SERVICE

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS
OF TEXAS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, April 5, 2005

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend Captain Butch Flanagan of the Lewisville Fire Department, located in the 26th Congressional District of Texas, for his long career serving the community.

Captain Flanagan, who has spent the last 34 years with the Lewisville Fire Department, will retire April 5, 2005. He has been the city’s longest current employee and was named “Firefighter of the County” in 2004 by the “Heroes of Denton County.” Captain Flanagan helped his way up through the ranks and has been highly dedicated throughout his career. He once said, “I can’t ever see myself doing anything different.”

Captain Flanagan was born and raised in Lewisville, graduated from Lewisville High School, and now lives in Graham. He was one of the first full-time Lewisville firefighters and rose through the ranks to become captain. Captain Flanagan has been described as role model in the department and at home. Both his peers and superiors look up to Captain Flanagan as a mentor. One Lewisville fire chief said “He’ll getcha out trouble in a hurry” and “you know no one’s going to get hurt” when Captain Flanagan is in charge. The Chief also said that the Lewisville Fire Department “was blessed” to have such a man serve with them.

I am proud to represent Captain Butch Flanagan and the Lewisville Fire Department. Captain Flanagan has committed his life and time to protect and serve our community at any time, anywhere.

RECOGNIZING THE GADDA MOVEMENT

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH
OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, April 5, 2005

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the Gaddar Movement and the brave individuals who contributed to the Indian Independence Movement. An event to commemorate the memories of the Gaddar Movement will occur in Fresno, CA, on April 3, 2005. In spite of the trials and hardships, the goal of India’s independence was achieved, and the Indian people now live in a sovereign nation filled with hope and opportunity.

It is important to honor the sacrifices that so many have made for the cause of freedom. Just as the early Americans were guided by the doctrine of liberty embodied in the Declaration of Independence, the members of the Gaddar movement also understood the importance of autonomy for the Indian people. Many of these immigrants endured loss of life and property, but they persevered and have made major contributions to the U.S., both socially and economically.

Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the courageous efforts of those brave individuals who contributed to the Gaddar Movement. I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing their courage and commitment to freedom.

IN MEMORY OF CONNIE SKIPWORTH

HON. LORETTA SANCHEZ
OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, April 5, 2005

Ms. SANCHEZ. Ms. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of an extraordinary American, Connie Skipworth, who died on March 17, 2005, at the age of eighty-four.

Connie was a joy to know. Lively, humorous, and filled with the spirit of life, she dedicated much of her time to making everyone feel like part of the family. Connie was born on February 18, 1921 in San Bernardino, California.

By the late 1930s, Connie was married to Skip Skipworth and relocated to California, spending those first years working as a riveter for McDonnell Douglas in Long Beach during World War II.

Connie has spent much of her years participating in the life of the community. Connie and her sister, Irene, opened their first restaurant in 1945, The Old Mexico Cafe in Long Beach. Seven years later, Connie opened the Zarape Cafe in Las Vegas, later returning to The Old Mexico Cafe a year later, where she worked as a manager, saving up enough money to build The Azteca in Garden Grove in 1957.

Connie was very devoted to her family, and encouraged them to reach for greatness and to realize their potential. The Azteca was a success, and the business brought in money to the family, and joy to the community. She was a great woman making everyone feel comfortable by flashing a quick smile, and by greeting everyone by their first names.

Mr. Speaker, Connie Skipworth dedicated herself to making our town a wonderful community to live in. Connie is more than worthy of receiving our recognition today, and I urge my colleagues to join me in honoring the life of this truly remarkable person.

TRIBUTE TO MOTHER ANN PARROTT ON HER 80TH BIRTHDAY

HON. DONALD M. PAYNE
OF NEW JERSEY
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, April 5, 2005

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to rise today to recognize a highly valued citizen of my home city of Newark, New Jersey. Mother Ann Parrott celebrates her 80th Birthday on May 6, 2005. She is the mother to six wonderful children and grandmother to fourteen. She has dedicated her life, for almost five decades, to the social and spiritual improvement of her community.

Active in her church, she wears a myriad of hats ranging from Sunday school teacher to choir member. One of her most honorable contributions, however, has been the establishment of the Lighthouse Temple Community Services in Newark, New Jersey. Founded in 1989 as an addition to the Lighthouse Temple, Community Services modestly
began as a soup kitchen where she served homemade soup and combread to the home-less in Newark. It now functions as one of the great providers of comprehensive care to the homeless and less fortunate in the state of New Jersey by offering emergency shelter, food, clothing and job placement to many in the Newark area.

Mr. Speaker, I know my colleagues here in the House of Representatives would join me in honoring Mother Ann Parrott, who becomes the advisory board for the University of Michigan Center for the Education of Women. On May 2, 2005 the Jewish Federation of Washtenaw County will present Bill with its Humanitarian Award, an honor bestowed every other year to an outstanding citizen of the community. Bill Martin is truly one of those deserving citizens, and I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating him on this upcoming award and thanking him for his outstanding leadership in Michigan and around the nation.

IN HONOR OF WOMEN’S HISTORY MONTH

HON. RON KIND
OF WISCONSIN
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, April 5, 2005

Mr. KIND. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Women’s History Month. In 1987, Congress passed a resolution designating the month of March as Women’s History Month and a time to honor, “American women of every race, class and ethnic background [who] have made historic contributions to the growth and strength of our Nation in countless recorded and unrecorded ways.” For 2005, the theme of Women’s History Month is “Women Change America.” In celebration of this month, I would like to focus on two women from Wisconsin’s history and honor their contributions to society.

First, I would like to recognize Cordelia Julia Grace Wales. Wisconsin resident Julia Grace Wales made her mark in Wisconsin as a peace activist, scholar, an English instructor at University of Wisconsin-Madison, and a dedicated Christian. In 1914, in light of WWI, Wales decided to write her famous Wisconsin peace plan, a plan that she believed would end WWI. Wales made a genuine contribution to women’s history in Wisconsin and America’s tradition of peace movements.

Born in Portage, Wisconsin, Margery Lati-mer was a social movement activist and an accomplished U.S. Olympic Committee; this would prove to be an eight-year period; the U.S. Customs Service in the Port Authority facilities such as, the Holland Tunnel and Newark International Airport. After three years of serv-ice, Brian felt compelled to make a career change and opted to leave his position with the esteemed Port Authority.

Brian decided to pursue a career with the U.S. Customs Service in the Tactical Enforce-ment Division; this would prove to be an eighteen-year venture. Initially, Brian entered the bureau as a Special Agent, with the Office of Investigations and Internal Affairs and quickly flourished. He received a promotion soon after he began with the agency and subsequently served a term at the U.S. Customs Service
FOR THE RELIEF OF THE PARENTS OF THERESA MARIE SCHIAVO

SPEECH OF
HON. JULIA CARSON
OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Sunday, March 20, 2005

Ms. CARSON. Mr. Speaker, the Schiavo family tragedy has touched the hearts of Americans across the country. This is a family that has for fifteen years intently battled with what for most of us are distant fears. Now millions of us, in conversations at the office with our friends and colleagues and at the dinner table with our families, are trying to decide what we would do in their situation, what we would want for ourselves and for our loved ones. It is a conversation we need to have as a nation. But it is a question that will remain unresolved unless that time comes when our families are faced with tragedy as the Schiavo family has been.

Today we can argue what we hope we would do in their situation, what we think we would want for ourselves, and what we think is right. But we do not know what it means to be a member of the Schiavo family. We in Congress can only pretend.

Can any of us even imagine the agony that this family has weathered over the past fifteen years? Can any of us here in Washington pretend to have the authority to decide which members of this family in Florida are “good” and which are “bad”? I have listened to some of my colleagues condemn Michael Schiavo, a man they have never met and do not know, as wicked. Some of my colleagues have suggested that this man have never met, this man who has suffered immeasurably through this agonizing family tragedy, is motivated by selfishness and cruelty. Some have suggested he has no respect for life. Let us see these accusations for what they are: a sick and shameful attempt to destroy a man’s character and to tear apart a family, all in the name of political gain.

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My colleagues, this will be a day looked back upon with shame. It will be the day that 100 Senators and 435 Members of Congress and one President, none of whom are members of this family, none of whom have stood alongside Terri Schiavo over the hardships of the past 15 years, none of whom know her wishes, none of whom would have lifted a finger were it not for a sick sense of political opportunism at the expense of the family—it will be the day these 536 strangers decided that the family wasn’t good enough, that it was time for 536 strangers to decide, without any evidence or personal connection, what was good for a family they have never met.

This is a choice we would never wish upon anyone, but which families must make between themselves and God alone. May Congress never again pretend to be part of such a covenant.

TRIBUTE TO LANSDOWNE CHRISTIAN CHURCH OF BALTIMORE COUNTY

HON. BENJAMIN L. CARDIN
OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 5, 2005

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay special tribute to the Lansdowne Christian Church of Baltimore County marking its 100th year of celebrating Memorial Day Services. The Church, which was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1977 by the U.S. Department of Interior, is the only Church in the United States built to honor the men of the Grand Army of the Republic and the sacrifices they made to preserve the Union.

On May 14, 1905, the first annual Memorial Service for the Grand Army was held at the Lansdowne Christian Church. Memorial Day was established in the wake of the Civil War to remember and pay homage to all those who had died in service to our nation. The Service on the last Sunday in May continues today. This year’s service will be held on May 29, 2005, continuing a tradition for which Church members and the community should be very proud.

Today, we are engaged in armed conflict in Iraq and in Afghanistan. Many of our soldiers have made the ultimate sacrifice, and it is important that we honor their commitment to freedom and democracy.

I hope my colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives will join me in saluting the Lansdowne Christian Church for making duty, service and dedication to our nation a central focus of church life.

RECOGNIZING KEN SLAVENS OF SAINT HELENA, CALIFORNIA

HON. MIKE THOMPSON
OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 5, 2005

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize my dear friend, Ken Slavens, of Saint Helena, California, for his 21 years of public service. His outstanding leadership and commitment have helped to make my hometown the incredible community that it is today.

Born and raised in Saint Helena, Ken’s appreciation, love, and devotion to protecting and preserving this small, unique community are obvious from his many years of dedicated service. With an innate knowledge of his community and unyielding compassion, Ken was elected to the office of City Council in 1994. His energy, drive, and undeniable hard work are only a few of the many reasons that he was appointed as Vice Mayor in 1997. Shortly thereafter in 1999, Ken was elected Mayor of Saint Helena.

Mr. Speaker, during his tenure on the City Council and as Mayor, Ken has been a strong advocate for Saint Helena on numerous boards throughout Napa County and California. These include the Long Range Water
Task Force, Napa County Cities Mayors Council, the Association of Bay Area Government, and the North Bay League of California Cities just to name a few. As Mayor, he tackled important and complicated issues ranging from job training and employment for the disadvantaged, to flood control and improving local water quality. He also worked arduously with the Napa County Flood Control District to protect Saint Helena from dangerous and destructive winter flooding. He is also recognized for spearheading the creation of the new Saint Helena First Station.

Mr. Speaker, Ken has even risked his own life on multiple occasions in order to protect his fellow citizens. From 1976 to 1978 he served as Captain of the Saint Helena Police Reserves. After his time with the Police Department, he selflessly devoted the next seven years to the Saint Helena Volunteer Fire Department. During his time there, his passion for protecting and serving the community earned him overwhelming respect and praise from his fellow fire fighters. As a result, he has been recognized as an Honorary Member of the Fire Department.

When not working with the Native Sons of the Golden West, the Sierra Club, or other local organizations Ken and his wife Barbie look forward to cruising through the Napa Valley on their Screaming Eagle Harley Davidson.

Mr. Speaker, it is appropriate that we thank and honor Ken Stavens for his passion, dedication, and numerous contributions to this community. We wish him the best in all his future endeavors.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOE KNOLENBERG
OF MICHIGAN
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, April 5, 2005

Mr. KNOLENBERG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the loss of Mrs. Terri Schiavo.

On March 21, 2005, S. 686 passed the House of Representatives by a vote of 203–58. This was rollcall vote number 90. Unfortunately, I was out of the country on official Congressional business and unable to return for this emergency session. However, had I been present I would have voted in support of this legislation.

HONORING THE LATE MR. JAMES McDOWELL

HON. GINNY BROWN-WAITE
OF FLORIDA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, April 5, 2005

Mr. BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the late Mr. James McDowell.

Mr. McDowell was a World War II B–17 pilot who flew 31 missions over Germany. On January 13, 1945, on his second mission over Mannheim, Germany, Mr. McDowell’s aircraft was hit by enemy fire. The heavy flak hit the cockpit floor and sent a piece of shrapnel through his clothing into his right calf.

The severely damaged plane was unable to return to the base, and was forced to land at Manston England Air Base. Mr. McDowell was taken by the medics to the hospital, treated and released with a cane. The B–17 was so damaged that it never returned to action.

Last year, Mr. McDowell and his family approached me about getting his long overdue Purple Heart. Unfortunately, before I was able to present the Purple Heart to him, Mr. McDowell passed away.

Mr. Speaker, while it is unfortunate that Mr. McDowell is not alive to receive his Purple Heart, I know that his family will cherish the medal and his legacy for the rest of their lives. Mr. McDowell’s story is emblematic of many who served in World War II and surely places him as a member of the “greatest generation.”

HONORING UNDERSHERIFF CURTIS L. WATSON

HON. BARBARA LEE
OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, April 5, 2005

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, Mr. STARK and I rise today to honor the extraordinary contributions of Undersheriff Curtis L. Watson to the Alameda County Sheriff’s Department over the past 34 years. Curtis joined the department in 1970 and steadily climbed its ranks to become the undersheriff in 1993, providing excellent service throughout his tenure.

In 1970, Curtis had just completed a tour in the United States Air Force. On the advice of his brother, he applied for the Alameda County Sheriff’s Department, where he was hired as a sheriff’s deputy and assigned to work at Santa Rita Jail.

Curtis had worked his way up to the position of lieutenant at Santa Rita when he first made the acquaintance of Charles Plummer, the Alameda County Sheriff, in 1987. Curtis’s composure and confidence made a positive impression on the sheriff, who would remember him when their paths crossed again a few years later.

After advancing to captain and becoming the commanding officer of the North County Jail in Castro Valley, Curtis took the commander’s exam in April 1992, finishing with the highest score of any candidate and again catching the attention of Sheriff Plummer. By that time, Curtis had made such an impression that when the undersheriff position came open in 1993, Sheriff Plummer tapped him to fill it.

With his promotion to undersheriff, Curtis became not only the highest-ranking African American in the Alameda County Sheriff Department’s 152-year history but also the highest-ranking black sheriff’s official in the state of California.

Curtis served as undersheriff from 1993 until his retirement on March 24, 2005. Only one other undersheriff in the entire history of the Alameda County Sheriff Department served longer than Curtis’s 12 years in the position.

On the occasion of Curtis Watson’s retirement, we would like to honor his contributions to law and order in Alameda County over the past 34 years. He has served with distinction and dedication, breaking down barriers and forging new paths. We salute him for his commitment and loyalty in our society, and we are certain that others will draw inspiration from his accomplishments for generations to come.

FOR THE RELIEF OF THE PARENTS OF THERESA MARIE SCHIAVO

SPEECH OF
HON. GIL GUTKNECHT
OF MINNESOTA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Sunday, March 20, 2005

Mr. GUTKNECHT. Mr. Speaker, as an original cosponsor of the first legislation introduced to protect the life of Terri Schiavo, I am pleased to see Members of Congress from both bodies and from both sides of the aisle able to come together to pass legislation that gives Terri Schiavo a chance at life. S. 868 will allow members of Terri’s family to file a claim in the U.S. District Court in Florida for an allowed violation of her Constitutional rights. Our Constitution states that no state shall “deprive any person of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law.” Yet Terri has never had her own attorney exclusively representing her interests in court. This action will finally give her that opportunity. Convicted criminals on death row are granted this right; should not an individual who has never been convicted of a crime?

I understand issues involving long-term family illness are areas in which Congress should tread softly, if at all. This is an extremely sensitive area. But the facts of this case show that Terri’s parents and siblings are willing to care for her and bear her medical expenses. This is not someone in a coma or with a terminal illness. Terri is awake and is able to see and hear and is often alert and interacts with her environment. We have a responsibility to protect the most vulnerable among us. Though we sometimes are led astray, every man, woman and child is precious in God’s eyes. Terri’s family must be given the opportunity to give her the treatment and care she deserves.

It was vitally important that Congress pass this legislation; not just to protect Terri’s life, but also to avoid setting the disturbing precedent of ending human life against the wishes of someone’s family and those willing to give her care. What kind of statement would we have been making to other incapacitated or disabled individuals who aren’t able to survive without the assistance of medical technology or the care of others? As many have stated, when it comes to life and death decisions we must always err on the side of life.

I regret I was not available to vote for S. 868. Had my vote been needed for passage, I would have returned immediately.

THE INVESTMENT TAX SIMPLIFICATION ACT OF 2005

HON. DAVID DREIER
OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, April 5, 2005

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, our position as the world’s leading economy is founded on the principle of entrepreneurship. This spirit inspires us to seek new and innovative products and services which enhance Americans’ lives by exploiting bold business ventures.

After two failed attempts to start an automobile manufacturing company, in 1903, Henry Ford and 11 business associates raised

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$28,000 (nearly $600,000 in today's dollars) to establish the Ford Motor Company, ushering in the age of modern transportation. This venture not only enhanced the free flow of products and people across the nation, but also spawned a revolutionary assembly-line production process, increasing manufacturing productivity and affording the American people goods for their dollar. In the process, millions of new jobs were created in other new fields, such as part manufacturers, service repair technicians, salesmen, and customer service representatives.

Venture capital also played a significant role in the boom of entrepreneurship that contributed to the unprecedented economic growth of the 1990s. According to the National Venture Capital Association (NVCA), venture capitalists raised over $250 billion between 1994 and 2000 for investment in start-up companies. This frenzied business activity helped spur Initial Public Offerings (IPOs) over the same period worth over $84 billion, boosting the value of financial markets. One major product of this tremendous financing activity was the commercialization of the Internet, which continues to have a significant impact on the U.S. economy.

The Internet allows people to connect from all over the world, enhancing the free flow of products, services and most importantly, information. This technological revolution has created hundreds of thousands of American jobs, such as software developers, information technology technicians, salesmen and customer service representatives, many of which did not exist before.

The start-up capital raised by these entrepreneurs made it possible to transform the automobile and the Internet possible and played a key role in transforming the U.S. economic and social landscape. So what's next on the horizon? What new industry will revolutionize the U.S. economy?

If we ever intend to find out, it is imperative that we continue to encourage greater investment spending in the economy. In 2003, President Bush and the Congress took an important step forward by reducing the capital gains tax rate for individuals to 15 percent. Since then, the economy has grown at an average rate of 4.5 percent, business investment has increased by $230 billion, financial markets are up $2 trillion and over 3 million new jobs have been created. However, this rate is scheduled to expire in just four short years.

Unfortunately, the complex, confusing and temporary capital gains tax rates create a lock-in effect, a barrier which discourages investment and entrepreneurship, stifling job creation. That is why I am introducing the Investment Tax Simplification Act (ITSA) of 2005, which would help to knock down this barrier and enhance the free flow of investment capital in the economy by establishing a permanent and simplified maximum 15 percent capital gains tax for individuals and corporations. In addition, the capital gains tax would be eliminated for individuals in the 10 and 15 percent tax brackets.

Entrepreneurial small businesses, the driving force of growth in our economy, rely on access to capital to innovate and expand. According to the NVCA, there is over $70 billion in venture capital funds sitting on the sidelines waiting for investment opportunities. Establishing a simplified 15 percent capital gains tax rate for individuals and corporations will help get that capital into the economy, turn innovative ideas into reality, create new jobs for American workers and produce new goods and services for all consumers. The NVCA estimates that between 2000 and 2003, venture capital funded companies created more than 600,000 new jobs for American workers. Many of these new companies are in the innovative, cutting edge industries, such as biomedical and information technologies that rely on private investing and financing.

Enacting a permanent and simplified capital gains tax for individuals and corporations would also have an appreciable impact on the Investor Class, the more than 50 percent of Americans who own assets dependent on financial markets. The ITSA would bolster the investment holdings of the Investor Class, the more than 50 percent of Americans who own assets dependent on financial markets. The ITSA would bolster the investment holdings of the Investor Class, the more than 50 percent of Americans who own assets dependent on financial markets. The ITSA would bolster the investment holdings of the Investor Class, the more than 50 percent of Americans who own assets dependent on financial markets.

In fact, the Congressional Budget Office, in its February 2005 "Budget Options" publication, recognizes the importance of making the 15 percent capital gains tax rate permanent. It states "Because the lower rates expire at the end of 2008, investments made after that time will not benefit from the rates all, and investments made between 2003 and 2008 will benefit only partially because some of their returns will be earned after 2008. Hence many of the gains in efficiency that would result from the effects of the lower rates on the allocation of investment will not be realized unless the rates are perceived to be permanent."

Reducing the capital gains tax is also a proven winner at increasing revenues to the Federal Treasury. After the 1997 capital gains tax cut from 28 percent to 20 percent, increased economic activity resulted in an increase in capital gains revenues, from $54 billion in 1996 to $118 billion in 2000, a gain of nearly 120 percent. And as a result of the 2003 capital gains tax cut and other tax relief provisions, last year the Federal Treasury realized $100 billion in unanticipated revenue.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage all of my colleagues to support the Investment Tax Simplification Act of 2005. Enhancing the free flow of capital in the economy will stimulate innovation and entrepreneurship, providing enormous benefit for the American people.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE UNIVERSITY OF LOUISIANA AT LAFAYETTE RAJIN’ CAJUNS

HON. CHARLES W. BOUSTANY, JR. OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, April 5, 2005

Mr. BOUSTANY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the efforts of an extraordinary group of gentlemen from the 7th Congressional District of Louisiana. The Men’s Basketball team of the University of Louisiana at Lafayette brought spirit and pride to my hometown with a Sunbelt Conference Tournament Championship and qualification for the 2005 NCAA Basketball Tournament. First year head coach Robert Lee demonstrated he has the character and leadership qualities to mold these young men into not only great athletes, but into respected members of our community.

I am very proud to acknowledge the effort and achievement of Head Coach Robert Lee, Assistant Coaches Rennie Bailey, Carlin Hartman and Jason Kenner. I also want to congratulate the players on their achievements in the 2004–05 season—Orien Green, Tyson, 3, and P.J., 10 months.

Tyson, 3, and P.J., 10 months.

HON. CATHY McMORRIS

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, April 5, 2005

Miss McMORRIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Specialist Gerrit Kobes for being awarded a Silver Star for his bravery and heroism while serving in Iraq. Kobes, a member of Washington’s Army National Guard, saved the lives of Iraqi National Guard soldiers who were attacked by enemy fire. Kobes was presented with the medal in February by Major General Peter Chiarelli, commander of the 1st Cavalry Division.

Kobes, 23 years old, was a medical specialist assigned to a unit that provided security support for the 1st Cavalry Division special unit. His convoy was assigned to move Iraqi soldiers and equipment from Baghdad to Fallujah. On November 3rd, a rocket-propelled grenade hit one of the trucks carrying Iraqi National Guard Members. According to Army accounts, Kobes ran 500 meters through enemy fire to get to four wounded Iraqi soldiers. He treated the soldiers and was again exposed to insurgent fire as he loaded the soldiers onto vehicles.

Kobes is from Kettle Falls, Washington. He is married to wife, Erica, and has two sons, Tyson, 3, and P.J., 10 months.

HONORING SPC. GERRIT KOBES FOR EARNING A SILVER STAR

HON. KENNY MARCHANT

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, April 5, 2005

Mr. MARCHANT. Mr. Speaker, I would like to honor John M. Harpole for his 50 years of service with Lockheed Martin Missiles and Fire Control. During his tenure with Missiles and Fire Control, he has served in the areas of Database Design, Facility Operations, Information Technology, and Manufacturing. We thank John for his dedication not only to the defense industry and the company, but also to the country we serve.

HONORING JOHN M. HARPOLE FOR 50 YEARS OF SERVICE AT LOCK-HEED MARTIN

HON. ANDREW M. COYNE

OF ONTARIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, April 5, 2005

Mr. COYNE. Mr. Speaker, I welcome you to an exciting day in the House of Commons.

In a special event today, we are celebrating the 50th anniversary of the Liberal government of Prime Minister Lester B. Pearson. This is an opportunity to look back at the achievements of the Pearson government, and to reflect on the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead.

Prime Minister Pearson led Canada through some of the most turbulent and transformative periods of the 20th century. He was a leader of vision and courage, who understood the importance of innovation and cooperation in shaping a better future for all Canadians.

The Pearson government was characterized by a commitment to social justice, and a dedication to building a more inclusive and equitable society. It was a government that put people at the heart of its policies, and a government that made significant progress towards实现 democracy and human rights.

In the field of international relations, the Pearson government played a significant role in shaping the post-war world order. It was a government that believed in the power of dialogue and diplomacy, and was committed to working towards a more peaceful and prosperous world.

In the economy, the government launched a series of initiatives to stimulate growth and create jobs. It was a government that understood the importance of innovation and technological advancement in driving economic progress.

In the area of health care, the Pearson government made important advances in the provision of health services. It was a government that recognized the importance of a strong and accessible health care system for the well-being of all Canadians.

The Pearson government also made significant contributions to the arts and culture. It was a government that recognized the importance of culture as a driving force of innovation and economic growth.

In conclusion, the Pearson government was a government of vision and courage, that understood the importance of innovation and cooperation in shaping a better future for all Canadians. It was a government that put people at the heart of its policies, and a government that made significant progress towards a more democratic and equitable society. We should take pride in the contributions that the Pearson government made to our country, and we should be inspired by its legacy as we work to build an even better future for all Canadians.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.
Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge Specialist Gerrit Kobes for fearlessly sacrificing his own safety in order to save the lives of wounded Iraqi soldiers. I invite my colleagues to join me in thanking Specialist Kobes for his service to our country and Iraq, and congratulate him on earning a Silver Star.

TRIBUTE TO TULARE COUNTY SUPERIOR COURT

HON. DEVIN NUNES OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, April 5, 2005

Mr. NUNES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with my colleague, Representative Jim Costa, to pay tribute to Tulare County Superior Court Judge William Silveira who has faithfully served as judge for more than 25 years.

His career is distinguished by his innovative efforts to improve juvenile justice, involve parents in the rehabilitation of their delinquent children, and bring together a comprehensive approach to the disparate factors that influence this unique area of law.

Judge Silveira was instrumental in building support for the construction of a new juvenile detention center in the county, along with probation offices and a new juvenile court complex.

He has also helped create a 100-bed juvenile boot camp and one of the first juvenile drug courts in the country, which has gone on to receive national acclaim.

During his time on the bench, he has traveled the county speaking as a leader in juvenile justice and has helped other communities establish their own programs.

At home, he is widely involved in many community activities and boards apart from his work on the bench, and he remains the loving husband of Marylin with children Matthew and Amy.

Once again, Representative Costa and I encourage you to join us in applauding his many years of dedication as a judge, whose thoughtful approach to the administration of justice has forever changed the legal landscape of Tulare County. He leaves a legacy of hard work, compassion, and justice that stands as an example for us all.

TRIBUTE TO INTRADO INC. OF LONGMONT, COLORADO

HON. BOB BEAUPREZ OF COLORADO
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, April 5, 2005

Mr. BEAUPREZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to voice my appreciation for the services provided by the men and women of Intrado Inc., headquartered in Longmont, Colorado.

For over two decades, telecommunications providers, public safety organizations and government agencies have turned to Intrado for their communications needs. As North America’s leader in 9-1-1 infrastructure and services, Intrado was founded with the objective of improving public safety and we continue to have a tradition of giving back to the community. Intrado’s corporate culture is built around employee involvement in causes that are both local and national in scope. From Intrado’s core business of 9-1-1 to the widely participated employee volunteer activities, Intrado aims to make a positive contribution to society.

Intrado’s ongoing mission is to continually improve 9-1-1 services to protect the nation’s emergency communications infrastructure. In 2004, Intrado products, services and systems supported nearly 200 million calls to 9-1-1, and the volume continues to grow.

Intrado’s emphasis on corporate citizenship is reflected in numerous activities. For the past two years Intrado has partnered with the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children to assist cities and towns across the US to deploy the Intrado IntelliCast® target notification system as a tool to help win the fight against time in locating missing children. Operating like 9-1-1 in reverse, the IntelliCast system automatically delivers a telephone message to a mobile device or to thousands of targeted homes and businesses within minutes, helping ensure the most efficient dissemination of relevant information to safely and quickly recover missing children. Intrado waives the fees for launching missing children alerts in an effort to support a community’s need for quick action in these situations.

Intrado’s encouragement of community involvement and volunteerism has resulted in support for local food drives, assistance with armed forces care packages, and financial donations to a number of charitable efforts around the country. In addition, in 2004 Intrado began support of the 911 For Kids program in Denver and surrounding cities. 911 For Kids provides 9-1-1 education for children in elementary schools to ensure they know how to call for help in an emergency.

Finally, Intrado is actively working to design and build the next generation emergency services network to address and support the changing communications requirements.

Intrado’s extensive intellectual property in emergency communications management and fundamental 9-1-1 1-1-1 operations—combined with the world’s largest pool of experienced personnel in these areas—makes Intrado the clear leader for this task.

Again, Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the fine men and women of Intrado, Inc. for working to make our communities safer and better places to live. They represent some of our country’s best, and I hope they continue to call Colorado home for years to come.

CINCINNATI MUSEUM CENTER HONORS INTERNATIONALLY KNOWN WILDLIFE ARTIST JOHN A. RUTHVEN FOR RECEIVING THE 2004 NATIONAL MEDAL OF THE ARTS

HON. ROB PORTMAN OF OHIO
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, April 5, 2005

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a dear friend and Brown County, Ohio constituent, John A. Ruthven, who will be honored on April 21, 2005 by the Cincinnati Museum Center in the regional recognition for his selection by President Bush to receive the 2004 National Medal of the Arts. The National Medal of the Arts is the highest award presented to an artist or patron in the United States, and John is the first wildlife artist to receive this prestigious award.

On November 17, 2004, one of our nation’s most talented artists, John, is an author, lecturer, naturalist, and internationally acknowledged master of wildlife art. His paintings have been shown at the White House; the Hermitage Museum in Russia; the Ohio State Capitol’s Rotunda; and many other prestigious venues around the world.

One of the projects that John has taken on is the service of helping children learn to voice their appreciation for the services provided by the men and women of Intrado Inc., headquartered in Longmont, Colorado.

The coincidence of Audubon’s birthday is underscored by the fact that Audubon, too, had many connections to the Cincinnati Museum Center and one of its predecessor museums, the Cincinnati Museum of Natural History, as models for his original paintings. A special exhibit of selected Ruthven works at the Museum Center will open to the public on April 23, 2005 — Earth Day. In the exhibit, Audubon’s prints, including the Carolina parakeet, Henslow’s sparrow, and Passenger pigeon, will be displayed with John’s paintings of the same subjects, and the actual specimens from the Museum Center’s collection. Three days later — April 26, 2005 — is the 220th anniversary of John James Audubon’s birth.

There can be no doubt that John Ruthven is our Audubon, and a true American treasure. John has said, “I believe art is as necessary to our heritage as the book. Both record past and present in the effort to educate and enrich the lives of people today and in the near future. It is my desire, through my paintings, to record for later generations some of the beauty of nature that exists in my lifetime.”

John’s wife, Judy, is also accomplished. She was project manager and co-chair of the Historic Georgetown Project to restore the Georgetown, Ohio courthouse square buildings. With John, she purchased the brick Brown County homestead of President Ulysses S. Grant, who grew up in picturesque Georgetown. Judy is a Grant scholar, and she spent a tremendous amount of energy to ensure that the building was historically accurate. They are the proud owners of a national historic building, which is on the National Register of Historic Places, to the State of Ohio. In addition, Judy has supported numerous other organizations, including the Ohio Humanities Council.

As a member of the United States Congress, I am proud to honor John on receiving the National Medal of the Arts, being honored by the Museum Center, and his life as an acclaimed artist, and we wish him luck in the many projects to come.
HONORING TUTT BRADFORD

HON. JOHN J. DUNCAN, JR.
OF TENNESSEE
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, April 5, 2005

Mr. DUNCAN. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to honor one of the finest men I have ever known and a long-time family friend, Tutt Bradford.

Tutt served as publisher of The Daily Times in Maryville, Tennessee, from 1955 until 1985. He was a widely respected voice in Blount County and an advocate for its residents throughout those three decades and continues to contribute to the paper’s opinion pages on a regular basis.

Tutt’s peers long ago recognized him as one of East Tennessee’s greatest journalists. They rewarded him with a coveted spot on the Southern Newspaper Publishers Association Board from 1968 until 1970 and then elevated him to President of the Tennessee Press Association in 1974.

In addition to tremendous achievements in the field of journalism, Tutt can also claim many accomplishments within his community. Among other endeavors, he has served on the boards of countless charitable organizations, promoted higher education, and worked to improve the quality of life among all East Tennesseans.

Tutt’s contributions to his community have been recognized on numerous occasions. The United Way of Blount County recently named its endowed program in his honor, and he is a past recipient of the University of Tennessee Volunteer of the Year Award. The National Society of Fund-Raising Executives even named Tutt its Outstanding Philanthropist of the Year in 1991.

The complete list of Tutt’s awards could fill several pages in the RECORD, so I will not attempt to list them all. Needless to say, however, he is a man of strong character and great compassion who represents the values of Blount County remarkably well.

The East Tennessee Chapter of the Society of Professional Journalists will pay tribute to Tutt at this year’s Front Page Follies, an event he has been a loyal friend and source of fire and rescue for over fifty faithful years. Known around the town as “Deke,” he has been instrumental in shaping the department throughout the years. Neil has protected the Southington community for over fifty faithful years. Known around the town as “Deke,” he has been instrumental in shaping the department throughout the years.

The son of a fireman, Neil Laribee first volunteered to fight fire for the town of Southington in 1952. A dedicated public servant, Neil has protected the community for over fifty years. Known around the Plantsville Engine Company #2 firehouse as “Deke,” he has been instrumental in shaping the Department throughout the years. Neil has been a loyal friend and source of fire and rescue information to the town of Southington.

Collins has given and continues to give to Southington Volunteer Fire Department.

Tribute to Frank Collins

HON. DON SHERWOOD
OF PENNSYLVANIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, April 5, 2005

Mr. SHERWOOD. Mr. Speaker, my predecesor in Congress, former Representative Joseph M. McDade, who served in the House for 36 years, has informed me of the passing on February 18 of Frank Collins, a prominent attorney from Ardmore, Pennsylvania, and former Scranton native.

Mr. Collins graduated in 1948 from Scranton Preparatory School, where he was a classmate of Congressman McDade. Collins attended St. Francis College and graduated in 1952 from the University of Scranton. He later received his Juris Doctorate from the University of Pennsylvania in 1955.

Collins worked for several banks during his distinguished legal career and most recently worked at the law firm of Collins, Johnson, and Markey in Media, Pennsylvania. He is survived by his wife of 48 years, Katharine, and seven children and six grandchildren.

Those who knew Collins best pay high tribute to his intellect, integrity and character. Congressman McDade said of Collins, “His life is a testament to the joy of intellectual pursuit and the use of the Socratic method to attain dependable decisions. Our heartfelt sympathy goes to his lovely wife, Katie, and their children.”

In a moving and eloquent memorial delivered by a fellow attorney and close personal friend, Henry B. FitzPatrick, Collins was remembered for his many friendships, sense of humor, athletic achievements in basketball and golf, enduring and loving marriage, and professional and personal success.

“Frank Collins chose to be a lawyer,” FitzPatrick eulogized. “It doesn’t take long until that profession separates the upright from the rest. It asks questions which can only be answered by those who are serious about being honest, those who can interrogate the depth of their soul to see if there is further will to be summoned for the finding of the right answer. Frank had that quality of honesty—otherwise he would not have had the trust, as he did, of clients and fellow laymen.”

“Tribute to Frank Collins”

HON. JOHN B. LARIBEE
OF CONNECTICUT
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, April 5, 2005

Mr. LARIBEE of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the lifelong dedication of Firefighter Neil Laribee, who after 52 years of service has retired from the Southington Volunteer Fire Department.

The son of a fireman, Neil Laribee first volunteered to fight fire for the town of Southington in 1952. A dedicated public servant, Neil has protected the community for over fifty years. Known around the Plantsville Engine Company #2 firehouse as “Deke,” he has been instrumental in shaping the Department throughout the years.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me today to recognize the lifelong dedication of Firefighter Neil Laribee and thank him for his years of service to the town of Southington.
Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the memory of Lance Cpl. Nazario Serrano, USMC who was killed by enemy action on January 30 in Anbar province, Iraq. He was killed as a result of being struck in the chest by small arms fire.

Lance Cpl. Serrano, 20, from Irving, Texas was expected to return home from Iraq in only two weeks to meet his newly born son Landon Heath and marry his highschool sweetheart, Amanda Story. Serrano had never seen his son, but only saw pictures of his new son by e-mail. I grieve with the Serrano friends and family over their loss. He gave the ultimate sacrifice to his country and the United States Marine Corps.

Lance Cpl. Serrano was a 2003 graduate of Irving High School which is also where his two surviving brothers, Javier and Daniel, now attend. Previously, he attended Austin Middle School in Irving, and enjoyed basketball, hunting, and riding his motorcycle. May God bless the memory of Lance Cpl. Serrano and comfort his family as they mourn his passing.

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. Speaker, like all of us who live in Vermont, and many millions across the nation, I was thrilled when the underdog Catamounts of the University of Vermont defeated Syracuse in the opening round of the 2005 NCAA Men’s Basketball Tournament. Syracuse was a national power; the nucleus of its team won the national championship two years earlier. Its players were accomplished, well-coached and a credit to college basketball.

But the University of Vermont team rose to the challenge, coming from behind in the final minutes of both regulation play and overtime. Led by the greatest basketball player to come out of Vermont, Taylor Coppenrath averaged 13.7 points per game and played a critical role in Vermont’s victory. The Catamounts captured the attention and the heart of the entire nation. To the wonder, inspired members of that team, and their dedicated coaches, the state of Vermont congratulates you. We took and what we did this weekend was a result of the thrill of a lifetime. It was the greatest ride that I could ever, ever have had. You know you’re in a very special place when your reality outweigh your dreams. And that’s where I am. For all of us in Vermont, for one special night, reality did outweigh dreams. Thanks, Catamounts.

Mr. WEXLER. Mr. Speaker, I am both honored and privileged to congratulate Rabbi Merle E. Singer on the occasion of his retirement.

Rabbi Singer has been at Temple Beth El of Boca Raton for 26 years. Before that, he served at Beth Oh in Philadelphia and Temple Sinai in Washington, D.C. He has a Bachelors of Arts in Sociology from the University of Cincinnati, and a Master of Arts in Hebrew Letters from the Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion. Rabbi Singer was ordained as a Reform Rabbi in June 1966. Rabbi Singer is one of the warmest, most charitable and caring people I know. I have personally seen the extraordinary kindness, determination and virtue that Rabbi Singer demonstrates everyday in all aspects of his life. As one of those privileged to know him and work with him, I can attest, Rabbi Singer is deeply devoted to his family, congregants and community. For the past 26 years he has been a religious guide and educator to his congregants serving them in every aspect of synagogue life. Under his leadership, Temple Beth El has grown to be one of the largest Reform synagogues, where the congregation maintains an unwavering commitment to Jewish values and the importance of a Jewish identity.

Beyond the synagogue, Rabbi Singer is one of the most respected people in the community, promoting the highest form of tzedakah by bringing people of different faiths together to help those who need it most. He has started programs like Shared Care, which connects impaired seniors with members of the community—and in the process has become a true community leader. His civic involvement in everything from the United Way to the Boca Raton Community Hospital, exemplifies the principle of tikkun olam. Rabbi Singer’s legacy in South Florida already extends far beyond Temple Beth El and will endure for many years.

I wish Rabbi Singer much continued success and good health.
Connecticut Voices for Children. CT Voices is a research-based public education and advocacy organization that works statewide to promote the well-being of Connecticut’s children, youth and families. Janice and the co-founders of CT Voices have built this very special organization around a staff with education and experience in health, education, government and the non-profit sector. With such comprehensive vision and talented staff, CT Voices has been able to provide new and unique insights into the impact of policy and issues on today’s youth and families. In fact, in just under a decade, CT Voices has become a leading voice in public policy with political leaders, the media, other advocacy groups and others regularly turning to them for public and budget analysis. The outstanding success of CT Voices allows this organization to have a real impact on public policy—a reflection of the remarkable efforts of Janice and her co-founders.

Currently serving as the Senior Advisor on Early Childhood for Connecticut’s Governor M. Jodi Rell, Janice’s expertise in early childhood education is recognized throughout the state. In addition to this role, she also continues as a lecturer at the Yale University Child Study Center and acts as a part-time senior consulting fellow at Connecticut Voices for Children. The multitude of work that Janice has done on behalf of our youngest citizens has gone a long way in increasing public awareness of the importance of early childhood education and its positive impact on our children. I am proud to stand today to join her husband, Herb; her three sons and daughters-in-law, David and Liz, Darren and Yoya, and Stephen and his grandchildren, Alisia, Elena, Vivian, and Mateo, as well as all of the family, friends, and colleagues who have gathered in congratulating my dear friend, Dr. Janice Gruendel as she is honored by the ACES Education Foundation. Her many years of dedication and commitment has left an indelible mark on the State of Connecticut and a legacy that will continue to make a difference in the lives of our young people for generations to come.

EXPRESSING APPRECIATION FOR THE LIFE AND WORK OF POPE JOHN PAUL II

HON. MARK E. SOUDER OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 5, 2005

Mr. SOUDER. Mr. Speaker, I wish to express my personal sympathy for the passing of Pope John Paul II, a man whom I’m certain will go down in history as one of history’s greatest leaders.

This Pope’s remarkable life—a tremendous intellect, limitless compassion and deep spirituality—was a foundation of his beliefs, teaching about the inherent dignity of every human being. Shaped by his experiences under Nazi and Communist regimes, the Pope taught us that this dignity is the first principle from which all others derive, calling on us to respond to the cry of the poor and to protect the weakest among us.

Pope John Paul II taught us, by his words and example, that we should have the “love of preference for the poor,” that requires us to respond to the needs of the weakest among us. As he wrote in “Sollicitudo Rei Socialis” in 1987, “[T]his love of the preference for the poor, and the decisions which it inspires in us, cannot but embrace the immense multitudes of the hungry, the needy, the homeless, those without medical care, above all, those without hope of a better future.”

Human dignity, he also reminded us, should never be eclipsed by oppressive political systems, which deny the individuality of the person. Nor should the dignity of the human person be destroyed using tools of what he so vividly and prophetically called the “culture of death,” such as legalized abortion or physician-assisted suicide.

Pope John Paul II spoke to the world about the importance of every human person, and he especially addressed the responsibility of our nation during his visit to the United States in 1995. I am submitting this statement for the RECORD, in which the Pope so eloquently called on us to live up to our democratic responsibilities, reminding us that, “[d]emocracy stands or falls with the truths and values which it embodies and promotes. Democracy serves what is true and right when it safeguards the dignity of every human person, when it respects inviolable and inalienable human rights, when it makes the common good the end and criterion regulating all public and social life.”

The freedom of this country can only be understood within the context of the moral responsibilities of our democracy. As we mark the passing of this tremendous man, I believe we should remember his exhortation to the United States: “At the center of the moral vision of your founding fathers is the recognition that every person has the rights of the human person, and especially respect for the dignity and sanctity of human life in all conditions and at all stages of development.”

“I say to you again, America, in the light of your own tradition: love life, defend life, from conception to natural death.”

May God grant Pope John Paul II eternal light and peace, and may his personal witness to faith, hope and courage remain in our hearts and those of all the defenders of life.

STATEMENT OF POPE JOHN PAUL II, ON THE OCCASION OF HIS VISIT TO THE UNITED NATIONS AND THE UNITED STATES GIVEN ON OCTOBER 8, 1995

Dear Mr. Vice-President, Dear Friends, Dear People of America,

As I take leave of the United States, I wish to express my deep and abiding gratitude to many people.

To you, Mr. Vice-President, for graciously coming here to say goodbye. To the Bishops of the Dioceses I have visited and the many people, families, friends and pastors who make this visit a success. To the public authorities, to the police and security personnel, who have ensured efficiency, good order and safety.

To the representatives of the various Churches and Ecclesiastical Communities, who have received me with great good will; to Americans of all races, colors and creeds, who have followed with interest and attention the events of these days; to the men and women of the communications media, who have enabled us to bring the words and images of this visit to millions of people; and especially to all those who, personally present or from afar, have supported me with their prayers.

I express to the Catholic community of the United States my heartfelt thanks! In the words of Saint Paul: “I give thanks to my God every time I think of you—which is constantly in every prayer I utter” (Phil 1:3).

I say this, too, to the United States of America: today, in our world, it is, many other nations and peoples look to you as the principal model and pattern for their own advancement in democracy. But democracy is about freedom. Freedom, in the end is what it is not to turn against everything that it is meant to defend and encourage. Democracy stands or falls with the truths and values which it embodies and promotes. Democracy serves what is true and right when it safeguards the dignity of every human person, when it respects inviolable and inalienable human rights, when it makes the common good the end and criterion regulating all public and social life. But these values themselves must have an objective content. Otherwise they correspond only to the power of the majority, or the wishes of the most vocal. If an attitude of skepticism were to succeed in calling into question even the fundamental principles of the moral law, the democratic system itself would be shaken in its foundations (cf. Evangelium Vitae, 70).

The freedom of this country can only be understood within the context of the moral responsibilities of our democracy. As we mark the passing of this tremendous man, I believe we should remember his exhortation to the United States: “At the center of the moral vision of your founding fathers is the recognition that every person has the rights of the human person, and especially respect for the dignity and sanctity of human life in all conditions and at all stages of development.”

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Mr. Speaker, education is the foundation upon which we reach our human potential. Students in my District are developing their talents, furthering their education and pursuing their aspirations in life through programs like the Academic All-Star program. Encouragement and recognition develop confidence and achievement among young Americans—the future leaders of our country.

The following students have been nominated for their academic excellence:


- Ryan David Mullen, Andrew Christian Chiles, Barry Eli Knoblock, Paul Thomas Latham, Joshua Allen Fitz Hugh, Sarah Christine Wilson, William Matthew Suiter, Amy Nicole Adams, Norman Bradley Fox, Juliana Elyse Patterson, Robert Kyle Whitaker, Preteesh Parmar, Nicholas Pickford Thompson, Dustin Lynne Kostalek, Ann Marie Crabtree.


- Melissa Starks, Molly Ware Stuard, Nadeem Ramzi Haroun, Rachel Brown, Sarah Elaine Howell, Sarah Elizabeth Fields, Chelsea Rex Bailey, Kirkman, Sara Hamilton Oakley, George W. Barnes, Helen G. Crenshaw, Hunter Carroll, John Paul Bostkowski, Kalleb Anderson Greene, Kelsey Fish, Libby R. Hines, David Gray, Shanay Vemuri.

Mr. Speaker, these students embody the spirit, commitment and sacrifice that we all should strive for in our daily lives. I am proud to represent them in my District. I extend my thanks to these students for their efforts, and I want to bring the accomplishments to the attention of this House.

ACKNOWLEDGING JASON CRAWFORTH’S CONTRIBUTION TO IDAHO

HON. CL. “BUTCH” OTTER
OF IDAHO
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, April 5, 2005

Mr. OTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to draw the attention of the House to an individual from my district whose initiative and vision might well be paying dividends in Idaho from years to come.

Through hard work and passion, Jason Crawford gathered support from many medium and large technical institutions throughout our great state in support of a promotional effort in the Wall Street Journal on behalf of Idaho’s outstanding business environment. Considered one of Jason’s own TopAlert Tech, Micron Technology, Hewlett-Packard, Dell, and Extended Systems are just a few of America’s top technology businesses that have chosen to locate large operations in Idaho over the years.

Anyone who spends even a short time in Idaho soon comes to realize the enormous potential of my State and its people, and the great benefits of doing business there. From the low cost of living and absence of urban congestion to the overall quality of life, Idaho has a lot to offer the technology industry. Jason Crawford is one of Idaho’s greatest advocates, and leaders like him are among our most valuable assets. I hope the House will join me in acknowledging Jason’s contribution.

FOR THE RELIEF OF THE PARENTS OF THERESA MARIE SCHIAVO

SPEECH OF
HON. TOM UDALL
OF NEW MEXICO
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Sunday, March 20, 2005

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, the heart-wrenching details of Ms. Terri Schiavo’s case are well known to all of us. Her personal case, not to mention the family rift that has resulted, is certainly a tragedy and my heart goes out to Terri, her husband, parents, and loved ones as they continue to do what they believe is best for Terri.

However, Mr. Speaker, this is an issue that should be determined by those very people. This is not a matter for Congress to decide. Unfortunately, since Terri’s family has been unable to agree on the best course of action, they have had to undergo, and continue to undergo today, lengthy legal battles. While it is unfortunate, that is what our legal process is for, and it has repeatedly ruled in favor of Terri’s husband. Bringing this bill to the floor of the House marks yet another example of the Congressional leadership’s subversion of the judicial process.

In fact, in a 1990 case before the Supreme Court that pertained to some of the very same matters that have no business in the federal courts. This case does highlight, however, the need for individuals to make their personal and private health care decisions and embody them in a living will. At the very least, family members should have the comfort of knowing they’re doing what their loved ones would have wanted. One of the best things that can emerge from this heartbreaking case will be an increase in families discussing and creating living wills.

Finally, I regret that I was unable to return in time for the debate and vote on S. 686. Once I received official notice of a recorded vote, it was impossible for me to arrive in Washington, DC in time for consideration of this measure. That being said Mr. Speaker, I rise now to state for the record that I would have voted against S. 686.

SPEECH OF
HON. MIKE PENCE
OF INDIANA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, April 5, 2005

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, it is written if you owe debts, pay debts; if honor, then honor; if respect, then respect.

I rise humbly today to pay a debt of honor and respect to Army National Guard Master Sergeant Mike Hiestер of Bluffton, Indiana. As I saw firsthand last December at Camp Phoenix in Kabul, Afghanistan, Hoosiers have made an extraordinary difference for freedom in Operation Enduring Freedom, and Master Sergeant Mike Hiestер was a leader of men in that place. His military awards include the Bronze Star Medal (posthumous), Purple Heart (posthumous), two Meritorious Service Medals, four Army Commendation Medals, two Army Achievement Medals, four Good Conduct Medals, three Reserve Components Achievement Medals, two National Defense Service Medals, Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary and Service Medals, Armed Forces Reserve Medal with M device and Bronze Hour Glass device, NATO Medal, NCO Professional Development Ribbon with “3” device, Order of St. George, Pathfinder Badge, Combat Infantryman Badge (posthumous) and the German armed forces Occupation Silver Honor Cross tab. His state awards include the Indiana Long Service Medal (2nd award), Indiana Overseas Service Ribbon, and Indiana Outside Continental United States Ribbon (2nd award).
On March 26, 2005, Mike lost his life while fighting to defend America in Afghanistan. His military vehicle, with the 76th Infantry Brigade, Army National Guard, Indianapolis, struck a land mine 30 miles west of Kabul, Afghanistan claiming his life and the lives of three other Indiana Army National Guardsmen.

At his home in Bluffton, Indiana he was known as a loving husband and father. He was a member of the Bluffton Fire Department and he will not soon be forgotten by this grieving community of Bluffton, which will say goodbye to him this week. According to his wife Dawn, “Mike very much believed in the cause for which he gave his life. His entire family and friends have supported him in his endeavors.”

I rise to offer my deepest condolences to his wife, Dawn; his two children, Emily and Adam; his parents Thomas and Kay Hiester; his two sisters, Megan and Michele; his nephews Casey, Jesse, Kyle and Jared; his niece Carley; and all those across northeastern Indiana and all of our state who cherish the memory of this hero.

Master Sergeant Michael Hiester is a hero, whose service and sacrifice bolstered the hopes of millions of Americans and Afghans. The memory of his sacrifice and service will forever be enshrined on the hearts of two grateful nations.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BARBARA LEE
OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, April 5, 2005

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I voted in favor of H. Con. Res. 18 and H. Con. Res. 32. Mr. Speaker, I agree with the sentiments that these resolutions advance. There is no doubt that there must be an end to brutal human rights violations against the Syrian people and that a Syrian-occupied Lebanon poses a threat to the stability of the Middle East.

However, Mr. Speaker, I am firm in my belief that we must find a peaceful, nonmilitary solution to foster peace in the Middle East. These resolutions, while overwhelmingly approved by the House, must not be cited as tacit approval for any future preemptive military action against Syria.

RECOGNIZING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF ROTARY INTERNATIONAL

HON. ED CASE
OF HAWAII
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, April 5, 2005

Mr. CASE. Mr. Speaker, I wish today to express my unqualified support for House Resolution 55, reprinted below and of which I am a proud cosponsor, recognizing the 100th anniversary of Rotary International, and in doing so to acknowledge the truly inspiring work of generations and millions of Rotarians over the last century.

Mr. Speaker, can there be a better example of selfless public service than that of Rotary International? From humble beginnings in Chicago in 1905, the world’s first service club now claims 1.2 million Rotarians in some 31,000 Rotary clubs in 166 countries. And it has found a special home in my own great State of Hawaii, with 41 clubs operating in all four counties, from Manahawkin Bay to Hilo Bay.

The secret to Rotary’s success is that it evokes our innermost desire to give back to our worldwide community, as captured in its motto: Service Above Self. Its now famous Four-Way Test—Is it the truth? Is it fair to all concerned? Will it build goodwill and better friendships? Will it be beneficial to all concerned?—is a lighthouse not only for its own efforts but for those of all of us.

One hundred years of individual, community, statewide and countrywide projects have solidified Rotary International’s reputation and collectively earned it widespread recognition. But no project better exemplifies the spirit, success and potential of Rotary International than PolioPlus, its partnership with the World Health Organization, United Nations Children’s Fund, and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to eradicate the scourge of polio from the face of our earth.

Most of us of adult age in our country remember the polio scares and tragedies of decades past, but we do not regard polio as a credible threat to our children due to widespread immunization and other advances. That is not true universally; polio still exists and strikes randomly, especially in South Asia and Africa.

In 1985, Rotary International undertook a truly breathtaking endeavor: to eliminate polio through universal immunization. And with its partners in the U.S. Agency for International Development’s Polio Eradication Initiative—and funding from many governments including $260 million since 1996 of our own—it has brought polio to its knees: 1988’s 350,000 cases internationally are today’s couple hundred.

But we all know that the last few steps of any marathon are often the hardest, and so it is with polio. I certainly saw the challenges in my trip last year to Afghanistan—one of just six countries where polio is still endemic—where the challenges in simply reaching some of the most remote and isolated communities in our world are staggering.

Yet with the help of our near Rotarian International’s efforts have been redoubled, and I want to tell you about just one inspiring contribution: that of Rotarian Bob “Motorcycle Bob” Mutcher and his wife, Patti. For the last seven years Bob, himself a victim of polio, and Patti have undertaken several marathon motorcycle rides across our country and world to highlight PolioPlus and raise funds for polio’s endgame.

Bob and Patti recently kicked off their last PolioPlus Ride, the “Centennial Ride”, in our Hawaii, aiming to cover all fifty states ending in Alaska this summer. On Tuesday, March 15th, they and local Rotarians and other well-wishers started their engines in my hometown of Hilo and set off on the first leg of their latest adventure, a trip around my Big Island, followed by rides around Maui and Kauai and capped by a journey around Oahu on Saturday, March 26th, which I was honored to start. They’re now off riding the Mainland, taking our aloha with them; you can follow their journey at www.polioplusride.org. Where Patti’s keeping a journal.

Bob and Patti Mutcher exemplify the spirit of Rotary International, as did Mike Nelson, President of the Rotary Club of Volcano on the Island of Hawaii. Mike embraced the Mutchers’ efforts and chaired their Centennial Ride in Hawaii. Tragically, he lost his life in an auto accident on February 23rd; the ride was dedicated to him, and we remember him with the deepest appreciation and admiration as representing the true spirit of Rotary Internationally everywhere, while appreciating our actions on behalf of all of our citizens, would have us move beyond as soon as possible to the remaining and urgent tasks at hand.

Mahalo, and aloha!

TRIBUTE TO SAUL STERN

HON. BENJAMIN L. CARDIN
OF MARYLAND
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, April 5, 2005

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay special tribute to Saul Stern who will receive the Project Interchange Am Yisraeil Chai Award on May 25, 2005. Saul Stern has worked tirelessly on behalf of Project Interchange to provide American political and civic leaders with a first-hand look at the vibrant democracy of Israel. His efforts have increased the understanding of many American leaders of the special bond shared by the United States and the State of Israel.

Saul has made involvement with international, national and local Jewish and secular communal affairs a lifetime commitment. Over the years, Saul has accompanied many political and military leaders to Israel to help educate them about the complex issues affecting Israel. A passionate supporter of Project Interchange, he believes that the most effective way to help people understand the value of the U.S.-Israel relationship is by becoming a true eyewitness to life in Israel.

I hope my colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives will join me in saluting Saul Stern for his commitment and dedication to fostering understanding between the United States and Israel.

FREEDOM FOR RICARDO SILVA GUAI

HON. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART
OF FLORIDA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, April 5, 2005

Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak about Ricardo Silva Guai, a political prisoner in totalitarian Cuba. Dr. Silva Guai is a Medical Doctor and member of the Christian Liberation Movement. He believes that the men and women of Cuba deserve freedom, democracy, and basic human rights. Dr. Silva Guai is dedicated to bringing liberty to Cuba and ending the nightmare that is the Castro regime.

Because of his belief in the non-negotiable rights of all people to freedom, democracy and
human rights, Dr. Silva Gaul was arrested by the dictatorship on March 18, 2003. This heinous arrest was a part of the regime’s March 2003, deplorable, island-wide crackdown on peaceful pro-democracy activists. In a sham trial, Dr. Silva Gaul was sentenced to 10 years in the totalitarian gulag.

According to cubapp.info, while imprisoned in a repugnant dungeon Dr. Silva Gaul declared a hunger strike to protest the inhuman treatment of political prisoners in Castro’s gulag. It has also been reported that Dr. Silva Gaul has been transferred to a maximum security section where the conditions are even harsher.

Dr. Silva Gaul, despite being imprisoned, despite facing even more severe maltreatment in the inhuman gulag, continues to advocate for liberty. Dr. Silva Gaul is a brilliant example of the heroism of the Cuban people. No matter how intense the repression, no matter how horrifically brutal the consequences of a dignified struggle for liberty, the totalitarian gulags are full of men and women of all backgrounds and ages who represent the best of the Cuban nation.

Mr. Speaker, we must speak out and act against this abominable disregard for human rights, human dignity, and human freedom just 90 miles from our shore. My Colleagues, we declare a hunger strike to protest the inhuman treatment of political prisoners in Castro’s gulag.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to have this opportunity to recognize the important contributions of Saul Ramirez. His hard work and community dedication have helped to transform Laredo into the city it is today.

HONORING NEAL McBRIEDE
HON. TOM DAVIS OF VIRGINIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, April 5, 2005

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Neal McBride for being recognized as 2005 Citizen of the Year by the Mount Vernon Council of Citizens’ Associations. This special honor is truly well-deserved.

Mr. McBride has been an active member of the community within the South County region since the late 1980’s. He has served as the chair or coordinator for numerous civic groups including the South Run Coalition, South County Schools Alliance, the Laurel Hill Development and Arts Center and the Cold War Museum. In addition, McBride has also served as an officer with the Federation of Lorton Communities and Newington Forest Community Association. He is director-at-large of the Occoquan Watershed Coalition, a member of the Lorton Heritage Society, a Lorton Arts Foundation Advisory panelist and a member of the Laurel Hill Planning Task Force.

In 2003, Mr. McBride was honored by the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors with the title of “Lord Fairfax.” Mr. McBride, a retired health care management specialist with the U.S. Department of Veterans’ Affairs, has lived for 20 consecutive years, Ben served as dean of Korean, and Arabic curricula. During the last several pioneering initiatives including leadership qualities. As a dean, he participated in several pioneering initiatives including French and Polish at the Defense Language Institute, DLI, and the University of Texas at El Paso, DLI, and then served a year in Vietnam (1966-67) with the 173rd Airborne as Prisoner of War interrogator and French linguist. Ben was in Dakto, Central Highlands, at the onset of one of the Vietnam War’s bloodiest battles. After leaving the military and getting a college education through the GI Bill, Ben was hired at DLI, where he occupied numerous positions from 1972 to 2005.

During his rise from teacher to dean at DLI, Ben trained thousands of military linguists, guided several generations of language teachers and mentors, and managed and mentored supervisors and managers who now occupy leadership positions. Moreover, he supervised every DLI language program and participated in the development of much needed Spanish, Chinese, Korean, and Arabic curricula. During the last 20 consecutive years, Ben served as dean of every DLI resident school, a credit to his solid leadership qualities. As a dean, he participated in several pioneering initiatives including Team Teaching, the Faculty Personnel System, and the introduction of up-to-date teaching methods. Likewise, Ben was at the forefront of DLI’s giant leap to modern-day technology, Ben retired on January 3rd, 2005, but is still associated with the U.S. government in his capacity as President of the DLI Alumni Association, a non-profit organization he founded in November 2001.

Mr. Speaker, Ben is an excellent example of the immigrant young man who arrives in the USA with a high school diploma, serves in the military, gets an education through the GI Bill, pursues and flourishes in a governmental career, and 40 years later retires with an impeccable and distinguished record. Ben truly believes he has achieved the American dream. He exemplifies the highest aspirations of this nation. I am proud to honor him today.
TRIBUTE TO MR. WILLIAM SOLOMON
HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON
OF TEXAS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, April 5, 2005
Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I would like to talk today about a remarkable, courageous man who has dedicated himself for the betterment of Texas, and the lives of those around him. Mr. William Solommon is a fine member of my home community of Dallas, Texas and I am proud to announce that he has been recognized for his outstanding work as the latest recipient of the Linz Award. Dallas County's oldest award for recognizing exceptional community and humanitarian volunteer efforts.

Bill Solomon began working in 1967 at the company that his grandfather founded in 1918, Austin Industries, Incorporated, the largest commercial and industrial contractor in Dallas. In 1970, Bill was named president of the company, and he continues to serve as chairman of Austin Industries today.

Mr. Solomon is also a renowned civic leader, a member of the Dallas Citizens Council, the World Affairs Council, and the Northaven United Methodist Church. He serves on the boards of the A. H. Belo Corporation, the Southwestern Medical Foundation Board of Trustees, and the Hoblitzelle Foundation. In addition to this, he has been the recipient of numerous awards and honors.

Mr. Speaker, our communities and our country have always relied on the contributions of those individuals who have the ability to rise above and beyond the call of duty to make a difference in the lives of others, both personally and professionally. Bill Solomon has demonstrated an unfailing and tireless commitment to the betterment of Dallas County, the State of Texas, and the entire Nation. With his steady guidance and strong leadership, in 1991, he founded the Dallas Together Forum, where he has potentially made his greatest impact. This multi-racial group of approximately 30 Dallas business leaders met monthly to discuss ways to reduce racial tension and improve minority economic opportunities. The Dallas Together Forum helped defuse racial tensions in the ‘80s and early ‘90s, and its impact on racial harmony is still felt today.

Bill Solomon is a dedicated community servant, activist, and leader. He is a credit to Dallas, and through his tireless work, my home town has become a better place to live. I am proud to join his family, his colleagues, Zale Corp. and The Dallas Morning News in congratulating Bill Solomon on a job well done.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION
HON. ELTON GALLEGLY
OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, April 5, 2005
Mr. GALLEGLY. Mr. Speaker, on Thursday, March 17, 2005, I was unable to vote on a motion to suspend the rules and agree to H. Con. Res. 18, 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 (roll call 89). Had I been present, I would have voted “yea.”

HONORING DAVID HANNON, PRESIDENT AND CEO OF SOUTH SHORE HOSPITAL ON HIS RETIREMENT
HON. WILLIAM D. DELAHUNT
OF MASSACHUSETTS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, April 5, 2005
Mr. DELAHUNT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to salute David Hannon who is being honored today for his outstanding work as President and Chief Executive Officer of the South Shore Hospital in Weymouth, Massachusetts. Since Mr. Hannon’s tenure as President and CEO began in 1986, South Shore Hospital has experienced considerable growth and development, adding programs consistent with the highest quality of medical care in the region, and bringing to the community a level of excellence that was once the domain of prestigious academic medical centers in major cities. In addition, David has promoted sustained investments in hospital infrastructure, including new medical technologies and health care equipment.

These initiatives have enabled the hospital to grow from a small community facility to a regional medical center offering highly complex and sophisticated care—from acute and outpatient services to home health and hospice care—to more than 650,000 residents in southeastern Massachusetts.

In addition to caring for the medical needs of the community, he has also taken an equally strong interest in the outstanding work of the 3,000 employees who are the very heart and soul of South Shore Hospital. Through their collective efforts, South Shore Hospital has become a leading health care provider in the state of Massachusetts, with a record of clinical excellence and superb patient care. That is reflected in the hospital being the first in the Commonwealth to earn maximum recognition with commendation from the Joint Commission on the Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations for three consecutive review periods.

On behalf of a deeply grateful community, I want to join with my colleagues in the House of Representatives in thanking David Hannon on a job well done.

THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF COUNTY SHERIFF OF ATASCOSA TOMMY WILLIAMS
HON. HENRY CUELLAR
OF TEXAS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, April 5, 2005
Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the accomplishments of Atascosa County Sheriff Tommy Williams.

Tommy Williams is an excellent example of a sheriff who understands the needs of his community. Sheriff Williams has been serving his community since 1973, when he first became sheriff of Atascosa.

Sheriff Williams is a man who believes in the value of community involvement and intervention. He has been the recipient of numerous awards, including the Master Peace Officer certificate. Williams has also served as President of the Sheriff’s Association of Texas. He is a member of the National Sheriff’s Association, Sheriff’s Association of Texas, the Poteet VFW Post and the American Legion Post.

Sheriff Williams believes that an informed public is better equipped for preventing crime in our streets and neighborhoods. As part of his duties and responsibilities, Sheriff Williams provides security for the operation of county and district courts as well as enforcing county ordinances and other state laws.

Sheriff Williams is a major resource for his county and sets a great example for his law enforcement community.

Mr. Speaker, it is a pleasure to recognize the past and future accomplishments of Atascosa County Sheriff Tommy Williams.
Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Occonocan Watershed Coalition (OWC) of Fairfax County, Virginia. Established in 1994, the Occonocan Watershed Coalition is a non-partisan, broad-based citizens group that works to improve communication and expand dialogue regarding major issues concerning the Springfield District portion of this environmentally sensitive region.

The coalition actively works with the Virginia General Assembly, the Virginia Department of Transportation, and citizen and homeowner associations to protect and improve both the environment and the quality of life of the area’s residents. Specific examples of the OWC’s efforts include their involvement in the closure of the Lorton Prison Complex and subsequent redevelopment of the area. The coalition also closely monitored numerous transportation decisions including the refurbishment of the Yates Ford Bridge and paving of Yates Ford Road.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, I would like to thank the Occonocan Watershed Coalition for 10 years of dedicated service to its community. I call upon my colleagues to join me in applauding the OWC’s past accomplishments and in wishing the program continued success in the many years to come.

HONORING CORPORAL JOHN T. OLSON

HON. HENRY J. HYDE
OF ILLINOIS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, April 5, 2005

Mr. HYDE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to U.S. Marine Corporal John T. Olson of Elk Grove Village, Illinois. Corporal Olson was killed by enemy action while conducting combat operations on 21 February in Nassir Wa Al Salam, Iraq. It was Corporal Olson's third tour of duty in Iraq.

He graduated from boot camp from the San Diego Marine Corps Depot in 2002 and was deployed to Iraq in January 2003 for his first tour. His third tour of duty was with the Alpha Truck Company, Headquarters Battalion, 2nd Marine Division.

John Olson was a graduate of the Elk Grove High School, Class of 2001, graduating the OWC’s past accomplishments and in wishing the program continued success in the many years to come.

HONORING CORPORAL JOHN T. OLSON

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the distinguished work of Professor John J. Montgomery, a native Californian who was a pioneer of early aeronautics from 1882 until 1911.

Professor Montgomery made many distinguished advances in the field of aerodynamics and fluid mechanics. In 1883, he designed, constructed, and flew a glider 600 feet at Otay Mesa, California, achieving the very first controlled flight of heavier-than-air, fixed winged craft in history. This was quite a remarkable feat, as Professor Montgomery relied only upon his superb knowledge of fluid mechanics and his scientific observations of birds.

In 1893, after many more years of exploration and reflection, Professor Montgomery attended several conferences where he was able to share his findings with the world. Audiences were captivated by his writings describing fluid mechanics and his initial flight experiments. His original manuscript, aptly titled "Soaring Flight," contained some of the world’s earliest understanding of fluid dynamics and is now proudly displayed at the Smithsonian Institute in Washington DC.

As Professor Montgomery’s interest and knowledge in fluid mechanics grew, he continued to explore the abilities of larger aircraft. Professor Montgomery was exhilarated by these larger models, and when inspired to fly, he retreated to the beautiful Leonard Ranch in Aptsos, California, here in the 17th district.

In 1903 Professor Montgomery reached a breakthrough and built a full-scale version of his tandem wing design. He quickly began testing the abilities of his new machine by flying it like a kite, performing load carrying tests, practicing vertical drop launch, and equilibrium and control tests. He continued to conduct these tests and manned flight experiments in the spring and summer of 1904.

In the winter of 1904–1905, Montgomery was ready to display the skills of his new craft in a spectacular new way. Montgomery hoisted his craft high into the air with the aid of a hot air balloon. Montgomery then trained a circuit-acrobatic and a professional parachutist, Daniel J. Maloney, the delicate skills required to steer the aircraft. In March, 1905 in Aptsos, the hot air balloon hoisted the glider and Mr. Maloney, high into the air. Audiences then were treated to the show of a lifetime. Mr. Maloney darted upward and downward, carving circles and figure eights. The new aircraft was handled with ease, seaworthy, and the longest flight lasting an astonishing eighteen minutes and covering a distance greater than two miles. Truly this was the very first flight of its kind, and Montgomery's "aeroplane" set lasting altitude and endurance tests that served as a testament to Professor Montgomery’s genius.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate the achievement of this fine gentleman on this day, March 19, 2005, the Centennial Celebration of his "Soaring Flight". Professor Montgomery will always be remembered for his ceaseless devotion to aerospace science and his many contributions to the Santa Cruz County community in the 20th century. Though no longer with us, it is my honor and pleasure to recognize such a unique and fascinating individual.

TRIBUTE TO THE TURTLE CREEK CHORALE

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON
OF TEXAS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, April 5, 2005

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise to acknowledge the 25th anniversary of the Turtle Creek Chorale, of Dallas, Texas. The TCC held their first performance in April of 1980 with only 70 members. Through the idea of “the power of harmony,” their commitment to the community and the leadership skills of Artistic Directors like Dr. Timothy Seelig, the chorale has exploded to over 200 singing members.

The TCC performs an annual series in Dallas at the Meyerson Symphony Hall, along with traveling around the United States, Canada, and many locations in Europe. In addition to more than 100,000 hours of rehearsal, and over 50 yearly benefit performances, the TCC also participates in numerous community service projects.

The TCC has many accomplishments, such as their collaboration with the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation with the creation of the much respected Sing for the Cure: A Proclamation of Hope, narrated by Maya Angelou. In addition, they produced and performed the world premier of Song of Wisdom from Old Turtle that was based on the award winning book Old Turtle. A portion of all the recording proceeds benefited St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital. The TCC has also performed for the inaugurations of Dallas Mayor Ron Kirk and Texas Governor Ann Richards.

The dedicated members of TCC have excelled in their mission to entertain, educate, unite, and uplift audiences through music distinguished for its innovation, diversity and artistic excellence.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in acknowledging the honorable works of Turtle Creek Chorale for their 25th Anniversary.

HONORING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF SEGUIN MAYOR BETTY ANN MATTHIES

HON. HENRY CUELLAR
OF TEXAS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, April 5, 2005

Mr. CUellar. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize distinguished civic service of Seguin Mayor Betty Ann Matthies.

Betty Ann Matthies is a native of Guadalupe County. She graduated from Seguin High School, and attended the University of Texas at Austin. She graduated from Stetson School of Nursing in Austin in 1976, and received her Certificate in Health Care Administration from Trinity University in 1978.
Ms. Matthies has been a strong advocate for health care in Guadalupe County. She has been involved in nursing for almost 30 years, and is a member of the American Nurses Association, the Texas Nurses Association, the Texas Organization of Nurse Executives, and the American Organization of Nurse Executives.

Betty Ann Matthies entered public service in 2000, as Seguin District 7 City Council Member. In 2004, she was elected Mayor of Seguin. In addition to her executive responsibilities, she finds time to give to a variety of volunteer organizations. She is a member of Seguin Senior Citizens, the Seguin Area Chamber of Commerce, the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, and she is director of the Pecan Museum.

Betty Ann Matthies has done a great deal for the people of Guadalupe County, both as a nurse and a public official. Her energy and spirit of volunteerism serve as a wonderful example to all of us.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to have had this opportunity to recognize the many achievements of Seguin Mayor Betty Ann Matthies.

HONORING REVEREND KENNY SMITH
OF VIRGINIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, April 5, 2005

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend Reverend Kenny Smith for his exceptional work in the Northern Virginia community as pastor of the First Baptist Church in Vienna, Virginia, and president of the Fairfax County Branch of the NAACP.

A native of Atlanta, Georgia, Reverend Smith received a bachelor's degree from the University of Nebraska-Omaha. He continued on to Virginia Union University's School of Theology, where he graduated magna cum laude with a master of divinity degree. Reverend Smith also holds a doctor of ministry degree from Virginia Union University's School of Theology.

Reverend Smith serves as pastor of the First Baptist Church of Vienna and as an adjunct professor at the Howard University School of Theology. He is also the immediate former moderator of the Northern Virginia Baptist Association and was elected in June 2003 as Vice President of the Baptist General Convention of Virginia.

During his time as pastor of the First Baptist Church, Reverend Smith has been a model of positive influence in the community. His congregation has partnered extensively with Habitat for Humanity and built several houses for needy families, contributing both labor and funds for materials. Through Reverend Smith's leadership, the church adopted Shelter House, a shelter located in Falls Church, Virginia for homeless families. First Baptist Church has provided Shelter House with toys, gifts, funding and other resources for the residents since 1990.

Reverend Smith's dedication to his community has been honored by many awards, including the Dean's Pastor's Award from the Howard University School of Theology, the Outstanding Achievement in Religion Award from the Howard University Alumni Club of Northern Virginia, the Religious Affairs Award from the Fairfax County Branch of the NAACP, and the Outstanding Leadership Award from the Northern Virginia Baptist Association. He has also been honored by HORIZON Community Outreach Group, Fairfax County Public Schools, Old Dominion Bar Association, and the Fairfax County Human Rights Commission.

Reverend Smith has been an invaluable asset to the Northern Virginia community. He deserves to be commended for his work in the community and on his time as president of the Fairfax County Branch of the NAACP.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, I would like to express my gratitude to Reverend Kenny Smith for all of his efforts on behalf of Northern Virginia. He has served his community well, truly meriting recognition. I call upon my colleagues to join me in applauding Reverend Kenny Smith's accomplishments and in wishing him the best of luck in all future endeavors.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE DUDLEY KNOX LIBRARY NAVAL POSTGRADUATE SCHOOL, MONTEREY, CALIFORNIA
HON. SAM FARR
OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, April 5, 2005

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Dudley Knox Library staff of the Naval Postgraduate School in Monterey, California, located in my Congressional District. The Naval Postgraduate School is an academic institution focused on graduate and research programs relevant to the Navy's interests. For the second consecutive year, staff members from the Dudley Knox Library will be honored by the Library.

Dudley Knox is recognized nationally as a leading library in government and defense information. The library has been selected from among more than 2,000 libraries operated by the federal government to receive the 2004 Federal Library/Information Center of the Year award in the competitive library/information center category.

The Federal Library of the Year Award applauds the library's exemplary achievements throughout the past year. The award is based upon customer satisfaction and innovative services and resources. During the past year the Knox Library has created several new services, including a virtual reference service, an active instruction program that has attracted more than 2,300 users, and an added wireless internet service. The Library also provided foreign language keyboard support in response to requests from international students who comprise 25 percent of the student body. In addition, the library added a Homeland Security Digital Library, a state-of-the-art digital library to serve the needs of a particular user group. It is cited by others as a model for its use of emerging technologies with other agencies and groups.

The Dudley Knox Library owes its success to its dedicated and skilled staff of 34. Throughout the year the entire staff has consistently made sure that library members obtain accurate information for their academic and research endeavors. It is not uncommon to find more than 10 percent of the resident student population in the Library at any one time during the day.

Mr. Speaker, I wish to commend the Dudley Knox Library staff for their exceptional dedication and creativity in their jobs and their continual pursuit in developing an outstanding library. Out of more than 2,000 libraries and informational centers operated by the federal government, the Dudley Knox Library has deservedly earned the 2004 Federal Library/Information Center of the Year award.

IN HONOR OF DR. JACK SMITH
HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ
OF NEW JERSEY
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, April 5, 2005

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Dr. Jack Smith for his outstanding courage and important service abroad as a physician in Afghanistan.

After being called to duty in October 2004, Dr. Smith was sent to serve in the 325th Medical Combat Unit of the United States Army. While in Afghanistan, he spent much of his time in platoon hospitals, often near dangerous combat operations. The situation required that Dr. Smith utilize his strong skills both as a physician and as a soldier.

Dr. Smith recently returned to the United States to resume his private practice and has been welcomed with enthusiasm and admiration by family, friends, and coworkers. Born
and raised in Bayonne, Dr. Smith works at the Bayonne Medical Center.

Today, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Dr. Jack Smith for his brave work in Afghanistan. We are grateful for his courage in the face of danger and his service to our country in the name of freedom.

HONORING THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF SAN MARCOS CITY COUNCILMAN DANIEL GUERRERO

HON. HENRY CUellar
OF TEXAS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, April 5, 2005

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the important achievements of San Marcos Councilman Daniel Guerrero, of my Congressional District.

Daniel Guerrero is a native of San Marcos, and graduated from San Marcos High School in 1995. He decided to further his education and earned his Bachelors Degree in Mass Communication/Public Relations in 2000 from Texas State University.

Mr. Guerrero was elected to the San Marcos City Council in 2004. He is actively involved in the community, giving his time to a variety of organizations that work for the public good. He has worked as City Councilman to improve city planning and the city’s quality of life.

Daniel Guerrero served as President of LULAC No. 654, and was appointed by the City Council to serve on the Arts Commission. He is an inspiration for his public service, and believes deeply in the role of the community in supporting and encouraging strong families.

Daniel currently works as a national recruiter and professional development specialist with Inroads, Inc. He is a member of the Austin Chapter of the Society of Mexican American Engineers and Scientists, the Texas State University Alumni Association, and Omega Delta Phi Alumni Association.

Mr. Speaker, Daniel Guerrero’s career as a public servant has done much credit to the city of San Marcos, and I am proud to have the opportunity to thank him.

HONORING DELEGATE JAMES H. DILLARD

HON. TOM DAVIS
OF VIRGINIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, April 5, 2005

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Delegate James H. Dillard for over 21 years of dedicated service to the Commonwealth of Virginia.

Delegate Dillard has served as Delegate to the Virginia General Assembly from 1972–1977 and then again from 1980–2005. Delegate Dillard represents the 41st District in central Fairfax County. He served in the United States Navy from 1955 to 1957 and received a B.A. from The College of William and Mary and a M.A. in Political Science from The American University.

Delegate Dillard previously served as a Fairfax County teacher and principal and began his political career as a member of the Fairfax Education Association by working to establish a living wage for teachers in the 1960’s. His strong interest in education led him to be one of the original architects of the Virginia Standards of Learning. Additionally, he was chief sponsor of legislation placing a guidance counselor in every elementary school, and has been recognized as Delegate of the Year by the Guidance Counselors Association.

As Chairman of the Natural Resources subcommittee of the House Appropriations Committee, Delegate Dillard initiated the largest growth in parks and conservation activities in Virginia’s history. Delegate Dillard was the author and chief sponsor of the Virginia Soil and Siltation Act which protects streams and waterways from pollutants. He has also worked behind the scenes to ensure the development of the Leesylvania State Park sailing marina, one of the finest facilities of its kind on the Potomac River and has been recognized as Legislator of the Year by the Chesapeake Bay Foundation.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, I would like to extend my best wishes to Delegate Dillard on his retirement from the General Assembly.

Through his long and distinguished career Delegate Dillard has touched the lives of countless Virginians. While I know that he will be greatly missed, his retirement is well deserved. I call upon my colleagues to join me in honoring Delegate Dillard and in wishing him the best of luck in all future endeavors.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ELTON GALLEGY
OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, April 5, 2005

Mr. GALLEGY. Mr. Speaker, on Monday, March 21, 2005 I was unable to return to Washington from California for consideration of and the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass S. 686, for the relief of the parents of Theresa Marie Schiavo. Had I been present, I would have voted “yea” on rollcall vote 90.

COMMENDING SEA EDUCATION ASSOCIATION STUDENTS WHO AIDED IN RESCUING 49 HAITIAN REFUGEES

HON. WILLIAM D. DELAHUNT
OF MASSACHUSETTS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, April 5, 2005

Mr. DELAHUNT. Mr. Speaker, very few of life’s important lessons come from a book. That is the educational philosophy of the Sea Education Association, a unique program based on Cape Cod to teach hands-on sea-faring skills to young men and women. SEA offers college students a rigorous semester “overseas” that challenges them intellectually and physically by combining study of the deep ocean with the sailing adventure of a lifetime.

After extensive classroom training, 22 SEA students and a crew of and a crew of the vessel SSV Corwith Cramer, a 134-foot sail-powered research vessel, was the only boat within reasonable range to rescue the Haitians. Jamaican authorities said they could not rescue the group of Haitians but would receive them.

But there were risks to be considered, said John Bullard, president of Sea Semester: “Piracy is one of them. Exposure to disease is another.”

On the other hand, he said, if the research vessel “had just sailed away from 49 people . . . our students would have been scarred in other ways.”

ASSESSING THE RISKS

Under the direction of the vessel’s captain, Steve Tarrent, who leads an ll-person professional crew, calls went out to search-and-rescue experts and medical experts. The decision was made to bring the Haitians aboard before the sun set. “We thought we could reach the Haitians or not survive that. We would end up killing people out of the water,” said Bullard. “We felt the safest action was to bring them aboard during the daylight when we could control some things.”

As the Haitians gathered in a sheltered spot above deck on the research vessel, the crew set the smaller vessel and marked it with fluorescent paint to avoid sparking unnecessary search-and-rescue efforts if
it were spotted later. A meal of rice and beans was prepared for the unexpected passengers.

‘WE’RE ALL IN THE SAME BOAT’

An escort boat met the Coretto off the coast of Jamaica, and delivered the Haitians safely to Port Antonio early Thursday morning. The students and students were resting in port before finishing off their sailing semester in Key West, Fla., on March 19.

The captain and students were not immediately available for comment, but Bullard said parents who were contacted expressed great pride in their children’s role in the rescue.

“What we have in our planned curriculum is the study of oceanography, and the history and literature of the sea and skills like navigation and weather forecasting,” said Bullard. “One thing you learn that is not in the curriculum is that we’re all in the same boat.

“This group of students got a chance to learn this literally.”

Waves of unrest and poverty have driven thousands of Haitians to seek refuge outside their country over the past decade. One common destination is Jamaica. Many Haitians are denied refugee status and forced to return home.

HONORING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF REVEREND L.A. WILLIAMS, JR.

HON. HENRY CUELLAR
OF TEXAS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, April 5, 2005

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Reverend L.A. Williams for his service to the Wheatley Heights First Baptist Church and to the San Antonio community.

Reverend L.A. Williams is a native Texan whose ministry reaches far beyond the walls of the Wheatley Heights First Baptist Church and into the San Antonio community. Currently serving as the Moderator of the Guadalupe District Missionary Baptist Association, College, Incorporated, and other organizations such as the Baptist Minister’s Union of San Antonio and Vicinity, Reverend Williams is always trying to reach out to the community to offer a helping hand.

Born in Houston, Texas, Reverend Williams attended E.L. Furr High School, and upon graduating studied at Southwestern Business College and the Union Baptist Bible College and Seminary. His awe-inspiring dedication to spreading the Word of God officially started when he delivered his first sermon on the third Sunday of July 1973 at the Greater Mount Olive Baptist Church. He went on to serve many churches across the state of Texas, but since 1984 he has called himself at Wheatley Heights First Baptist Church.

It is here in San Antonio that Reverend L.A. Williams has touched the lives of many and helped them realize that there is always much to hope for. Whether he is rebuilding the Church itself due to a flood or helping a kid in need, the Reverend always is serving his fellow man and woman to the greatest degree.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to have had the privilege and opportunity to recognize this man of faith, Reverend L.A. Williams.

TRIBUTE TO HOSTOS COMMUNITY COLLEGE MEN’S AND WOMEN’S BASKETBALL PROGRAM

HON. JOSÉ E. SERRANO
OF NEW YORK
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, April 5, 2005

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to pay tribute to Hostos Community College Men’s and Women’s basketball programs for bringing championship trophy back to the Bronx. I am proud of this dedicated group of students for showing excellence on and off the court.

Under the leadership of Coach Renee Bostic the Hostos women’s basketball team set goals for themselves before the start of the season. Their relentless dedication and hard work paid off as they were the winners of the 2005 CUNY Athletic Conference Edison Basketball Championships for the second year in a row. Not to be outdone, the men’s team led by Coach Robert Hollow captured the 2005 NCAA Men’s basketball National Championship. This marks the first national basketball title won by a CUNY school since the 1950 CCNY men’s basketball team captured both the NCAA and NIT titles. Like the women’s program the men set early goals and followed through with their incredible work ethic.

These two programs have done surprisingly well despite the fact that they have been in existence for no more than three years. It is a great compliment to this institution that only in its third year of existence the men’s team has won a National Championship and that only in its second year of existence the women’s team has already repeated as CUNYAC regular season and Tournament champions.

The success that these two programs enjoyed on the court is much more than a reflection of their skills with a basketball but a reflection of their character. To reach the level of competition that these young people have achieved one must acquire certain qualities that will not only aid him/her in sport but in life as well; qualities such as discipline, patience and perseverance. I am proud to say these athletes have carried these qualities over to the classroom and are all top tier students.

Vince Lombardi once stated that “excellence is not a sometime thing.” With their performance on and off the court, I think the men and women’s basketball teams of Hostos Community College have demonstrated that these are words they live by.

Mr. Speaker, I have no doubt that if these young men and women continue to exert themselves on and off the court they will be victorious in the game of life. Therefore, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the outstanding student athletes of Hostos Community College in the Bronx.

CELEBRATING THE TEXAS LYCEUM’S 25TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. KEVIN BRADY
OF TEXAS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, April 5, 2005

Mr. BRADY of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Texas Lyceum on their 25th Anniversary. The Texas Lyceum, a non-profit, non-partisan organization, is the foremost incubator of leaders in Texas.

The original Lyceum was a grove of trees in ancient Athens where Aristotle educated the leaders of the day on issues critical to the time. Key issues were debated and focused through the lens of enlightenment and character.

So, in 1980 when young leaders recently named “Rising Stars of Texas” by Texas Business magazine, began exploring the idea of establishing a leadership confederation based on providing solutions to problems in Texas, Aristotle’s Lyceum seemed an appropriate model.

Tieman H. “Skipper” Dippel and an impressive group of founders including: Bud Shivers, Mike Hopkins, Ann Quirk, Jim Windham, John Connally, III, Rob Mosbacher, Ken George, Scott Bennett, and others too numerous to mention teamed with Texas Business magazine and George Kozmetsky to establish this forum which represents the diversity of the state and emphasizes constructive responses to issues critical to Texas.

The Lyceum has always endeavored to bring out the best in people and enlighten the next generation to the power of ideas. It teaches leaders to focus on their own goals, rather than how they are different while still valuing the rich diversity of Texas. To accomplish these purposes, the Lyceum conducts quarterly meetings to educate its Directors and other policy makers on the important issues of our times and sends its members back into the community armed with the most up to date information available.

The Lyceum also publishes the Journal of the Texas Lyceum, a mainstay for policy-makers looking for insightful and thoughtful solutions. Each issue is edited to be in keeping with the Lyceum’s philosophy of valuing differing opinions from our state’s leaders. This document was invaluable to me and my colleagues when I served in the Texas Legislature.

Twenty-five years later, the Texas Lyceum boasts over 600 alumni and 96 current directors. Judging from where Lyceum alumni can now be found it is obvious that the Lyceum has successfully met its goal of educating the next generation of leaders in Texas. The Lyceum should be extremely proud of its accomplishments.

From the courtroom to the board room, from farms and ranches to the world of high tech, from medical centers to the oil fields, from education intuitions to houses of worship, and from city councils to the halls of Congress and even the White House, Lyceum alumni are woven through the leadership structures of the state of Texas and this nation. Numerous state legislators, Members of Congress, a sitting U.S. Senator, the current Governor and even the current President of the United States are all Lyceum Alumni.

The Texas Lyceum membership reflects the rich diversity of Texas and succeeds because it seeks to identify and prominently promote the unique values of our state that bring us all together as Texans.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you to join me in saluting the over 600 men and women who have participated in the Texas Lyceum since its inception in 1980. For a quarter century if the Texas Lyceum has been committed to promoting the stewardship of the values, traditions, resources and diversity that is Texas.
Mr. TIBERI. Mr. Speaker, a most distinguished career in journalism is coming to an end with the retirement of Columbus Dispatch statehouse reporter Lee Leonard. The dean of the Ohio Capitol press corps, Lee’s career has spanned five decades, with most of that time spent covering state government and politics in Columbus.

Lee began his journalism career with United Press International in Boise, Idaho in 1962 and spent six years with UPI in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania covering state government. He moved to Columbus in 1969 and became manager of UPI’s Statehouse bureau. Lee has covered 11 national political conventions, interviewed former presidents Eisenhower and Carter and was voted one of UPI’s 20 most respected bylines in a national survey of subscribing newspaper editors. Among his many awards and honors is a first place prize from the Press Club of Cleveland in 2001 for politics and government writing.

For the last 15 years, Lee has reported for the Columbus Dispatch. He is a living Statehouse encyclopedia who is widely respected and admired, both by his journalistic peers and those in state government. It’s not surprising that “Just call Lee” has become a common refrain at the Dispatch offices whenever a question has arisen about state government.

As a former state legislator who has enjoyed many dealings with Lee over the years, I am glad to join his family, friends and colleagues in wishing him a long and active retirement.

HONORING THE DEDICATION OF REVEREND EDWARD L. HAYES

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the important contributions of the Reverend Edward L. Hayes.

Reverend Hayes, who was born in 1948, is a long-time Texan. He attended school in the San Antonio area and later became a graduate of the Guadalupe Seminary. In 1982 Reverend Hayes was ordained to the ministry of the Guadalupe Seminary. In 1982 Reverend Hayes was ordained to the ministry. Reverend Hayes spends his days providing not only community guidance, but also leading by his good example. Reverend Edward Hayes and his wife Rice have three children and one grandchild. Rice Hayes is a local teacher at the Judson School District.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to have this opportunity to recognize the contributions of Reverend Edward L. Hayes.

THE INTRODUCTION OF THE FEDERAL EMPLOYEES WITH DISABILITIES PROTECTION ACT

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, I am proud today to introduce the Federal Employees with Disabilities Protection Act.

The Federal Employees with Disabilities Protection Act (FEDPA) simply states that in cases where federal jobs are contracted out, a federal employee should not lose his or her job if that employee is an individual with a significant physical or mental disability and had been hired under a program designed for individuals with such disabilities.

The FEDPA was drafted to respond to a particular situation that occurred at the National Naval Medical Center in Bethesda, Maryland. The center is the Hospital, which has developed an innovative and successful program hiring developmentally disabled individuals from our local community to work in its kitchen and cafeteria. Many of these individuals have worked there for more than twenty years. They are hard-working, reliable, and beloved by the naval officers and staff. I was shocked to learn that the Administration had selected these positions to be subject to competitive sourcing. In other words, these hard-working disabled employees, who had been hired under a federal program designed specifically to hire the severely disabled, would be forced to compete for their own jobs against people who were not disabled, leaving them on the verge of losing their jobs. I wrote the President about this injustice and am pleased that as a result of our timely intervention, plans to compete these jobs have been withdrawn and these individuals have been able to keep their jobs and the sense of dignity that comes with them.

But it is unconscionable that other severely disabled federal workers might have to suffer through the same thing. The FEDPA will protect federal employees with severe disabilities from losing their federal jobs as a result of contracting out. The bill does allow for jobs to be taken over the custodial and food services provided by 21 federal employees at the National Naval Medical Center in Bethesda, Maryland.

It is just one small example of Bush’s “competitive sourcing” initiative, which requires hundreds of thousands of civil servants across the government to prove they can do their work better and more cheaply than a private contractor, or risk seeing the work outsourced.

But in one important way the 21 workers in the hospital scullery are different: All are mentally retarded, but they have been studying whether a private contractor should take over the custodial and food services provided by 21 federal employees at the National Naval Medical Center in Bethesda.

To their supporters, the administration’s requirement that they prove their jobs misses the point that government employment has always been about more than the bottom line. Through various policies and laws, federal agencies for decades have gone out of their way to hire members of certain populations, from veterans to disabled people to welfare mothers and students.

“There are different goals of the federal government, and one of those goals is to get different people into real jobs,” said Representative Chris Van Hollen (D-Md.), who met last month with the scullery workers at the hospital, which is in his district. “And this [policy] will undercut that goal.”

Bush has strongly defended “competitive sourcing,” calling it one of his most important management initiatives. He says forcing government workers to compete with private contractors for their jobs promotes government efficiency and saves taxpayer dollars—even if the jobs stay in-house. An Office of Management and Budget report said federal agencies have identified $434,820 jobs that are ripe for such competition, of which 103,412 are being evaluated for possible contracting.

“We are confident that the savings and service benefits expected from this effort will soon follow,” Clay Johnson III,OMB’s...
deputy director for management, said that day.

That provides scant comfort to employees such as Devorah Shapiro, 30, who has worked at the hospital for 10 years, worries what will happen if she loses her job. "I like working here," Shapiro said. "I was offered a break from the first half of her eight-hour shift. "I work on the belt. I help push carts upstairs sometimes. I wash plates, pick silverware—I do everything.

Shapiro landed the job after internning at the hospital while a student at Rock Terrace School, a public campus in Rockville that serves children in grade 6 through 12. "I live in a group home and I have to pay the rent there," said Shapiro, her dark curls tucked neatly under a hairnet. "And I have to work. or else they'll ask me leave. I don't want to leave my friends. I don't want to leave my house. It's too nice.

The work isn't easy. The employees, clad in blue uniforms and white plastic aprons, remove trash and utensils from used trays as they navigate across a greasy, slick tile floor. Many wear earplugs to block out the drone of the industrial dishwasher that cleans the dishes and trays that pass through it on the line. It's common before the workers retrieve and stack them in neat piles. Shifts begin at 5:30 a.m. and finish as late as 7 p.m.

James Eastridge, a former Rock Terrace student, has worked in the kitchen for 22 years. That is long enough for him to earn several promotions and enough money to buy a house in Hagerstown, where he lives with his parents. "I started out when I was 16 years old and just kept on working; the years just flew by," he said. "It's better to keep going. When I was in school, I was pretty wild. They got me in the job... and I've been doing good ever since here."

Randy Severt, a teacher at Rock Terrace, said more than 300 students have interned or worked at the hospital since the school formed a partnership with the institution in 1979. The Navy got reliable, long-serving employees for hard-to-fill positions. The students, who earn between $9.42 and $12.80 an hour, are treated as if they were government workers, learn about money management and become more self-sufficient. "Promoting opportunities is a long-standing goal of the federal government. The Rehabilitation Act of 1973 banned discrimination against disabled people in federal hiring and allowed them to develop affirmative action plans to hire more people with disabilities."

Most of the scullery workers joined the hospital under a federal hiring authority that allows agencies to take on people with mental retardation as provisional employees, then convert them to permanent status after two years of satisfactory service. The government employed 1,734 mentally retarded workers in 2000, about one-tenth of 1 percent of the 1.8 million-strong federal civilian labor force, according to the Office of Personnel Management. (Overall, more than 120,000 disabled people worked for the government that year, more than 7 percent of the federal workforce.)

If the hospital scullery work goes to a private contractor, it will mean a big adjustment for the federal workforce. (Even in the cases where the private sector has won, the employees often have gone to work for the contractor. But the scullery employees are at a decided disadvantage.)

"If you are special needs, you have a great need for greater supervision," Slaughter said. "And we all know that supervision costs money."

Jerry Leener, whose son Mike, 27, has worked at the hospital for eight years, said that the Navy's hospital focused on the bottom line should realize there is little to be gained by contracting out the work. Displaced employees would turn to government entitlement programs, including federal disability payments, Medicaid and food stamps.

"If our kids lose their jobs, the federal government is still going to have to compensate them,” Leener said. "Therefore, they're going to be coming out of federal funds. So we haven't had a cost saving as it relates to these kids. What's more, we've displaced them from the jobs they love working here. They love being a part of this.”

Military officials have been sympathetic but unmoved. Slaughter said that early on in the process the hospital was getting a waiver for the workers, but none was forthcoming. Over the last year, parents of some workers have written to Navy officials and members of Congress seeking help, but with no concrete results.

As recently as two weeks ago, Navy officials said they were looking into the situation. Parents of the workers grew nervous as a December deadline loomed for the hospital to submit its bid to keep the scullery jobs in-house. They were told that a decision on whether a contractor would take over could come as soon as March.

Then on Oct. 2, 10 days after Van Hollen's visit to the scullery and after inquiries by The Washington Post, Navy officials passed the word internally that they had been directed to temporarily stop working on the competition. Parents were told that the job competition had not been cancelled, but postponed until further notice, "an internal e-mail said.

Parents said they were given a vague explanation that the job competition had gone on longer than current law permits. A provision in the recently passed 2004 Defense Appropriations bill blocks new funding for single-function job competitions that have exceeded 24 months, and multifunction competitions that have exceeded 30 months. Navy officials at the hospital did not respond to two requests for more information about the decision.

"I have a suspicion that they were starting to feel political pressure and decided to put it on hold, and that maybe this thing would blow over,” said Leener, who added that he remains uncertain about whether his son's job is safe. "We took it as a big victory, believe me, but it's a temporary one.”

Trent Duffy, an OMB spokesman, said agencies may cancel job competitions that jeopardize protected workers such as veterans or disabled people. "It is permissible for agencies to make that determination and cancel a competition because these protected populations rely on government, you could potentially lose their livelihoods,” Duffy said.

"They absolutely have that discretion under the law,” Van Hollen, who wrote a letter to Bush last week asking him to halt the study, said he reviewed the Navy's decision as little more than political expediency. He still believes competitive sourcing is 'a one-size-fits-all contracting-out policy that does not take into account important goals of the federal government,' he said. "I still think it's an example of their policy run amok,” Van Hollen said. "There's no doubt what happened here. You want to applaud the Navy for reversing its decision, but you can't have a member of Congress or a member of the press visit every site where you've got... contracting out going on with model programs.”

CONGRATULATIONS TO WESTINGHOUSE WARRIORS CITY BASKETBALL TITLE

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS
OF ILLINOIS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 5, 2005

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, on February 26 the young men of George Westinghouse Career Academy High School's basketball team, lead by coach Quimtan Dillard, won their fourth City Championship in the last six seasons.

The game was never really in doubt and second place Simeon could never get any closer than eight points in the second half. By a score of 67–52, Westinghouse clinched their place at the top of the Chicago Public League according to press reports, one of the Nation's top high school basketball proving grounds.

The 72 team Chicago City league is reportedly used by some college coaches as a benchmark for the success of their recruiting efforts.

The Westinghouse team was powered by DeAndre Thomas, rated by many as the best high school player in Illinois. Thomas scored 29 points, snagged 9 rebounds and had three assists.

However, the victory was definitely a team effort. Westinghouse had 23 assists.

Marquis Johnson scored 14 points and secured 11 rebounds. With a strong fourth quarter, Corey Caston each scored nine points. Caston had 7 assists.

Mr. Speaker, Westinghouse Career Academy, which serves the Austin, South Lawndale and West Garfield Communities, is a public school fighting its way to the top in every category.

Eighteen percent of its almost 1400 students are enrolled in honors classes. They were City champs in the C–CAP culinary arts competition.

Westinghouse students have earned nine medals in Academic Decathlon competition.

Tonight, Mr. Speaker, I salute Westinghouse Career Academy and Principal Dr. Lona C. Bibbs.

The Westinghouse Warriors are setting an example for the entire school by now setting their sights on the next task: the State finals. All Chicago wishes them the very best.

The Westinghouse Warriors have, through their hard work, their determination and their talent, achieved a remarkable record.

Congratulations to the Westinghouse team, their coach and to each of these outstanding young athletes individually.
Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Baylor University Women’s Basketball Team on their success during the NCAA Women’s Basketball Tournament. With a record of 31–3, the Lady Bears have risen to the challenge and have represented the Big Twelve and the State of Texas with pride. Led by point guard Chelsea Whitaker, the Lady Bears have won their way into the Championship game where they will face Michigan State tonight.

I attended the Lady Bear’s 68–57 victory over LSU in the Final Four game on Sunday and was particularly excited for junior forward Sophia Young, who scored 21 points in the game, and was named the Tempe Region’s MVP earlier in the tournament. As a Member of the House Immigration Subcommittee, I was able to help bring Miss Young’s mother, Annie Christopher, from St. Vincent, West Indies to see her daughter play collegiate basketball for the first time. Sophia is a very talented basketball player and I am glad that she was able to take her place as a member of the Baylor basketball team through the U.S. Immigration program. We as a nation embrace talent such as Sophia’s athletic gifts and we recognize the value of reuniting families for important moments. After Baylor’s latest victory when Sophia was able to hug her mother in the stands, you could see that this is truly the real face of immigration.

I also want to congratulate Coach Kim Mulkey-Robertson on her great achievements at Baylor. Tonight, she has a chance at achieving history; a win over Michigan State would make her the first women’s coach to win a championship as a player and coach. She truly deserves all the credit she receives for the job she has done with this talented basketball team. In 2000, she inherited a program that went 7–20 the previous season, in her very first season she was able to lead the Lady Bears to a 21–9 record and last year took Baylor to the national championship game having won 19 straight games, the longest such streak in collegiate basketball this year.

I am confident that the great fans of Baylor will carry the Lady Bears to victory. They have withstood great challenges, both mental and physical to reach the pinnacle of women’s collegiate basketball. I wish the Lady Bears all the luck tonight as they play in the Championship game and hope they are able to finish their great season with a win.
Marvelle has two sons, Marvin and Leslie Holmes. Her oldest son was elected to the Maryland State Legislature in 2002 and presently serves on the Environmental Matters Committee as well as other leadership roles within the Maryland House of Delegates.

Marvelle is recognized by her church, friends, and relatives as someone who continues to donate her time and talents to improving the community. I would like to add my wishes to the many friends and admirers. I wish you a happy 75th birthday Ms. Marvelle S. Wilson, and many more.

TRIBUTE TO DR. ANGELINE NAZARETIAN

HON. ROBERT E. (BUD) CRAMER, JR.
OF ALABAMA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, April 5, 2005

Mr. CRAMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Dr. Angeline Nazaretian, known by her friends and colleagues as Angie, upon her appointment as Grand Electa for the Order of the Eastern Star in the State of Alabama. Dr. Nazaretian lives in my Congressional District and is a member of the Athens Chapter of the Order of the Eastern Star. The Order of the Eastern Star is the world’s largest fraternal organization to which both men and women may belong.

Dr. Nazaretian moved to Athens in 1958 and has demonstrated a deep commitment and strong love for her adopted community ever since. She has done a great deal to help further the quality of life for young and senior individuals in the area.

She retired from Athens State University in 1999, after forty-two years as a Professor of Health and Physical Education and the Director of Alumni Affairs. During her tenure at Athens State, she worked with the faculty and students, local churches, and schools in the Athens-Limestone community to develop physical education programs in elementary and secondary level schools.

Dr. Nazaretian is a board member and volunteer for numerous community organizations. As an instructor for the American Red Cross, she developed programs in First Aid, Water Safety, and C.P.R. She also served as a member of the R.S.V.P. Advisory Board, where she helped organize a Fitness Program for the Elderly, which is now part of the Community Wellness program. Furthermore, Dr. Nazaretian is recognized as one of the first leaders in Alabama to develop the Special Olympics program in the State.

Mr. Speaker, for her hard work and dedication, Dr. Nazaretian is respected by all who know her. On April 2, the Athens community gathered to celebrate and honor her achievements. I rise today, to join in their celebration and to congratulate her on behalf of everyone in North Alabama.

TRIBUTE TO FRED KOREMATSU

HON. MICHAEL M. HONDA
OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, April 5, 2005

Mr. HONDA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay my respects to Fred Korematsu, who passed away last week at the age of 86. In his early years, Mr. Korematsu experienced America at its worst, but he did so as an American at his best. Many years later, in large part thanks to Mr. Korematsu and his courageous actions, our country atoned for its mistakes, and took great steps towards fulfilling the promises enshrined in the Constitution.

Fred Korematsu was born in Oakland, California on January 30, 1919. An American citizen by birth, Mr. Korematsu was nonetheless among the Americans of Japanese heritage ordered to report to World War II internment camps in May 1942. He defied the order, choosing instead to marry his girlfriend and live the life he believed that, like any other American, he was entitled to. That dream did not materialize; in May 1942 he was caught, arrested and jailed for failing to report as ordered.

Mr. Korematsu maintained that his Constitutional rights had been violated by the forced internment order, given without evidence, specific charges, or a trial. With the help of the American Civil Liberties Union, Mr. Korematsu sued the government and appealed this case to the Supreme Court. He lost the landmark Korematsu v. the United States by a vote of 6 to 3. In the majority opinion, Justice Hugo Black wrote that the internment was based not on “hostility to him or his race” but on “military necessity.” In his dissent, Justice Frank Murphy spoke out against the internment in no uncertain terms: it “goes over the very brink of constitutional power and falls into the ugly abyss of racism.”

For almost forty years, Fred Korematsu’s conviction stood as a black mark of U.S. jurisprudence. In the early 1980’s Peter Irons—a professor of Political Science at University of California, San Diego—discovered documents in which government intelligence agencies categorically denied that Japanese Americans posed any security threat whatsoever. For the Supreme Court case, the official reports exculpating Japanese-Americans were suppressed. In the course of his investigation, Irons unearthed other reports describing government claims of Japanese American spying as “intentional falsehood.”

In light of this information, in November 1983 Judge Marilyn Patel of the San Francisco Federal District Court overturned Mr. Korematsu’s conviction. Five years later, the specter of state-endorsed racism was finally lifted for all Japanese Americans when federal law provided apologies and payments to those wrongly relocated during the war.

There is no doubt that Fred’s case figured prominently in the quest for justice for those American citizens wrongfully interned during the war. In 1988 Congress acknowledged Mr. Korematsu’s role by awarding him the Presidential Medal of Freedom, our nation’s highest civilian award. Like Rosa Parks, who insists she was just tired when she took her bus seat in Montgomery, Fred Korematsu was not looking to change the world when he refused to be interned. But just like Rosa Parks, his defiance reverberated throughout our country, and engendered change as profound as his action was simple.

Mr. Korematsu spent his years after the war in California realizing his dream of a simple life: he worked as a tailor and raised a family. He is survived by his wife Kathryn, his son Ken, and his daughter Karen Korematsu-Haigh.

His is a life worth remembering; his defiance a testament to the potential for greatness within every ordinary American; his story a reminder of the progress our country has made, and a beacon keeping us ever hopeful for a better future. In the words of President Clinton, “In the long history of our country’s conflicts and justice, some women and ordinary citizens stand for millions of souls... Plessy, Brown, Parks... To that distinguished list, today we add the name of Fred Korematsu.”

Mr. Speaker, Fred Korematsu was an American. He saw a wrong and did what he thought was right. With simple courage, he stood up to an entire nation and demanded that it make good on its promises. He should be remembered and honored, and as common men and women not all that different from him, we should strive to walk in his footsteps, fighting for equality and justice wherever their defense is needed.

REMEMBERING MICHELLE BULLOCK MARRS, DEDICATED HEALTH-CARE ADVOCATE

HON. JIM COOPER
OF TENNESSEE
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, April 5, 2005

Mr. COOPER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Michelle Bullock Mars of Nashville, Tennessee. Michelle Mars was the Chief Executive Officer of the Matthew Walker Comprehensive Health Center in Nashville. She was a dedicated health-care advocate for all Tennesseans, especially the poor, uninsured and underserved. The community suffered a great loss when she passed away on Wednesday, March 16, 2005.

Michelle Mars was born on July 13, 1952 in Louisburg, North Carolina. She attended grade school in Louisburg and Raleigh, and went on to receive a Bachelors Degree from North Carolina Central University and a Masters in Education from Harvard University. Before moving to Nashville, she served as the Chief Executive Officer for the Metrolina Comprehensive Health Center in Charlotte, North Carolina, where she was instrumental in generating significant funding for a Women’s Center and Teen Clinic. She also dedicated much of her time to mentoring young women who were beginning their careers in healthcare.

Michelle’s numerous public service awards included the 2004 Urban Legend Award for exemplary contributions for empowering communities and changing lives; The Ladies of Distinction Incorporation Award for dedicated service to African American Women in Healthcare in 2004; the Jefferson Street United Merchants Partnership Living Legend Award in 2003; and the Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity Public Service Award in 2000. Michelle was also an officer of the Greater Nashville Black Chamber of Commerce and she served on the Mayor’s Taskforce for Child Development, as well as the Susan G. Komen Foundation.

Her most recent notable achievement was management of the Matthew Walker Comprehensive Health Center’s million-dollar building project. Though diagnosed with a terminal illness, Michelle’s clarity and resolve to ensure continued community healthcare led to the
project’s completion. Her leadership resulted in a monumental financial turnaround for the center, and a new state-of-the-art medical, dental and diagnostic facility. She prayed that her life would be extended so she could see the conclusion of this project. After the project’s completion in October 2004, she commented that “The new center is one of the most significant professional goals that I’ve ever accomplished... we look forward to using this project as a tool to further serve the community.” Because of her tremendous resolve, the center is expected to provide health and dental care to more than 20,000 medically underserved Tennesseans each year.

I was fortunate to have been able to work with Michelle over the past few years, and I will truly miss her, as will all of Nashville. She was one of those rare individuals who had a clear and strong vision for what she could accomplish with her life, and she did it. She saw the need in Nashville for a center that could help our community’s most vulnerable and she turned the Matthew Walker Comprehensive Health Center into a thriving and vital center that is now recognized nationwide for its excellence. She was a committed, compassionate community leader. And she was a great lady. Her gifts were extraordinary and we are fortunate that her contributions to this community will continue for decades to come.

Michelle Marrs’ legacy will live on through her children—Christy and Ivanna—the Matthew Walker Comprehensive Health Center, and the love and compassion she shared with her family, friends and community. On behalf of the Fifth District of Tennessee, I send my deepest condolences to Michelle’s family.

HON. JOE BACA
OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, April 5, 2005

Mr. BACA. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I pay tribute today to the life of Mr. Edward Switzer. Mr. Switzer recently passed away, leaving a legacy of community work and commitment to those he loved. He was a magnificent figure who was dedicated to his family and friends. It gives me no greater pleasure than honoring his memory today.

The life of Mr. Switzer took him from Reno, Nevada, where he was born and raised, to serving in the Air Force during World War II. He attended a one-room grade school and went on to earn his Master’s degree from North Dakota State University. After completing his graduate education, Mr. Switzer settled in San Bernardino, where he became my early supporter for the San Bernardino Valley College Board of Trustees.

To all those who knew Mr. Switzer, he exhibited generosity of spirit, love for his community, and dedication to his work. He constantly challenged the status quo, was never afraid to speak his mind, and undoubtedly left an immeasurable impression.

Mr. Switzer turned to teaching chemistry at San Bernardino Valley College for almost forty years and was a dedicated professor, who demonstrated genuine concern for his students. He realized that many students were having difficulty understanding basic chemistry concepts that were being taught using advanced techniques. Mr. Switzer decided to create a more clear methodology for teaching chemistry by specializing in making the fundamentals of chemistry easier to understand. His passion for the subject that he taught and dedication for teaching led him to become Chair of the Department of Chemistry. In addition to being a remarkable professor, Mr. Switzer celebrated his retirement by serving his community board by setting up after-school programs for teenagers.

I join today with family and friends in paying my respects to Mr. Switzer. He was a generous and humble human being who touched the lives of many and will be deeply missed by all. He has touched my life as a friend and mentor. His inspiration and encouragement have led me to hold office and be who I am today.

HON. HENRY CUÉLLAR
OF TEXAS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, April 5, 2005

Mr. CUÉLLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the many contributions that Reverend Howard Anderson has made to his community.

Howard Anderson is a native of New York City. He first came to Texas to attend the Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, from which he received his Masters in Divinity.

Reverend Anderson was ordained in 1980 under the authority and order of St. Paul Baptist Church in San Antonio. He served under the leadership of Live Oak Baptist Church in New Braunfels, and began his interim tenure at Coliseum Park Baptist Church in San Antonio in October 1995.

Mr. Anderson has also had a distinguished career in military service. He served for 15 years, winning the Military Excellence Award from the U.S. Navy Senior Enlisted Academy and rising to the highest possible enlisted rank: Chief Master Sergeant.

Finally, Reverend Anderson has been a tireless volunteer and community activist. He is an active Mason, a life member of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, and a Golden Heritage Life Member of the NAACP. He serves as President of the Ministers Conference of the American Baptist Convention of Texas, and is an adjunct faculty member at the United Theological Seminary in Dayton, Ohio.

Mr. Speaker, Reverend Howard Anderson has proven himself to be an outstanding leader, a committed community activist, and an exceptional spiritual resource for the San Antonio community. He has truly distinguished himself, and I am proud to have the opportunity to thank him.

HON. DAVID WU
OF OREGON
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, April 5, 2005

Mr. WU. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend the employees of the Intel Corporation and the Intel Foundation for their efforts to provide tsunami relief to the Indian Ocean region.

As we all know, on December 26, 2004, a 9.0 earthquake erupted off the coast of Indonesia. Following the earthquake, a major tsunami swept across the region destroying lives, homes and businesses in Indonesia, Sri Lanka, India, the Maldives, and Thailand. Along with governments, citizens, businesses, and other private organizations around the world, Intel’s employees and the Intel Foundation mobilized and delivered critical supplies and funds that helped save lives and begin the reconstruction process.

I stand here today to applaud Intel and its employees, many of whom live and work in my district in Oregon. Without their good work, many more lives may have been lost because of the Indian Ocean Tsunami.

HON. JIM DAVIS
OF FLORIDA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, April 5, 2005

Mr. DAVIS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise in honor of Sergeant First Class Paul Smith, of Tampa, Florida.

Yesterday, President Bush posthumously awarded Sergeant Smith with our nation’s highest military honor—the first Medal of Honor awarded to a soldier since 1993. Sergeant Smith always gave his fellow soldiers, his country and his family his very best. But on April 4, 2003, Sergeant Smith showed extraordinary valor when making the ultimate sacrifice for the soldiers whose lives he saved and the values and ideals that have made this country great.

Sergeant Smith had always wanted to serve our country as a professional soldier, and when he graduated from Tampa Bay Technical High School at 18, he immediately enlisted in the Army. He went on to serve in the Persian Gulf War, Bosnia-Herzegovina and Kosovo before serving in Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Sergeant Smith was known for holding his soldiers to high standards, but on April 4, 2003, he held himself to the highest standard of all. Sergeant Smith’s unit, B Company of the 11th Engineer Battalion was constructing a prisoner holding area at Baghdad Airport when they came under attack by nearly 100 Iraqi soldiers. Sergeant Smith immediately organized the unit’s defense and risked his own life to hold back the enemy and help move injured soldiers to safety.

Despite Sergeant Smith and the unit’s efforts, the enemy continued to fire on the compound. When faced with the call of having to pull his troops back, Sergeant Smith chose instead to take an exposed position behind a
mounted .50-caliber machine gun and fire through three boxes of ammunition before being mortally wounded by enemy fire.

The official medal citation said Sergeant 1st Class Smith’s “courageous actions helped defeat the enemy attack, and resulted in as many as 50 enemy soldiers killed, while allowing the safe withdrawal of numerous wounded soldiers. Sergeant First Class Smith’s extraordinary heroism and uncommon valor are in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit upon himself, the Third Infantry Division ‘Rock of the Marne,’ and the United States Army.”

Paul Smith was a loving and devoted father, husband, brother and son. While the Medal of Honor will never fill the enormous hole in his family’s heart, this honor signifies our nation’s deepest appreciation for Sergeant Smith’s heroism and sacrifice. His courage and patriotism will never be forgotten.

HONORING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF THE MAYOR OF SCHERTZ, HAL BALDWIN

HON. HENRY CUELLAR OF TEXAS IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 5, 2005

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Hal Baldwin, mayor of Schertz, Texas, for his commitment to public service.

Hal Baldwin’s life has been fully dedicated towards helping of his fellow citizens ever since he served with the 51st Fighter Interceptor Wing at Naba Air Force Base during the Korean war. He continued to serve with the U.S. Air Force until 1974, when he retired from the military profession as a senior master sergeant.

After the conclusion of his military tenure, Baldwin moved back to Schertz where he served 6 years as the assistant city manager of Schertz. After his tour of duty as the assistant city manager, Baldwin was appointed to the Schertz City Council in 1983. He served his community with distinction in this post until May 1994 when the City Councilman Hal Baldwin became the Mayor Hal Baldwin.

Now, going on 11 years of service to Schertz as Mayor, Hal Baldwin also has spent 48 lovely years with his wife Barbara. They have five children, eight grandchildren, and two great-grand children, all of whom Mayor and Mrs. Baldwin love dearly.

Mr. Speaker, I am deeply proud to have been given this opportunity to recognize the Schertz mayor, Hal Baldwin, for his dedicated public service.

HONORING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF REVEREND LESTER J. GILLESPIE, SR.

HON. HENRY CUELLAR OF TEXAS IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 5, 2005

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the important contributions of the Reverend Lester J. Gillespie, Sr.

Rev. Gillespie is a native of San Antonio, Texas. He comes from a family tradition of spiritual service; he is the son of the late Rev. W.G. Gillespie and the late Sister Vernell Gillespie-Jones. He received his Bachelor and Doctor of Divinity from the Guadalupe Baptist Theological Seminary, as well as a Doctor of Divinity from the American International Theological Seminary.

Lester Gillespie has had a long and distinguished career of community service and religious leadership. He is a former Pastor of the Mount Olive Baptist Church in Crystal City, Texas, the 2nd Vice President of the Ministers Conference of the National Baptist Convention of America, and Moderator of the United Fellowship Baptist District Association. He has worked to reach out to some of our State’s most troubled citizens as Chaplain of the Frio County Jail Ministry and Chairman of the Gang Intervention Committee of the Southern Baptist Association of San Antonio.

Currently, Rev. Gillespie serves as the Organizer and Pastor of the Greater Love Missionary Church in San Antonio, and National President of the Ministers United for Ministerial Development. He provides invaluable spiritual leadership to both his San Antonio church and the national Baptist community. Finally, he helps to build a future for the next generation as founder of the Rev. W.G. Gillespie and Vernell Gillespie-Jones Memorial Institute Scholarship Fund.

Mr. Speaker, Reverend Gillespie is one of our most accomplished and beloved community leaders, and I am proud and happy to have the chance to honor him here today.
Daily Digest

Senate

Chamber Action

**Routine Proceedings, pages S3163–S3236**

**Measures Introduced:** Seventeen bills and two resolutions were introduced, as follows: S. 696–712, and S. Res. 95–96.

**Measures Passed:**

*Death of Pope:* By a unanimous vote of 98 yeas (Vote No. 82), Senate agreed to S. Res. 95, relating to the death of the Holy Father, Pope John Paul II.

**State Department Authorization:** Senate began consideration of S. 600, to authorize appropriations for the Department of State and international broadcasting activities for fiscal years 2006 and 2007, for the Peace Corps for fiscal years 2006 and 2007, for foreign assistance programs for fiscal years 2006 and 2007, taking action on the following amendments proposed thereto: Pages S3171–76, S3176–89, S3189–95

Adopted:

- Lugar Amendment No. 268, to permit grants to be used for broadcasting outside the Middle East region.
- Lugar Amendment No. 269, to limit the compensation paid to employees of the Middle East Broadcasting Networks.
- Lugar Amendment No. 270, to require payments from the Broadcasting Board of Governors for costs resulting from the creditable service of employees of the Middle East Broadcasting Networks.
- Lugar Amendment No. 272, to clarify Foreign Service Grievance Board procedures in the case of an alleged payment of an annuity.
- Lugar Amendment No. 273, to limit the availability of funds authorized for contributions for international peacekeeping activities.

Subsequently, the Amendment was modified.

- Lugar Amendment No. 275, to require a determination to provide assistance for destruction of small arms and related ammunition.

**Lugar Amendment No. 276,** to require a determination to provide assistance for the safeguarding, removal, or elimination of conventional weapons and related ammunition.

**Lugar Amendment No. 277,** to require the passport fees for a relative of a deceased member of the Armed Forces proceeding abroad to visit the grave of such member or to attend a funeral or memorial service for such member.

**Lugar Amendment No. 279,** to strike section 207, entitled Transfer Authority For Buying Power Maintenance Account.

**Lugar Amendment No. 280,** to impose an economic sanction on foreign countries that owe parking fines and penalties or property taxes to Washington, D.C. or New York City.

By 52 yeas to 46 nays (Vote No. 83), Boxer Amendment No. 278, to prohibit the application of certain restrictive eligibility requirements to foreign nongovernmental organizations with respect to the provision of assistance under part I of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961.

Pending:

- Lugar Amendment No. 266, to strike the amendment to the limitation on the United States share of assessments for the United Nations Peacekeeping operations.
- McCain/DeWine Amendment No. 267, to authorize the extension of nondiscriminatory treatment (normal trade relations treatment) to the products of Ukraine.
- Baucus Amendment No. 281, to facilitate the sale of United States agricultural products to Cuba, as authorized by the Trade Sanctions Reform and Export Enhancement Act of 2000.
- Craig/Roberts Amendment No. 282 (to Amendment No. 281), to clarify the payment terms under the Trade Sanctions Reform and Export Enhancement Act of 2000.
- Dodd Amendment No. 283, to express the sense of the Senate concerning recent provocative actions by the People’s Republic of China.
- Dorgan/Wyden Amendment No. 284, to prohibit funds from being used for television broadcasting to Cuba.
Biden Amendment No. 286 (in lieu of the language proposed to be stricken by Lugar Amendment No. 266), relative to the United States’ share of assessment for United Nations Peacekeeping operations.

During consideration of this measure today, the Senate also took the following action:

Lugar Amendment No. 274, to provide a short title, previously agreed to, which was then subsequently vitiated and withdrawn.

A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing for further consideration of Biden Amendment No. 286 (listed above) with a vote to occur thereon at 10 a.m.

A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing for further consideration of the bill at 9:30 a.m., on Wednesday, April 6, 2005, and the time until 10 a.m. be equally divided.

Committee Meetings

Committee on Armed Services: Subcommittee on Personnel concluded a hearing to examine active component, reserve component, and civilian personnel programs in review of the Defense Authorization Request for fiscal year 2006, after receiving testimony from David S.C. Chu, Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness; Lieutenant General Franklin L. Hagenbeck, USA, Deputy Chief of Staff for Personnel, United States Army; Vice Admiral Gerald L. Hoewing, USN, Chief of Naval Personnel, United States Navy; Lieutenant General H.P. Osman, USMC, Deputy Commandant for Manpower and Reserve Affairs, United States Marine Corps; Lieutenant General Roger A. Brady, USAF, Deputy Chief of Staff, Personnel, United States Air Force; Colonel Steven P. Strobridge, USAF (Ret.), Military Officers Association of America, on behalf of the Military Coalition, and Joyce Wessel Raezer, National Military Family Association, both of Alexandria, Virginia; and Deirdre Parke Holleman, National Military and Veterans Alliance, Springfield, Virginia.

HIGHWAY AND TRANSPORTATION SAFETY

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation: Subcommittee on Surface Transportation and Merchant Marine concluded a hearing to examine the reauthorization of the safety programs in the Transportation Equity Act for 21st Century (TEA–21), focusing on highway, motor carrier and hazardous materials transportation safety, and transportation of household goods, after receiving testimony from Kenneth M. Mead, Inspector General, Jeffrey W. Runge, Administrator, National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, Annette Sandberg, Administrator, Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration, and Stacey L. Gerard, Acting Assistant Administrator/Chief Safety Officer, Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration, all of the Department of Transportation.

CHARITABLE GIVING

Committee on Finance: Committee held a hearing to examine proposals for reform regarding charities and charitable giving, receiving testimony from George K. Yin, Chief of Staff, Joint Committee on Taxation; Jane G. Gravelle, Senior Specialist in Economic Policy, Congressional Research Service, Library of Congress; Mark W. Everson, Commissioner of Internal Revenue.
Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury; Minnesota Attorney General Mike Hatch, St. Paul; Richard Johnson, Waller Lansden Dortch and Davis, PLLC, Nashville, Tennessee; David Kuo, Beliefnet.com, New York, New York; Brian A. Gallagher, United Way of America, Alexandria, Virginia; and Diana Aviv, Independent Sector, Washington, D.C., and Leon E. Panetta, California State University Panetta Institute, Long Beach, both on behalf of the Panel on the Nonprofit Sector.

Hearing recessed subject to the call.

**MEDICARE PRESCRIPTION DRUG BENEFIT**

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs: Subcommittee on Oversight of Government Management, the Federal Workforce and the District of Columbia concluded a hearing to examine the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services implementation of the Medicare Prescription Drug, Improvement and Modernization Act of 2003, focusing on new Medicare Advantage (MA) plan options and voluntary Medicare prescription drug coverage, after receiving testimony from Mark B. McClellan, Administrator, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, Department of Health and Human Services; Ann Womer Benjamin, Director, Ohio Department of Insurance, Columbus; and Marcia Marsh, Partnership for Public Service, Washington, D.C.

Hearing recessed subject to the call.

**HEAD START**

Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions: Subcommittee on Education and Early Childhood Development held a hearing to examine Head Start, focusing on ensuring dollars benefit children relating to the effectiveness of the oversight by the Department of Health and Human Services’ Administration for Children and Families in identifying and resolving financial management weaknesses in Head Start grantees, after receiving testimony from Wade Horn, Assistant Secretary of Health and Human Services for the Administration for Children and Families; Marnie Shaul, Director, Educating and Protecting Children, Government Accountability Office; A.C. Wharton, Mayor of Shelby County, Memphis, Tennessee; Yvonne Gates, Center for Academic Enrichment and Outreach, Clark County, Nevada; Jim Caccamo, Metropolitan Council on Early Learning, Kansas City, Missouri; and Olivia Golden, Urban Institute, Washington, D.C.

Hearing recessed subject to the call.

**LYTTON RANCHERIA TRIBAL LANDS STATUS**

Committee on Indian Affairs: Committee held a hearing to examine S. 113, to modify the date as of which certain tribal land of the Lytton Rancheria of California is deemed to be held in trust, receiving testimony from Senator Feinstein; Representative George Miller; George T. Skibine, Acting Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Interior for Policy and Economic Development for Indian Affairs; California State Assemblymember Loni Hancock, Sacramento; Sharon J. Brown and Brock Arner, both of the City of San Pablo, San Pablo, California; Margie Mejia, Lytton Band of Pomo Indians, Santa Rosa, California; and Mark Macarro, Pechanga Band of Luiseño Mission Indians, Temecula, California.

Hearing recessed subject to the call.

**USA PATRIOT ACT**

Committee on the Judiciary: Committee concluded an oversight hearing to examine the implementation of the USA PATRIOT Act, focusing on renewing key provisions in the USA PATRIOT ACT that have been integral in the Federal Government’s prosecution of the war on terrorism, after receiving testimony from Alberto R. Gonzales, Attorney General, and Robert S. Mueller III, Director, Federal Bureau of Investigation, both of the Department of Justice.

**INTELLIGENCE**

Select Committee on Intelligence: Committee met in closed session to receive a briefing on certain intelligence matters from officials of the intelligence community.
House of Representatives

Chamber Action


Additional Cosponsors:

Reports Filed: Reports were filed today as follows:

H. Res. 136, directing the Attorney General and the Secretary of Homeland Security to transmit to the House of Representatives not later than 14 days after the date of the adoption of this resolution documents in the possession of those officials relating to the security investigations and background checks relating to granting access to the White House of James D. Guckert (also known as Jeff Gannon), adversely (H. Rept. 109–30).

Joint Meeting to receive His Excellency Viktor Yushchenko, President of Ukraine: Agreed that it be in order at any time on Wednesday, April 6, for the Speaker to declare a recess, subject to the call of the Chair, for the purpose of receiving in Joint Meeting His Excellency Viktor Yushchenko, President of Ukraine.

Suspensions: The House agreed to suspend the rules and pass the following measures:

Commemorating the life of the late Zurab Zhvania: H. Res. 108, commemorating the life of the late Zurab Zhvania, Prime Minister of the Republic of Georgia, by a 2/3 yea-and-nay vote of 402 yea with none voting “nay”, Roll No. 91;

Commending the outstanding efforts of U.S. military and civilian workers in response to the earthquake and tsunami of December 26, 2004: H. Res. 120, commending the outstanding efforts by members of the Armed Forces and civilian employees of the Department of State and the United States Agency for International Development in response to the earthquake and tsunami of December 26, 2004, by a 2/3 yea-and-nay vote of 401 yea with none voting “nay”, Roll No. 92; and

Honoring the life and contributions of Yogi Bhajan: H. Con. Res. 34, honoring the life and contributions of Yogi Bhajan, a leader of Sikhs, and expressing condolences to the Sikh community on his passing, by a 2/3 yea-and-nay vote of 405 yea with none voting “nay” and one voting “present”, Roll No. 93.

Recess: The House recessed at 2:42 p.m. and reconvened at 6:30 p.m.

Consideration of resolution honoring His Holiness Pope John Paul II—Order of Business: Agreed that it be in order at any time to consider a resolution honoring the life and achievements of His Holiness Pope John Paul II and expressing profound sorrow on his death; that the resolution shall be considered as read; that the resolution be debatable for one hour; and that the previous question shall be considered as ordered on the resolution and proceed to final adoption without intervening motion.

Senate Message: Message received from the Senate today appears on page H1737.

Quorum Calls—Votes: Three yea-and-nay votes developed during the proceedings of today and appear on pages H1746, H1746–47, and H1747. There were no quorum calls.

Adjournment: The House met at 2 p.m. and adjourned at 10:52 p.m.

Committee Meetings

DEPARTMENT OF LABOR, HHS, EDUCATION, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Department of Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies held a hearing on Employee Benefits Security Administration, on Employment Standards Administration, and on International Labor Affairs Bureau. Testimony was heard from the following officials of the Department of Labor: Ann Combs, Assistant Secretary, Employee Benefits Security Administration; Victoria Lipnic, Assistant Secretary, Employee Safety Administration; and Arnold Levine, Deputy Under Secretary, Bureau of International Labor Affairs.

HEAD START FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

Committee on Education and the Workforce: Held a hearing entitled “Financial Accountability in the Head Start Early Childhood Program.” Testimony was heard from Marnie S. Shaul, Director, Education Issues, Education, Workforce, and Income Security, GAO; Wade F. Horn, Assistant Secretary, Administration for Children and Families, Department of Health and Human Services; and public witnesses.
ENERGY POLICY ACT


YUCCA MOUNTAIN PROJECT

Committee on Government Reform: Subcommittee on Federal Workforce and Agency Organization, hearing entitled “Yucca Mountain Project: Have Federal Employees Falsified Documents?” Testimony was heard from Senators Reid and Ensign; the following officials of the State of Nevada: Kenny C. Guinn, Governor; and Brian Sandoval, Attorney General; the following officials of the Department of the Interior: Charles G. Groat, Director, U.S. Geological Survey; and Earl E. Devaney, Inspector General; the following officials of the Department of Energy: Ted Garrish, Deputy Director, Office of Civilian Radioactive Waste Management; and Gregory H. Friedman, Inspector General; B. John Garrick, Chairman, U.S. Nuclear Waste Technical Review Board; and public witnesses.

BROWNFIELD SITES REDEVELOPMENT

Committee on Government Reform: Subcommittee on Federalism and the Census held a hearing entitled “Lands of Lost Opportunity: What Can Be Done to Spur Re-Development at America’s Brownfield Sites.” Testimony was heard from Thomas Dunne, Deputy Assistant Administrator, Office of Solid Waste and Emergency Response, EPA; John Stephenson, Director, Natural Resources and Environment, GAO; and public witnesses.

ASSESSING ANTHRAX DETECTION METHODS

Committee on Government Reform: Subcommittee on National Security, Emerging Threats and International Relations held a hearing entitled “Assessing Anthrax Detection Methods.” Testimony was heard from Keith Rhodes, Chief Technologist, Center for Technology and Engineering, Applied Research and Methods, GAO; Tanja Popovic, Associate Director, Science, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Department of Health and Human Services; the following officials of the Department of Defense: Klaus Schafer, Deputy Assistant Secretary, Chemical and Biological Defense; and John Jester, Director, Pentagon Force Protection Agency; Dana T walk, Deputy Director, Office of Emergency Management, EPA; Thomas G. Day, Vice President, Engineering, U.S. Postal Service; from the following officials of the State of Virginia: James H. Schwartz, Chief, Arlington County Fire Department; and Michael P. Neuhard, Chief, Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department; and public witnesses.

CRIME DETERRENCE AND COMMUNITY PROTECTION ACT


COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR WEDNESDAY, APRIL 6, 2005

(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

Senate

Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry: to hold hearings to examine the nomination of Charles F. Conner, of Indiana, to be Deputy Secretary of Agriculture, 9:15 a.m., SR–336.

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, to hold hearings to examine the proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2006 for the National Institutes of Health, 9:30 a.m., SD–124.

Subcommittee on Defense, to hold hearings to examine the proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2006 for the Air Force, 9:30 a.m., SD–192.

Full Committee, business meeting to mark up the Emergency Supplemental bill for fiscal year 2005, 2 p.m., SD–106.

Committee on Armed Services: Subcommittee on Readiness and Management Support, to hold hearings to examine military installation programs in review of the Defense Authorization Request for fiscal year 2006, 9:30 a.m., SR–232A.

Subcommittee on Airland, to hold hearings to examine tactical aviation programs in review of the Defense Authorization request for fiscal year 2006, 2:30 p.m., SR–232A.

Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs: to hold hearings to examine regulatory reform of the Government-Sponsored Enterprises, 9:30 a.m., SD–538.

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources: to hold hearings to examine the nomination of David Garman, of Virginia, to be Under Secretary of Energy, 10 a.m., SD–366.

Committee on Environment and Public Works: to hold hearings to examine the nominations of Stephen L. Johnson, of Maryland, to be Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, Luis Luna, of Maryland, to be an Assistant Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency for Administration and Resource Management, John Paul Woodley, Jr., of Virginia, to be an Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works, Major General Don T. Riley, United States Army, to be a Member and President of the Mississippi River Commission, Brigadier General William T. Grisoli, United States Army, to be a Member of the Mississippi River Commission, D. Michael Rappoport, of Arizona, to be a Member of the
Board of Trustees of the Morris K. Udall Scholarship and Excellence in National Environmental Policy Foundation, and Michael Butler, of Tennessee, to be a Member of the Board of Trustees of the Morris K. Udall Scholarship and Excellence in National Environmental Policy Foundation, 9:15 a.m., SD–406.

Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions: to hold hearings to examine health care provided to non-ambulatory persons, 9:30 a.m., SD–562.

Select Committee on Intelligence: to receive a closed briefing regarding certain intelligence matters, 2:30 p.m., SH–219.

House

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies, on Natural Resources and Environment, 9:30 a.m., 2362A Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Defense, executive, on Army Acquisition, 9:30 a.m., H–405 Capitol.

Subcommittee on the Department of Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies, on Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 1 p.m., 2358 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Interior, Environment and Related Agencies, on Kennedy Center, 9 a.m., B–308 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Military Quality of Life, and Veterans’ Affairs, and Related Agencies, on Defense Health Program, 10 a.m., on United States Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims, 1:30 p.m., on American Battle Monuments Commission, 2 p.m., on Arlington National Cemetery, 2:30 p.m., and on Armed Forces Retirement Home, 3 p.m., H–143 Capitol.

Committee on Armed Services, hearing on the Iraq’s past, present and future, 10 a.m., 2118 Rayburn.


Subcommittee on Terrorism, Unconventional Threats and Capabilities, hearing on the Fiscal Year 2006 National Defense Authorization budget request—Destruction of the U.S. Chemical Weapons Stockpile—Program Status and Issues, 1 p.m., 2212 Rayburn.

Committee on Education and the Workforce, to mark up H. Res. 134, Requesting the President to transmit to the House of Representatives certain information relating to plan assets and liabilities of single-employer pension plans, 1:15 p.m., 2175 Rayburn.


Committee on Financial Services, hearing entitled “Strengthening America’s Communities: A Review of the Administration’s FY 2006 Budget Initiative,” 1 p.m., 2128 Rayburn.


Committee on International Relations, Subcommittee on Asia and the Pacific, oversight hearing on China’s Anti-Secession Law and Developments across the Taiwan Strait, 9 a.m., 2172 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Europe and Emerging Threats, oversight hearing on Bosnia-Herzegovina: Unfinished Business, 12 p.m., 2200 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Western Hemisphere, oversight hearing on China’s Influence in the Western Hemisphere, 1:30 p.m., 2172 Rayburn.

Committee on the Judiciary, oversight hearing on the USA PATRIOT Act: A Review for the Purpose of its Reauthorization, 1 p.m., 2141 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Courts, The Internet, and Intellectual Property, oversight hearing on Digital Music Interoperability and Availability, 10 a.m., 2141 Rayburn.

Committee on Resources, Subcommittee on National Parks, oversight hearing on the Implementation of the National Park Service Concessions Act of 1998, 2 p.m., 1324 Longworth.

Committee on Small Business, to mark up the following resolutions: H. Res. 130, Recognizing the contributions of environmental systems and the technicians who install and maintain them to the quality of life of all Americans and supporting the goals and ideals of National Indoor Comfort Week; and H. Res. 22, Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that American small businesses are entitled to a Small Business Bill of Rights, 2 p.m., followed by a hearing on the commitment of the Export-Import Bank of the United States (Ex-Im) to assist small business exporters, 3 p.m., 311 Cannon.

Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, Subcommittee on Aviation, oversight hearing on Efforts to Prevent Pandemics by Air Travel, 2 p.m., 2167 Rayburn.

Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, executive, Briefing on Weapons of Mass Destruction, 10 a.m., H–405 Capitol.

Joint Meetings

Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe: to hold hearings to examine the efforts of the Chabad community and the U.S. Government to recover the “Schneerson Collection” of Jewish books and manuscripts from the Russian Government, 2:30 p.m., SH–216.
Next Meeting of the SENATE
9:30 a.m., Wednesday, April 6

Senate Chamber

Program for Wednesday: Senate will continue consideration of S. 600, State Department Authorization, and at 10 a.m., vote on, or in relation to Biden Amendment No. 286, following which, Senate will recess for a joint meeting of Congress to hear an address from Viktor Yushchenko, President of Ukraine.

Next Meeting of the HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
10 a.m., Wednesday, April 6

House Chamber

Program for Wednesday: Consideration of Suspensions:
(1) H.R. 1077, Realtime Investor Protection Act;
(2) H.R. 1025, Mortgage Servicing Clarification Act;
(3) H.R. 436, Increased Capital Access for Growing Business Act;
(4) H.R. 797, Native American Housing Enhancement Act of 2005; and
(5) H. Res. 148, Supporting the goals and ideals of Financial Literacy Month.

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