United States of America

# Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 109th CONGRESS, SECOND SESSION

Vol. 152 WASHINGTON, TUESDAY, JANUARY 31, 2006 No. 9

# House of Representatives

The House met at noon.

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

Lord God, ever present, source of all wisdom and self-giving love, the sacred scriptures reveal Your continued guidance in human affairs. We thank You for the many blessings granted this Nation throughout its history.

Today, as a new page is turned, fill the hearts of Your people with even greater confidence and renewed faith in Your promises to be near us and attentive to our needs.

As work begins on this Second Session of the 109th Congress, we seek Your mercy and rely on Your revelation to guide and protect this legislative body. As this House of Representatives and the United States Senate anticipate a joint session and await the State of the Union message of President George W. Bush, we pray to You for his health, enlightenment, and well-being. Together with the Supreme Court, may all three branches of this government be drawn into Your Spirit of wisdom and good judgment. With renewed standards of ethics and a deeper commitment of accountability, may all who serve in public office be Your steady instrument in unifying, protecting, and guiding the American people of this democracy to increasing virtue, greater prosperity, and a witness to goodness for the world.

Lord, bless America and its people who place their trust in You, now and forever.

Amen.

## RESIGNATION FROM THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

The SPEAKER laid before the House the following resignation from the House of Representatives:

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
*Washington, DC, January 16, 2006.*

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

Mr. SPEAKER: For the past thirteen years I have had the great honor and privilege of serving the people of New Jersey as a Member of the United States House of Representatives.

As Governor Jon S. Corzine of New Jersey has told me his intention to appoint me to fulfill the remainder of his term in the United States Senate upon his inauguration as Governor, I submit my resignation as a Member from the House of Representatives, effective close of business on Monday, January 16, 2006.

I accept my new position with enthusiasm but also a sense of gratitude for the trust and confidence the voters of the Thirteenth Congressional District have placed in me over the years. I have always tried to reflect credit on the District, the great state of New Jersey, and this body. It has been a distinct pleasure to work and serve with many good friends and colleagues in the House of Representatives.

I look forward to continuing my service to the people of the State of New Jersey through my service as a Member of the United States Senate.

Sincerely,

ROBERT MENENDEZ,
*Member of Congress.*

## ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. Under clause 5(d) of rule XX, the Chair announces to the House that, in light of the resignation of the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ), the whole number of the House is adjusted to 433.

## COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

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

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
*Washington, DC, January 26, 2006.*

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

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Clerk received the following message from the Secretary of the Senate on January 26, 2006, at 10:15 am:

That the Senate agreed to S. Con. Res. 77.

Appointments:

Board of Visitors of the United States Military Academy.

Board of Visitors of the United States Naval Academy.

Board of Visitors of the United States Air Force Academy.

With best wishes, I am

Sincerely,

KAREN L. HAAS,
*Clerk of the House.*

## COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

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

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
*Washington, DC, January 27, 2006.*

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

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Clerk received the following message from the Secretary of the Senate on January 27, 2006, at 3:00 pm:

That the Senate agreed to S. Con. Res. 78.

With best wishes, I am

Sincerely,

KAREN L. HAAS,
*Clerk of the House.*

## RECESS

The SPEAKER. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the House stands in recess until approximately 3:30 p.m. today.



Printed on recycled paper.

Accordingly (at 12 o'clock and 5 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess until approximately 3:30 p.m.

□ 1530

## AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order at 3 o'clock and 30 minutes p.m.

## CALL OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER. The Clerk will utilize the electronic system to ascertain the presence of a quorum.

Members will record their presence by electronic device.

The call was taken by electronic device, and the following Members responded to their names:

[Roll No. 1]

Abercrombie
Ackerman
Aderholt
Akin
Alexander
Allen
Andrews
Baca
Bachus
Baird
Baker
Baldwin
Barrett (SC)
Barrow
Bartlett (MD)
Barton (TX)
Bass
Bean
Beauprez
Becerra
Berkley
Berry
Biggert
Bilirakis
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (NY)
Bishop (UT)
Blackburn
Blumenauer
Blunt
Boehlert
Boehner
Bonilla
Bonner
Bono
Boozman
Boren
Boswell
Boucher
Boustany
Boyd
Bradley (NH)
Brady (TX)
Brown (OH)
Brown (SC)
Brown, Corrine
Brown-Waite, Ginny
Burgess
Burton (IN)
Buyer
Calvert
Camp (MI)
Campbell (CA)
Cannon
Cantor
Capito
Capps
Capuano
Cardin
Cardoza
Carnahan
Carson
Carter
Case
Castle
Chabot
Chandler
Chocola
Clay
Cleaver
Clyburn
Coble
Cole (OK)
Conaway
Cooper
Costa
Costello
Cramer
Crenshaw
Crowley
Cubin
Cuellar
Cummings
Davis (AL)
Davis (CA)
Davis (IL)
Davis (KY)
Davis (TN)
Davis, Jo Ann
Davis, Tom
Deal (GA)
DeFazio
Delahunt
DeLauro
Dent
Diaz-Balart, M.
Dicks
Dingell
Doggett
Doolittle
Doyle
Drake
Dreier
Duncan
Ehlers
Emanuel
Emerson
Engel
English (PA)
Eshoo
Etheridge
Evans
Everett
Farr
Fattah
Feeney
Ferguson
Filner
Fitzpatrick (PA)
Flake
Foley
Forbes
Ford
Fortenberry
Foxx
Frank (MA)
Franks (AZ)
Frelinghuysen
Gallegly
Garrett (NJ)
Gerlach
Gibbons
Gilchrest
Gillmor
Gingrey
Gohmert
Gonzalez
Goode
Goodlatte
Gordon
Granger
Graves
Green (WI)
Green, Al
Green, Gene
Gutierrez
Gutknecht
Hall
Harman
Harris
Hart
Hastert
Hastings (FL)
Hastings (WA)
Hayes
Hayworth
Hefley
Hensarling
Herger
Herseth
Higgins
Hinojosa
Hobson
Hoekstra
Holden
Holt
Honda
Hostettler
Hoyer
Hulshof
Inglis (SC)
Inslee
Israel
Issa
Jackson (IL)
Jackson-Lee (TX)
Jefferson
Jenkins
Jindal
Johnson (CT)
Johnson (IL)
Johnson, E. B.
Jones (NC)
Jones (OH)
Kanjorski
Kaptur
Keller
Kelly
Kennedy (MN)
Kennedy (RI)
Kildee
Kilpatrick (MI)
Kind
King (NY)
Kingston
Kirk
Kline
Knollenberg
Kolbe
Kucinich
Kuhl (NY)
LaHood
Langevin
Lantos
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Latham
LaTourette
Leach
Lee
Levin
Lewis (CA)
Lewis (GA)
Lewis (KY)
Lipinski
LoBiondo
Lofgren, Zoe
Lowey
Lucas
Lungren, Daniel E.
Mack
Maloney
Marchant
Markey
Marshall
Matheson
Matsui
McCarthy
McCaul (TX)
McCollum (MN)
McCotter
McCrery
McDermott
McGovern
McHenry
McHugh
McIntyre
McKeon
McKinney
McMorris
McNulty
Meek (FL)
Meeks (NY)
Mica
Michaud
Millender-McDonald
Miller (FL)
Miller (MI)
Miller (NC)
Mollohan
Moore (KS)
Moore (WI)
Moran (VA)
Murphy
Murtha
Musgrave
Myrick
Nadler
Napolitano
Neugebauer
Ney
Norwood
Nunes
Nussle
Oberstar
Obey
Olver
Ortiz
Osborne
Otter
Owens
Oxley
Pallone
Pascrell
Pastor
Paul
Pearce
Pelosi
Pence
Peterson (MN)
Peterson (PA)
Petri
Platts
Poe
Pombo
Pomeroy
Porter
Price (GA)
Price (NC)
Pryce (OH)
Putnam
Radanovich
Rahall
Ramstad
Regula
Rehberg
Reichert
Renzi
Reyes
Reynolds
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (MI)
Rohrabacher
Ros-Lehtinen
Ross
Rothman
Roybal-Allard
Royce
Ruppersberger
Ryan (OH)
Ryan (WI)
Ryun (KS)
Sabo
Salazar
Sánchez, Linda T.
Sanchez, Loretta
Saxton
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schmidt
Schwartz (PA)
Schwarz (MI)
Scott (GA)
Scott (VA)
Sensenbrenner
Serrano
Sessions
Shadegg
Shaw
Shays
Sherman
Sherwood
Shimkus
Shuster
Simmons
Simpson
Skelton
Smith (TX)
Snyder
Sodrel
Solis
Souder
Spratt
Stearns
Stupak
Sullivan
Sweeney
Tancredo
Tanner
Tauscher
Taylor (MS)
Terry
Thomas
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Thornberry
Tiahrt
Tiberi
Tierney
Towns
Turner
Udall (CO)
Udall (NM)
Upton
Van Hollen
Velázquez
Visclosky
Walden (OR)
Walsh
Wamp
Wasserman Schultz
Waters
Watt
Waxman
Weiner
Weldon (PA)
Weller
Westmoreland
Wexler
Whitfield
Wicker
Wilson (NM)
Wilson (SC)
Wolf
Woolsey
Wu
Wynn
Young (AK)
Young (FL)

□ 1555

The SPEAKER. On this rollcall, 389 Members have recorded their presence by electronic device, a quorum.

Under the rule, further proceedings under the call are dispensed with.

## THE JOURNAL

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

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

## PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. KILDEE) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. KILDEE 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.

## COMMITTEE TO NOTIFY THE PRESIDENT

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, I offer a privileged resolution (H. Res. 649) providing for a committee to notify the President of the assembly of the Congress, and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 649

*Resolved*, That a committee of two Members be appointed by the Speaker on the part of the House of Representatives to join with a committee on the part of the Senate to notify the President of the United States that a quorum of each House has assembled and Congress is ready to receive any communication that he may be pleased to make.

The resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

## APPOINTMENT AS MEMBERS OF COMMITTEE TO NOTIFY THE PRESIDENT, PURSUANT TO HOUSE RESOLUTION 649

The SPEAKER. Pursuant to House Resolution 649, the Chair appoints as members of the committee on the part of the House to join a committee on the part of the Senate to notify the President of the United States that a quorum of each House has been assembled and that Congress is ready to receive any communication that he may be pleased to make:

The gentleman from Missouri (Mr. BLUNT) and

The gentlewoman from California (Ms. PELOSI).

## NOTIFICATION TO THE SENATE

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, I offer a privileged resolution (H. Res. 650) to inform the Senate that a quorum of the House has assembled, and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 650

*Resolved*, That the Clerk of the House inform the Senate that a quorum of the House is present and that the House is ready to proceed with business.

The resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

## DAILY HOUR OF MEETING

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, I offer a privileged resolution (H. Res. 651) and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 651

*Resolved*, That unless otherwise ordered, before Monday, May 15, 2006, the hour of daily meeting of the House shall be 2 p.m. on Mondays; noon on Tuesdays; and 10 a.m. on all other days of the week; and from Monday, May 15, 2006, for the remainder of the 109th Congress, the hour of daily meeting of the House shall be noon on Mondays, 10 a.m. on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays; and 9 a.m. on all other days of the week.

The resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

## JOINT SESSION OF THE CONGRESS—STATE OF THE UNION MESSAGE

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, I offer a privileged Senate concurrent resolution (S. Con. Res. 77) and ask for its immediate consideration.

The SPEAKER. The Clerk will report the Senate concurrent resolution.

The Clerk read the Senate concurrent resolution, as follows:

S. CON. RES. 77

*Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring),* That the two Houses of Congress assemble in the Hall of the House of Representatives on Tuesday, January 31, 2006, at 9 p.m., for purpose of receiving such communication as the President of the United States shall be pleased to make to them.

The Senate concurrent resolution was concurred in.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

## MAKING IN ORDER MORNING HOUR DEBATE

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the order of the House of January 4, 2005, providing for morning hour debate be extended for the remainder of the 109th Congress except that the date of May 15, 2006, shall be used in lieu of May 16, 2005.

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

There was no objection.

## GRANTING MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE PRIVILEGE TO EXTEND REMARKS AND INCLUDE EXTRANEOUS MATERIAL IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD FOR THE SECOND SESSION OF THE 109TH CONGRESS

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that for the remainder of the 109th Congress, all Members be permitted to extend their remarks and to include extraneous material within the permitted limit in that section of the RECORD entitled ''Extensions of Remarks.''

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

There was no objection.

## DISPENSING WITH CALENDAR WEDNESDAY BUSINESS ON TOMORROW

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the business in order under the Calendar Wednesday rule be dispensed with tomorrow.

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

There was no objection.

□ 1600

## REPORT ON RESOLUTION RELATING TO CONSIDERATION OF S. 1932, DEFICIT REDUCTION ACT OF 2005

Mr. DREIER, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 109–366) on the resolution (H. Res. 653) relating to consideration of the Senate bill (S. 1932) to provide for reconciliation pursuant to section 202(a) of the concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal year 2006 (H. Con. Res. 95), which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

## REPORT ON RESOLUTION WAIVING REQUIREMENT OF CLAUSE 6(a) OF RULE XIII WITH RESPECT TO CONSIDERATION OF CERTAIN RESOLUTIONS

Mr. DREIER, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 109–367) on the resolution (H. Res. 654) waiving a requirement of clause 6(a) of rule XIII with respect to consideration of certain resolutions reported from the Committee on Rules, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

## REMOVAL OF NAME OF MEMBER AS COSPONSOR OF H.R. 3855

Mrs. CUBIN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to have my name removed as a cosponsor of H.R. 3855.

The SPEAKER. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Wyoming?

There was no objection.

## REMOVAL OF NAME OF MEMBER AS COSPONSOR OF H.R. 4354

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to have my name removed as a cosponsor of H.R. 4354.

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

There was no objection.

## REMOVAL OF NAME OF MEMBER AS COSPONSOR OF HOUSE RESOLUTIONS 635, 636 AND 637

Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to have my name removed as a cosponsor of House Resolutions 635, 636 and 637.

The SPEAKER. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from California?

There was no objection.

## REMOVAL OF NAME OF MEMBER AS COSPONSOR OF H.R. 3855

Mr. OTTER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to have my name removed as a cosponsor of H.R. 3855.

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

There was no objection.

## MOMENT OF SILENCE IN MEMORY OF MRS. CORETTA SCOTT KING

The SPEAKER. In memoriam to the death this morning of Mrs. Coretta Scott King, I ask all Members to stand and observe a moment of silence.

## HONORING THE LIFE AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF MRS. CORETTA SCOTT KING

Mr. SENSENBRENNER. Mr. Speaker, I offer a resolution (H. Res. 655) honoring the life and accomplishments of Mrs. Coretta Scott King and her contributions as a leader in the struggle for civil rights, and expressing condolences to the King family on her passing, and ask unanimous consent for its immediate consideration in the House pursuant to the following order: the resolution shall be considered as read; the previous question shall be considered as ordered on the resolution and the preamble to its adoption without intervening motion except 1 hour of debate equally divided and controlled by the chairman and ranking minority member of the Committee on the Judiciary; and notwithstanding the operation of the previous question, the Chair may postpone further consideration of the resolution to a time designated by the Speaker.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. LAHOOD). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Wisconsin?

There was no objection.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 655

Whereas Coretta Scott King was an inspirational figure and a woman of great strength, grace, and dignity who came to personify the ideals of the Civil Rights Movement, for which she and her husband fought.

Whereas Coretta Scott was born on April 27, 1927, to parents Obadiah and Bernice Scott, was raised in rural Alabama, graduated valedictorian from Lincoln High School, and received a B.A. from Antioch College in Yellow Springs, Ohio;

Whereas Coretta Scott came of age in the segregated South, took an active interest in the emerging Civil Rights Movement as an undergraduate, and joined the Antioch chapter of the NAACP, and the Race Relations and Civil Liberties Committees of Antioch College;

Whereas Coretta Scott won a scholarship to study concert singing at Boston's New England Conservatory of Music;

Whereas while in Boston, Coretta Scott met Martin Luther King, Jr., who was a graduate student studying for his doctorate at Boston University;

Whereas after Coretta Scott and Martin Luther King, Jr. were married on June 18, 1953, Mrs. Coretta Scott King completed her degree in voice and violin at the New England Conservatory of Music, and the young

couple moved in September 1954 to Montgomery, Alabama, where Martin Luther King, Jr. had accepted an appointment as Pastor of the Dexter Avenue Baptist Church.

Whereas their first child, Yolanda, was born in 1955, just two weeks before the beginning of the Montgomery bus boycott, during which the King house was bombed;

Whereas the Kings had four children: Yolanda Denise, Martin Luther, III, Dexter Scott, and Bernice Albertine;

Whereas during Dr. King's lifetime, Mrs. King served as an equal partner in the Civil Rights Movement, balancing the demands of raising their four children, serving as a pastor's wife, and speaking before church, civic, college, fraternal, and peace groups;

Whereas Mrs. King established and performed in more than 30 successful ''Freedom Concerts'' that combined prose and poetry narration with musical selections to increase awareness and understanding of the Movement and the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, of which Dr. King served as the first president;

Whereas Mrs. King stood side-by-side with her husband during many civil rights marches and on other notable occasions, including a 1957 trip to Ghana to mark that country's independence, a 1959 trip to India to visit sites associated with Mahatma Gandhi, and a 1964 trip to Oslo, Norway, to accept Dr. King's Nobel Peace Prize;

Whereas just four days after her husband's assassination on April 4, 1968, Mrs. King led a march of 50,000 people through the streets of Memphis, Tennessee, and later that year took his place in the Poor People's March to Washington, D.C.;

Whereas Mrs. King devoted her energy to carrying on her husband's legacy of nonviolence and his work to create an America in which all people have equal rights;

Whereas Mrs. King dedicated herself to developing and building the Atlanta-based Martin Luther King, Jr. Center for Nonviolent Social Change as an enduring memorial to her husband's life and their dream of nonviolent social change and full civil rights for all Americans and, as its founding President, Chair, and Chief Executive Officer, she guided the creation and housing of the largest archive of documents from the Civil Rights Movement;

Whereas Mrs. King was instrumental in seeing her husband's birthday honored as a Federal holiday, an occasion first marked in 1986;

Whereas Mrs. King received honorary doctorates from over 60 colleges and universities and authored three books;

Whereas Mrs. King worked to advance the cause of justice and human rights around the world and spoke out on behalf of a number of important issues, including racial and economic justice, women's and children's rights, religious freedom, full employment, health care, and education; and

Whereas Mrs. Coretta Scott King was a civil rights icon and one of the most influential African Americans in history, and her work brought us closer to achieving the ''Beloved Community'': Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the House of Representatives honors the life and accomplishments of Mrs. Coretta Scott King and her contributions as a leader in the struggle for civil rights, and expresses condolences to the King family on her passing.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. SENSENBRENNER) and the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. CONYERS) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. SENSENBRENNER).

Mr. SENSENBRENNER. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. HASTERT), the distinguished Speaker of the House.

Mr. HASTERT. Mr. Speaker, I was truly saddened this morning when I learned of the death of Coretta Scott King.

My experience with the Kings goes back to 1960 as a freshman student of North Central College, wide-eyed from the country, not really knowing all of the new social issues that were before us. But yet Dr. Martin Luther King came to that little town, came to that college accompanied by his wife. It made a great impression on a college freshman.

The word that comes to my mind as I think about this great woman is ''devotion'': devotion to her husband, devotion to her family, and devotion to the cause of civil rights. Standing side by side with her husband, Dr. Martin Luther King, she helped bring America to an understanding that ''all men are created equal.''

In my first year as Speaker, we had a Congressional Gold Medal award ceremony honoring the Little Rock Nine. It took place just a few feet from here in the rotunda of this Capitol building. Coretta Scott King was there. As I gazed across the room, I saw her stoic and yet gentle presence. Stoic, yet gentle, qualities that reminded me also of her husband and the struggles he and his wife had to overcome so that we as a Nation could overcome our shortcomings and our prejudices.

Even after the hate-inspired death of her husband, she called for love and understanding and found meaning and purpose in the continuing of her husband's work. It is not surprising that she did so, because it was her work too.

While I wish we had her with us for more years to come, to teach and bear witness to future generations, it is fitting that we honor her death on the 31st of January, the day before our Nation begins its month-long celebration of the accomplishments of African Americans. She now becomes a permanent part of that history.

A few hours ago, Senate Majority Leader FRIST and I ordered the flags on this Capitol building be lowered to half staff. It is a small way in which we can say on behalf of a grateful Nation thank you, Coretta Scott King, thank you for picking up the torch of civil rights and taking it across the country and the world. We are a better Nation because you and your husband passed our way. May God welcome you home, and may he hold your family close in this time of sorrow.

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as she may consume to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. PELOSI), the minority leader of the House.

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, I thank the distinguished gentleman from Michigan (Mr. CONYERS), and a civil rights leader in his own right, for yielding me this time.

This is an unusual phrase I am going to use today, but I wish to associate myself with the eloquent remarks of the Speaker of the House, Mr. HASTERT, in praise of the life and leadership of Coretta Scott King.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to rise here today to also join the Speaker in honoring Coretta Scott King. She was not only the keeper of the flame; she was one of our Nation's greatest civil rights leaders in her own right. For all of her life, Coretta Scott King was her own woman. She grew up in rural and segregated Alabama in a hardworking and ambitious Scott family. She followed her sister, who was the first African American ever to attend Antioch College in Ohio; and after, Coretta moved to Boston to pursue a music career. It was there that she met a young preacher through a friend.

We all know who that young preacher was to become, but what we do not know is who he might have been without Coretta by his side. The wise man that he was, Martin Luther King was not just looking for a wife, he said, but for a partner; and he was taken with her immediately.

It took Coretta a little longer, 6 months of deliberations before she accepted his marriage proposal. To the shock of Dr. King's father, but probably to no surprise of anyone who knew her, she asked that the phrase ''obey thy husband'' section be removed from their marriage vows.

Of their work together, Dr. King would later say, ''I wish I could say that I led her down this path. But I must say, we went down this path together because she is as actively involved and concerned when we met as she is now.''

A year after they were married, Martin Luther King and Coretta Scott King had to decide where to move after Dr. King completed his studies in Boston, whether to stay in the North or move back to the South. The year was 1954 and the South was deeply divided by the issue of race.

The newlywed couple had both grown up in the segregated South. They knew the racial injustice that permeated the South, the indignities of sitting in the back of the bus and drinking from separate water fountains.

Yet they chose to return to the heart of what they wanted to change, and they accepted the pastorate at Dexter Avenue Baptist Church in Montgomery, Alabama, going straight to the heart of what was wrong, with the aim to make it right.

In the years that followed, Coretta Scott King marched alongside her husband, Dr. Reverend Martin Luther King, for that very cause. They marched together in Selma to demand voting rights for African Americans, and aren't we all proud to call Mr. John Lewis a colleague, who was also on that march, that very historic march so long ago. Dr. and Mrs. King marched together in Washington to demand a Federal law to protect the civil

rights of all Americans, and they marched together the night before Dr. King was killed. They marched together in Memphis for the sanitation workers facing entrenched discrimination.

In immediate days following the tragedy, Coretta Scott King kept marching, carrying the aspirations of the civil rights movement with her. She led the Poor People's March to Washington. That was the first time I saw her while I watched that march coming into Washington, and I have been a fan of hers ever since. She marched in South Africa standing against apartheid. And for nearly 40 years of her life that came after Dr. King's death, she marched for civil rights everywhere and to root out injustice anywhere it existed.

Because of her singularity of purpose and sheer tenacity, Coretta Scott King often triumphed. The Martin Luther King, Jr., Center for Nonviolent Social Change and the Martin Luther King holiday both stand today as testament to her vision, her determination, her efforts, and indeed, her leadership. But her work is not yet completed.

On the day of her death and on the eve of Black History Month, we must recommit to finishing her work.

It is with great sadness and respect that I extend deepest condolences to Mrs. King's four children, Yolanda, Martin, Dexter, and Bernice; her family; and to the multitudes of her friends and supporters throughout the world. I hope it is a comfort to them that the entire Nation mourns their loss and is praying for them at this sad time.

□ 1615

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of House Resolution 655, a resolution that honors the life and the accomplishments of Mrs. Coretta Scott King, her contributions as a leader in the struggle for civil rights, and express condolences to the King family on her passing.

Mrs. Coretta Scott King, wife of the late Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. was one of our country's most visible members of the civil rights movement, carrying on her husband's legacy with courage, wisdom and dignity. Her life serves as an example of her devotion to making our country, and the world, a better place.

Having experienced firsthand the evils of segregation, Mrs. Coretta Scott King dedicated herself to helping all Americans realize racial equality and justice. She committed herself to her education, earning valedictorian honors from Lincoln High School, earning a Bachelor of Arts from Antioch College, and earning a scholarship to the prestigious New England Conservatory of Music located in Boston, Massachusetts, where she eventually met her husband.

As the spouse and partner of the late Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Mrs. Coretta Scott King gained recognition in her own right, remaining active in the civil rights movement while devoting herself to her family.

Her steadfast devotion to her husband's legacy after his assassination helped bring his message of nonviolent change to millions of Americans. She led the campaign to recognize her late husband's birthday as a national holiday and to establish the Martin Luther King, Jr. Center for Nonviolent Social Change, the first institution established in memory of an African American. This center also houses our country's largest archives of documents from the civil rights movement.

Mrs. King's commitment and devotion to equal justice should serve as a reminder of the foundation and principles upon which this country was founded and should inspire us all to work to ensure that these guarantees are recognized by all Americans.

I encourage my colleagues to join me in honoring Mrs. Coretta Scott King's life, her accomplishments and her contributions to our country by voting in favor of this resolution.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. SENSENBRENNER. 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 655 currently under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. LAHOOD). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Wisconsin?

There was no objection.

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

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, I yield as much time as he may consume to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. LEWIS), a civil rights leader, one who has been in the struggle since the beginning. I remember him from 1963 and he had been in it long before.

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with a heavy heart to honor the life and accomplishment of Mrs. Coretta Scott King. The passing of Coretta Scott King is a tragic loss for the movement of peace, justice and equality around the world. She was a leader in her own right. She was the glue that held the civil rights movement together. Long before she married Dr. King, she was an activist for peace and nonviolence.

Mr. Speaker, it is very difficult for me to speak about this beautiful, charming, graceful and dignified woman who became the personification of the best that America had to offer.

She grew up as I did in rural Alabama where segregation and racial discrimination were real. She tasted the bitter fruits of racism, but she did not give up. She did not give in. She did not give out. She received a very good education at Antioch College and the New England Conservatory School of Music.

She met Martin Luther King, Jr. while they were both studying in Boston. She fell in love. They got married and they returned to the South, the capital of the old confederacy, the City of Montgomery.

He became the pastor of a little old church, the Dexter Avenue Baptist Church in Montgomery. This little red brick church stood in the shadow of the Capitol building of the State of Alabama.

Dr. King thought he would live the life of a Baptist minister, and Coretta thought, well, she would be a preacher's wife. But they decided to respond to the courage of Rosa Parks on December 1, 1955, when she refused to give up her seat on a city bus in Montgomery. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., emerged as a leader in the modern day civil rights movement and Coretta was by his side every step of the way.

I first met Mrs. King in 1957 when I was only 17. I was a student in Nashville, Tennessee. She was traveling around America, especially in cities of the South telling the story of the Montgomery movement through song. She was so beautiful, so inspiring, she would sing a little, and she would talk a little, and through her singing and talks she inspired an entire generation.

At times when Dr. King could not be present or had another commitment, Coretta was there to speak, to sing, or to encourage. She marched with us in 1963 at the march on Washington. In 1965 she marched with us from Selma to Montgomery.

She was not just a celebrity. She was a very, very warm person. She had the ability, she had the capacity to forget about her own circumstances and get involved in the circumstances of others.

For the past 20 years she has sent me a birthday card on every single birthday, or she might send me a book or note. I still have every single one of those cards and the books. I will cherish them always.

After the assassination of her husband she did not hide in some dark corner. She did not become bitter or hostile. A few days after the assassination she led more than 50,000 people through the streets of Memphis, and later she would travel with many of us through the South, through the heart of the deep South, through the Black Belt of Alabama, through the Delta of Mississippi, through southwest Georgia, through North Carolina and South Carolina, urging people to register and to vote.

She went all out to create a living memorial, a living monument to Dr. King called the Martin Luther King Center for Nonviolent Social Change. She lobbied the Congress. She organized and mobilized the American people to make Dr. King's birthday a national holiday, and because of her effort generations yet unborn will learn of his message of peace, and they will hear about his struggle for equal justice in America.

Mr. Speaker, Coretta Scott King must be looked upon as one of the founding mothers of the new America, for through her action, through her deeds, she helped liberate us all. This Nation is a better place because she passed this way.

But Coretta Scott King, my friend, my big sister, and sometimes she acted like she was my mother, must be looked upon not just as a citizen of America, but as a citizen of the world. This world is a better place because of Mrs. King.

Mr. Speaker, she will be deeply missed. I urge all of my colleagues to support this resolution.

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself as much time as I may consume.

Today we mourn the loss of a dignified and peaceful woman who showed us by example how to pursue change in the world, despite the costs of that struggle.

My friends in the Congress, I have known Coretta King since I went south during the civil rights movement as a lawyer. She was a vibrant, consistent, totally dedicated partner with her husband. She helped him stay strong, especially in the beginning when there were so many threats and challenges to the revolutionary idea that we would start a civil rights movement in the South itself. Many people tried to dissuade Martin from that course. As a child of the segregated South, she agreed that the movement should begin at the seat of Jim Crow.

When faced with the loss of her husband, Coretta remained able to advance their vision of a free and equal America. She continued her husband's legacy by devoting her life to advancing racial and economic justice and for the rights of women, children, the poor, and the homeless. She also fought for employment, education and health care opportunities for all. Most notably, this woman stood for equality and peace, the very virtues to which her husband had dedicated his life.

It was with Coretta's approval that 4 days after Martin's assassination on April 4, 1968, that I introduced a bill to name a holiday in his honor. Coretta was at the heart of this effort, as well as were many others to continue the life and work of King. In 1969, I joined Coretta at the King Center in Atlanta to kick off the campaign for a national holiday. She orchestrated a national grassroots movement that urged passage of this legislation and would come to Congress in 1979 and 1980 and 1981 and 1982 and 1983 to testify before the Congress and urge support of the King holiday. It was with her diligence and perseverance that that holiday bill was passed in 1983 and first observed in 1986.

Today, upon the passing of Mrs. King, we will pledge to continue the King legacy as she has for the past 37 years. As the life and work of the Kings touched millions during their lifetime in this country and around the world, we here in Congress must ensure that their lives continue to impact millions more in the coming years, and that is why I am so proud to join the rest of us in supporting and urging passage of the King resolution.

Mr. Speaker, I would now yield to the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. WATT), the distinguished chairman of the Congressional Black Caucus.

Mr. WATT. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the resolution honoring the life and memory of Mrs. Coretta Scott King and would like to pull up some information from the resolution itself that other people may not focus on because we are tempted sometime to think of Mrs. King as simply the spouse, the wife of Dr. Martin Luther King, and I think it would be a grave, grave mistake for people to do that.

So I first point to the part of the resolution that says, Whereas Mrs. King received honorary doctorates from over 60 colleges and universities and authored three books. That in and of itself is something that, aside from her commitment to the civil rights movement and her companionship and partnership with Dr. Martin Luther King, would in and of itself be deserving of particular note.

Second, I pull up the fact that, as has been pointed out by my colleague, Representative JOHN LEWIS, Coretta Scott came of age in the segregated South and took an active interest in the emerging civil rights movement. This coming of age in the segregated South is something that I think we should not allow to go unnoticed because either, in many ways like slavery or the movement itself, either segregation or slavery tramped down people or it made them stand up and raise their shoulders and raise their sights. And when you find somebody like a John Lewis and a Coretta Scott King who fall into the latter category, it is important to take note of that fact.

So then I go to the first paragraph of the resolution, and when I first read the resolution, I kind of pushed back from the first paragraph because it says Whereas Coretta Scott King was an inspirational figure and a woman of great strength, grace and dignity, I think most of us focus primarily, if we knew Coretta Scott King, on the grace and dignity part of that, and had I kind of an off the top of the head reaction would be I would put grace first and I would put dignity second and then I would put the word "strength." But when you note that she grew up in the segregated South, it is really appropriate the way this has been drafted to put the strength part of that three-part prong equation first.

□ 1630

I think it is something that says here is a woman that is strong and willing to fight and yet still has grace and dignity.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, I would just like to read, on behalf of the members of the Congressional Black Caucus, the press release and make a final point. It says: "The Congressional Black Caucus released the following statement: 'The Congressional Black Caucus extends its sincere condolences to the family of Coretta Scott King, the First Lady of the Civil Rights Movement. Mrs. King, who became a symbol of strength and resolve during the life of Dr. Martin Luther King, after his death was an inspiration to millions of people around the world who sought justice and equality. She has remained the carrier of the freedom flame for almost 38 years since Dr. King's death.' "

And then the following paragraph is what I want to focus on. It says: " 'Mrs. King's death marks the end of an era, but certainly not the end of the continued struggle that she was such an integral part of and that African Americans face daily for equity and parity in education, health care, and employment security.' "

I do not think we should lose sight of that last part because the struggle goes on and we would honor Coretta Scott King's memory by keeping that struggle alive until we reach full equality. As we approach the State of the Union address tonight, let us not miss the point that this lady fought and lived and died for the struggle for equality.

I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege now to yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HOYER), the honorable Democratic whip of the House, who I happen to know worked with Rosa Parks. And I am delighted that he came to several of her farewell memorial tributes and that he is with us on the floor today for the resolution for the late Coretta Scott King.

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I thank my friend for yielding me the time. And I thank the chairman and the ranking member for bringing this resolution to the floor.

I was honored to stand many a time on the west wing of the Capitol of the United States as Mr. CONYERS led the effort to ensure that America recognized the extraordinary contributions of one of America's greatest sons, Martin Luther King, Jr., and that we set a day aside to recognize not only his contributions but to recommit ourselves to the objectives that he lived for and died for. And I want to congratulate Mr. CONYERS and thank him for the contributions that he has made to live out that commitment of Dr. King's.

Our Nation has lost a true hero. Coretta Scott King was one of the most eloquent and determined civil rights activists in our history, both as a partner to her husband, Dr. King, in the fight for equality and justice in the United States and as a keeper of his legacy after his assassination in Memphis on April 4.

Mrs. King's grace, of which Mr. WATT spoke and of which the resolution speaks, was experienced by all who met her. Her tenacity ensured that the civil rights movement that she helped to pioneer has continued to stay in the

forefront of America's consciousness. She worked closely with JOHN CONYERS and many others in this body and around the world.

A dedicated mother of four children, all of whom I have had the privilege of knowing for some period of time, Coretta Scott King became a symbol of peace and human rights and justice and equality not just here in the United States but around the world. After her husband's death, she devoted her energy to carrying on Dr. King's legacy of nonviolence and his work to create an America in which all people were judged not on the color of their skin but on the content of their character.

She inspired activists from South Africa to Latin America. And what is perhaps one of her greatest accomplishments, she worked with JOHN CONYERS and so many others to ensure that we set aside a day to recognize the contributions, recognize the message, and to recommit ourselves to living out the promises that America made but which Dr. King so eloquently told America we were not living out, that we had made the promises but we were not keeping them, in that extraordinary speech in August of 1963.

Each year this day serves as a reminder to Americans that we must keep working towards equality and justice for all citizens. That is what Coretta Scott King's life was about. It teaches younger Americans about the harrowed journey the country has traveled to fulfill the promise of civil rights.

In addition, she was the driving force in the founding of the Martin Luther King, Jr. Center for Nonviolent Social Change in Atlanta. Nonviolent social change. Ghandi changed a nation; Martin Luther King, Jr. changed the world. He and Nelson Mandela and others who believed that by peaceful demonstration, by peaceful action, they could change the world and move mountains.

In addition, Coretta was the driving force in making sure that Martin Luther King, Jr. Day was not a holiday, not a day off, but a day of focus, a day of commitment.

Coretta Scott King's poise and determination are qualities that we would all appreciate, admire, and remember each time we met her and talked to her. She carried on Dr. King's legacy, but she had a legacy, certainly, of her own: an extraordinarily accomplished musician; a wonderful and bright, intelligent woman; a leader of our country in her own right.

Today I want to join my colleagues, Mr. CONYERS and Mr. SENSENBRENNER and all of our colleagues, to express our heartfelt sympathies to Mrs. King's children, Yolanda, Martin Luther III, Dexter, and Bernice, as well as all of her family and friends.

Today a Nation mourns the loss of a great leader and recognizes her extraordinary contributions to making America a better place.

Mr. SENSENBRENNER. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Connecticut (Mr. SHAYS).

Mr. SHAYS. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding to me.

At a time like this, I tend to think of who are the people I respect the most and who are the people that have had impact over the world and my country as I have grown up and become an adult. I think of someone like Winston Churchill. I think of someone like Martin Luther King. I think of someone like Coretta Scott King. I think of someone like Nelson Mandela. And I think about my colleague John Lewis. These are my heroes. And it is interesting to me that most of them are men and women of color.

I think of, when I was first elected in 1987, whom did I want to meet? I wanted to meet our President, Ronald Reagan; and I wanted to meet a man called John Lewis, who, when I was in college, led a civil rights movement with Martin Luther King and crossed the Selma Bridge. There were only two people I wanted to meet: one was Ronald Reagan and the other was John Lewis.

I think of Martin Luther King, Sr., whom some people refer to as Daddy King, who lost his younger son A.D., in a drowning; and then he lost his older son, Martin Luther King, Jr., in an assassination; and then he lost his wife in a bombing in our country. This precious woman's life was snuffed out. And I think of Martin Luther King, Sr., eulogizing his wife and saying, I have lost two sons; I have lost my wife. And then he looked out in the audience, and he said, in so many words, but I am a grateful man because I have my daughter, Christine, and her family and I have Coretta and her family. And the focus of his presentation was how grateful he was to have her. Well, he had her; we all had Coretta Scott King. We all had her, and we have all been blessed by her leadership.

Coretta Scott King was a hero of the civil rights movement as a partner to Martin Luther King, clearly; but in her own right she played an absolutely instrumental role in her husband's work and carried on his legacy of fighting for human rights and equality. Their legacy is one of lasting change, making for a Nation that is freer, more compassionate, and more accepting. And while I was not by their side, I got to see what they did in my lifetime.

I have had a number of opportunities to meet her and be in her presence, including my trip in 2005 with John Lewis and others to Birmingham, Montgomery, and Selma, where I heard her speak for the last time. She led by quiet example, and her personal strength was truly an inspiration. Yes, she was a woman of extraordinary grace. She was dignified. But she had a presence that said, I have experienced so much in my life and I want a different country.

And we are a different country. We are not where she may want us to be, but we are a different and better country because of Coretta Scott King and the other heroes that I love deeply.

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, it is our understanding that there will be continuation of the debate on this resolution tomorrow.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. LAHOOD). The gentleman is correct.

Mr. CONYERS. Until then, Mr. Speaker, I would like to yield such time as she may consume to the distinguished gentlewoman from California (Ms. WATERS), a member of the Judiciary Committee and a civil rights leader when she was in State government and a civil rights leader today, to close on our side.

Ms. WATERS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank JOHN CONYERS for organizing our ability to be on the floor today to remember the life and times of Dr. Coretta Scott King.

Let me just say that Coretta Scott King was a friend of mine. We have worked on so many projects together. We have been in countless meetings together. And not only did I know her well; I held her in high esteem, the greatest respect for a woman of dignity, a woman who conducted herself in such a respectful fashion, a woman who was well disciplined, and a woman who suffered a lot. A woman who suffered during the years that she was raising her small children, having to literally put up with the threats and the intimidation. A woman who took care of the children, raised them in her husband's absence because Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., was out fighting for civil rights. He was out putting himself on the line so that this country could be a better place for us all. So Coretta Scott King had to be mother and father, and she did a wonderful job of it. She raised her children, and they are wonderful children.

Yolanda King is a wonderful woman who lives in Los Angeles who is an actress and who has devoted her time to putting on plays that will help further the cause of civil rights, equality, and justice. Martin Luther King III was an elected official and headed SCLC, did a fine job of it; and I traveled to Georgia to give him support at some of the dark hours of the organization. And, of course, there is Dexter, a fine young man who has a responsibility for making big decisions as it relates to the King Center and all of the intellectual property that is associated with it. And even when it is very difficult, they are going to get through whatever they need to get through in order to make sure that Dr. Martin Luther King is remembered in the way that he should be remembered.

□ 1645

Then, of course, there is a young daughter, Bernice, who decided that she wanted to walk in her father's footsteps as a minister. I have seen her on many occasions, not only at the White House, but in churches all over America, a young woman who is a fine minister and preacher and a teacher. So

Coretta Scott King and Dr. Martin Luther King did a fabulous job, and Coretta Scott King instilled in her children the values that will hold them in good stead.

Let me just close by saying I was pleased to be an honoree at the Dr. Martin Luther King Center just a few years ago when I was invited by the family to come and to remember Dr. Martin Luther King at the King Day events that are held in Atlanta, and I am very appreciative of that, because I had an opportunity to spend some time with Coretta Scott King in a way that I had not been able to do before.

I can recall that we ended up in a little diner, at Pascal's, the favorite soul food restaurant in Atlanta, where we had an opportunity to talk about a lot of things, and we revisited the time that Buthelezi came to Atlanta. I was so opposed to him coming, and Coretta tried to talk sense into me and said, ''Well, we all support Nelson Mandela and we all know that Buthelezi is a person that was opposed to the work of Mandela, but we must be bigger than Buthelezi, we must be bigger than that, and we must understand that we must try to use an opportunity to influence him.''

She was that kind of person. She would think through very carefully her response and her responses to information that was out about whatever work she was doing, and she always responded in such a fashion that not only caused people to respect her, but it also showed the patience that she had, the ability to take people with all their faults and still not be bitter.

So the world is going to miss her. JOHN CONYERS is absolutely correct; she put her work into making sure that Martin Luther King memorials were organized and committees were organized all over this country, all over this world, and that they literally celebrated his birth and they carried out his work, and they continue to do that, and it was because of her traveling from city to city, from town to town, from legislature to legislature, that she has these Martin Luther King committees all over the country.

So today we pay our respects, and we just say farewell to her. We will always remember her, and we will always know that because of her, Martin Luther King was able to do what he was able to do; because of her, her children are doing what they are able to do; because of her, many of us are able to see things a little bit differently and honor the work of Dr. Martin Luther King and support nonviolence.

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, I yield 30 seconds to another Member person to testify in terms of this House Resolution tonight, Congresswoman DIANE WATSON, a member of the Congressional delegation, but, more than that, she was a distinguished State senator from California and she was one of the few in this body who have been named an ambassador.

Mr. SENSENBRENNER. Mr. Speaker, I yield the gentlewoman from California 2 minutes.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. LAHOOD). The gentlewoman from California is recognized for 2½ minutes.

Ms. WATSON. Mr. Speaker, I thank Chairman SENSENBRENNER for yielding me time, and Congressman CONYERS for never letting down on your struggle to recognize the movers and shakers for civil rights and always being on point in an expeditious way.

I extend my condolences to the King family. We have lost a national treasure and a civil rights icon.

Mrs. King was a loving partner and an inspiration to her husband, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., and her husband's untimely death placed a tremendous responsibility on her shoulders. She not only excelled at raising her four children, but also worked tirelessly to preserve the vision of her late husband. She carried on Martin Luther King's legacy with grace, love and a strong sense of spirituality.

Dr. King left a gift to the world in Coretta, who continued to travel throughout the United States and abroad to reinforce his vision of civil and human rights, not only for all Americans but indeed all citizens of the world. She understood the demonstrative power of one of Martin's most cherished phrases, ''We shall overcome.''

Mrs. King was indeed an angel among us. She enhanced the civil rights movement with her dignified and gracious presence. We are saddened by her passing, but also rejoice in a life full of meaning and purpose.

Mr. SENSENBRENNER. Mr. Speaker, I yield 10 minutes to the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. CONYERS) and ask unanimous consent that he be allowed to yield portions of that time to whomever he chooses.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, I thank the chairman.

I am pleased to yield 3⅓ minutes to a member of the Committee on the Judiciary from Houston, Texas (Ms. JACKSON-LEE).

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I thank the distinguished ranking member of the Committee on the Judiciary, I thank the leader of the House, Leader PELOSI, and the Speaker of the House for giving us this opportunity to take a moment in history to be able to simply say thank you; to be able to, for a moment, honor a woman who did not pause and mourn as they buried her husband in April of 1968, as many of us would have thought.

I start from that moment, because many have already recounted what a beautiful person Coretta Scott King was and for me continues to be. We already know of her beautiful voice, of the partnership, where she stood alongside of Martin Luther King, of the beautiful children, Martin, Dexter and her beautiful girls. So we know that she has been all that you would want a woman to be, particularly in the context of our history.

But I think it is important to be able to say simply ''thank you,'' as she rose to take the call, to carry forth the dream and the mantle.

I think there is something more that we need to say thank you to Coretta Scott King for. As you know, and I see one of the able Representatives, as I heard John Lewis and my good friend Ms. MCKINNEY, who has the honor and privilege of representing the area, all those of us who live outside that great State of Georgia say that we honored and admired what she did by holding together the legacy of Dr. King, the words of Dr. King, the papers of Dr. King, minimally to many people, but now that we have lost both, what a richness that we will be able now to go to a place that was her expanded vision, and that of course was the vision to hold together this wonderful legacy, years, decades of history. We thank you for that, Coretta.

We thank you also for rejecting wealth and prestige, not being honored and worshipped, being put on a pedestal, and for traveling around the country, place after place after place, person after person, and being yourself and letting us touch you, letting us feel that warmth, Dr. King's spirit, your spirit, your relationship with a man and a cause, and beginning to understand and know you for yourself that you could have been and were the leader that you were and knowing that it was not just the fact that you were Martin Luther King's wife, but you were Coretta Scott King.

We are reminded of the words when you spoke about hatred, when you said it is not the hated that feel the venom of hatred, but it is the hater. So we take to heart your message.

The moment I heard this, I had to stop, broken in tears and spirit. I just wondered where would we go and what would we be, because there were many leaders, but you brought together a spirit, a humble spirit.

So I simply wanted to rise today on the floor to be able to say thank you to your family for sharing you, to thank you for being the woman that you are, for you taking to heart a dream and saying to us it should never die.

I do say that today we had the moving forward of the Supreme Court. It gives us only a greater cause to fight for justice. And I promise you, not on behalf of Sheila Jackson-Lee, but really on behalf of the constituents of the Eighteenth Congressional District, and I know also many colleagues in this place, that we will link arms and that the dream will never die. Coretta Scott King will be one of the icons of history and that your spirit will live on, and that we in our own actions will walk the walk and talk the talk and never step away from a fight for equality and justice for all.

To Coretta Scott King, we love you, and your spirit will be in us forever. May God provide rest to your soul and may God bless your family.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H. Res. 655, honoring the life and accomplishments of Mrs. Coretta Scott King and her contributions as a leader in the struggle for civil rights, and expressing condolences to the King family on her passing.

With sadness, I recognize the passing last night of Coretta Scott King, a courageous and heroic individual who sacrificed her life so Americans might relish in the gift of equal justice. Coretta Scott King and her late husband, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., were Americans of monumental strength and stature through their lives. They will be remembered for their ceaseless efforts to advance race relations, civil rights, social justice and human rights. Her immense contributions to our national community will never be forgotten.

Corretta Scott King once said, ''Hate is too great a burden to bear. It injures the hater more than it injures the hated.'' Whether segregation, sexual orientation, the rights of the poor or the rights of women, Mrs. King was a consistently strong and resonant voice for those who were desperately in need of help.

I have known Coretta Scott King over the last several years, and she had a rare gift to motivate others to carry on the legacy of equality, the idea of freedom, and social justice which was first accomplished by her husband and partner, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. She will truly be an unspeakable loss. It is our duty in her honor to never waver in the face of injustice and degradation.

As a member of the House Judiciary and Homeland Security Committees, my thoughts can't help but turn to today's confirmation of Justice Alito to the U.S. Supreme Court. I have had concerns about Justice Alito's past judicial record. I am still apprehensive, and I would like to take this opportunity to point out what I believe is a test of civil liberties presented today.

The tragic passing of Coretta Scott King, a formidable human rights and civil liberties activist, and the concurrent confirmation of Justice Alito, may foreshadow difficult times ahead for American freedoms. Much of what Coretta Scott King fought for is now threatened by Justice Alito's confirmation to the U.S. Supreme Court. His dubious record on voter's rights, discrimination issues, civil rights, civil liberties, reproductive freedom, the right to privacy and environmental protections, among others, fly in the face of the life and work of Coretta Scott King. The passing of Coretta Scott King and the confirmation of Justice Alito should be a wake-up call to America.

Dr. and Mrs. King will forever hold an esteemed place in my heart and the hearts of all Americans. As an African American woman, and a Member of Congress, I shall endeavor in my own way to continue their fight for equality and justice every day.

I rise in strong support of this proposed legislation, and urge my colleagues to follow suit.

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to yield 3⅓ minutes to the gentlewoman from Ohio (Mrs. JONES), an attorney, a prosecutor, a member of the Committee on the Judiciary and a staunch advocate for civil rights.

(Mrs. JONES of Ohio asked and was given permission to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. JONES of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank the gentleman from Michigan for yielding me time.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in celebration of the life of Coretta Scott King. This morning, I woke, like many of you, to hear of the sad news of the passing of Mrs. King. As I watched the news and read the papers, I came across an article that said ''Coretta Scott King played a major backup role in the civil rights movement until the death of her husband, Martin Luther King.'' The words ''backup role'' stood out to me, because in my mind she always has been very much at the forefront. For so long she was simply known as the widow of Dr. Martin Luther King, but she was so much more.

Oftentimes we hear of the many great men who led the civil rights movement, but it was women who were in the heart and soul of that movement.

I am reminded that in the City of Cleveland there were several ministers that were involved with Dr. King. One of them, Dr. Hoover, another, Dr. Otis Moss, another minister, and one of the daughters of those ministers, her name is Carol Hoover, ultimately became the head of the Chamber of Commerce in the City of Cleveland.

□ 1700

And the reason I mention Carol Hoover is because Carol Hoover gave me my only opportunity to sit in a living room and have a long conversation with Mrs. King.

And the thing that I remark about that opportunity was she was very soft spoken. She was so very, very regal in her style, and so very confident and comfortable in helping me understand what my role was in public life.

I will never forget that opportunity that Carol Hoover gave me, and I will never forget Mrs. Coretta Scott King. If only we had a few more women like Coretta Scott King who handled tragedy so very well, but stood up, continued to raise a family, and helped us lift up her wonderful, wonderful husband.

As we celebrate the life of this great woman let us continue to remember the work that she did. Let us encourage our children to understand what she went through in order to be such a great leader, and let us to continue to pray for all of her family.

It is because of Coretta Scott King that the legacy of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King lives on to this day. It was Coretta whose hard work and determination led to the founding of the Martin Luther King, Jr. Center for Nonviolent Change and the establishment Martin Luther King's birthday as a national holiday. It is for these reasons and so many others that we honor and celebrate this great woman and her contributions to this country.

She was the pillar of her family. Supporting her husband while raising four children during what were tumultuous times in our nation's history. Those of us who are mothers know that raising a child, particularly black children then and even in today's society is not an easy task. She was truly phenomenal.

It is important that we understand that the dream of equality for all people was not just Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King's Dream but it was a shared dream of both he and Coretta Scott King. It was through her vision as well that today we are closer to that dream.

As a tribute to this woman, I encourage everyone to help keep both Coretta and Dr. King's dream alive by working for peace and justice for all people.

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the distinguished gentlewoman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON), who has distinguished herself in the field of law, in the executive branch of our government, and has also appeared in the Supreme Court on a number of occasions on behalf of civil rights issues.

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for his kindness in yielding. My condolences first to Yolanda and Martin the Third, and Dexter and Bernice. I come to the floor to speak of Coretta Scott King, the woman, and of Coretta, my friend.

Mr. Speaker, I hope that we will remember Coretta as I am sure she wanted to be remembered, as a movement woman, fully engaged from the outset in the work of her husband, except it was their work.

King himself said, ''I did not bring Coretta to this work, she was there.'' These two people found each other, these southerners who went north for education, precisely because, alone and in the North with few blacks and whites who believed that they did, they were fully at one with each other.

Coretta Scott King did not come to the movement by marriage. She once herself said she was married to the movement as well as to Martin. She therefore is not like most widows of great men. Of course, she carried on his legacy, but anyone who watched how ceaselessly and magnificently she worked for the essence of his legacy, nonviolence and universal human rights, will of course understand that Coretta Scott King deserves to be remembered, in justice, for her own extraordinary work.

I cannot help but also remember Coretta the friend, the friend who I would lolly-gag on the phone and laugh and talk about any old thing, not about the movement, but any old thing, particularly in the 1970s and 1980s at the height of her movement work. The last time we spoke, we sat underneath the Lincoln Memorial in those rooms preparing to go up to unveil the marker where King gave his 1963 March on Washington speech. May she be remembered for herself and her great work.

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to yield the balance of our time to the gentleman from Montgomery, Alabama (Mr. DAVIS) who in closing will perhaps yield as much of his time as he can to the gentlewoman from Georgia (Ms. MCKINNEY) where Mrs. Coretta Scott King resided for so many years.

Mr. SENSENBRENNER. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Alabama (Mr. DAVIS).

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. LAHOOD). The gentleman from Alabama is recognized for 3½ minutes.

Mr. DAVIS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I thank Mr. CONYERS for yielding to me. Mr. CONYERS, you mentioned that I was born in Montgomery. Coretta Scott King was born in Marion, which is in the heart of my Congressional District. I am honored to stand here today as the person who still represents some of her family in the State of Alabama.

I only met her once as a younger Member of this institution and as someone who was not around to participate in the glorious days of the movement. I only met her once, at a Congressional Black Caucus in 2002. And I was a little bit in awe of her, Mr. CONYERS, because when you grow up in the State of Alabama, Coretta Scott King is a heroine, and she has a very, very special place all over this country.

There are two things I want to say about her today. When she was born in Marion in 1929, she could not have conceived, her parents could not have conceived, and as she grew into young womanhood, she could not have conceived that the person who represented her City of Marion would one day be an African American. That would not have crossed her mind.

And when she formed her partnership with Martin Luther King, they had all kinds of dreams for this country. I wonder if they ever anticipated that they would accomplish the things that they did, the holiday, the King Center, the Civil Rights Act, the Voting Rights Act. They were big dreamers, but I do not know if they could even have seen those things.

So that is the first aspect of Coretta Scott King that we are to acknowledge today, that she had an opportunity to see her South and her country transformed in ways that were inconceivable, and she lived to see it. She lived to tell about it. She lived to appreciate it and to breathe it.

The second point that I want to make is, every time I saw her on television as a young man, every time I saw her, I was always struck by the power of her quiet dignity, and I mention that, Mr. Speaker, because we live in an age where sometimes our side thinks we have to outshout the other side, they think they have to outshout our side.

What this wonderful women appreciated is that there is a power and a force to quiet, persuasive argument. And she kept updating the legacy. In the 1980s it meant arguing against apartheid, and then arguing against the ugly rise of southern conservatism. It meant in the 1990s arguing for fair welfare policies. In the early 21st century it meant arguing for more enlightened policy around the world. She kept updating the legacy, and as she kept updating the legacy she freshened it and she put her own touch on it.

I conclude with just that observation. My colleague from Ohio was so right. My colleague from the District was so right. This woman was not a backstage figure, she was a co-anchor and a co-pillar of this movement.

Mr. Speaker, I yield the balance of my time to the gentlewoman from Georgia (Ms. MCKINNEY).

Mr. SENSENBRENNER. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentlewoman from Georgia.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentlewoman from Georgia is recognized for 5¾ minutes.

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

Ms. MCKINNEY. Mr. Speaker, I would like to extend my condolences to Martin King, III, Yolanda, Dexter, and Bernice King, and to the entire King family.

I was shocked and saddened this morning when I heard the news as well. I had the opportunity to speak this year at the Martin Luther King ceremonies held annually at Ebenezer Church. And for the first time in many, many years, our queen mother, Ms. Coretta Scott King, was not there with us personally at the church, but she was looking at the proceedings and the ceremony on television.

One thing is fairly clear from the proceedings of the House today, and that is that the King family is loved by this body, by these Members, by the American people, by the African American community in particular, and the progressive community in general because it was the King family and their sacrifices that moved our country forward. They moved America forward. And so, I am so proud to represent Stone Mountain, Georgia, that same Stone Mountain, Georgia, that Dr. King spoke of in 1963, but today it is represented by an African American Congresswoman. It is represented by me.

This country can change. This country's leaders can change. This country can raise to its highest ideals if we have the will to do so. And Dr. King and Mrs. King and the King family continue to shine the light on America finding that will to do the best that it can do, to be the best that it can be.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from the U.S. Virgin Islands (Mrs. CHRISTENSEN).

(Mrs. CHRISTENSEN asked and was given permission to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Mr. Speaker, I will be very brief. I associate myself with all of the accolades that have been given before.

I rise, Mr. Speaker, to bring the condolences of the people of the Virgin Islands and the people of the Caribbean to this beautiful woman, Coretta Scott King, a woman of courage, a woman of strength, a woman of compassion, and a woman of history. She worked side by side with her husband, the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., and we are forever grateful for both of their sacrifice and both of their service.

Ms. MCKINNEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. MILLENDER-MCDONALD).

Ms. MILLENDER-MCDONALD. Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank the chairman and the ranking member for this time that they have allotted to recognize an American icon, a woman of great distinction, of grace, of courage, one whom I have known for a long time because she was my soror, an AKA. And we met many times to talk about issues of women, women's suffrage, we talked about sexual exploitation of women around this world and human indignities.

As I heard about her passing I could not help but to reflect on the many times that we have spent together and on the courage that I drew from her and the strength that I drew from her, because this woman showed us so much, so much class, so much leadership, and so much strength in moments of tragedy.

And this is why I come together with my friends from across the aisle, and on both sides, to talk about the legacy of Mrs. Coretta Scott King, the aptly named first lady of the civil rights movement. She was the embodiment of a living soul who chose to help others without regard for self. Coretta Scott King was her husband's most ardent supporter during his darkest days and his most shining triumphs.

She spent the years after Dr. King's tragic assassination as the beacon of life toward equality and human rights for women and for all Americans. Fighting alongside her husband, however, through the many blessed years of their marriage, Coretta Scott King faced hardships, derision and physical violence.

In 1956, Mrs. King was in her home with her baby daughter when someone attempted to end her life and her husband's life, who was on a crusade. They threw a bomb into their home. The bomb did not injure her nor her child, but she could have rightfully ended her involvement on that particular issue at that time.

Thirteen years later her husband was brutally murdered in his quest for a social revolution.

□ 1715

Mrs. King stood strong only days later and led thousands of people marching in her husband's honor. The world is a better place, Mr. Speaker, because she was a giant of a woman, a crusader for justice and a courageous woman in the face of enormous adversity and tragedy.

Coretta Scott King campaigned tirelessly wherever she saw oppression or injustice. She celebrated Dr. King's legacy and created one of her own. Women's rights groups, people who fight against hunger, unemployment, disenfranchisement, and racism owe her a debt of gratitude. She embraced her husband's method of peaceful resistance and applied it in her crusade against the violence that corrupts our Nation.

Coretta Scott King was an activist, an icon, and a great wife and mother. America was so influenced by her, Mr. Speaker. She will continue to live in our memory and in our spirit as we further her work of nonviolence.

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, today we mark with sadness the passing of Coretta Scott King, a true patriot in the American Civil Rights Movement. But we also celebrate, together, a life well-lived and remember with fondness the accomplishments of a remarkable woman who, with the sound of a gunshot on April 4, 1968, moved swiftly and strongly from the role of supporting preacher's wife to torchbearer of her husband's mission for equality.

Mrs. King herself once said, following her husband Rev. Martin Luther King Jr.'s death, ''Because his task was not finished, I felt that I must rededicate myself to the completion of his work.'' And that she certainly did.

Whether meeting with such pivotal figures in the civil rights movement as the Rev. Wyatt Tee Walker, her husband's former chief of staff, and Betty Shabazz, widow of Malcolm X, or marching with activists from across America, Mrs. King made it clear from early on that the dream of Martin Luther King would live on, as would his legacy.

She lobbied for over 10 years to have her husband's legacy honored and President Reagan finally granted her wish in 1983, when he signed the federal holiday into law.

And determined to ensure Americans did not forget her husband or his dream of a colorblind society, she created a memorial and a forum in the Martin Luther King Jr. Center for Nonviolent Social Change in Atlanta.

Mrs. King was the matriarch of a movement, a dedicated and loving mother to a family in the face of loss, and a model to us all.

I join my colleagues in support of a House resolution honoring Mrs. King and her contributions and expressing condolences to the King family on her passing.

May we all honor her legacy by collectively taking up the torch she carried so high for so long.

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. it is with great sadness that I rise today to honor the life of Coretta Scott King.

Born April 27, 1927, in Marion, Alabama, Mrs. King led a life of activism beside her husband during the civil rights movement, and carried on his work after he was killed in 1968. Coretta Scott King is a great American heroine who possessed the determination to make the seemingly impossible, possible. Soon after her husband's death, she stated, ''I'm more determined than ever that my husband's dream will become a reality.''

Mrs. King came from humble beginnings; her father ran a country store, and she worked as a waitress to put herself through college. Her strength and resolve guided her through many difficult times as a young widow left to raise four children on her own, but her determination propelled her to achievements of great significance. For almost a decade, she pushed Congress for a national holiday in observance of her late husband's birthday. She was ultimately successful in 1983 when Congress passed and the president signed legislation creating the holiday. The first national celebration of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day occurred in 1986. In 1969, she founded the Martin Luther King Jr. Center for Nonviolent Social Change in Atlanta to serve as a living memorial to the Rev. Dr. King's legacy. Additionally, she spoke out against the promotion of violence by movie and television companies.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, I would like to express my heartfelt condolences to the King family and call upon my colleagues to forever remember her legacy and message.

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to join all Americans and others around the world in mourning the death of Coretta Scott King, a woman who worked to create change so that all Americans would have the opportunity to experience true freedom and justice. Mrs. King walked alongside her husband the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. until his untimely death. It was her courage and steadfast resolve in the aftermath of this tragedy that led to the launching of the Martin Luther King, Jr. Center for Nonviolent Social Change and the designation of Martin Luther King Day as a federal holiday.

As we prepare to begin our observance of Black History Month tomorrow, it is important that we recommit ourselves to continuing the work that Dr. and Mrs. King began more than 40 years ago. I extend my deepest sympathies to Mrs. King's family. I hope that they can find solace in knowing that all Americans are grieving the loss of this courageous woman.

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to bid a last farewell to Mrs. Coretta Scott King, a woman of great character and conviction who worked tirelessly to make the dream of her husband a reality.

Although we know her as the widow of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., that label is far too small to encompass the life of this remarkable woman. Born April 27, 1927 in Marion, Alabama, to Bernice McMurry Scott and Obeadiah Scott, Coretta was an accomplished student, graduating at the top of her high school class while becoming an exceptional musician. Although her parents worked hard to ensure that she was protected from the hardships of the segregated South, she was very aware of the fact that she and all blacks were deprived of many rights. In her 1969 autobiography, ''My Life With Martin Luther King Jr.'' Coretta stated: ''From the first, I had been determined to get ahead, not just for myself, but to do something for my people and for all people.'' Little did she know that fate would have her help shape the mind of a world leader.

She met a young King in Boston while he was a student at Boston University and she a student at the New England Conservatory. After receiving her degree in voice and violin, the young couple moved to Montgomery, Alabama. Fifteen months later on December 1, 1955, a woman by the name of Rosa Parks refused to move to the back of a city bus . . . and the rest is history.

Over the next 13 years she and her husband pushed our nation to tear down the walls of oppression and to reach for its great potential. By 1968 she had lived a life worth writing about, but it was the woman she became after the assassination of her husband in 1968 that will define her legacy.

Only months after his death, she created the Martin Luther King Jr. Center for Nonviolent Social Change as a living memorial to her husband's life and dream. Leading marches, giving speeches and meeting with various world leaders, Coretta devoted all her energies to alleviating the pain and suffering of the disenfranchised at home and abroad. She probably will be most remembered for her successful campaign to establish a national holiday to honor the life and works of her husband.

Mr. Speaker, throughout our history, great men and women have come and gone from these halls of Congress. However, their contributions to the American discourse did not die with them because we as a body have picked up where they left off, just as those who come after us will undoubtedly do. We all know that none of us are more important than this institution and what it represents. Coretta realized the same was true of her husband's dream. Though he was a great man, his dream was greater than him.

Had she allowed it to die with him, we all would have suffered a great disservice. Through her tireless work post-1968, she has ensured that our nation will never forget the dream of Dr. King, and more importantly, that we will never stop working towards its fulfillment.

For her great service to America and her unyielding spirit, I ask that my colleagues join me in paying tribute to Mrs. Coretta Scott King and in bidding her a final farewell.

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay my respects to Coretta Scott King, a great woman who passed away yesterday. Mrs. King, the widow of slain civil rights leader Martin Luther King, Jr., worked alongside her husband in promoting the dream of equality for all. Mrs. King continued the legacy of her husband after his death by remaining a vocal proponent of civil rights and founding the Martin Luther King Jr. Center for Nonviolent Social Change in Atlanta, Georgia.

Unfortunately, our nation has become increasingly divided about how to promote freedom and equality, both here at home and abroad. We have again experienced an increased number of hate crimes, more than half of which targeted victims because of race. As the costs of fuel, health care, and college education rise, we have been told we should cut important social programs. Such misguided priorities are falsely justified under the guise of fiscal responsibility, even though millionaires grow wealthier at the expense of the poor.

However, it is when we are most frustrated and disheartened by the world around us that Dr. and Mrs. King's message is most important. As we begin National Black History Month, we must remember the vital contributions that Dr. and Mrs. King made to the civil rights movement and let them inspire us to continue our nation's march toward equality. We must remember their heroism, compassion and a determination to make this country a better place. We must harness their passion to improve all aspects of our society, from education to health care to the economy. Our job, not just today but every day, is to act in such a manner that moves our nation a little further along that path to freedom. We do so with the hope that we, our children, and our grandchildren may experience the America that Dr. and Mrs. King envisioned for all of us.

Mrs. King will be greatly missed and our thoughts and prayers go out to her family, friends and all those who mourn her loss.

Ms. SOLIS. Mr. Speaker, today we celebrate the life and mourn the passing of Coretta Scott King. Following the assassination of her husband, Dr. Martin Luther King in

1968, Coretta Scott King worked tirelessly to keep the ideology of equality for all people alive. A civil rights leader in her own right, she created the King Center for Non-Violent Social Change in Atlanta, Georgia, in order to continue her husband's work. She fought with dignity and a quiet strength to end hunger, unemployment, voting rights violations and racism. We must continue to follow in the footsteps of Coretta Scott King and work to achieve equality though peaceful protests in order to improve our country for future generations.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. LAHOOD). Pursuant to the order of the House of today, further proceedings on the resolution will be postponed.

## APPOINTMENT AS MEMBER TO SOCIAL SECURITY ADVISORY BOARD

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to section 703 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 903 note), the order of the House of December 18, 2005, and upon the recommendation of the minority leader, the Chair announces the Speaker on January 18, 2006, appointed the following member on the part of the House to the Social Security Advisory Board for a term of 6 years:

Mrs. Barbara Kennelly, Connecticut

## APPOINTMENT AS MEMBERS TO BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF AMERICAN FOLKLIFE CENTER

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to 20 U.S.C. 2103(b), and the order of the House of December 18, 2005, the Chair announces the Speaker on January 23, 2006, made the following appointments from private life to the Board of Trustees of the American Folklife Center in the Library of Congress on the part of the House for a term of 6 years:

Appointed Mr. Charlie Seeman, Spring Creek, Nevada, and

Reappointed Ms. Kay Kaufman Shelemay, Cambridge, Massachusetts

## APPOINTMENT AS MEMBERS TO NATIONAL SURFACE TRANSPORTATION POLICY AND REVENUE STUDY COMMISSION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to section 1909(b) of SAFETEA–LU (P.L. 109–59), and the order of the House of December 18, 2005, the Chair announces on January 23, 2006, the Speaker appointed the following members on the part of the House to the National Surface Transportation Policy and Revenue Study Commission:

Mr. Jack L. Schenendorf, Chevy Chase, Maryland

Mr. Matthew K. Rose, Westlake, Texas

## APPOINTMENT AS MEMBERS TO UNITED STATES-CHINA ECONOMIC AND SECURITY REVIEW COMMISSION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to section 1238(b)(3) of the Floyd D. Spence National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2001 (22 U.S.C. 7002), amended by division P of the Consolidated Appropriations Resolution, 2003 (22 U.S.C. 6901), and the order of the House of December 18, 2005, the Chair announces on January 25, 2006, the Speaker appointed the following members on the part of the House to the United States-China Economic and Security Review Commission for terms to expire December 31, 2007:

Mr. Peter T.R. Brookes, Springfield, Virginia

Ms. Kerri Houston, Great Falls, Virginia

## COMMUNICATION FROM THE HONORABLE BART STUPAK, MEMBER OF CONGRESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Honorable BART STUPAK, Member of Congress:

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
*Washington, DC, January 10, 2006.*

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

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: This is to notify you formally, pursuant to Rule VIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, that I have been served with a subpoena, issued by the District Court for the District of Columbia, for documents.

I will make the determinations required by Rule VIII.

Sincerely,

BART STUPAK,
*Member of Congress.*

## COMMUNICATION FROM STAFF MEMBER OF THE HONORABLE J. DENNIS HASTERT, SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from Bonnie Walsh, Casework Director for the Honorable J. DENNIS HASTERT, Speaker of the House:

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
*Washington, DC, January 18, 2006.*

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

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: This is to notify you formally, pursuant to Rule VIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, that I have been served with a criminal subpoena, issued by the Circuit Court for the 16th Judicial Circuit, DeKalb County, Illinois, for testimony.

After consultation with the Office of General Counsel, I have determined that compliance with the subpoena is consistent with the precedents and privileges of the House.

Sincerely,

BONNIE WALSH,
*Casework Director for J. Dennis Hastert,*
*Speaker.*

## COMMUNICATION FROM THE OFFICE OF THE CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from Derek Scott, Sales Clerk, Office Supply Service, U.S. House of Representatives:

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
*Washington, DC, January 23, 2006.*

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

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: This is to notify you formally, pursuant to Rule VIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, that I have been served with a criminal subpoena, issued by the Superior Court of the District of Columbia, for testimony.

After consultation with the Office of General Counsel, I have determined that compliance with the subpoena is consistent with the precedents and privileges of the House.

Sincerely,

DEREK SCOTT,
*Sales Clerk, Office Supply Service,*
*House of Representatives.*

## ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair desires to make an announcement.

After consultation among the Speaker, the majority and minority leaders, and with their consent and approval, the Chair announces that tonight when the two Houses meet in joint session to hear an address by the President of the United States, only the doors immediately opposite the Speaker and those on his left and right will be open.

No one will be allowed on the floor of the House who does not have the privilege of the floor of the House.

Due to the large attendance that is anticipated, the Chair feels that the rule regarding the privilege of the floor must be strictly adhered to.

Children of Members will not be permitted on the floor, and the cooperation of all Members is requested.

The practice of reserving seats prior to the joint session by placard will not be allowed. Members may reserve their seats by physical presence only following the security sweep of the Chamber.

## RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until approximately 8:40 p.m. for the purpose of receiving in joint session the President of the United States.

Accordingly (at 5 o'clock and 22 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess until approximately 8:40 p.m.

□ 2043

## AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order at 8 o'clock and 43 minutes p.m.

## JOINT SESSION OF THE HOUSE AND SENATE HELD PURSUANT TO THE PROVISIONS OF SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 77 TO HEAR AN ADDRESS BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

The Speaker of the House presided.

The Deputy Sergeant at Arms, Mrs. Kerri Hanley, announced the Vice President and Members of the U.S. Senate, who entered the Hall of the House of Representatives, the Vice President taking the chair at the right of the Speaker, and the Members of the Senate the seats reserved for them.

The SPEAKER. The Chair appoints as members of the committee on the part of the House to escort the President of the United States into the Chamber:

The gentleman from Missouri (Mr. BLUNT);

The gentlewoman from Ohio (Ms. PRYCE);

The gentleman from California (Mr. DREIER);

The gentlewoman from California (Ms. PELOSI);

The gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HOYER); and

The gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. CLYBURN).

The VICE PRESIDENT. The President of the Senate, at the direction of that body, appoints the following Senators as members of the committee on the part of the Senate to escort the President of the United States into the House Chamber:

The Senator from Tennessee (Mr. FRIST);

The Senator from Kentucky (Mr. MCCONNELL);

The Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. SANTORUM);

The Senator from Texas (Mrs. HUTCHISON);

The Senator from Arizona (Mr. KYL);

The Senator from North Carolina (Mrs. DOLE);

The Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. SPECTER);

The Senator from Nevada (Mr. REID);

The Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN);

The Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW);

The Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER);

The Senator from Illinois (Mr. OBAMA);

The Senator from Colorado (Mr. SALAZAR); and

The Senator from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ).

The Deputy Sergeant at Arms announced the Dean of the Diplomatic Corps, His Excellency Roble Olhaye, Ambassador from the Republic of Djibouti.

The Dean of the Diplomatic Corps entered the Hall of the House of Representatives and took the seat reserved for him.

The Deputy Sergeant at Arms announced the Chief Justice of the United States and the Associate Justices of the Supreme Court.

The Chief Justice of the United States and the Associate Justices of the Supreme Court entered the Hall of the House of Representatives and took the seats reserved for them in front of the Speaker's rostrum.

The Deputy Sergeant at Arms announced the Cabinet of the President of the United States.

The members of the Cabinet of the President of the United States entered the Hall of the House of Representatives and took the seats reserved for them in front of the Speaker's rostrum.

At 9 o'clock and 7 minutes p.m., the Sergeant at Arms, the Honorable Wilson Livingood, announced the President of the United States.

The President of the United States, escorted by the committee of Senators and Representatives, entered the Hall of the House of Representatives and stood at the Clerk's desk.

(Applause, the Members rising.)

The SPEAKER. Members of Congress, I have the high privilege and the distinct honor of presenting to you the President of the United States.

(Applause, the Members rising.)

## THE STATE OF THE UNION ADDRESS BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

The PRESIDENT. Mr. Speaker, Vice President CHENEY, Members of Congress, members of the Supreme Court and Diplomatic Corps, distinguished guests and fellow citizens:

Today our Nation lost a beloved, graceful, courageous woman who called America to its founding ideals and carried on a noble dream. Tonight we are comforted by the hope of a glad reunion with the husband who was taken from her so long ago, and we are grateful for the good life of Coretta Scott King.

Every time I am invited to this rostrum, I am humbled by the privilege, and mindful of the history we have seen together. We have gathered under this Capitol dome in moments of national mourning and national achievement. We have served America through one of the most consequential periods of our history, and it has been my honor to serve with you.

In a system of two parties, two chambers, and two elected branches, there will always be differences and debate. But even tough debates can be conducted in a civil tone, and our differences cannot be allowed to harden into anger. To confront the great issues before us, we must act in a spirit of good will and respect for one another, and I will do my part. Tonight the state of our Union is strong, and together we will make it stronger.

In this decisive year, you and I will make choices that determine both the future and the character of our country. We will choose to act confidently in pursuing the enemies of freedom, or retreat from our duties in the hope of an easier life. We will choose to build our prosperity by leading the world economy, or shut ourselves off from trade and opportunity. In a complex and challenging time, the road of isolationism and protectionism may seem broad and inviting, yet it ends in danger and decline. The only way to protect our people, the only way to secure the peace, the only way to control our destiny is by our leadership, so the United States of America will continue to lead.

Abroad, our Nation is committed to a historic, long-term goal. We seek the end of tyranny in our world. Some dismiss that goal as misguided idealism. In reality, the future security of America depends on it. On September 11, 2001, we found that problems originating in a failed and oppressive state 7,000 miles away could bring murder and destruction to our country. Dictatorships shelter terrorists, feed resentment and radicalism, and seek weapons of mass destruction. Democracies replace resentment with hope, respect the rights of their citizens and their neighbors, and join the fight against terror. Every step toward freedom in the world makes our country safer, and so we will act boldly in freedom's cause.

Far from being a hopeless dream, the advance of freedom is the great story of our time. In 1945, there were about two dozen lonely democracies in the world. Today, there are 122. And we are writing a new chapter in the story of self-government, with women lining up to vote in Afghanistan, and millions of Iraqis marking their liberty with purple ink, and men and women from Lebanon to Egypt debating the rights of individuals and the necessity of freedom. At the start of 2006, more than half the people of our world live in democratic nations. And we do not forget the other half, in places like Syria, Burma, Zimbabwe, North Korea, and Iran, because the demands of justice, and the peace of this world, require their freedom as well.

No one can deny the success of freedom, but some men rage and fight against it. And one of the main sources of reaction and opposition is radical Islam, the perversion by a few of a noble faith into an ideology of terror and death. Terrorists like bin Laden are serious about mass murder, and all of us must take their declared intentions seriously. They seek to impose a heartless system of totalitarian control throughout the Middle East and arm themselves with weapons of mass murder. Their aim is to seize power in Iraq and use it as a safe haven to launch attacks against America and the world. Lacking the military strength to challenge us directly, the terrorists have chosen the weapon of fear. When they murder children at a school in Beslan, or blow up commuters in London, or behead a bound captive, the terrorists hope these horrors will break our will, allowing the violent to inherit the Earth. But they have miscalculated: we love our freedom, and we will fight to keep it.

In a time of testing, we cannot find security by abandoning our commitments and retreating within our borders. If we were to leave these vicious attackers alone, they would not leave us alone. They would simply move the battlefield to our own shores. There is no peace in retreat. And there is no honor in retreat. By allowing radical Islam to work its will, by leaving an assaulted world to fend for itself, we would signal to all that we no longer believe in our own ideals, or even in our own courage. But our enemies and our friends can be certain: the United States will not retreat from the world, and we will never surrender to evil.

America rejects the false comfort of isolationism. We are the Nation that saved liberty in Europe, and liberated death camps, and helped raise up democracies, and faced down an evil empire. Once again, we accept the call of history to deliver the oppressed, and move this world toward peace.

We remain on the offensive against terror networks. We have killed or captured many of their leaders. And for the others, their day will come. We remain on the offensive in Afghanistan, where a fine president and national assembly are fighting terror while building the institutions of a new democracy.

And we are on the offensive in Iraq, with a clear plan for victory. First, we are helping Iraqis build an inclusive government, so that old resentments will be eased and the insurgency will be marginalized. Second, we are continuing reconstruction efforts and helping the Iraqi government to fight corruption and build a modern economy, so all Iraqis can experience the benefits of freedom. Third, we are striking terrorist targets while we train Iraqi forces that are increasingly capable of defeating the enemy. Iraqis are showing their courage every day, and we are proud to be their allies in the cause of freedom.

Our work in Iraq is difficult because our enemy is brutal. But that brutality has not stopped the dramatic progress of a new democracy. In less than 3 years, that nation has gone from dictatorship, to liberation, to sovereignty, to a constitution, to national elections. At the same time, our coalition has been relentless in shutting off terrorist infiltration, clearing out insurgent strongholds, and turning over territory to Iraqi security forces. I am confident in our plan for victory. I am confident in the will of the Iraqi people. I am confident in the skill and spirit of our military. Fellow citizens, we are in this fight to win, and we are winning.

The road of victory is the road that will take our troops home. As we make progress on the ground, and Iraqi forces increasingly take the lead, we should be able to further decrease our troop levels; but those decisions will be made by our military commanders, not by politicians in Washington, D.C.

Our coalition has learned from our experience in Iraq. We have adjusted our military tactics and changed our approach to reconstruction. Along the way, we have benefited from responsible criticism and counsel offered by Members of Congress of both parties. In the coming year, I will continue to reach out and seek your good advice.

Yet there is a difference between responsible criticism that aims for success and defeatism that refuses to acknowledge anything but failure. Hindsight alone is not wisdom. And second-guessing is not a strategy.

With so much in the balance, those of us in public office have a duty to speak with candor. A sudden withdrawal of our forces from Iraq would abandon our Iraqi allies to death and prison, put men like bin Laden and Zarqawi in charge of a strategic country, and show that a pledge from America means little. Members of Congress: however we feel about the decisions and debates of the past, our Nation has only one option: we must keep our word, defeat our enemies, and stand behind the American military in its vital mission.

Our men and women in uniform are making sacrifices and showing a sense of duty stronger than all fear. They know what it is like to fight house to house in a maze of streets, to wear heavy gear in the desert heat, to see a comrade killed by a roadside bomb. And those who know the costs also know the stakes. Marine Staff Sergeant Dan Clay was killed last month fighting in Fallujah. He left behind a letter to his family, but his words could just as well be addressed to every American. Here is what Dan wrote: ''I know what honor is. It has been an honor to protect and serve all of you. I faced death with the secure knowledge that you would not have to. Never falter. Don't hesitate to honor and support those of us who have the honor of protecting that which is worth protecting.''

Staff Sergeant Dan Clay's wife, Lisa, and his mom and dad, Sara Jo and Bud, are with us this evening. Welcome. Our Nation is grateful to the fallen, who live in the memory of our country. We are grateful to all who volunteer to wear our Nation's uniform; and as we honor our brave troops, let us never forget the sacrifices of America's military families.

Our offensive against terror involves more than military action. Ultimately, the only way to defeat the terrorists is to defeat their dark vision of hatred and fear by offering the hopeful alternative of political freedom and peaceful change. So the United States of America supports democratic reform across the broader Middle East. Elections are vital, but they are only the beginning. Raising up a democracy requires the rule of law, protection of minorities, and strong, accountable institutions that last longer than a single vote. The great people of Egypt have voted in a multiparty presidential election, and now their government should open paths of peaceful opposition that will reduce the appeal of radicalism. The Palestinian people have voted in elections, and now the leaders of Hamas must recognize Israel, disarm, reject terrorism, and work for lasting peace. Saudi Arabia has taken the first steps of reform. Now it can offer its people a better future by pressing forward with those efforts.

Democracies in the Middle East will not look like our own, because they will reflect the traditions of their own citizens. Yet liberty is the future of every nation in the Middle East, because liberty is the right and hope of all humanity.

The same is true of Iran, a nation now held hostage by a small clerical elite that is isolating and repressing its people. The regime in that country sponsors terrorists in the Palestinian territories and in Lebanon, and that must come to an end. The Iranian government is defying the world with its nuclear ambitions, and the nations of the world must not permit the Iranian regime to gain nuclear weapons. America will continue to rally the world to confront these threats. And tonight, let me speak directly to the citizens of Iran: America respects you, and we respect your country. We respect your right to choose your own future and win your own freedom. And our Nation hopes one day to be the closest of friends with a free and democratic Iran.

To overcome dangers in our world, we must also take the offensive by encouraging economic progress, fighting disease, and spreading hope in hopeless lands. Isolationism would not only tie our hands in fighting enemies; it would keep us from helping our friends in desperate need. We show compassion abroad because Americans believe in the God-given dignity and worth of a villager with HIV/AIDS, or an infant with malaria, or a refugee fleeing genocide, or a young girl sold into slavery. We also show compassion abroad because regions overwhelmed by poverty, corruption, and despair are sources of terrorism, organized crime, human trafficking, and the drug trade.

In recent years, you and I have taken unprecedented action to fight AIDS and malaria, expand the education of girls, and reward developing nations that are moving forward with economic and political reform. For people everywhere, the United States is a partner for a better life. Shortchanging these efforts would increase the suffering and chaos of our world, undercut our long-term security, and dull the conscience of our country. I urge Members of Congress to serve the interests of America by showing the compassion of America.

Our country must also remain on the offensive against terrorism here at home. The enemy has not lost the desire or capability to attack us. Fortunately, this Nation has superb professionals in law enforcement, intelligence, the military, and homeland security. These men and women are dedicating their lives to protecting us all, and they deserve our support and our

thanks. They also deserve the same tools they already use to fight drug trafficking and organized crime, so I ask you to reauthorize the PATRIOT Act.

It is said that prior to the attacks of September 11, our government failed to connect the dots of the conspiracy. We now know that two of the hijackers in the United States placed telephone calls to al Qaeda operatives overseas. But we did not know about their plans until it was too late. So to prevent another attack, based on authority given to me by the Constitution and by statute, I have authorized a terrorist surveillance program to aggressively pursue the international communications of suspected al Qaeda operatives and affiliates to and from America. Previous Presidents have used the same constitutional authority I have, and Federal courts have approved the use of that authority. Appropriate Members of Congress have been kept informed. This terrorist surveillance program has helped prevent terrorist attacks. It remains essential to the security of America. If there are people inside our country who are talking with al Qaeda, we want to know about it, because we will not sit back and wait to be hit again.

In all these areas, from the disruption of terror networks, to victory in Iraq, to the spread of freedom and hope in troubled regions, we need the support of our friends and allies. To draw that support, we must always be clear in our principles and willing to act. The only alternative to American leadership is a dramatically more dangerous and anxious world. Yet we also choose to lead because it is a privilege to serve the values that gave us birth. American leaders, from Roosevelt to Truman to Kennedy to Reagan, rejected isolation and retreat because they knew that America is always more secure when freedom is on the march. Our own generation is in a long war against a determined enemy, a war that will be fought by Presidents of both parties, who will need steady bipartisan support from the Congress. And tonight I ask for yours. Together, let us protect our country, support the men and women who defend us, and lead this world toward freedom.

Here at home, America also has a great opportunity: we will build the prosperity of our country by strengthening our economic leadership in the world.

Our economy is healthy and vigorous and growing faster than other major industrialized nations. In the last 2½ years, America has created 4.6 million new jobs, more than Japan and the European Union combined. Even in the face of higher energy prices and natural disasters, the American people have turned in an economic performance that is the envy of the world.

The American economy is preeminent, but we cannot afford to be complacent. In a dynamic world economy, we are seeing new competitors like China and India. This creates uncertainty, which makes it easier to feed people's fears. And so we are seeing some old temptations return. Protectionists want to escape competition, pretending that we can keep our high standard of living while walling off our economy. Others say that the government needs to take a larger role in directing the economy, centralizing more power in Washington and increasing taxes. We hear claims that immigrants are somehow bad for the economy, even though this economy could not function without them. All these are forms of economic retreat, and they lead in the same direction, toward a stagnant and second-rate economy.

Tonight I will set out a better path, an agenda for a Nation that competes with confidence, an agenda that will raise standards of living and generate new jobs. Americans should not fear our economic future, because we intend to shape it.

Keeping America competitive begins with keeping our economy growing, and our economy grows when Americans have more of their own money to spend, save, and invest. In the last 5 years, the tax relief you passed has left $880 billion in the hands of American workers, investors, small businesses, and families; and they have used it to help produce more than 4 years of uninterrupted economic growth. Yet the tax relief is set to expire in the next few years. If we do nothing, American families will face a massive tax increase they do not expect and will not welcome.

Because America needs more than a temporary expansion, we need more than temporary tax relief. I urge the Congress to act responsibly and make the tax cuts permanent.

Keeping America competitive requires us to be good stewards of tax dollars. Every year of my Presidency, we have reduced the growth of nonsecurity discretionary spending, and last year you passed bills that cut this spending. This year my budget will cut it again and reduce or eliminate more than 140 programs that are performing poorly or not fulfilling essential priorities. By passing these reforms, we will save the American taxpayer another $14 billion next year and stay on track to cut the deficit in half by 2009. I am pleased that Members of Congress are working on earmark reform, because the Federal budget has too many special interest projects. And we can tackle this problem together, if you pass the line-item veto.

We must also confront the larger challenge of mandatory spending, or entitlements. This year, the first of about 78 million baby boomers turn 60, including two of my dad's favorite people, me and President Clinton. This milestone is more than a personal crisis; it is a national challenge. The retirement of the baby boom generation will put unprecedented strains on the Federal Government. By 2030, spending for Social Security, Medicare, and Medicaid alone will be almost 60 percent of the entire Federal budget. And that will present future Congresses with impossible choices, staggering tax increases, immense deficits, or deep cuts in every category of spending.

Congress did not act last year on my proposal to save Social Security; yet the rising cost of entitlements is a problem that is not going away. And with every year we fail to act, the situation gets worse. So tonight, I ask you to join me in creating a commission to examine the full impact of baby boom retirements on Social Security, Medicare, and Medicaid. This commission should include Members of Congress of both parties, and offer bipartisan solutions. We need to put aside partisan politics, work together, and get this problem solved.

Keeping America competitive requires us to open more markets for all that Americans make and grow. One out of every five factory jobs in America is related to global trade, and we want people everywhere to buy American. With open markets and a level playing field, no one can outproduce or outcompete the American worker.

Keeping America competitive requires an immigration system that upholds our laws, reflects our values, and serves the interests of our economy. Our Nation needs orderly and secure borders. To meet this goal, we must have stronger immigration enforcement and border protection. And we must have a rational, humane guest worker program that rejects amnesty, allows temporary jobs for people who seek them legally, and reduces smuggling and crime at the border.

Keeping America competitive requires affordable health care. Our government has a responsibility to help provide health care for the poor and the elderly, and we are meeting that responsibility. For all Americans, we must confront the rising cost of care, strengthen the doctor-patient relationship, and help people afford the insurance coverage they need. We will make wider use of electronic records and other health information technology to help control costs and reduce dangerous medical errors. We will strengthen health savings accounts by making sure individuals and small business employees can buy insurance with the same advantages that people working for big businesses now get. We will do more to make this coverage portable, so workers can switch jobs without having to worry about losing their health insurance. And because lawsuits are driving many good doctors out of practice, leaving women in nearly 1,500 American counties without a single OB–GYN, I ask the Congress to pass medical liability reform this year.

Keeping America competitive requires affordable energy. Here we have a serious problem: America is addicted to oil, which is often imported from unstable parts of the world.

The best way to break this addiction is through technology. Since 2001, we

have spent nearly $10 billion to develop cleaner, cheaper, and more reliable alternative energy sources; and we are on the threshold of incredible advances. So tonight, I announce the Advanced Energy Initiative, a 22 percent increase in clean energy research at the Department of Energy, to push for breakthroughs in two vital areas. To change how we power our homes and offices, we will invest more in zero-emission coal-fired plants; revolutionary solar and wind technologies; and clean, safe nuclear energy.

We must also change how we power our automobiles. We will increase our research in better batteries for hybrid and electric cars and in pollution-free cars that run on hydrogen. We will also fund additional research in cutting-edge methods of producing ethanol, not just from corn but from wood chips, stalks, or switch grass. Our goal is to make this new kind of ethanol practical and competitive within 6 years. Breakthroughs on this and other new technologies will help us reach another great goal: to replace more than 75 percent of our oil imports from the Middle East by 2025. By applying the talent and technology of America, this country can dramatically improve our environment, move beyond a petroleum-based economy, and make our dependence on Middle Eastern oil a thing of the past.

And to keep America competitive, one commitment is necessary above all: we must continue to lead the world in human talent and creativity. Our greatest advantage in the world has always been our educated, hardworking, ambitious people; and we are going to keep that edge. Tonight I announce the American Competitiveness Initiative, to encourage innovation throughout our economy and to give our Nation's children a firm grounding in math and science.

First: I propose to double the Federal commitment to the most critical basic research programs in the physical sciences over the next 10 years. This funding will support the work of America's most creative minds as they explore promising areas such as nanotechnology, supercomputing, and alternative energy sources.

Second: I propose to make permanent the research and development tax credit, to encourage bolder private-sector investment in technology. With more research in both the public and private sectors, we will improve our quality of life and ensure that America will lead the world in opportunity and innovation for decades to come.

Third: We need to encourage children to take more math and science and make sure those courses are rigorous enough to compete with other nations. We have made a good start in the early grades with the No Child Left Behind Act, which is raising standards and lifting test scores across our country. Tonight, I propose to train 70,000 high school teachers to lead advanced placement courses in math and science; bring 30,000 math and science professionals to teach in classrooms; and give early help to students who struggle with math, so they have a better chance at good high-wage jobs. If we ensure that America's children succeed in life, they will ensure that America succeeds in the world.

Preparing our Nation to compete in the world is a goal that all of us can share. I urge you to support the American Competitiveness Initiative, and together we will show the world what the American people can achieve.

America is a great force for freedom and prosperity. Yet our greatness is not measured in power or luxuries, but by who we are and how we treat one another. So we strive to be a compassionate, decent, hopeful society.

In recent years, America has become a more hopeful Nation. Violent crime rates have fallen to their lowest levels since the 1970s. Welfare cases have dropped by more than half over the past decade. Drug use among youth is down 19 percent since 2001. There are fewer abortions in America than at any point in the last three decades, and the number of children born to teenage mothers has been falling for a dozen years in a row.

These gains are evidence of a quiet transformation, a revolution of conscience, in which a rising generation is finding that a life of personal responsibility is a life of fulfillment. Government has played a role. Wise policies such as welfare reform, drug education, and support for abstinence and adoption have made a difference in the character of our country. And everyone here tonight, Democrat and Republican, has a right to be proud of this record.

Yet many Americans, especially parents, still have deep concerns about the direction of our culture and the health of our most basic institutions. They are concerned about unethical conduct by public officials, and discouraged by activist courts that try to redefine marriage. And they worry about children in our society who need direction and love, and about fellow citizens still displaced by natural disaster, and about suffering caused by treatable diseases.

As we look at these challenges, we must never give in to the belief that America is in decline or that our culture is doomed to unravel. The American people know better than that. We have proven the pessimists wrong before, and we will do it again.

A hopeful society depends on courts that deliver equal justice under the law. The Supreme Court now has two superb new members on its bench, Chief Justice John Roberts and Justice Sam Alito. I thank the Senate for confirming both of them. I will continue to nominate men and women who understand that judges must be servants of the law, and not legislate from the bench. Today marks the official retirement of a very special American. For 24 years of faithful service to our Nation, the United States is grateful to Justice Sandra Day O'Connor.

A hopeful society has institutions of science and medicine that do not cut ethical corners and that recognize the matchless value of every life. Tonight, I ask you to pass legislation to prohibit the most egregious abuses of medical research: human cloning in all its forms, creating or implanting embryos for experiments, creating human-animal hybrids, and buying, selling or patenting human embryos. Human life is a gift from our Creator, and that gift should never be discarded, devalued, or put up for sale.

A hopeful society expects elected officials to uphold the public trust. Honorable people in both parties are working on reforms to strengthen the ethical standards of Washington, and I support your efforts. Each of us has made a pledge to be worthy of public responsibility, and that is a pledge we must never forget, never dismiss, and never betray.

As we renew the promise of our institutions, let us also show the character of America in our compassion and care for one another.

A hopeful society gives special attention to children who lack direction and love. Through the Helping America's Youth Initiative, we are encouraging caring adults to get involved in the life of a child, and this good work is being led by our First Lady, Laura Bush. This year we will add resources to encourage young people to stay in school, so more of America's youth can raise their sights and achieve their dreams.

A hopeful society comes to the aid of fellow citizens in times of suffering and emergency and stays at it until they are back on their feet. So far the Federal Government has committed $85 billion to the people of the gulf coast and New Orleans. We are removing debris, repairing highways, and building stronger levees. We are providing business loans and housing assistance. Yet as we meet these immediate needs, we must also address deeper challenges that existed before the storm arrived. In New Orleans and in other places, many of our fellow citizens have felt excluded from the promise of our country. The answer is not only temporary relief, but schools that teach every child and job skills that bring upward mobility and more opportunities to own a home and start a business. As we recover from a disaster, let us also work for the day when all Americans are protected by justice, equal in hope, and rich in opportunity.

A hopeful society acts boldly to fight diseases like HIV/AIDS, which can be prevented and treated and defeated. More than a million Americans live with HIV, and half of all AIDS cases occur among African Americans. I ask Congress to reform and reauthorize the Ryan White Act and provide new funding to States so we end the waiting lists for AIDS medicines in America. We will also lead a nationwide effort, working closely with African American

churches and faith-based groups, to deliver rapid HIV tests to millions, end the stigma of AIDS, and come closer to the day when there are no new infections in America.

Fellow citizens, we have been called to leadership in a period of consequence. We have entered a great ideological conflict we did nothing to invite. We see great changes in science and commerce that will influence all our lives. And sometimes it can seem that history is turning in a wide arc, toward an unknown shore.

Yet the destination of history is determined by human action, and every great movement of history comes to a point of choosing. Lincoln could have accepted peace at the cost of disunity and continued slavery. Martin Luther King could have stopped at Birmingham or at Selma and achieved only half a victory over segregation. The United States could have accepted the permanent division of Europe and been complicit in the oppression of others. Today, having come far in our own historical journey, we must decide: Will we turn back, or finish well?

Before history is written down in books, it is written in courage. Like Americans before us, we will show that courage, and we will finish well. We will lead freedom's advance. We will compete and excel in the global economy. We will renew the defining moral commitments of this land. And so we move forward, optimistic about our country, faithful to its cause, and confident of the victories to come.

May God bless America.

[Applause, the Members rising.]

At 10 o'clock and 5 minutes p.m., the President of the United States, accompanied by the committee of escort, retired from the Hall of the House of Representatives.

The Deputy Sergeant at Arms escorted the invited guests from the Chamber in the following order:

The Members of the President's Cabinet; Chief Justice of the United States and the Associate Justices of the Supreme Court of the United States;

The Dean of the Diplomatic Corps.

## JOINT MEETING DISSOLVED

The SPEAKER. The Chair declares the joint meeting of the two Houses now dissolved.

Accordingly, at 10 o'clock and 10 minutes p.m., the joint meeting of the two Houses was dissolved.

The Members of the Senate retired to their Chamber.

## MESSAGE OF THE PRESIDENT REFERRED TO THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE HOUSE ON THE STATE OF THE UNION

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, I move that the message of the President be referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union and ordered printed.

The motion was agreed to.

## LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. LYNCH (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today before 5 p.m. on account of airline delays.

Mr. NEAL of Massachusetts (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today before 5 p.m. on account of airline delays.

Mr. GARY G. MILLER of California (at the request of Mr. BLUNT) for today on account of illness.

## SENATE BILL REFERRED

A concurrent resolution of the Senate of the following title was taken from the Speaker's table and, under the rule, referred as follows:

S. Con. Res. 78. Concurrent resolution condemning the Government of Iran for violating its international nuclear nonproliferation obligations and expressing support for efforts to report Iran to the United Nations Security Council; to the Committee on International Relations.

## ADJOURNMENT

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 10 o'clock and 11 minutes p.m.), the House adjourned until tomorrow, Wednesday, February 1, 2006, at 10 a.m.

# PROCEEDINGS OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES AFTER SINE DIE ADJOURNMENT OF THE 109TH CONGRESS FIRST SESSION AND FOLLOWING PUBLICATION OF THE FINAL EDITION OF THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD OF THE 109TH CONGRESS FIRST SESSION

## BILLS APPROVED BY THE PRESIDENT AFTER SINE DIE ADJOURNMENT

The President, after sine die adjournment of the First Session, 109th Congress, notified the Clerk of the House that on the following dates, he had approved and signed bills of the following titles:

December 30, 2005

H.R. 2863. An act making appropriations for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2006, and for other purposes.

H.R. 3010. An act making appropriations for the Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2006, and for other purposes.

H.R. 4525. An act to temporarily extend the programs under the Higher Education Act of 1965, and for other purposes.

H.R. 4579. An act to amend title I of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974, title XXVII of the Public Health Service Act, and the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend by one year provisions requiring parity in the application of certain limits to mental health benefits.

H.R. 4635. An act to reauthorize the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families block grant program through March 31, 2006, and for other purposes.

## SENATE BILLS APPROVED BY THE PRESIDENT AFTER SINE DIE ADJOURNMENT

The President, after sine die adjournment of the First Session, 109th Congress, notified the Clerk of the House that on the following dates, he had approved and signed bills of the Senate of the following titles:

December 30, 2005:

S. 205. An act to authorize the American Battle Monuments Commission to establish in the State of Louisiana a memorial to honor the Buffalo Soldiers.

S. 652. An act to provide financial assistance for the rehabilitation of the Benjamin Franklin National Memorial in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, and the development of an exhibit to commemorate the 300th anniversary of the birth of Benjamin Franklin.

S. 1238. An act to amend the Public Land Corps Act of 1993 to provide for the conduct of projects that protect forests, and for other purposes.

S. 1281. An act to authorize the Programs of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration.

S. 1310. An act to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to allow the Columbia Gas Transmission Corporation to increase the diameter of a natural gas pipeline located in the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area, to allow certain commercial vehicles to continue to use Route 209 within Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area, and to extend the termination date of the National Park System Advisory Board to January 1, 2007.

S. 1481. An act to amend the Indian Land Consolidation Act to provide for probate reform.

S. 1892. An act to amend Public Law 107–153 to modify a certain date.

S. 1988. An act to authorize the transfer of items in the War Reserves Stockpile for Allies, Korea.

S. 2167. An act to amend the USA PATRIOT Act to extend the sunset of certain provisions of that Act and the lone wolf provision of the Intelligence Reform and Terrorism Prevention Act of 2004 to July 1, 2006.

## EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

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

5955. A letter from the Administrator, AMS, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule — Revision of Fees for the Fresh Fruit and Vegtables Terminal Market Inspection Services [Docket Number FV-04-310] (RIN: 0581-AC46) received January 3, 2006, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

5956. A letter from the Administrator, AMS, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule — Fresh Bartlett Pears Grown in Oregon and Washington; Termination of Marketing Order No. 931 [Docket No. FV05-931-1 FR] received January 3, 2006, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

5957. A letter from the Administrator, AMS, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule — USDA Farmers Market Operating Procedures [Docket No. TM-04-09] (RIN: 0581-AC39) received January 3, 2006, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

5958. A letter from the Administrator, AMS, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule — Dried Prunes Produced in California; Decreased Assessment Rate [Docket No. FV05-993-5 FIR] received January 3, 2006, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

5959. A letter from the Administrator, FSIS, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule — Addition of Chile to the List of Countries Eligible to Export Meat and Meat Products to the United States [Docket No. 02-019F] (RIN: 0583-AD16) received January 6, 2006, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

5960. A letter from the Director, Regulations Policy and Management Staff, Food and Drug Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Biological Products; Bacterial Vaccines and Toxoids; Implementation of Efficacy Review [Docket No. 1980N-0208] received January 6, 2006, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

5961. A communication from the President of the United States, transmitting a request for an emergency designation for FY 2006 budget amendments for the Department of Veterans Affairs; (H. Doc. No. 109–86); to the Committee on Appropriations and ordered to be printed.

5962. A letter from the Acting Director, DPAP, Department of Defense, transmitting the Department's final rule — Defense Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement; Contract Financing [DFARS Case 2003-D043] received January 3, 2006, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Armed Services.

5963. A letter from the Assistant to the Board, Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, transmitting the Board's final rule — Home Mortgage Disclosure [Regulation C; Docket No. R-1245] received January 3, 2006, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.

5964. A letter from the General Counsel, FEMA, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Changes in Flood Elevation Determinations — received January 6, 2006, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.

5965. A letter from the General Counsel, FEMA, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Changes in Flood Elevation Determinations — received January 6, 2006, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.

5966. A letter from the General Counsel, FEMA, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Changes in Flood Elevation Determinations [Docket No. FEMA-D-7579] received January 6, 2006, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.

5967. A letter from the General Counsel, FEMA, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Changes in Flood Elevation Determinations [Docket No. FEMA-P-7646] received January 6, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.

5968. A letter from the General Counsel, FEMA, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Final Flood Elevation Determinations — received January 6, 2006, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.

5969. A letter from the General Counsel, FEMA, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Final Flood Elevation Determinations — received January 6, 2006, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.

5970. A letter from the General Counsel, FEMA, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Suspension of Community Eligibility [Docket No. FEMA-7895] received January 6, 2006, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.

5971. A letter from the General Counsel, FEMA, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — List of Communities Eligible for the Sale of Flood Insurance [Docket No. FEMA-7782] received January 6, 2006, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.

5972. A letter from the General Counsel, FEMA, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Changes in Flood Elevation Determinations [Docket No. FEMA-B-7455] received January 6, 2006, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.

5973. A letter from the General Counsel, FEMA, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Suspension of Community Eligibility [Docket No. FEMA-7899] received January 6, 2006, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.

5974. A letter from the General Counsel, FEMA, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Suspension of Community Eligibility [Docket No. FEMA-7903] received January 4, 2006, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.

5975. A letter from the Counsel for Legislation and Regulations, Department of Housing and Urban Development, transmitting the Department's final rule — Electronic Submission of Applications for Grants and Other HUD Financial Assistance [Docket No. FR-4875-F-02] (RIN: 2501-AD02) received January 3, 2006, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.

5976. A letter from the Secretary, Federal Trade Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — Notice Regarding Charges for Certain Disclosures — received January 6, 2006, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.

5977. A letter from the Secretary, Securities and Exchange Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — Revisions to Accelerated Filer Definition and Accelerated Deadlines for Filing Periodic Reports [Release Nos. 33-8644; 34-52989; File No. S7-08-05] (RIN: 3235-AJ29) received December 27, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.

5978. A letter from the Assistant Deputy Secretary for Innovation and Improvement, Department of Education, transmitting the Department's final rule — State Charter School Facilities Incentive Program — received January 4, 2006, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

5979. A letter from the Deputy Executive Director, Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation, transmitting the Corporation's final rule — Benefits Payable in Terminated Single-Employer Plans; Allocation of Assets in Single-Employer Plans; Interest Assumptions for Valuing and Paying Benefits — received December 27, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

5980. A letter from the Secretary, Federal Trade Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — Rules and Regulations Under the Textile Fiber Products Identification Act — received January 3, 2006, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

5981. A communication from the President of the United States, transmitting notification stating that the emergency declared with respect to foreign terrorists who threaten to disrupt the Middle East peace process is to continue in effect beyond January 23, 2006, pursuant to 50 U.S.C. 1622(d); (H. Doc. No. 109–84); to the Committee on International Relations and ordered to be printed.

5982. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting pursuant to section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act, certification regarding the proposed license for the export of defense articles and services to the Republic of Korea (Transmittal No. DDTC 043-05); to the Committee on International Relations.

5983. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting pursuant to section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act, certification regarding the proposed license for the export of defense articles and services to the Government of the United Kingdom (Transmittal No. DDTC 069-05); to the Committee on International Relations.

5984. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting pursuant to section 36(c) and (d) of the Arms Export Control Act, certification of a proposed manufacturing license agreement for the manufacture of military equipment abroad and the export of defense articles and services to the Government of Japan (Transmittal No. DDTC 065-05); to the Committee on International Relations.

5985. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting pursuant to section 36(c) and (d) of the Arms Export Control Act, certification of a proposed manufacturing license agreement for the manufacture of military equipment abroad and the export of defense articles and services to the Government of Japan (Transmittal No. DDTC 066-05); to the Committee on International Relations.

5986. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs, Department of State,

transmitting pursuant to section 36(d) of the Arms Export Control Act, certification regarding the proposed license for the manufacture of defense equipment from the Government of the United Kingdom to the Government of the Netherlands (Transmittal No. DDTC 068-05); to the Committee on International Relations.

5987. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting pursuant to section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act, certification regarding the proposed license for the export of defense articles and services to the Government of Japan (Transmittal No. DDTC 061-05); to the Committee on International Relations.

5988. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting pursuant to section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act, certification regarding the proposed license for the export of defense equipment and articles to the Government of Switzerland (Transmittal No. DDTC 047-05); to the Committee on International Relations.

5989. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting pursuant to section 36(c) and (d) of the Arms Export Control Act, certification of a proposed manufacturing license agreement for the export of defense articles and services to the Government of Japan (Transmittal No. DDTC 060-05); to the Committee on International Relations.

5990. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting pursuant to section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act, certification regarding the proposed license for the export of defense articles and services to the Government of Taiwan (Transmittal No. DDTC 067-05); to the Committee on International Relations.

5991. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting pursuant to section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act, certification regarding the proposed license for the export of defense articles and services to the Government of the Netherlands (Transmittal No. DDTC 063-05); to the Committee on International Relations.

5992. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting pursuant to Section 620C(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 questioncovering the period October 1, 2005 through November 30, 2005; to the Committee on International Relations.

5993. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting a Memorandum of Justification for a drawdown to provide international disaster relief assistance to Pakistan, pursuant to Sections 506 and 652 of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961, as amended; to the Committee on International Relations.

5994. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting pursuant to section 3(d) of the Arms Export Control Act, certification regarding the proposed transfer of major defense equipment from the Government of the Australia (Transmittal No. RSAT-04-05); to the Committee on International Relations.

5995. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting pursuant to Section 620C(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 June 1, 2005 through July 31, 2005 and August 1, 2005 through September 30,2005; to the Committee on International Relations.

5996. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting pursuant to Section 620C(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 June 1, 2005 through July 31, 2005 and August 1, 2005 through September 30, 2005; to the Committee on International Relations.

5997. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting a copy of a determination pursuant to Section 1306 of the National Defense Authorization Act for FY 2003; to the Committee on International Relations.

5998. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting a report pursuant to Paragraph (5)(D) of the Senate's May 1997 resolution of advice and consent to the ratification of the Conventional Armed Forces in Europe Treaty Flank Document of May 31, 1996; to the Committee on International Relations.

5999. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting the Department's report on CWC Compliance; to the Committee on International Relations.

6000. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Commerce, transmitting the semiannual report on the activities of the Inspector General for the period March 31 through September 30, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. app. (Insp. Gen. Act) section 5(b); to the Committee on Government Reform.

6001. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting a copy of D.C. ACT 16-248, ''Vending Licensing Moratorium Amendment Act of 2005,'' pursuant to D.C. Code section 1–233(c)(1); to the Committee on Government Reform.

6002. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting a copy of D.C. ACT 16-233, ''District of Columbia Health Professional Recruitment Program Act of 2005,'' pursuant to D.C. Code section 1–233(c)(1); to the Committee on Government Reform.

6003. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting a copy of D.C. ACT 16-232, ''Dedication of Portions of the Alley System in Square 5252, S.O. 03-1707, Act of 2005,'' pursuant to D.C. Code section 1–233(c)(1); to the Committee on Government Reform.

6004. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting a copy of D.C. ACT 16-230, ''Stevie Sellows Intermediate Care Facility for the Mentally Retarded Quality Improvement Act of 2005,'' pursuant to D.C. Code section 1–233(c)(1); to the Committee on Government Reform.

6005. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting a copy of D.C. ACT 16-231, ''Grandparent Caregivers Pilot Program Establishment Act of 2005,'' pursuant to D.C. Code section 1–233(c)(1); to the Committee on Government Reform.

6006. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting a copy of D.C. ACT 16-299, ''Karyn Barquin Adult Protective Services Self-Neglect Expansion Amendment Act of 2005,'' pursuant to D.C. Code section 1–233(c)(1); to the Committee on Government Reform.

6007. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting a copy of D.C. ACT 16-228, ''Highway Trust Fund and District Department of Transportation Temporary Amendment Act of 2005,'' pursuant to D.C. Code section 1–233(c)(1); to the Committee on Government Reform.

6008. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting a copy of D.C. ACT 16-226, ''Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom Active Duty Pay Differential Extension Temporary Amendment Act of 2005,'' pursuant to D.C. Code section 1–233(c)(1); to the Committee on Government Reform.

6009. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting a copy of D.C. ACT 16-224, ''Estate and Inheritance Tax Clarification Temporary Act of 2005,'' pursuant to D.C. Code section 1–233(c)(1); to the Committee on Government Reform.

6010. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting a copy of D.C. ACT 16-225, ''Public Assistance Confidentiality of Information Temporary Amendment Act of 2005,'' pursuant to D.C. Code section 1–233(c)(1); to the Committee on Government Reform.

6011. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting a copy of D.C. ACT 16-222, ''National Community Reinvestment Coalition Real Property Tax Exemption Act of 2005,'' pursuant to D.C. Code section 1–233(c)(1); to the Committee on Government Reform.

6012. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting a copy of D.C. ACT 16-223, ''Real Property Disposition Economic Analysis Temporary Amendment Act of 2005,'' pursuant to D.C. Code section 1–233(c)(1); to the Committee on Government Reform.

6013. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting a copy of D.C. ACT 16-219, ''Water Pollution Control Amendment Act of 2005,'' pursuant to D.C. Code section 1–233(c)(1); to the Committee on Government Reform.

6014. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting a copy of D.C. ACT 16-220, ''Human Rights Clarification Amendment Act of 2005,'' pursuant to D.C. Code section 1–233(c)(1); to the Committee on Government Reform.

6015. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting a copy of D.C. ACT 16-221, ''Domestic Partner Health Care Benefits Tax Exemption Act of 2005,'' pursuant to D.C. Code section 1–233(c)(1); to the Committee on Government Reform.

6016. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting a copy of D.C. ACT 16-215, ''Full Service Grocery Store Alcohol License Exception Act of 2005,'' pursuant to D.C. Code section 1–233(c)(1); to the Committee on Government Reform.

6017. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting a copy of D.C. ACT 16-216, ''Walt Whitman Designation Act of 2005,'' pursuant to D.C. Code section 1–233(c)(1); to the Committee on Government Reform.

6018. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting a copy of D.C. ACT 16-217, ''Producer Summary Suspension Amendment Act of 2005,'' pursuant to D.C. Code section 1–233(c)(1); to the Committee on Government Reform.

6019. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting a copy of D.C. ACT 16-218, ''Adams Morgan Business Improvement District Amendment Act of 2005,'' pursuant to D.C. Code section 1–233(c)(1); to the Committee on Government Reform.

6020. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting a

copy of D.C. ACT 16-214, ''Old Morgan School Place Designation Act of 2005,'' pursuant to D.C. Code section 1–233(c)(1); to the Committee on Government Reform.

6021. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting a copy of D.C. ACT 16-227, ''Criminal Background Checks for the Protection of Children Clarification Temporary Amendment Act of 2005,'' pursuant to D.C. Code section 1–233(c)(1); to the Committee on Government Reform.

6022. A letter from the Federal Co-Chair, Appalachian Regional Commission, transmitting the semiannual report on the activities of the Office of Inspector General for the period April 1, 2005, through September 30, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. app. (Insp. Gen. Act) section 8G(h)(2); to the Committee on Government Reform.

6023. A letter from the Chairman, Broadcasting Board of Governors, transmitting in accordance with the requirements of the Accountability of Tax Dollars Act of 2002 (Pub. L. 107-289), the Board's FY 2005 Performance and Accountability Report; to the Committee on Government Reform.

6024. A letter from the Chairman, Broadcasting Board of Governors, transmitting the semiannual report on the activities of the Office of Inspector General for the period from April 1, 2005 to September 30, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. app. (Insp. Gen. Act) section 5(b); to the Committee on Government Reform.

6025. A letter from the General Manager, Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board, transmitting in accordance with Section 647(b) of Title VI of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, FY 2004, Pub. L. 108-199, the Board's Report to Congress on FY 2005 Competitive Sourcing Efforts; to the Committee on Government Reform.

6026. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Energy, transmitting the Department's Performance and Accountability Report for FY 2005; to the Committee on Government Reform.

6027. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Labor, transmitting in accordance with Section 647(b) of Title VI of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, FY 2004, Pub. L. 108-199, the Department's Report to Congress on FY 2005 Competitive Sourcing Efforts; to the Committee on Government Reform.

6028. A letter from the Inspector General, Department of Labor, transmitting in accordance with Section 647(b) of Title VI of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, FY 2004, Pub. L. 108-199, the Department's Report to Congress on FY 2005 Competitive Sourcing Efforts; to the Committee on Government Reform.

6029. A letter from the Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, Farm Credit Administration, transmitting the semiannual report on the activities of the Office of Inspector General for the period April 1, 2005 through September 30, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. app. (Insp. Gen. Act) section 8G(h)(2); to the Committee on Government Reform.

6030. A letter from the Acting Chief Financial Officer, Federal Trade Commission, transmitting the Commission's FY 2005 Performance and Accountability Report, as requiredby The Government Performance and Results Act of 1993 and The Accountability of Tax Dollars Act of FY 2002; to the Committee on Government Reform.

6031. A letter from the Assistant Administrator, Office of Legislative Affairs, National Aeronautics and Space Administration, transmitting in accordance with Section 647(b) of Division F of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, FY 2004, Pub. L. 108-199, and the Office of Management and Budget Memorandum 06-01, the Administration's report on competitive sourcing efforts for FY 2005; to the Committee on Government Reform.

6032. A letter from the Director, Office of Personnel Management, transmitting in accordance with Section 647(b) of Division F of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, FY 2004, Pub. L. 108-199, and the Office of Management and Budget Memorandum 05-01, the Office's report on competitive sourcing efforts for FY 2005; to the Committee on Government Reform.

6033. A letter from the Director, SHRP, Office of Personnel Management, transmitting the Office's final rule — General Schedule Locality Pay Areas (RIN: 3206-AK78) received January 6, 2006, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Government Reform.

6034. A letter from the Chief Administrative Officer, transmitting the quarterly report of receipts and expenditures of appropriations and other funds for the period October 1, 2005 through December 31, 2005 as compiled by the Chief Administrative Officer, pursuant to 2 U.S.C. 104a Public Law 88–454; (H. Doc. No. 109–83); to the Committee on House Administration and ordered to be printed.

6035. A letter from the Clerk, U.S. House of Representatives, transmitting list of reports pursuant to clause 2, Rule II of the Rules of the House of Representatives, pursuant to Rule II, clause 2(b), of the Rules of the House; (H. Doc. No. 109–81); to the Committee on House Administration and ordered to be printed.

6036. A letter from the Director, Office of Surface Mining, Department of the Interior, transmitting the Department's final rule — West Virginia Regulatory Program [WV-108-FOR] received December 27, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Resources.

6037. A letter from the Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Atlantic Highly Migratory Species; Atlantic Bluefin Tuna Fisheries [I.D. 121205F] received January 6, 2006, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Resources.

6038. A letter from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Fisheries Off West Coast States and in the Western Pacific; Pacific Coast Groundfish Fishery; Specifications and Management Measures; Inseason Adjustments [Docket No. 040830250-5062-03; I.D. 112305B] received January 3, 2006, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Resources.

6039. A letter from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Fisheries Off West Coast States and in the Western Pacific; Western Pacific Pelagic Fisheries; Sea Turtle Mitigation Measures [Docket No. 050801214-5283-02; I.D. 072105D] (RIN: 0648-AQ91) received January 3, 2006, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Resources.

6040. A letter from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Fisheries Off West Coast States and in the Western Pacific; Pelagic Fisheries; Additional Measures to Reduce the Incidental Catch of Seabirds in the Hawaii Pelagic Longline Fishery [Docket No. 050620162-5326-02; I.D. 061505D] (RIN: 0648-AS30) received January 6, 2006, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Resources.

6041. A letter from the Chief, Regulations and Administrative Law, USCG, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Anchorage Regulations; Mississippi River Below Baton Rouge, LA, Including South and Southwest Passes [CGD08-05-016] (RIN: 1625-AA01) received December 28, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6042. A letter from the Chief, Regulations and Administrative Law, USCG, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Security Zones; Oahu, Maui, Hawaii, and Kauai, HI [CGD14-04-116] (RIN: 1625-AA87) received December 28, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6043. A letter from the Attorney, USCG, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Marine Casualties and Investigations; Chemical Testing Following Serious Marine Incidents [USCG-2001-8773] (RIN: 1625-AA27) (Formerly RIN: 2115-AG07) received December 28, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6044. A letter from the Attorney-Advisor, USCG, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Reporting Marine Casualties [USCG-2000-6927] (RIN: 1625-AA04) (Formerly RIN: 2115-AD98) received December 28, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6045. A letter from the Chief, Regulations and Administrative Law, USCG, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Regulated Navigation Area; East Rockaway Inlet to Atlantic Beach Bridge, Nassau County, Long Island, New York [CGD01-05-106] (RIN: 1625-AA11) received December 28, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6046. A letter from the Assistant Administrator for Procurement, National Aeronautics and Space Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — NASA Research Announcements — Small Business Subcontracting Plans and Publication Acknowledgements and Disclaimers (RIN: 2700-AD03) received January 3, 2006, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Science.

6047. A letter from the Assistant Administrator for Procurement, National Aeronautics and Space Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Property Administration and Reporting for Interagency Acquisitions (RIN: 2700-AD20) received January 3, 2006, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Science.

6048. A letter from the National Adjutant, Disabled American Veterans, transmitting 2005 National Convention Proceedings Of The Disabled American Veterans, pursuant to 36 U.S.C. 90i and 44 U.S.C. 1332; (H. Doc. No. 109–77); to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs and ordered to be printed.

6049. A letter from the Office of Regulation Policy and Management, Veterans Benefits Administration, Department of Veterans' Affairs, transmitting the Department's final rule — Use of Diagnostic Code Numbers; Schedule of Ratings-Neurological Conditions and Convulsive Disorders (RIN: 2900-AM32) received January 3, 2006, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

6050. A letter from the Director, Office of Personnel Management, transmitting the Office's Fiscal Year 2004 annual report on Veteran's Employment in the Federal Government, pursuant to 38 U.S.C. 4214(e)(1); to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

6051. A letter from the Acting Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal

Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule — Information Reporting and Other Guidelines Regarding Distributions With Respect to Securities Issued by Foreign Corporations [Notice 2006-3] received December 28, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

6052. A letter from the Acting Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule — Administrative, Procedural, and Miscellaneous (Rev. Proc. 2006-3) received December 28, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

6053. A letter from the Acting Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule — Uniform Capitalization of Costs (temporary), (Rev. Proc. 2006-11) received December 28, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

6054. A letter from the Acting Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule — Changes in Accounting Periods and in Methods of Accounting (Rev. Proc. 2006-12) received December 28, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

6055. A letter from the Acting Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule — Guidance Under Section 7874 for Determining Ownership by Former Shareholders or Partners of Domestic Entities [TD 9238] (RIN: 1545-BE94) received December 28, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

6056. A letter from the Acting Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule — Weighted Average Interest Rates Update [Notice 2005-96] received December 28, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

6057. A letter from the Acting Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule — Administrative, Procedural, and Miscellaneous (Rev. Proc. 2006-13) received December 28, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

6058. A letter from the Acting Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule — 2005 Cumulative List of Changes in Plan Qualification Requirements [Notice 2005-101] received December 28, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

6059. A letter from the Regulations Officer, Social Security Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Medicare Part D Subsidies (RIN: 0960-AG03) received December 28, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); jointly to the Committees on Energy and Commerce and Ways and Means.

## REPORTS OF COMMITTEES ON PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

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

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia: Committee on Government Reform. Bringing Communities into the 21st Century: A Report on Improving the Community Development Block Grant Program (Rept. 109–365). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union.

Mr. PUTNAM: Committee on Rules. House Resolution 653. Resolution relating to consideration of the bill (S. 1932) to provide for reconciliation pursuant to section 202(a) of the concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal year 2006 (H. Con. Res. 95) (Rept. 109–366). Referred to the House Calendar.

Mrs. CAPITO: Committee on Rules. House Resolution 654. Resolution waiving a requirement of clause 6(a) of rule XIII with respect to consideration of certain resolutions reported from the Committee on Rules (Rept. 109–367). Referred to the House Calendar.

Mr. POMBO: Committee on Resources. H.R. 3897. A bill to authorize the Secretary of the Interior, acting through the Bureau of Reclamation to enter into a cooperative agreement with the Madera Irrigation District for purposes of supporting the Madera Water Supply and Groundwater Enhancement Project; with an amendment (Rept. 109–368). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union.

Mr. DREIER: Committee on Rules. House Resolution 648. Resolution to eliminate floor privileges and access to Member exercise facilities for registered lobbyists who are former Members or officers of the House (Rept. 109–369 Pt. 1). Referred to the House Calendar.

DISCHARGE OF COMMITTEE

Pursuant to clause 2 of rule XII the Committee on House Administration discharged from further consideration of H. Res. 648.

## PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XII, public bills and resolutions were introduced and severally referred, as follows:

By Mr. SCHIFF:

H.R. 4654. A bill to provide a national innovation initiative; referred to the Committee on Science, and in addition to the Committees on Energy and Commerce, Ways and Means, Armed Services, the Judiciary, Transportation and Infrastructure, and Financial Services, 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. JONES of North Carolina (for himself, Ms. BORDALLO, and Mr. TAYLOR of Mississippi):

H.R. 4655. A bill to amend the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 to require political committees which are associated but not affiliated with a Federal candidate or officeholder to include in the statements of organization and the reports such committees file with the Federal Election Commission the identification of each candidate or officeholder with which the committee is associated, and for other purposes; to the Committee on House Administration.

By Mr. JINDAL:

H.R. 4656. A bill to increase the borrowing authority of the Federal Emergency Management Agency for carrying out the national flood insurance program; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. LIPINSKI (for himself and Mr. CASE):

H.R. 4657. A bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to prevent the selling of telephone customer proprietary network information; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. KENNEDY of Minnesota:

H.R. 4658. A bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to prohibit former Members of Congress from engaging in certain lobbying activities; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. SENSENBRENNER:

H.R. 4659. A bill to amend the USA PATRIOT ACT to extend the sunset of certain provisions of such Act; to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committee on Intelligence (Permanent Select), 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. ALLEN (for himself, Mr. BROWN of Ohio, Mr. BERRY, Mr. ROSS, Mr. MICHAUD, Mr. STRICKLAND, and Mr. WYNN):

H.R. 4660. A bill to provide for necessary beneficiary protections in order to ensure access to coverage under the Medicare part D prescription drug program; 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. ANDREWS:

H.R. 4661. A bill to prohibit the provision of Federal funds to any entity for the construction of a Federal facility unless the entity has in effect a policy of conducting a criminal background check on an employee before allowing the employee to participate in the construction of a public elementary school or secondary school, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, and in addition to the Committee on Government Reform, 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 Mrs. BLACKBURN (for herself, Mr. INSLEE, Mr. DICKS, Mr. HIGGINS, Mr. WEINER, Mrs. DRAKE, Mr. ROSS, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, Mr. REICHERT, Mrs. MUSGRAVE, Ms. HARRIS, Ms. MATSUI, Mr. GILLMOR, Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas, Mr. POMBO, Mr. DEFAZIO, Mr. KLINE, Ms. CARSON, and Mr. DAVIS of Florida):

H.R. 4662. A bill to prohibit the obtaining of customer information from telecommunications carriers by false pretenses, and the sale or disclosure of such records obtained by false pretenses; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. BRADLEY of New Hampshire:

H.R. 4663. A bill to authorize the Secretary of Health and Human Services to reimburse States for expenditures associated with the implementation of the Medicare prescription drug benefit for dual eligible individuals; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. CAPUANO:

H.R. 4664. A bill to amend the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 to reduce certain contribution limits under such Act; to the Committee on House Administration.

By Mr. CARDIN (for himself, Ms. PELOSI, Mr. HOYER, Mr. RANGEL, Mr. STARK, Mr. WAXMAN, Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California, Ms. HOOLEY, Mrs. CAPPS, Mr. WEXLER, Ms. NORTON, Mr. THOMPSON of California, Mr. ROSS, Mr. DAVIS of Florida, Ms. MATSUI, Ms. WOOLSEY, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. MCDERMOTT, Ms. ESHOO, Ms. HARMAN, Mr. GUTIERREZ, Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, Mr. NADLER, Mr. ENGEL, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mrs. MALONEY, Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin, Mr. KANJORSKI, Mr. HIGGINS, Mr. JEFFERSON, Mr. BISHOP of New York, Mr. DELAHUNT, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. HINCHEY, Mr. GRIJALVA, Ms. LEE, Mr. DEFAZIO, Mr. LANTOS, Mr. DOYLE, Ms. DEGETTE, Mr. FARR, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. ORTIZ, Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California, Mr. KILDEE, Mr. WYNN, Mr. CLEAVER, Mr. KENNEDY of Rhode Island, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. FILNER, Mr. MICHAUD, Mr. RUPPERSBERGER, Mr. FORD, Mr.

CUMMINGS, Mr. CROWLEY, Mr. HONDA, Mr. BERRY, Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, and Mr. PRICE of North Carolina):

H.R. 4665. A bill to amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to provide for an offset from the Medicaid clawback for State emergency prescription drug expenditures for Medicare dual-eligible individuals; 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. FITZPATRICK of Pennsylvania (for himself, Mr. HOLDEN, Mr. HOLT, Mr. PETERSON of Pennsylvania, Mr. PLATTS, and Ms. SCHWARTZ of Pennsylvania):

H.R. 4666. A bill to amend the Help America Vote Act of 2002 to extend until November 2006 the deadline by which States which received payments under such Act for the replacement of punch card or lever voting systems must ensure that all such systems are replaced; to the Committee on House Administration.

By Mr. FITZPATRICK of Pennsylvania:

H.R. 4667. A bill to provide greater transparency with respect to lobbying activities, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committees on Standards of Official Conduct, Rules, Resources, and Government Reform, 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. FOSSELLA (for himself, Ms. BERKLEY, Mr. CANTOR, Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey, Mr. GERLACH, Mr. BROWN of South Carolina, Mrs. JOANN DAVIS of Virginia, Mr. SENSENBRENNER, Mr. NORWOOD, Mr. HENSARLING, Mr. MCNULTY, Mr. ENGEL, Mr. OTTER, Mr. KLINE, and Mr. JONES of North Carolina):

H.R. 4668. A bill to limit assistance to the Palestinian Authority unless the President certifies to Congress that the Palestinian Authority is not controlled by a foreign terrorist organization, and for other purposes; to the Committee on International Relations.

By Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey:

H.R. 4669. A bill to amend the Ethics in Government Act of 1978 to require Members and staff of the House of Representatives to verify their compliance with the gift rule; to the Committee on House Administration.

By Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey:

H.R. 4670. A bill to impose additional restrictions on lobbying activities; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey:

H.R. 4671. A bill to amend the Lobbying Disclosure Act of 1995 to require reporting of the congressional offices to which gifts are provided; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. GRANGER:

H.R. 4672. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow a credit for the purchase of idling reduction systems for diesel-powered on-highway vehicles; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. MARKEY (for himself, Mr. INSLEE, and Ms. KAPTUR):

H.R. 4673. A bill to require that an increasing percentage of new automobiles be dual fueled automobiles, to revise the method for calculating corporate average fuel economy for such vehicles, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. MOORE of Kansas (for himself, Mr. TIAHRT, Mr. RYUN of Kansas, and Mr. MORAN of Kansas):

H.R. 4674. A bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 110 North Chestnut Street in Olathe, Kansas, as the ''Governor John Anderson, Jr. Post Office Building''; to the Committee on Government Reform.

By Mr. PALLONE (for himself, Ms. MCCOLLUM of Minnesota, Mr. JEFFERSON, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. HOLT, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. MCDERMOTT, Mr. HIGGINS, Mr. BOREN, Mr. HONDA, Mr. STARK, Mr. ANDREWS, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. BROWN of Ohio, Mr. MICHAUD, Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas, Mr. BERRY, Mr. LYNCH, Mr. KUCINICH, Mr. CONYERS, Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts, Mr. NADLER, Mr. COSTA, and Ms. LEE):

H.R. 4675. A bill to amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to provide for an offset from the Medicaid clawback for State emergency prescription drug expenditures for covered part D drugs for Medicare beneficiaries; 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. PASCRELL:

H.R. 4676. A bill to direct the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a study to determine the feasibility and suitability of designating the 9-11 Memorial in West Orange, New Jersey, as unit of the National Park System, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Resources.

By Mr. ROGERS of Michigan (for himself, Mr. EHLERS, and Mr. WOLF):

H.R. 4677. A bill to impose a two year moratorium on the approval by the Secretary of the Interior of new Tribal-State compacts for gaming under the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act; to the Committee on Resources.

By Ms. SCHAKOWSKY (for herself, Mr. HINCHEY, Ms. KILPATRICK of Michigan, and Mr. GUTIERREZ):

H.R. 4678. A bill to prohibit fraudulent access to telephone records; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mrs. SCHMIDT:

H.R. 4679. A bill to amend the Foreign Agents Registration Act of 1938, as amended, to require the Attorney General to make available on the Internet website of the Department of Justice all registration statements and other documents filed with the Attorney General under such Act; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mrs. CAPITO (for herself, Mr. RAHALL, Mr. MOLLOHAN, Mr. BOEHNER, and Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California):

H. Con. Res. 331. Concurrent resolution honoring the sacrifice and courage of the 12 coal miners killed and the stamina and courage of the one who survived the mine disaster in Sago, West Virginia, and the sacrifice and courage of the two coal miners killed in the Aracoma Alma mine disaster, and recognizing the rescue crews for their outstanding efforts in the aftermath of the tragedies; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. JONES of North Carolina (for himself, Mr. JINDAL, and Mr. FLAKE):

H. Res. 646. A resolution denying the entitlement to the privilege of admission to the Hall of the House to any former Member of the House who is a registered lobbyist; to the Committee on Rules.

By Mr. JONES of North Carolina (for himself and Mr. FLAKE):

H. Res. 647. A resolution requiring the Clerk of the House of Representatives to post on the Internet for public review all travel disclosure reports submitted by Members, officers, and employees of the House; to the Committee on Rules.

By Mr. DREIER:

H. Res. 648. A resolution to eliminate floor privileges and access to Member exercise facilities for registered lobbyists who are former Members or officers of the House; to the Committee on Rules, and in addition to the Committee on House Administration, 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. DREIER:

H. Res. 649. A resolution providing for a committee to notify the President of the assembly of the Congress; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. DREIER:

H. Res. 650. A resolution to inform the Senate that a quorum of the House has assembled; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. DREIER:

H. Res. 651. A resolution providing for the hour of meeting of the House; considered and agreed to.

By Mrs. JO ANN DAVIS of Virginia:

H. Res. 652. A resolution expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that there should be established a National Inflammatory Skin Disease Awareness Month; to the Committee on Government Reform.

By Ms. HERSETH (for herself and Mr. RAHALL):

H. Res. 656. A resolution expressing the sense of the House that the Secretary of Health and Human Services, acting through the Director of Indian Health Service, should maintain the current operating hours of the Wagner Service Unit until the Secretary submits to Congress a new report that accurately describes the current conditions at the Wagner Service Unit; to the Committee on Resources, 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. KENNEDY of Minnesota (for himself, Mr. LIPINSKI, Mr. FOSSELLA, Mr. BAKER, Ms. BORDALLO, Mr. FITZPATRICK of Pennsylvania, Mr. FOLEY, Mr. LANTOS, Mr. EHLERS, Mr. ENGLISH of Pennsylvania, Mr. CHABOT, Mr. MCCOTTER, Mr. RYAN of Ohio, Mr. HOLDEN, Mr. MCCAUL of Texas, Ms. KAPTUR, Ms. HART, Mr. GILLMOR, Mr. DAVIS of Kentucky, Mr. CASE, Mr. BOEHNER, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, Mr. WEINER, Mr. HOLT, Mrs. CHRISTENSEN, Mr. CLEAVER, Mr. GONZALEZ, Mr. ROTHMAN, Mr. MURPHY, Mrs. BIGGERT, Mr. WOLF, Mr. NEAL of Massachusetts, Mr. RAMSTAD, Mr. OXLEY, Mr. HAYWORTH, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. KLINE, and Ms. ESHOO):

H. Res. 657. A resolution honoring the contributions of Catholic schools; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas (for herself and Mr. BLUMENAUER):

H. Res. 658. A resolution supporting the goals and ideals of World Water Day; to the Committee on International Relations.

By Mr. OBEY (for himself, Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts, Mr. PRICE of North Carolina, Mr. ALLEN, Mr. ABERCROMBIE, Mr. ACKERMAN, Mr. BACA, Mr. BAIRD, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. BARROW, Mr. BECERRA, Ms. BERKLEY, Mr. BERMAN, Mr. BERRY, Mr. BISHOP of New York, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. BOSWELL, Mr. BOREN, Mr. BOYD, Mr. BROWN of Ohio, Mr. BUTTERFIELD, Mrs. CAPPS, Mr. CARDOZA, Ms. CARSON, Mr. CASE, Mr. CHANDLER, Mr.

CLEAVER, Mr. COOPER, Mr. COSTELLO, Mr. CROWLEY, Mr. DAVIS of Alabama, Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, Mrs. DAVIS of California, Mr. DEFAZIO, Ms. DEGETTE, Mr. DELAHUNT, Ms. DELAURO, Mr. DINGELL, Mr. DOGGETT, Ms. ESHOO, Mr. ETHERIDGE, Mr. EVANS, Mr. FARR, Mr. FILNER, Mr. FORD, Mr. GONZALEZ, Mr. GUTIERREZ, Mr. GORDON, Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas, Mr. GRIJALVA, Ms. HARMAN, Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, Ms. HERSETH, Mr. HIGGINS, Mr. HINCHEY, Mr. HINOJOSA, Mr. HOLT, Mr. HONDA, Mr. HOYER, Mr. ISRAEL, Mr. JACKSON of Illinois, Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas, Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas, Ms. KAPTUR, Mr. KENNEDY of Rhode Island, Mr. KILDEE, Mr. KUCINICH, Mr. LANGEVIN, Mr. LANTOS, Mr. LARSEN of Washington, Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, Ms. LEE, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. LEWIS of Georgia, Mrs. MALONEY, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. MARSHALL, Ms. MATSUI, Mrs. MCCARTHY, Ms. MCCOLLUM of Minnesota, Mr. MCDERMOTT, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. MCINTYRE, Mr. MEEHAN, Mr. MICHAUD, Mr. MILLER of North Carolina, Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California, Ms. MILLENDER-MCDONALD, Mr. MOORE of Kansas, Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin, Mr. MORAN of Virginia, Mr. NADLER, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Ms. NORTON, Mr. OLVER, Mr. ORTIZ, Mr. OWENS, Ms. PELOSI, Mr. PETERSON of Minnesota, Mr. RANGEL, Mr. REYES, Mr. ROSS, Mr. ROTHMAN, Mr. RUPPERSBERGER, Mr. RYAN of Ohio, Mr. SALAZAR, Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California, Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. SCOTT of Virginia, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. SERRANO, Mr. SHERMAN, Mr. SKELTON, Mr. SNYDER, Ms. SOLIS, Mr. SPRATT, Mr. STRICKLAND, Mr. STUPAK, Mrs. TAUSCHER, Mr. TAYLOR of Mississippi, Mr. TIERNEY, Mr. UDALL of Colorado, Mr. UDALL of New Mexico, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Ms. WATSON, Mr. WATT, Mr. WAXMAN, Ms. WOOLSEY, and Mr. WU):

H. Res. 659. A resolution amending the Rules of the House of Representatives to protect the integrity of the institution; to the Committee on Rules, and in addition to the Committee on Standards of Official Conduct, 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. OSBORNE (for himself, Ms. MCCOLLUM of Minnesota, Mr. HONDA, Mr. BOSWELL, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mrs. TAUSCHER, Mr. SIMPSON, Mr. WAXMAN, Mr. KELLER, Mr. CRENSHAW, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, and Mrs. BIGGERT):

H. Res. 660. A resolution supporting the goals and ideals of National Mentoring Month; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. PALLONE (for himself, Mrs. JONES of Ohio, Mr. FITZPATRICK of Pennsylvania, Mr. SALAZAR, Mr. GRIJALVA, Ms. HARRIS, Mrs. MCCARTHY, and Mrs. CHRISTENSEN):

H. Res. 661. A resolution encouraging States to establish programs to award high school diplomas to veterans who left high school before receiving diplomas in order to serve in the Armed Forces during a time of war; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. PRICE of Georgia (for himself, Mr. AKIN, Mr. BARTLETT of Maryland, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. BURGESS, Mr. CANTOR, Mr. CARTER, Mr. CHABOT, Mr. CULBERSON, Mr. FORTUÑO, Ms. FOXX, Mr. FRANKS of Arizona, Mr. GINGREY, Mr. GOHMERT, Mr. GUTKNECHT, Mr. HENSARLING, Mr. HERGER, Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California, Mr. MCKEON, Mrs. MUSGRAVE, Mr. NEUGEBAUER, Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin, Mr. PEARCE, Mr. PENCE, Mr. PITTS, Mr. SODREL, Mr. KING of Iowa, Mr. TIAHRT, Mr. WAMP, Mr. WELDON of Florida, Mr. WICKER, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, Mr. COLE of Oklahoma, Mr. BACHUS, Mr. BARRETT of South Carolina, and Mr. KLINE):

H. Res. 662. A resolution amending the Rules of the House of Representatives to require that general appropriation bills contain a separate list of all earmarks in the accompanying report and the name of the sponsoring Member of each such earmark; to the Committee on Rules.

By Mr. SNYDER:

H. Res. 663. A resolution amending the Rules of the House of Representatives to prohibit former Members and former officers of the House who are registered lobbyists from admission to the Hall of the House, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Rules, and in addition to the Committee on House Administration, 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.

## ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions as follows:

*[Omitted from the Record of January 3, 2006]*

H.R. 1372: Mr. SCHWARZ of Michigan.
H.R. 1742: Mr. PRICE of North Carolina.
H.R. 3858: Mr. RANGEL.

*[Submitted January 31, 2006]*

H.R. 25: Mr. BACHUS and Mr. SULLIVAN.
H.R. 40: Mr. WYNN.
H.R. 63: Mr. HIGGINS.
H.R. 65: Mr. FLAKE and Mr. RAMSTAD.
H.R. 111: Mr. MEEHAN.
H.R. 147: Mr. JONES of North Carolina, Ms. MCKINNEY, and Mr. SHAYS.
H.R. 219: Ms. FOXX.
H.R. 503: Mr. WEXLER, Mr. MCCOTTER, Mr. LANTOS, Ms. KAPTUR, Ms. KILPATRICK of Michigan, Mr. CLYBURN, Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California, Mr. EMANUEL, and Mr. RUPPERSBERGER.
H.R. 550: Mr. FATTAH.
H.R. 552: Mr. FITZPATRICK of Pennsylvania.
H.R. 558: Mr. LIPINSKI.
H.R. 602: Mr. KELLER.
H.R. 699: Mr. MARKEY.
H.R. 735: Mr. STARK.
H.R. 752: Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, Mr. DELAHUNT, Ms. MCCOLLUM of Minnesota, Mrs. DAVIS of California, Ms. BALDWIN, Mrs. LOWEY, Mrs. CAPPS, and Mr. DOGGETT.
H.R. 769: Mr. ROTHMAN, Ms. HART, Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania, and Mr. EMANUEL.
H.R. 772: Mr. BERMAN, Mr. LATHAM, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. MURPHY, and Mr. DOYLE.
H.R. 791: Mr. MEEHAN.
H.R. 858: Mr. STEARNS.
H.R. 886: Ms. WATSON, Mrs. MALONEY, Mr. WALSH, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. MORAN of Virginia, Mr. TIERNEY, Mr. MCDERMOTT, Mr. SMITH of Washington, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California, Mr. KIRK, and Mrs. BIGGERT.
H.R. 910: Mr. FATTAH.
H.R. 917: Mr. MICHAUD.
H.R. 941: Mr. SIMMONS.
H.R. 944: Mr. MCCOTTER, Mr. LARSEN of Washington, and Mr. CUMMINGS.
H.R. 952: Ms. MATSUI.
H.R. 986: Mr. PALLONE and Mr. WYNN.
H.R. 994: Mr. NEAL of Massachusetts, Mr. CROWLEY, Mr. STRICKLAND, and Mr. KIND.
H.R. 998: Mr. FILNER, and Mr. REICHERT.
H.R. 1020: Mr. FILNER.
H.R. 1059: Mr. SHERMAN and Mr. WU.
H.R. 1079: Mr. FORTENBERRY.
H.R. 1107: Mr. BOSWELL.
H.R. 1108: Mr. FORD and Mr. EMANUEL.
H.R. 1120: Mr. BROWN of Ohio, Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. MCCOTTER, Ms. SCHWARTZ of Pennsylvania, and Mr. SKELTON.
H.R. 1124: Mr. SMITH of Washington and Mr. ROTHMAN.
H.R. 1131: Mrs. EMERSON and Mr. PEARCE.
H.R. 1143: Mr. BROWN of South Carolina and Mr. HASTINGS of Florida.
H.R. 1144: Mr. STRICKLAND, Mr. CUMMINGS, and Mr. FATTAH.
H.R. 1172: Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Ms. MILLENDER-MCDONALD, and Mr. WELDON of Pennsylvania.
H.R. 1177: Mrs. EMERSON.
H.R. 1188: Mrs. DAVIS of California.
H.R. 1217: Mr. AL GREEN of Texas.
H.R. 1227: Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia.
H.R. 1255: Mr. ROSS.
H.R. 1259: Mr. ENGLISH of Pennsylvania, Mr. DAVIS of Florida, Mr. ADERHOLT, Mr. HALL, Mr. LINDER, Mr. CASE, Mr. DOYLE, Ms. HOOLEY, Mr. LANGEVIN, Mr. POMEROY, Mr. VISCLOSKY, Mr. KENNEDY of Minnesota, Mr. MOORE of Kansas, Mr. FOLEY, Ms. PRYCE of Ohio, Ms. HERSETH, Mr. LYNCH, Mr. MCHUGH, Mr. CALVERT, Mr. CHANDLER, Mr. GIBBONS, Mr. SAXTON, Mr. SHAW, Mr. MCCRERY, Mr. TURNER, Mr. RAMSTAD, Mr. BOREN, Mr. WELLER, Mr. FOSSELLA, Mr. FRANKS of Arizona, Mr. SHIMKUS, Mrs. JOHNSON of Connecticut, Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia, Mr. COSTELLO, Mr. DAVIS of Tennessee, Mr. PETERSON of Pennsylvania, Mr. DENT, Mr. BARTLETT of Maryland, Mr. HEFLEY, Mr. DOOLITTLE, Mr. INSLEE, Mr. PETERSON of Minnesota, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. BOUCHER, Mr. MOLLOHAN, Mr. OLVER, Mr. KIND, Mr. HAYWORTH, Mr. STUPAK, Mr. RAHALL, Mr. GINGREY, Mr. KIRK, Mr. BURTON of Indiana, Mr. BILIRAKIS, and Mr. KINGSTON.
H.R. 1290: Mr. KUCINICH and Mr. BAIRD.
H.R. 1393: Mr. KLINE.
H.R. 1426: Mr. DAVIS of Tennessee.
H.R. 1431: Mrs. CAPPS, Mr. LANTOS, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California, Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida, and Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California.
H.R. 1518: Mr. WELLER and Mr. HINOJOSA.
H.R. 1558: Mr. SHAYS and Mr. DOYLE.
H.R. 1594: Mr. MORAN of Kansas.
H.R. 1619: Mr. ANDREWS.
H.R. 1642: Mr. BASS, Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California, Mr. PLATTS, Mr. LEWIS of Kentucky, Mr. KLINE, Mr. SHAYS, Mr. FORD, Mr. CHABOT, Mr. BARTLETT of Maryland, Mr. UDALL of Colorado, Mr. SIMMONS, Mr. BRADLEY of New Hampshire, Mr. TIAHRT, Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin, Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California, Ms. HART, Mr. WAMP, Mr. AKIN, Mr. WAXMAN, Mr. PETRI, Mr. CHOCOLA, and Mr. BECERRA.
H.R. 1657: Mr. WESTMORELAND.
H.R. 1668: Mr. KENNEDY of Rhode Island.
H.R. 1671: Mr. BROWN of Ohio and Mr. BRADLEY of New Hampshire.
H.R. 1689: Mr. NORWOOD.
H.R. 1696: Mr. TANNER.
H.R. 1823: Mr. GRIJALVA.
H.R. 1861: Mr. SIMMONS and Ms. BALDWIN.
H.R. 2037: Mrs. JONES of Ohio.
H.R. 2047: Mr. SHIMKUS and Mrs. CUBIN.
H.R. 2052: Mr. DAVIS of Kentucky.
H.R. 2088: Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas.
H.R. 2233: Mr. BAIRD.
H.R. 2237: Mr. ANDREWS.
H.R. 2238: Mr. CARDIN.

H.R. 2328: Mr. MCINTYRE, Mr. PLATTS, and Mr. CONYERS.
H.R. 2378: Mr. EVANS.
H.R. 2390: Mr. ENGEL.
H.R. 2429: Mr. FATTAH and Mr. SMITH of Washington.
H.R. 2512: Mr. WOLF and Mr. BOUCHER.
H.R. 2558: Mr. WOLF.
H.R. 2567: Ms. BALDWIN.
H.R. 2717: Mrs. DAVIS of California, Mr. BAKER, Mr. MEEHAN, Mr. CASTLE, and Ms. DEGETTE.
H.R. 2719: Mr. MEEHAN.
H.R. 2799: Mr. CUELLAR.
H.R. 2828: Mr. MEEHAN, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. SANDERS, and Ms. MATSUI.
H.R. 2872: Mr. ENGEL, Mr. SHAW, Mr. BOEHLERT, Mr. INSLEE, Mr. BLUNT, Mr. FATTAH, Mrs. MCCARTHY, Mr. DAVIS of Alabama, Mr. BISHOP of New York, Mr. MCINTYRE, Mr. BROWN of South Carolina, Mr. BARTLETT of Maryland, Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts, Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA, Mr. KENNEDY of Rhode Island, Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California, Mrs. WILSON of New Mexico, Mrs. DRAKE, Mr. POMBO, Mr. ROGERS of Alabama, Mr. STARK, Mr. WOLF, Mr. KIND, and Mr. VISCLOSKY.
H.R. 2926: Mr. DENT.
H.R. 2961: Mr. MARSHALL.
H.R. 2963: Ms. DEGETTE and Mr. CUMMINGS.
H.R. 3049: Mr. KIRK.
H.R. 3059: Mr. ROSS.
H.R. 3080: Mr. POMBO.
H.R. 3142: Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California.
H.R. 3151: Mr. KENNEDY of Rhode Island.
H.R. 3173: Mr. FILNER.
H.R. 3196: Mr. MELANCON and Mr. HONDA.
H.R. 3255: Mr. KILDEE.
H.R. 3272: Mr. HIGGINS.
H.R. 3334: Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California, Mr. BOUCHER, Mr. ROTHMAN, and Mr. INSLEE.
H.R. 3352: Mr. UDALL of New Mexico.
H.R. 3404: Mrs. MCCARTHY.
H.R. 3420: Mr. CASE and Mr. MEEHAN.
H.R. 3476: Mr. MARCHANT, Mr. YOUNG of Alaska, Mr. HALL, Mr. MEEHAN, and Ms. HARRIS.
H.R. 3492: Mr. TIERNEY, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Ms. WOOLSEY, Ms. ESHOO, Mr. ANDREWS, Mr. ABERCROMBIE, and Ms. KILPATRICK of Michigan.
H.R. 3639: Mr. BARROW and Mr. BAIRD.
H.R. 3684: Mr. BARTLETT of Maryland and Mr. CALVERT.
H.R. 3701: Mr. HINCHEY.
H.R. 3725: Mr. PAUL.
H.R. 3782: Mr. GILCHREST.
H.R. 3858: Mr. FORTUÑO, Mr. SIMMONS, and Mrs. CHRISTENSEN.
H.R. 3861: Mr. RUSH, Mr. CUMMINGS, Mr. CHANDLER, Mr. REYES, Mr. STRICKLAND, Mr. LARSEN of Washington, Mr. BACA, Mr. MORAN of Kansas, Mrs. LOWEY, Mr. BOSWELL, Mr. MARSHALL, Mr. SMITH of Washington, Mr. SCOTT of Georgia, and Mr. SALAZAR.
H.R. 3883: Mr. BEAUPREZ, Mr. GALLEGLY, Mr. INSLEE, Mr. GORDON, and Mr. PORTER.
H.R. 3917: Mr. JEFFERSON and Mr. KILDEE.
H.R. 3923: Mr. SENSENBRENNER.
H.R. 3924: Mr. SENSENBRENNER.
H.R. 3931: Mr. FATTAH and Mr. HASTINGS of Florida.
H.R. 3940: Mr. SCOTT of Georgia.
H.R. 3954: Mr. ORTIZ.
H.R. 4005: Mr. BACA and Mr. HINCHEY.
H.R. 4015: Mr. CASE and Mr. ROGERS of Alabama.
H.R. 4030: Mr. NADLER and Mr. CONYERS.
H.R. 4036: Mr. OTTER.
H.R. 4042: Mr. ORTIZ.
H.R. 4049: Mrs. DAVIS of California.
H.R. 4089: Mr. SENSENBRENNER.
H.R. 4158: Mr. PALLONE.
H.R. 4179: Mr. UDALL of Colorado.
H.R. 4183: Ms. HARMAN.
H.R. 4184: Ms. HARMAN.
H.R. 4196: Ms. MCCOLLUM of Minnesota.
H.R. 4197: Mr. ANDREWS and Mr. CARDIN.
H.R. 4211: Mr. BERMAN.
H.R. 4222: Mr. GORDON, Mr. UDALL of New Mexico, and Ms. SCHAKOWSKY.
H.R. 4223: Mr. OWENS and Mr. KILDEE.
H.R. 4232: Mr. CONYERS.
H.R. 4242: Mr. SAXTON, Mr. MCCOTTER, and Mr. TANCREDO.
H.R. 4258: Mr. ENGLISH of Pennsylvania.
H.R. 4259: Ms. HARMAN.
H.R. 4264: Mr. ISRAEL.
H.R. 4272: Mr. WAXMAN.
H.R. 4282: Ms. MCKINNEY.
H.R. 4291: Mr. BAIRD.
H.R. 4298: Mr. BARROW, Mr. GORDON, and Ms. MCCOLLUM of Minnesota.
H.R. 4313: Mr. BACHUS.
H.R. 4315: Ms. PRYCE of Ohio, Mr. CASTLE, Ms. HERSETH, Mr. JOHNSON of Illinois, and Mr. BEAUPREZ.
H.R. 4319: Mr. WYNN and Mr. MCDERMOTT.
H.R. 4332: Mr. SKELTON and Mr. ROSS.
H.R. 4347: Mr. FATTAH, Mr. RUPPERSBERGER, and Mr. CUMMINGS.
H.R. 4348: Mr. EVANS.
H.R. 4351: Mr. CUMMINGS.
H.R. 4361: Mr. ROHRABACHER, Mr. HINOJOSA, Mr. EMANUEL, and Mr. PALLONE.
H.R. 4365: Mr. SALAZAR.
H.R. 4372: Mr. EVANS.
H.R. 4392: Mr. EVANS.
H.R. 4395: Mr. OWENS, Mr. HINOJOSA, and Ms. LEE.
H.R. 4405: Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas, Mr. BOEHLERT, Mr. COBLE, Mr. CAPUANO, Mr. NORWOOD, Mr. KILDEE, Mr. KUCINICH, Mr. BARTLETT of Maryland, and Mr. SANDERS.
H.R. 4411: Mr. WICKER and Mr. MCCOTTER.
H.R. 4427: Mr. AL GREEN of Texas.
H.R. 4447: Mr. KUCINICH.
H.R. 4448: Mr. SERRANO, Mr. GONZALEZ, Mr. MCDERMOTT, Mr. FARR, and Mr. PAYNE.
H.R. 4452: Mr. SMITH of Washington, Mr. HAYWORTH, Ms. HARMAN, Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, Mr. ABERCROMBIE, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. ISRAEL, and Mr. FILNER.
H.R. 4463: Mr. GONZALEZ, Mr. HINCHEY, Mr. WAXMAN, and Mr. CUMMINGS.
H.R. 4479: Mr. RANGEL, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas, and Mr. ACKERMAN.
H.R. 4491: Mrs. MCCARTHY and Mr. MCCOTTER.
H.R. 4493: Mrs. NAPOLITANO.
H.R. 4520: Mr. WEXLER and Ms. SCHAKOWSKY.
H.R. 4535: Mr. WOLF, Mr. SHERMAN, and Mr. FITZPATRICK of Pennsylvania.
H.R. 4542: Mr. CROWLEY, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. MCCOTTER, Mr. GOODE, and Mr. SMITH of Washington.
H.R. 4546: Mr. BACHUS, Mr. CONAWAY, Mr. FEENEY, Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey, Mr. JINDAL, Mr. KLINE, Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California, Mr. MCHENRY, Mr. ROGERS of Michigan, Mr. SODREL, Mr. TANCREDO, and Mr. MURPHY.
H.R. 4548: Mr. KELLER, Mr. ENGLISH of Pennsylvania, Mr. WELLER, Mr. LEWIS of Kentucky, Mr. SAXTON, Mr. COBLE, Mr. MILLER of Florida, Mr. WELDON of Florida, Mr. SENSENBRENNER, Mr. KLINE, Mr. OTTER, and Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey.
H.R. 4561: Mr. MARCHANT and Mr. HALL.
H.R. 4575: Mrs. WILSON of New Mexico, Mr. CHABOT, Mr. FITZPATRICK of Pennsylvania, and Mr. JONES of North Carolina.
H.R. 4576: Mr. HERGER and Mr. NORWOOD.
H.R. 4578: Mr. OBERSTAR and Mr. PETERSON of Minnesota.
H.R. 4597: Mr. KENNEDY of Minnesota, Mr. MCGOVERN, Ms. BORDALLO, Mr. CALVERT, and Mr. UPTON.
H.R. 4604: Mr. MEEKS of New York and Mr. MATHESON.
H.R. 4612: Ms. PRYCE of Ohio.
H.R. 4619: Mr. MCCOTTER.
H.R. 4649: Mr. WELDON of Pennsylvania.
H. J. Res. 55: Mr. INSLEE.
H. Con. Res. 99: Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida, Ms. SOLIS, Mr. HALL, and Mr. FARR.
H. Con. Res. 106: Mr. SPRATT.
H. Con. Res. 137: Ms. LEE and Mr. POMBO.
H. Con. Res. 172: Mr. TIERNEY and Mr. CUMMINGS.
H. Con. Res. 174: Mr. DOGGETT, Mrs. TAUSCHER, Mr. STARK, and Mr. MURTHA.
H. Con. Res. 231: Mr. LARSEN of Washington and Mr. BRADLEY of New Hampshire.
H. Con. Res. 278: Mr. ISRAEL, Ms. MCCOLLUM of Minnesota, and Ms. HERSETH.
H. Con. Res. 316: Mrs. WILSON of New Mexico.
H. Con. Res. 317: Mr. EVANS.
H. Res. 81: Mr. CHABOT.
H. Res. 85: Mr. BACA, Mr. SCOTT of Georgia, Ms. BORDALLO, and Mr. SESSIONS.
H. Res. 305: Mr. MCCOTTER, Mr. PLATTS, Mr. MORAN of Virginia, Mr. REYES, and Mr. FILNER.
H. Res. 477: Mr. SMITH of Washington and Mr. ROTHMAN.
H. Res. 489: Mr. KUCINICH and Mr. UDALL of Colorado.
H. Res. 507: Mr. INGLIS of South Carolina and Mr. MICHAUD.
H. Res. 526: Mr. BRADLEY of New Hampshire, Mr. MCCOTTER, and Mr. OLVER.
H. Res. 552: Mr. GREEN of Wisconsin.
H. Res. 555: Mr. ROTHMAN.
H. Res. 556: Mr. MOORE of Kansas, Mr. KING of Iowa, Mr. CONYERS, Mr. MCDERMOTT, Mr. CARDOZA, Mr. POMEROY, Mr. DOOLITTLE, Mr. MORAN of Kansas, Mr. GORDON, Mr. OBERSTAR, Ms. BORDALLO, Mr. DAVIS of Tennessee, Mr. MICHAUD, Mr. STUPAK, Mr. LATHAM, Mr. FORD, and Mr. INSLEE.
H. Res. 573: Mr. GONZALEZ.
H. Res. 590: Mr. STRICKLAND, Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA, and Mr. BLUMENAUER.
H. Res. 613: Mr. MCNULTY.
H. Res. 628: Mr. ANDREWS, Mrs. MALONEY, Mr. KUCINICH, Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. HIGGINS, Mr. SERRANO, Mr. HINCHEY, Mrs. MCCARTHY, Mr. ABERCROMBIE, Mr. LANTOS, and Mr. MOLLOHAN.
H. Res. 629: Mr. SCHWARZ of Michigan, Mr. SIMMONS, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. HINOJOSA, Mrs. JONES of Ohio, Mr. CALVERT, Mr. MEEKS of New York, Mr. MORAN of Virginia, Mr. MELANCON, Mr. UPTON, Mr. KILDEE, Mr. PICKERING, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. BACHUS, Mr. ROGERS of Alabama, Mr. SHIMKUS, Mr. JINDAL, Mr. GIBBONS, Mr. BOUSTANY, Mr. DAVIS of Kentucky, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, Mr. FORTENBERRY, Mr. SNYDER, Mr. JENKINS, Mrs. MYRICK, Mr. WALDEN of Oregon, Mr. HAYWORTH, Mr. WELDON of Florida, Mr. FORTUÑO, Mr. FITZPATRICK of Pennsylvania, Mr. JONES of North Carolina, Mr. BURTON of Indiana, Mr. MOORE of Kansas, Mr. ISSA, Mr. KUHL of New York, Mr. BURGESS, Ms. FOXX Mr. CLEAVER, Mr. JEFFERSON, Mr. SIMPSON, Mr. PAYNE, and Mr. WHITFIELD.
H. Res. 635: Mr. MCDERMOTT, Mr. ABERCROMBIE, Mr. OWENS, Mr. CLAY, Mr. NADLER, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. STARK, and Ms. SCHAKOWSKY.
H. Res. 636: Mr. MCDERMOTT, Mr. CLAY, Mr. NADLER, Mr. OWENS, Mr. STARK, and Ms. SCHAKOWSKY.
H. Res. 637: Mr. MCDERMOTT, Mr. CLAY, Mr. NADLER, Mr. OWENS, Mr. STARK, and Ms. SCHAKOWSKY.
H. Res. 643: Mr. AL GREEN of Texas, Mr. SMITH of Washington, Mr. STARK, Mr. FARR, Mr. BAIRD, Mr. SANDERS, and Mr. PRICE of North Carolina.

## 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. 3855: Mrs. CUBIN and Mr. OTTER.
H.R. 4354: Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN.
H. Res. 635: Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California.
H. Res. 636: Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California.
H. Res. 637: Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California.

United States of America

# Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 109th CONGRESS, SECOND SESSION

Vol. 152 WASHINGTON, TUESDAY, JANUARY 31, 2006 No. 9

# Senate

The Senate met at 9:45 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable DAVID VITTER, a Senator from the State of Louisiana.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Today's prayer will be offered by the former Senate Chaplain, Dr. Lloyd John Ogilvie.

## PRAYER

The guest Chaplain offered the following prayer:

Gracious God, You have chosen us to be present to Your presence in each moment of this day. Our souls snap to attention. We salute You as sovereign of our beloved Nation and personal Lord of our lives.

Lord, on behalf of the people of this Nation, I pray for the women and men of this Senate and all who serve with them. Continue to put a bellows on the red embers in the hearth of their hearts. Set them aflame again with the passion of patriotism. Rekindle in them a sense of their divine election by You. You have made work in government one of the highest callings. Our times demand greatness—the greatness of seeking Your best for our Nation, dependence on Your supernatural guidance, and commitment to unity as Americans.

On this day of the State of the Union Address by our President, we ask for Your special blessing on him. We renew our loyalty to him as our President, our attentiveness to listen to him, and our prayerful reflection on his vision for the awesome issues before our Nation and our terrorism-turbulent world. As he stands before the joint session of Congress and our Nation, clear the prayer channels as we join with Americans everywhere in prayer for Your guidance for him.

Today, Lord, we praise You for the courageous life of Coretta Scott King, so faithfully committed to the cause of human rights and equality.

And now, Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on the Senators as they seek to work together with civility and mutual respect. You are Jehovah Shammah who promises to be present with us, Immanuel, our Saviour, who will never leave nor forsake us.

Amen.

## PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable DAVID VITTER 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.

## APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. STEVENS).

The legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
*Washington, DC, January 31, 2006.*

*To the Senate:*

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable DAVID VITTER, a Senator from the State of Louisiana, to perform the duties of the Chair.

TED STEVENS,
*President pro tempore.*

Mr. VITTER thereupon assumed the chair as Acting President pro tempore.

## RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

## SCHEDULE

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, this morning we will have the final closing remarks with respect to the confirmation of Judge Alito to be Associate Justice of the Supreme Court. The vote on the confirmation is scheduled for 11 o'clock this morning. I remind all of our colleagues to be seated at their desks in the Senate Chamber for this historic vote.

Following the confirmation vote, we will consider the nomination of Ben Bernanke to be a member and the Chairman of the Federal Reserve to succeed Chairman Alan Greenspan. Under the time agreement, we will have 1 hour of debate under the control of Chairman SHELBY and the ranking member, Senator SARBANES. No rollcall vote is necessary on the Bernanke nomination, and we will have a voice vote on the confirmation.

Finally, this evening the Senate will gather in the Senate Chamber at 8:30 and proceed as a body to the House Chamber at 8:35 to hear the President's annual State of the Union Address. Members are asked to please plan their schedules accordingly for today's events.

I yield the floor.

## RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The minority leader is recognized.

## ALLOCATION OF TIME

Mr. REID. Mr. President, before the majority leader leaves the floor, we have an hour of time divided before the 11 o'clock vote. I know the short amount of time we have is allocated to the very second. I am wondering if it would be appropriate to have a full hour prior to the vote. I guess my question is, How much time do you need on your side?

## PATRIOT ACT REAUTHORIZATION

Mr. REID. Mr. President, a small number of provisions of the USA PATRIOT Act are due to expire. Senate Democrats stand ready to provide law enforcement with all necessary tools to keep Americans safe from terrorism. Democrats supported the original PATRIOT Act that was passed in 2001. We supported the reauthorization bill that passed the Senate unanimously this past summer. And we support reauthorization of the PATRIOT Act now with modest improvements.

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



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A reauthorization bill should continue to provide the Government with the tools it needs to fight terrorism but must also include sufficient checks to protect against potential governmental abuse of these expansive powers. There is widespread bipartisan support for a reauthorization bill that will protect both national security and the rights of innocent Americans.

I applaud Senators SUNUNU, CRAIG, MURKOWSKI, and HAGEL for their principled stand on this issue. I urge the White House to work with these Senators and with Senators LEAHY and SPECTER to craft a bill that all Senators can support. If a compromise cannot be reached before the end of this week, we are willing to enact another short-term extension of the current law. There has already been discussion of a 6-week extension of the act to give negotiators time to finalize a long-term reauthorization bill. That approach will be satisfactory to this side of the aisle. We do not want the PATRIOT Act to expire. There is no reason it should.

## RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

## EXECUTIVE SESSION

### NOMINATION OF SAMUEL A. ALITO, JR., TO BE AN ASSOCIATE JUSTICE OF THE SUPREME COURT OF THE UNITED STATES

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will proceed to executive session and resume consideration of Calendar No. 490, which the clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read the nomination of Samuel A. Alito, Jr., of New Jersey, to be an Associate Justice of the Supreme Court of the United States.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the time until 10:20 a.m. shall be equally divided.

The Senator from Illinois is recognized.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, will the Chair clarify before the time begins how much time we have now to debate?

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Right now the minority side has 12 minutes, 30 seconds.

Mr. DURBIN. I thank the Chair. If he will be kind enough to notify me when I have reached 6 minutes.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Certainly.

Mr. DURBIN. I ask unanimous consent that Senator SCHUMER be recognized to follow me for the remaining period of time allotted to the Democratic side.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, after voting on war, a vote on a Supreme Court nominee is the most important vote a U.S. Senator can cast. The selection of a Justice to the Supreme Court of the United States is one of those moments when 100 Senators speak for the rights, the hopes, and the dreams of 300 million Americans. Soon this Senate will vote on a lifetime appointment to the Supreme Court for Judge Samuel Alito. Judge Alito is likely to receive more ''no'' votes than any confirmed Supreme Court Justice in the history of the United States, other than Clarence Thomas. Why?

Two reasons: The first is Sam Alito's legal career which separates him from the legal mainstream in America. The second is the judge whom Judge Alito would replace. This is no ordinary vacancy. This is the Sandra Day O'Connor vacancy on the Supreme Court. In case after case during her career, Sandra Day O'Connor has cast the fifth and decisive vote. Her votes helped preserve the constitutional rights that many of us cherish: workers' rights, disability rights, the right to privacy, the separation of church and state, and the principle that in a democracy no man or woman is above the law.

As we prepare to vote for Justice O'Connor's successor, I am reminded of the words of Justice Harry Blackmun. Like Justice O'Connor, Justice Blackmun was a lifelong Republican. He was chosen to write the majority opinion in Roe v. Wade. In his dissent in a 1989 case that narrowed the protections of Roe v. Wade, Justice Blackmun wrote:

> For today, the women of this Nation still retain the liberty to control their destinies. But the signs are evident and very ominous, and a chill wind blows.

I may be wrong about Judge Alito. If I am, no one will be more pleased. But I fear on this January morning in the Senate Chamber, a chill wind blows, a chill wind which will snuff out the dying light of Sandra Day O'Connor's Supreme Court legacy.

When you read his record as a Justice Department lawyer and a Federal judge, it seems unlikely that Justice Alito will preserve Justice O'Connor's respected record of measure and moderation. In case after case during his 15 years on the bench, Judge Alito has consistently sided with powerful special interests, big business, and the heavy hand of government against the individual. In many of these cases, Judge Alito was the lone voice. More than any of the 29 judges with whom he served, Sam Alito stood alone. Rarely did he stand on the side of the poor, the powerless, and the dispossessed.

Over the past several weeks during our hearings, we looked closely at the decisions he rendered. We heard about a case in which Sam Alito wrote a dissent denying a fair trial to an African-American defendant who was forced to stand trial for murder before an all-White jury. We heard about the case in which Judge Alito was the only judge on his court to rule that the Constitution authorized a strip-search of a 10-year-old girl not listed in the search warrant. We heard about a case in which Judge Alito was the only judge on his court to vote to dismiss the case of a mentally retarded man who was the victim of a brutal sexual assault in his workplace. He voted to dismiss this man's case because his lawyer wrote a poor legal brief.

Judge Alito has consistently ruled against those whose lives have been touched by the crushing hand of fate. As an ambitious young lawyer seeking a job with the Reagan administration, Judge Alito wrote flatly:

> The Constitution does not protect a right to an abortion.

As a judge, he voted to uphold a controversial restriction on reproductive freedom, a position later rejected by the Supreme Court and Justice O'Connor.

When I asked Judge Alito at his hearing, is Roe v. Wade settled law in America, he did the Federalist Society shuffle, dancing away from admitting what he really believes. In all his words, never once would he say what John Roberts said, that Roe v. Wade is settled precedent.

With Sam Alito's nomination, when it comes to privacy rights and personal freedom, a chill wind blows for America.

In the area of Executive power, I fear that Judge Alito will do the most damage to our constitutional rights and civil liberties. His history tells us he will be more likely to defer to the President's power than to defend fundamental rights. Judge Alito is a disciple of a controversial theory that gives Presidents extremely broad powers. The so-called unitary executive theory has been cited by the administration in more than 100 bill signings.

What it basically says, according to some of its proponents, is that a President can ignore the laws he doesn't care to follow. I fear that Judge Alito will be an easy ally for this President or any President who seizes more power than the Constitution ever envisioned.

Last Friday I was walking through O'Hare Airport. A woman in an airline employee uniform came by and said hello as she passed. Then she came back to me.

She stopped me and she said: Senator, isn't this Alito thing really about holding a President back from doing things he should not be allowed to do? Isn't this really about checks and balances? It was a wonderful moment, a moment when a person who is busy with their life and family paused to think about the values that make America so unique.

There are some who will cheer the elevation of Judge Alito to the Supreme Court.

Yesterday, the New York Times ran a story with the headline, ''In Alito, G.O.P. Reaps Harvest Planted in '82.'' The article lifted the veil behind the Alito nomination. It revealed that

Judge Alito is among a small group of lawyers who have been precleared by the ultraconservative Federalist Society.

We all remember the fury on the far right when President Bush first nominated Harriet Miers for this opening. Ms. Miers was not one of their chosen few, so they hounded her until the President withdrew her name from consideration.

But the far right is rejoicing with the name of Sam Alito. For the vast majority of Americans, there is no rejoicing. When we look to the Supreme Court as the last refuge for our rights and liberties, Sam Alito is no cause for celebration; he is a cause for great concern.

On this January morning, a chill wind blows.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, how much time remains before I begin?

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. There is 5 minutes 15 seconds remaining.

Mr. SCHUMER. Would it be possible to ask unanimous consent for an additional 2 minutes? I also ask unanimous consent that an additional 2 minutes be given to the other side.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Is there an objection?

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. President, I thought the leaders agreed not to ask for additional time. Otherwise, I would not have an objection. I don't know what Senators Reid and Frist said. They have the time set for an 11 o'clock vote. So I am inclined to object unless——

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. There is objection. The Senator from Illinois is recognized.

Mr. DURBIN. I renew the request. At the risk of being smitten, I think we can afford 4 more minutes on a Supreme Court nominee.

Mr. SESSIONS. I will not object.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The Senator from New York is recognized.

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, in a few minutes, we will vote on the nomination of Judge Samuel Alito to the Supreme Court. In a few hours, we will hear the President tell us about his view of the state of the Union. Without doubt, Judge Alito today has the votes to win confirmation. Without doubt, the President tonight will boast of his nominee's victory in this vote. But I must say that I wish the President were in a position to do more than claim partisan victory tonight. The Union would be better and stronger and more unified if we were confirming a different nominee—a nominee who would have united us more than divided us. Had he chosen such a person, the President could have taken the lectern this evening and rightfully claimed the mantle of leadership in the United States of America. Instead, this is not a day of triumph for anybody except the conservative minority who caused the President to capitulate to their demands when Harriet Miers was not to their liking. There will be more votes against this nominee than on any since Clarence Thomas, who was hardly a unifying figure.

Tonight, when the President announces, to applause, the fact of Judge Alito's confirmation, what he should really hear, because of the partisan nature of his choice, is the sound of one hand clapping. While some may rejoice at Judge Alito's success, millions of Americans will come to know that the lasting legacy of this day will be ever more power for the President and less autonomy for the individual.

While some may exalt at the packing of the Court with yet another reliable, extreme voice in the mold of Scalia and Thomas, millions of Americans will be at risk of losing their day in court when they suffer the yoke of discrimination. Some may celebrate the elevation of a Judge Alito to the Supreme Court, but millions of Americans will suffer the consequences of a jurisprudence that would strip Congress of the power to make their lives better in countless ways.

Why, then, with so many Americans at risk, so many rights at jeopardy, will Judge Alito win confirmation? What does his confirmation mean for the future of the Supreme Court? I have been thinking about this long and hard. It is an important question, and I don't have an easy answer, but I believe several things are clear.

For one thing, even though Judge Alito has demonstrated a record of being well out of the mainstream on a host of issues, my friends from across the aisle dutifully march in rigid lockstep when the President nominates one of their choosing but oppose those who do not share their values and visions. Republican Senators should be aghast at Judge Alito's endorsement of vast Executive power, and they should be alarmed at his rejection of a woman's right to choose.

The hill will be steeper when a nominee evades, as Judge Alito did, answering questions about his core judicial beliefs. All evidence points to the fact that he will still hold his constitutional view that the right to choose is not protected in the Constitution, that he will still believe the Federal Government doesn't have the power to regulate machine guns, and the evidence supported the conclusion that he will turn back the clock on civil rights. But he was clever enough not to say so directly. So that, too, has been a factor.

In the end, there is one more thing at work here. The American people have grown accustomed to the umbrella of protection they have under the Constitution. They are loathe to believe that those rights could, with one nominee, evaporate into thin air. Who can believe it? Who wants to believe it? Even though no nominee since Robert Bork has such a clear record of being opposed to so many things the American people hold dear, the public doesn't want to believe that Judge Alito will remove those protections, even when the record is clear. Who wants to believe that after 40 years, a single nominee to the Supreme Court could eviscerate title VII? Yet that is just what his colleagues on the Third Circuit accused him of attempting to do. Who wants to believe that a single nominee, one so seemingly soft-spoken and erudite, would, with the stroke of a pen, take average Americans' rights away and not give them their day in court?

People naturally don't want to believe the worst. Perhaps people think of Earl Warren and David Souter, who defied their President and did not stroke as hard a line as their benefactors might have hoped. But I say to the American people, the days of Warren and Souter are over. The days of stealth nominees whose views may not match the President are over. That is clear when a small minority pushed the President to withdraw Harriet Miers.

In the coming months and years, we will be watching the Court. We will be watching the votes. We will be watching our two newest Justices. And make no mistake, we will make sure the American people understand the implication of these votes today. Elections do have consequences. But votes such as these also have consequences on future elections, and I believe that when the American people see the actual Court decisions which are rendered by the new Court, they will have a strong and countervailing reaction.

Again, I wish President Bush could tonight claim to lead a united country, but with this nominee and with this vote, sadly, he cannot.

I yield the remainder of my time to the Senator from Alabama.

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. President, I thank the Senator.

Indeed, it has been most distressing to me to see this nominee, the epitome of a restrained, principled and highly respected judge, be portrayed as some sort of extremist. It is beyond my comprehension, frankly. Questions have been raised about different cases. Alito answered each and every one of those questions in front of the Judiciary committee. Senator SCHUMER and I serve on the committee. He was asked about them repeatedly. He was asked 677 questions, and he answered a higher percentage of them than perhaps any judge in history—97.3 percent. A Clinton appointee, Justice Ginsburg, for example, was only asked 384 questions, and she only answered 80 percent of them. Justice Breyer, another Clinton appointee, was asked 355 questions, and he answered 82 percent.

So Judge Alito was most forthcoming. He was asked more questions and grilled and grilled, and he answered them with skill, fairness, and reasonableness. He was unflappable in his testimony and so judicious in his approach to every question. It was a tour de force, a real model of how a judge should perform. I could not be

more proud of him and more proud of President Bush for nominating him.

They say this nomination divides the country. Whom does it divide? It divides the hard left, who wants the Court to eliminate all expression of religion from public life. We see the words ''In God We Trust'' above the door in this Chamber. We had a chaplain open this Senate with prayer. Are we going to have the Supreme Court come in and strike those things down? People are very confused about those issues today. We have people who want to get rid of religion from the public square. They know they cannot achieve this by votes, so they want a judge to do these things. They are not happy with the U.S. Constitution. They want a judge to quote foreign law to reinterpret the words in our statutes and in our Constitution. That is not what the rule of law in America is about.

We have had a lot of extreme cases redefining the meaning of marriage. States have defined marriage since the founding of the Republic. Now all of a sudden we have lifetime-appointed, unelected judges discussing, and some court finding, that the legislature's definition of marriage—people who are responsible to the people, the legislative branch—is not correct. So the judges are now going to reinterpret that definition and make it say what they want it to say. They are going to take people's private property, not for public use, as the Constitution says. Now the court says we can take even poor people's homes so that someone can build a private shopping center. That is not what the Constitution says.

I know of judges who thought it would be better policy if the Constitution said what they want it to, so they just made it say that. But that is not a principled approach to the law; it is not the American approach to law. President Bush said we don't need that kind of judge. We want judges who are faithful and principled to the rule of law. They say Judge Alito is extreme. That is not so. It is an incredibly false charge.

What about the American Bar Association? Those of us on the Republican side have been somewhat critical of them over the years. The ABA is pretty liberal in all of the resolutions it passes. Sometimes it is very liberal. We felt that liberal persuasion infected their evaluation of judicial nominees. But they still evaluate nominees in a very careful way.

The American Bar Association reported to our committee, after surveying 2,000 people, personally interviewing 300, having teams of scholars read all of the writings Judge Alito ever wrote or participated in, and then they voted among themselves. They talked to lawyers who litigated against Judge Alito when he was in practice and judges who served with him and litigants who appeared before him, people who have known him, judges who served with him, and 300 were interviewed in depth. This committee of the American Bar Association—15 of them from all over the country—reviewed all of that. Many of them participated directly in the interviews. Sometimes, people will tell the ABA things they may not tell the newspaper, things that are bad about somebody. They came back with a unanimous conclusion that Judge Alito was entitled to the highest possible rating. The American Bar Association, after a most intensive review, has given him the highest possible rating. Would they have done that if they thought he was an extremist? Would they have done that if they thought some of these cases we have heard about were wrongly decided or extreme in any way? No, they would not. So did his colleagues on the bench. One of the most extraordinary panels of witnesses I have ever seen involved judges who served with him on the Third Circuit, not a rightwing circuit. The Third Circuit, if anything, is considered a moderate to liberal circuit. It is in the Northwest, and Philadelphia is the seat of the Third Circuit. New Jersey is also in that circuit. Judge Alito served on that bench for 15 years.

People have suggested that somehow he is a tool of President Bush. He had a lifetime appointment on the Federal bench in the Third Circuit and has served for 15 years. He has not been a part of any of this terrorism stuff we have heard about or any of these rulings involving the Administration. He hasn't been a part of it at all. He comes to it with all his skills and intelligence as an honored graduate at Princeton and Yale, where he served on the Yale Law Review. He will bring his insight into these cases, which is exactly what we want—an unbiased umpire to deal with the issues.

Mr. Stephen Tober and others explained how one gets a unanimous ABA rating. The American Bar Association panel repeatedly gave him high marks. They said Judge Alito ''has . . . established a record of both proper judicial conduct and evenhanded application in seeking to do what is fundamentally fair.''

One of the three members of the ABA who testified was a civil rights attorney, an African American who represented the University of Michigan in that famous affirmative action quota case. He said this about Alito. He said that all the people they contacted concluded that Judge Alito was held in ''incredibly high regard.''

The ABA witnesses said they were unaware of anyone who has claimed that Alito intentionally did anything wrong with regards to the Vanguard matter that has been raised repeatedly and I guess dropped now since we haven't heard that much about it.

We now hear this interesting argument that we needed Harriet Miers. They are now harkening back to Harriet Miers nomination, claiming the Republicans are at fault for her withdrawal. Not one Republican Senator I am aware of ever said Harriet Miers should not be voted on or said they would vote against Harriet Miers. Some raised questions about her experience, as did Senator SCHUMER, who raised the issue a few moments ago. When Harriet Miers was being considered, Senator SCHUMER said:

> I think there are three places where Harriet Miers yet hasn't sort of met the burden of proof. The first is qualifications, the second is independence, and the third, most importantly, we have to know her judicial philosophy.

So Senator SCHUMER, who is now asking that we have Harriet Miers, was raising serious questions about her a few weeks ago.

She withdrew. She withdrew because she was sitting at the right hand of the President during so many of these matters involving the war on terrorism. The other side had already made clear they were going to demand her personal conversations, her personal documents, her communications with the President, which are legal documents protected by client-attorney privilege. She realized it was going to be a matter that would probably not be acceptable to the Members of the Senate. It would be an uncomfortable process for her, and she withdrew.

Mr. President, what is the remainder of the time on this side?

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator has 5 minutes remaining.

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. President, the case we have heard the most about is Doe v. Groody. The allegation has been made time and again that Judge Alito ordered the strip search of a 10-year-old girl.

I was a prosecutor for nearly 15 years. I read the case. I was at the Judiciary Committee and heard Alito testify. I would like to share some thoughts about that case. The reason I would like to talk about it is because I would like for everyone who is hearing me talk to understand that this is a typical example of distortion and misrepresentations of the actions of Judge Alito. It is so wrong and so biased and so unfair that it ought to embarrass those who made the charges against him. He clearly did the right thing, in my opinion and it has been misrepresented. It is symbolic of what has been said about other cases that I don't have time to talk about at this late date.

In Doe v. Groody, police officers were investigating a drug-dealing group at a certain house. They went to the judge and presented an affidavit to search that house and all persons on the premises. They presented adequate probable cause to believe that a drug-dealing operation was going on in the house, and the judge agreed.

There was a form for a search warrant and that said John Doe was to be searched. In this case, the judge directly incorporated an affidavit attached to the warrant for purposes of probable cause. The affidavit is where officers asserted probable cause to search all persons on the premises. This was a magistrate in a State court

years before Judge Alito ever knew the case existed. He was sitting on the Federal appellate bench at the time.

So officers go out and do a search, and a female police officer takes the mother, along with the 10-year-old child, into the bathroom. She asks them to pull down their trousers and lift up their shirts so that she could detect whether there were any hidden drugs or weapons. They did not take off their undergarments, nor was there any intrusive touching. The female officer saw no drugs hidden on the mother or the girl, and that was the end of that until sometime later when the police officers were sued personally for money damages.

When it came before Judge Alito, he concluded that the affidavit had been made a part of the warrant that asked for the privilege of searching people on the premises, which gave the police officers at least a reasonable basis to believe they had the authority to do so. They got a warrant. They asked for this privilege. They thought, by attaching the affidavit to the warrant that they had the power to search everyone on the premises. I don't know what the right answer is legally, but I do agree with Judge Alito that the police officer could reasonably have felt that they were operating under the law, and should not be personally liable for money damages to some dope dealer.

American police officers need to pay attention to this matter if this is what my colleagues think is bad law. They get sued enough trying to do their duty.

One of the more fabulous panels we ever had, I thought, were colleagues on the bench who served with Judge Alito. Judge Edward Becker has been on the bench for 25 years, the full time that Judge Alito has been on that bench. One of the more respected appellate judges in America said these things about Judge Alito. This is a man they are accusing of being some radical, some extremist. This is what Judge Becker, who has been on the Federal bench for 25 years, said: Sam Alito ''is gentle, considerate, unfailingly polite, decent, kind, patient, and generous. I have never once heard Sam raise his voice, express anger or sarcasm or even try to proselytise. He expresses his views in measured and tempered ways.''

On integrity, Judge Becker says:

> Judge Alito is the soul of honor. I have never seen a chink in the honor of his integrity which I view as total.

On intellect:

> He is brilliant, he is analytical and meticulous and careful in his comments and his written word.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator's time has expired.

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. President, I conclude with these words:

> He is not doctrinaire, but rather open to differing views and will often change his mind in light of the views of a colleague.

This is the man who has been nominated and who is entitled to confirmation by the Senate. I thank the President and yield the floor.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the time from 10:24 a.m. to 10:34 a.m. shall be under the control of the Senator from Vermont.

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I yield to the distinguished Senator from Delaware.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Delaware.

Mr. BIDEN. Mr. President, I will vote no on the nomination of Judge Alito to the Supreme Court for three reasons: first, his expansive view of Executive power; second, his narrow view of the role of the Congress; and third, his grudging reading of antidiscrimination law reflecting a lack of understanding of congressional intent and the nature of discrimination in the 21st century.

First, Judge Alito's expansive view of Presidential power.

In November 2000, Judge Alito said that ''the unitary executive theory . . . best captures the meaning of the Constitution's text and structure.''

Justice Thomas in his Hamdi dissent lays out his views on the power of an unchecked unitary executive to wage war and exercise foreign policy.

Although Judge Alito said his interpretation of the unitary executive was much narrower and that he couldn't recall Justice Thomas using that term, I find Judge Alito's explanation not at all convincing.

I understand the term ''unitary executive'' in the manner in which John Yoo—the administration's legal architect—conceives of executive power.

I asked Judge Alito whether he agreed with Professor Yoo's reasoning that would allow the President under his absolute power—even in the absence of an emergency or imminent threat—to invade another country, to invade Iran tomorrow, no matter what Congress says.

Judge Alito declined to answer this basic, fundamental question.

Traditionally ''conservative'' Justices, such as Robert Jackson, strongly believed in the wisdom of checks and balances.

Judge Alito was asked repeatedly at the hearing about Justice Jackson's famous concurring opinion in the 1952 steel seizure case. During the Korean War, President Truman attempted to nationalize the steel mills in order to avoid a labor work stoppage that would have had negative effects on the war effort. A 6 to 3 Supreme Court ruled against President Truman.

Justice Jackson put it this way about what was at stake:

> [N]o doctrine that the Court could promulgate would seem to me more sinister and alarming than that a President whose conduct of foreign affairs is so largely uncontrolled, and often even is unknown, can vastly enlarge his mastery over the internal affairs of the country by his own commitment of the Nation's armed forces to some foreign venture. . . . That military powers of the Commander in Chief were not to supersede representative government of internal affairs seems obvious from the Constitution and from elementary American history.

Justice Jackson also laid out a three-part framework for how to view subsequent cases in which the President is arguing he's doing something under his Commander in Chief authority—a framework the Rehnquist Court embraced as ''analytically useful'' in the 1981 case of Dames & Moore v. Regan. First, is the instance in which ''the President acts pursuant to an express or implied'' authorization of Congress. Second, ''when the President acts in absence of either a congressional grant or denial of authority.'' And third, when the President takes ''measures incompatible with the expressed or implied will of Congress.''

Judge Alito showed remarkably little appreciation and understanding of this framework, at one point confusing prong two and prong three of Justice Jackson's framework. Judge Alito's record and his answers at the hearing raise great concern that both individual freedoms and the separation of powers are in jeopardy.

In 1984, Judge Alito wrote that he did not ''question the authority that the Attorney General should have absolute immunity'' in cases involving wiretaps. This again signifies a willingness by Judge Alito to give the President and his officers dangerously expansive powers.

At his hearings, Judge Alito tried to distance himself from his previous statement, claiming he was only doing the bidding of his clients. But at the same time, he refused to definitively say that he did not personally believe his previous assertion.

It is also useful to note that we are currently in midst of a potentially endless war. The war on terror is almost 5 years old; and, unfortunately, shows no signs of abating. Will these expansive Presidential powers become a permanent fixture? What kind of powers do we want our President to have in dealing with a war that may go on for decades? Should our courts have no role?

In 1986, Alito drafted a proposal to make full use of presidential signing statements in order to ''increase the power of the Executive to shape the law.'' It was yet another way to increase the power of the executive at the expense of the other branches.

Senator LEAHY asked Judge Alito at the hearing, ''wouldn't it be constitutional for the Congress to outlaw Americans from using torture?'' This is exactly what the Senate attempted to do in voting overwhelmingly on a bipartisan basis to support the so-called McCain anti-torture amendment.

But when this legislation was signed into law by President Bush on December 30, 2005, he issued a ''Presidential signing statement'' stating basically that no matter what me legislation says on its face, he could still order torture in certain circumstances. Specifically, the statement read that the ''executive branch shall construe this [prohibition] in a manner consistent

with the constitutional authority of the President to supervise the unitary executive branch. . . .''

That is what is at stake with ''Presidential signing statements.'' As my colleague Senator LEAHY has pointed out, President Bush has cited the unitary executive 103 times in these ''Presidential signing statements.''

Judge Alito, at this hearing, responded to Senator LEAHY's question about whether Congress could outlaw torture this way:

> Well, Senator, I think the important points are that the President has to follow the Constitution and the laws. . . . But, as to specific issues that might come up, I really need to know the specifics.

To me this is a dangerous nonanswer and one that is entirely consistent with President Bush's use of a signing statement to override Congress's outlawing of torture. The implications are very troubling.

Judge Alito's view of the Executive is what worries me most. He referred to Justice Jackson in the Steel Seizure case many times. But I want to read one, short quote by Justice Jackson.

Justice Jackson said in 1952:

> With all its defects, delays and inconveniences, men have discovered no technique for long preserving free government except that the Executive be under the law, and that the law be made by parliamentary deliberations. Such limitations may be destined to pass away. But it is the duty of the Court to the last, not first, to give them up.

I believe they'll be destined to pass away with this Justice.

To allow the President—whether this one or any future one—to be unconstrained in his or her powers; to be able to pick and choose which laws he or she wants to follow, is unacceptable. The Supreme Court was intended by our Founders to serve as a bulwark against executive overreaching. Any nominee to the Court who doesn't agree is a nominee who should not be confirmed.

Second, Judge Alito has a very narrow view of congressional power.

Judge Alito will very likely join with the present members of the Court who have struck down three dozen federal laws in less than 20 years—laws which said, for example, you can't have guns within 1,000 feet of an elementary school; laws requiring a 5-day background check for a handgun purchase; laws battling violence against women; laws requiring the clean-up of low level nuclear waste; laws designed to ensure freedom of religion; laws saying states can't steal somebody's ideas and inventions.

This recent level of ''conservative'' judicial activism is more than six times the rate over the history of our Republic. Over the first seven decades of the Court's existence, in comparison, only two federal laws were held unconstitutional.

On his 1985 job application, Judge Alito wrote, ''I believe very strongly in . . . federalism''—the principle that has been used by this activist court to knock down Federal law after Federal law.

In an October 27, 1986, draft letter on behalf of Assistant Attorney General for Legislative Affairs, John Bolton, Alito urged President Reagan to veto the ''Truth in Mileage Act.'' Alito drafted these words for President Reagan:

> My Administration believes that the Constitution intended to establish a limited Federal government, one that would not interfere with the vast array of activities that have been in the states' traditional concern. Over time, Congress has taken steps to eviscerate that constitutional scheme by legislating in numerous areas that should be governed by State law.

Judge Alito continued his federalist activism on the bench. As a judge, he has fully embraced—and even aggressively sought to broaden—the Supreme Court's federalism opinions, most centrally in his sole dissenting opinion in the Rybar case.

In that case, Judge Alito called federalism ''vital'' and said that ''even today, the normative case for federalism remains strong.'' The majority of his colleagues in that case sharply criticized Judge Alito's opinion:

> While the dissent writes in the name of 'constitutional federalism' it recognizes that even Lopez abjures such a requirement . . . but overlooks that making such a demand of Congress or the Executive runs counter to the deference that the judiciary owes to its two coordinate branches of government, a basic tenet of the constitutional separation of powers. Nothing in Lopez requires either Congress or the Executive to play Show and Tell with the Federal courts at the peril of invalidation of a Congressional statute.

At his hearings, Judge Alito did nothing to allay concerns that he would continue to push this activist federalism agenda if confirmed to the Supreme Court. For example, he refused to recognize the well-settled nature of some of the Court's bedrock Commerce Clause precedents. And as a Supreme Court Justice, he would no longer be bound to follow these precedents.

When asked about these issues by Chairman SPECTER and others, Judge Alito provided answers that reinforced my view that he has a very low regard for Congress's power to legislate. When Chairman SPECTER asked Judge Alito whether he would ''overturn [] congressional acts because of [Congress's] method of reasoning,'' Judge Alito gave the following answer:

> I think that Congress's ability to reason is fully equal to that of the judiciary.

On its face, that may sound like a good answer; but it's not. Under the rational basis test—a cornerstone of constitutional law—the Supreme Court has greatly deferred to Congress's judgment and reasoning ability.

Under the rational basis test, the Supreme Court has historically and rightfully deferred to Congress's reasoning as to why it did what it did—after all, this is the branch that can hold hearings; the branch that can call witnesses; and the branch that can build a record . . . all things the Court can't do. Judge Alito's answer seems to question this bedrock principle.

What does this mean? What is at stake here? Does Judge Alito agree with those on the intellectual right who are attempting to reverse a healthy consensus going back to the days of the Great Depression that our government can act as a shield to protect Americans from the abuse of powerful interests?

Michael Greve of the American Enterprise Institute puts it straight forwardly:

> I think what is really needed here is a fundamental intellectual assault on the entire New Deal edifice. We want to withdraw judicial support for the entire modern welfare state.

What is at stake if this view gains ascendancy in our Supreme Court?

If the Court is allowed to second-guess congressional judgment, a broad range of vital Federal legislation could potentially hang in the balance.

Can we protect the air we breathe? Can we keep arsenic out of our drinking water? Can we keep tobacco companies from targeting our kids? Can we establish minimum national standards to provide equal opportunity and human dignity for society's most vulnerable members—our elderly, our disabled, women victimized by violence? That is all at stake.

Listen to the debates going on behind these constitutional issues. It's about devolution of government. It is about stripping—as a matter of law—the right of the Federal Government to do much of anything other than provide the national defense.

Justice Thomas has voted to strike down over 65 percent of the Federal laws that have been challenged before the Supreme Court. Justice Thomas wrote in one of his opinions recently, ''If anything, the wrong turn was the Court's dramatic departure in the 1930s.'' What most view as a ''healthy consensus,'' Judge Thomas and others call ''a wrong turn.''

What is at risk if this view of the Constitution ever gained full ascendancy? The Clean Air Act, the Safe Drinking Water Act, the Clean Water Act, and the Endangered Species Act, all rely on the Congress's commerce clause power.

The intellectual right is also determined to elevate private property at the expense of protecting our safety, well-being, and communities. Under their reading of the appropriate language in the Constitution—the takings clause of the fifth amendment—the only way to keep a chemical plant out of your neighborhood would be to compensate the chemical plant to not build because you are taking their property.

Our bedrock civil rights laws are also based on post-1937 constitutional interpretations.

There also could be no Federal minimum wage and no maximum hour laws. We wouldn't be having a debate about increasing the minimum wage because there wouldn't be one.

The consequence of this judicial philosophy is to shift power to the already

powerful and eliminate the ability of the less powerful to use the democratic branches of government to rebalance the playing field.

And the intellectual right understands that in order to shift power, you need to focus on the courts. In 1988, a Reagan Justice Department document stated:

> There are few factors that are more critical to determining the course of the nation and yet are more often overlooked than the values and philosophies of the men and women who populate the third co-equal branch of the government, the federal judiciary.

Obviously, every judge could impact the course of the Nation; but most important are the nine Justices on the United States Supreme Court.

And that is why Judge Alito was selected to our highest Court, a consequence of which will be to threaten Congress's power to protect the American people.

Third, Judge Alito lacks an understanding as to how prejudice plays out in the real world and has a very restrictive view of the antidiscrimination legislation Congress has passed.

Earlier this month, I was thinking about my vote as I was preparing to speak before a Martin Luther King, Jr., event. And I reread his letter from the Birmingham jail.

Everybody was telling him, ''We won. Give it up. Give it up.'' And here is what he wrote, laying out a standard by which to measure ourselves.

Dr. King wrote:

> When you are harried by day and haunted by night by the fact you are Negro, living constantly at tiptoe stance, never quite knowing what to expect next, and are plagued with inner fears and outer resentments; when you [are] forever fighting a degenerating sense of 'nobodiness,' then you will understand why we find it difficult to wait.

We shouldn't wait. We should own up to the fact that prejudice is still around and has evolved. It's not the prejudice of the '60s when they would say, ''we don't want any blacks here,'' or more descriptive terms.

Now it's more subtle. They say, ''we're not sure you'd fit in.'' New words, for old sins.

All public officials, including judges, must understand prejudice still lurks in the shadows. Judge Alito's record demonstrates that he does not look into the shadows.

There is no question Judge Alito has ruled a number of times for the little guy, women, and minorities, but it's mostly in cases where the outcome was clear. When it was a close call, time and again Judge Alito ended up almost inevitably on the other side, many times dissenting from every one of his colleagues looking at the case.

Judge Alito disagreed with all 10 of his colleagues and would have overturned the jury in Barbara Sheridan's case, stating that an employer ''may not wish to disclose his real reasons'' for making personnel decisions.

In another solo dissent, he would have deferred to a corporation's ''subjective business judgment.'' His other colleagues said his approach would ''eviscerate'' antidiscrimination law.

Our courts are where the less powerful are supposed to get a fair shake. Our courts are supposed to safeguard individuals against powerful institutions; they are where a single individual—even one who's not wealthy or well-connected—is on the same footing as a powerful corporation.

I focused on discrimination cases to try to find out how Judge Alito reasoned. What I found troubled me, as did how he reasoned in other cases I asked him about, including the Family and Medical Leave Act case.

Judge Alito told me that he ''can't know everything about the real world.'' So, in this case, he discounted any gender-related connection to the sick leave provisions, despite the fact that one in four people taking sick leave under the Act were women with difficult pregnancies, and one of the reasons we wrote the law was because we know about the stereotyping of women.

Now, I don't think Judge Alito is a bad guy, but it is clear he has a blind spot; a dangerous blind spot for millions of Americans who still suffer from discrimination and stereotypes—however subtle or sophisticated.

To my colleagues who would say it is inappropriate to look at the judicial philosophy or substantive rulings of our nominees to the Supreme Court, I would ask the following rhetorical question. Can you imagine on that hot, steamy Philadelphia summer in 1787, with the Founders sitting on the second floor so no one could hear what they were doing; can you imagine them saying, by the way, we are going to have three coequal branches of government. Two of them will be scrutinized by the American people, and the presumption will be that they are not entitled to the office unless a majority of the people conclude they should hold the office. But as for the third branch, all we want to know is are they honorable, decent, and straightforward?

It is also useful to point out that it is right to subject nominees to the Supreme Court to more exacting standards than nominees to the lower courts, for as the highest court in the land, the Supreme Court dictates the judicial precedents that all lower courts are bound to respect.

As a result, there are hundreds of lower court nominees I would neither have personally nominated nor would have voted for confirmation to the Supreme Court, but whom I did support for lower courts.

But the Supreme Court is different. Because the Supreme Court is not bound by precedent in the way lower courts are—a point Judge Alito agreed to at his hearing—the judicial philosophy of Supreme Court nominees is not only fair game; it is crucial. This is the reason I have voted against a much higher percentage of Supreme Court nominees than lower court nominees during my time in the Senate, from Bork to Thomas, from Rehnquist to Roberts.

It is also important to remember that we currently have a Justice serving on the Supreme Court nominated by President Ford. We even have judges still serving in the lower courts appointed by Presidents Kennedy and Eisenhower. From the early 1800s, in fact, the average time federal judges spend on the bench has increased from 15 years to 24 years. By that count, a Justice Alito may still be handing down decisions in the year 2030.

Judge Alito, like Justice Thomas before him, has supported the theories of strict construction and originalism. He stated:

> I think we should look to the text of the Constitution and we should look to the meaning that someone would have taken from the text of the Constitution at the time of its adoption.

According to originalist logic, many Supreme Court decisions that are fundamental to the fabric of our country are simply wrong. Perhaps even more importantly, how would a Justice Alito deal with the big issues of the future: for instance, can microscopic tags be implanted in a person's body to track his every movement? Can patents be issued for the creation of human life? Can brain scans be used to determine whether a person is inclined toward criminal behavior? What about the questions we can't even conceive of from this vantage point?

Twenty or 30 years into the future, what would a Justice Alito be saying about important issues of the day? That is what makes today's vote so momentous.

And when I look at all the evidence before us—Judge Alito's writings, his statements, his judicial records, his opinions, and the little we learned about him in these hearings—I am forced to conclude that he should not serve on the Supreme Court. That is why I am voting no.

I yield the floor and thank my colleague.

Mr. KOHL. Mr. President, I rise today after a thorough examination of the nomination of Judge Samuel Alito, Jr., to the Supreme Court. After that thorough examination, I cannot support the nomination of Judge Alito to the Supreme Court. I fear that a Justice Alito will narrow our rights, limit our freedoms, and overturn decades of progress. To confirm Judge Alito to the Supreme Court would be to gamble with our liberties, a bet I fear the Constitution—and the American people—would lose.

Generations of Americans have looked to the Supreme Court as more than a simple legal tribunal asked to decide cases and controversies. Rather, we expect the Supreme Court to guard our liberties, protect our rights, and—where appropriate—expand our freedoms.

This process of bringing life to the promises of the Constitution has never

moved predictably—or smoothly. As Martin Luther King, Jr., once noted, ''Human progress is neither automatic nor inevitable. Every step toward the goal of justice requires . . . the tireless exertions and passionate concern of dedicated individuals.'' Throughout American history, those ''dedicated individuals'' have fought on many battlegrounds—from the steps of the White House and Congress, to the dangerous back roads traveled by the Freedom Riders. And somehow the fight always leads to the Supreme Court—it is there that these brave individuals have found refuge and, through their victories, changed America for the better.

Many of these victories are now identified with individuals through familiar case names: Brown v. Board of Education, Gideon v. Wainwright, Baker v. Carr and Miranda v. Arizona. Judge Alito has stated his allegiance to the principles of these cases—and we are grateful for that. But we would expect any nominee to any court in this land to agree that schools should not be segregated and votes should count equally. That is a starting point. But we must dig much deeper to discover whether Judge Alito should serve as an Associate Justice on the Supreme Court of the United States.

We must ask ourselves: how will Judge Alito view the next ''dedicated individuals'' who come before him seeking justice? What of the next Brown? The next Gideon? We do not consider Judge Alito for a seat on the bench in 1954 or 1965 but, rather, in 2006, and possibly 2036. Given his narrow judicial philosophy—on display throughout his legal career—Judge Alito is unlikely to side with the next ''dedicated individual.''

This narrow judicial philosophy is clear, for example, in his views on civil rights. In his now famous 1985 job application, he took issue with the Warren Court decisions that established one-person/one-vote, Miranda rights, and protections for religious minorities. These statements leave the clear impression that his antagonism toward these decisions—decisions that helped religious and racial minorities receive protection from majority abuses—motivated Judge Alito's pursuit of the law.

While Judge Alito claimed that he was merely describing his opinions as a young man, his judicial opinions suggest a more well-formed philosophy of limited rights and restricted civil liberties.

He was in the extreme minority of judges around the country when he found that Congress has no ability to regulate machine guns. His efforts to strike down portions of the Family and Medical Leave Act were rejected by then-Chief Justice Rehnquist. He raised the bar to unreachable heights repeatedly in employment discrimination cases, to the point where the majority of his court concluded that he was attempting to ''eviscerate'' the laws entirely.

His restrictive view of constitutional liberties was echoed in his thoughts about a woman's right to choose. In a 1985 job application, he expressed a legal view that there was no such right and worked hard to craft a legal strategy that would chip away at—and ultimately—eliminate that right from the Constitution.

When asked about this, Judge Alito has said—in essence—that was then and this is now. Yet even years after his work for the Reagan administration, his narrow views on privacy echoed throughout his opinion in Planned Parenthood v. Casey. He would have placed more restrictions on a woman's freedom than other conservative judges—including the woman he seeks to replace on the Supreme Court.

Even today, Judge Alito is unwilling to declare that Roe v. Wade is ''settled law''—a pronouncement that Chief Justice Roberts made with ease. Judge Alito affirmed that one person/one-vote, integrated schools, and some privacy rights were settled, but not a woman's right to choose.

In addition, Judge Alito's decisions call into question our right to be free of police intrusion and government power. For example, Judge Alito, in disagreement with his colleagues in the Reagan Justice Department, argued that the police acted reasonably in shooting—and killing—a fleeing, unarmed, teenage suspect. In many opinions as a judge, he deferred reflexively to the police in cases involving the interpretation of search warrants—including one permitting the strip search of a 10-year-old-girl.

At a time in our history when the balance between our security and our civil liberties requires the active involvement of the courts, Judge Alito's deference to Presidential power concerns us. He promoted the radical idea of a ''unitary executive''—the concept that the President is greater than, not equal to, the other branches of Government. Judges are meant to protect us from unlawful surveillance and detention—not simply abide the President's wishes.

Although it is the most important standard, judicial philosophy is not the only measure of a nominee. We had hoped that Judge Alito would have been able to satisfy the concerns we had with his record at his hearing. Instead, he chose to avoid answering many of our questions. His inability or unwillingness to answer those questions in even the most general manner did a disservice to the country and to his nomination.

For example, when questioned on his support for Judge Bork—calling him ''one of the most outstanding nominees of the century''—Judge Alito answered that he was just supporting the administration's nominee.

When questioned about his membership in the Concerned Alumni of Princeton, he said he could not remember this group—despite citing it with pride in a job application.

When questioned about whether Bush v. Gore should have been heard by the Supreme Court, Judge Alito said that he had not thought about it as a judge and did not have an opinion.

In each of the six Supreme Court nominations that I have voted on, I have used the same test of judicial excellence. Justices Souter, Breyer, Ginsburg, and Roberts passed that test. Judge Alito does not.

Judge Alito's record as a professional—both as a Justice Department official and as a judge—reflects something more than a neutral judicial philosophy. Instead, it suggests a judge who has strong views on a variety of issues, and uses the law to impose those views.

Judge Alito has the right to see, read, and interpret the Constitution narrowly. And we have the obligation to decide whether his views have a place on the Supreme Court. I have decided they do not, and so I will oppose Judge Alito's nomination today.

## NOMINATION OF JUDGE SAMUEL ALITO TO THE U.S. SUPREME COURT

Mr. AKAKA. Mr. President, I rise today in opposition to the confirmation of Judge Samuel Alito as an Associate Justice of the United States. In the months since President George W. Bush nominated Judge Samuel Alito as an Associate Justice on the U.S. Supreme Court, I have carefully considered his record. I evaluated his long history of government service and his work on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit, and I have closely followed his confirmation hearings.

When I review all the evidence before me, I do not believe Judge Alito will be able to fairly apply the principles embodied in the U.S. Constitution. Our Constitution sets forth important civil rights and privacy protections that are fundamental to our way of life today. In recent years, these freedoms have been precariously protected by a delicate balance on the Supreme Court, with Justice O'Connor frequently tipping the scales in favor of the civil rights and privacy protections that so many Americans depend upon. I am disheartened by the reality that so many of these freedoms will likely be eroded when Judge Alito joins the Court.

Judge Alito's approach to the law is not merely conservative, it is extreme. Judge Alito's opinions in race and gender employment discrimination cases have crafted a restrictive interpretation of civil rights laws that would make it much more difficult for women and minorities to prevail or even receive a jury trial. I am also troubled by Judge Alito's statement in his infamous 1985 job application that he was ''particularly proud'' of his work in the Reagan administration, where he counseled the administration to restrict affirmative action and limit remedies for racial discrimination.

I cherish our system of checks and balances in Government, where each branch of the Government is coequal with the other. I believe that it is critical that this balance, which our forefathers so wisely and carefully created, is protected and maintained. However, Judge Alito supports the ''unitary executive'' theory, an expansive view of Presidential powers that he and his colleagues set forth while working in the Office of Legal Counsel of the Reagan Justice Department. Since joining the Third Circuit, Judge Alito made it clear that he still holds the premise of the ''unitary executive'' theory to be true, and this approach concerns me, especially in this political climate. This approach also undermines Congress's authority to protect the public. Judge Alito has ruled that Congress did not have the authority to pass the Family Medical Leave Act or to enact a Federal ban on the possession or transfer of machine guns. In both cases, the Supreme Court disagreed with Judge Alito's conclusions and upheld these protections, demonstrating that Judge Alito's opinions are not in the mainstream.

I take my responsibility to provide advice and consent seriously. I cannot support Judge Alito's nomination. Unfortunately, Judge Alito is expected to be confirmed as Justice Sandra Day O'Connor's replacement. This means he will be in the position to affect a number of critical issues in the coming years. Important questions on privacy, the environment, Presidential power, and women's reproductive rights will all come before the Court to be resolved. With Judge Alito sitting on the Supreme Court, I am very concerned about the direction the Court will take our great Nation. Although during his hearings Judge Alito promised that he would not legislate from the bench, his record indicates otherwise. For the sake of our country, I am hopeful that Judge Alito will take seriously his commitments to uphold the principles of our Constitution.

Ms. CANTWELL. Mr. President I rise to discuss the nomination of Judge Samuel A. Alito, Jr., to the Supreme Court to the United States.

After closely and carefully studying his record and recent testimony before the Judiciary Committee, I have decided to vote against Judge Alito's confirmation to the Supreme Court of United States.

Of course, it is vital that any lifetime appointee to the highest court in the Nation possess the breadth of experience and character necessary to review the most significant, complex, and far-reaching legal questions of our time.

But that is not enough. I see disappointing and clear evidence in Judge Alito's long record, rulings, and statements of dangerously skewing the balance and relationship between our branches of Government. I do not expect any nominee to the Supreme Court to predict and promise with certainty how he or she will rule in any and all future cases.

But I do expect nominees to make clear that they would protect the most basic rights of individuals and the fundamental structure and foundations of our democracy. Yet I cannot be sure that Judge Alito would do either. Indeed, I question whether he would show due respect for the authority of Congress or apply a necessary check to the reach of the executive.

Serving as that check has long been one of the Court's most solemn obligations. Today, that role is more important than ever. We have seen evidence of a National Security Agency's eavesdropping program operating in question of a legal framework and without due oversight. We are seeing literally, in wartime, a President reach without probable cause or warrant at the expense of individual rights and the most basic protections of the Constitution. Yet it is a question whether Judge Alito would adequately control that reach.

Judge Alito has a record of concern when it comes to placing and consolidating the rights of the government over the rights of the individual. Consider, for example, how Judge Alito would give virtually unfettered authority to the police to trample on the clear privacy protections given to every American as demonstrated in his 2004 dissent in Doe v. Groody. In this case he would have upheld the strip search of a 10-year-old girl and her mother, despite the fact that they were not suspected of any crime nor named in any search warrant.

When asked at his hearing about this case, and his minority opinion, Judge Alito repeatedly sought to portray it as ''a rather technical issue,'' a question of whether the police affidavit should be incorporated into the warrant itself, and suggested that the police were operating under time pressure.

These claims are inconsistent with the facts, as made clear by Judge Alito's colleague, then-Judge Michael Chertoff, now Secretary of Homeland Security. According to Judge Chertoff, the approach advocated by Alito in Groody ''might indeed transform the judicial officer into little more than the cliche 'rubber stamp.''' The American people deserve a Supreme Court Justice who understands how important privacy rights are to all Americans, even the most vulnerable. They deserve more than just a rubber stamp.

History shows that our courts have often stood up to Presidential overreaching during wartime: protecting the right of habeas corpus during the Civil War; forbidding the president from authorizing domestic warrantless wiretaps during the Cold War; and in the War on Terror by an 8-to-1 margin, the Supreme Court held that the President cannot indefinitely detain American citizens without allowing them to challenge their detentions before a neutral decisionmaker, another power this administration had claimed.

Worse still, in areas where precedent is sparse or dated—such as the war on terror and the executive's power to carry it out—Judge Alito's record and testimony suggests that he is far more likely to defer to the ideological ambitions of our President than the protection and rights of our citizens.

To be sure, there is nothing wrong with an aggressive executive, especially at times of great peril. An aggressive executive, however, also requires a strong and functional Congress, the responsive voice of the people. I have questions, however, if Judge Alito's rulings will narrowly define the law and therefore threaten the authority and ability of Congress to govern effectively and affirmatively.

Writing in Chittister v. Department of Community & Economic Development, Judge Alito wrote that parts of the Family and Medical Leave Act, FMLA, which allow employees to leave when they or family members are seriously ill, were not applicable against the States. When passing the legislation Congress had identified the importance of both men and women in caring for young children and family members with serious health conditions.

Congress also pointed to the burden that family caretaking imposes on women. But Judge Alito denied those findings. He saw no ''existence, much less the prevalence, in public employment of personal sick leave practices that amounted to intentional gender discrimination in violation of the Equal Protection Clause.''

This view essentially deflated Congress's ability to defend civil rights. He wrote: ''Even if there were relevant findings or evidence, the FMLA provisions at issue here would not be congruent or proportional. Unlike the Equal Protection Clause, which the FMLA is said to enforce, the FMLA does much more than require nondiscriminatory sick leave practices; it creates a substantive entitlement to leave. This is 'disproportionate to any unconstitutional conduct that conceivably could be targeted by the Act.'''

The Supreme Court later rejected Alito's position on the FMLA.

Ultimately, the Commerce clause is about understanding Congress's power to protect our families and its ability to respond to threats that immediately affect those families. In February, for example, the Court is scheduled to hear arguments on the scope of the commerce clause in two critical cases that could restrict the geographic jurisdiction of the Clean Water Act to one percent of its current coverage.

In my State, we know how fragile our precious natural resources can be. The Pacific Northwest is blessed with incredible beauty. But habitat loss and other pressures threaten some of my State's most iconic species, salmon that spawn our great rivers and birds that depend on old growth forests.

We also know that how we treat those resources and that wildlife speaks to our priorities as a people and a nation. How do we value our communities and ensure their safety? How do

we honor an individual's freedom and his or her rights?

While I do not expect any judicial nominee to prejudge future cases, I do expect all nominees to make their positions clear on protecting the most basic rights of individuals and the fundamental structure and foundations of our democracy. In the end, I cannot be sure that Judge Alito would do either.

As I mentioned earlier, I believe that Judge Alito has a record of concern when it comes to placing and consolidating the rights of the government over the rights of the individual, and he has not provided the answers to adequately reassure the people of our Nation. I must conclude that he would neither show due respect for the authority of Congress nor apply a necessary check to the reach of the executive. With great respect for the institution, I cannot vote to confirm Judge Alito to the Supreme Court of the United States.

Mr. CHAFEE. Mr. President, President Bush has nominated Judge Samuel Alito to replace Justice Sandra Day O'Connor on the Supreme Court. Justice O'Connor has had a remarkable career of public service. Her strong and moderate voice on the Supreme Court will be missed. I was lucky to get to socialize with her and her husband through mutual acquaintances and recommend her book about growing up on a ranch in arid Arizona—The Lazy B. She is an exceptional person.

As is the custom, Judge Alito sought a meeting with any Senator so interested. For our meeting, I suggested the Capitol steps and he agreed since it was a warm sunny day. I thought it was appropriate to be visually connected to two of the three branches of government as we talked about constitutional issues. If confirmed, the decisions he will make on the Supreme Court will affect the lives of Americans profoundly.

Judge Alito has outstanding legal credentials and an inspiring life story. However, I am greatly concerned about his philosophy on some important constitutional issues. In particular, I carefully examined his record on executive power, women's reproductive freedoms and the commerce clause of article 1, section VIII of the Constitution.

On executive power, it is likely that cases dealing with the fourth amendment will be heard by the Supreme Court. The fourth amendment reads:

> The right of the people to be secure in their persons, houses, papers, and effects, against unreasonable searches and seizures, shall not be violated, and no Warrants shall issue, but upon probable cause, supported by Oath or affirmation, and particularly describing the place to be searched, and the persons or things to be seized.

To me this language is very clear that a warrant is required for a search. That premise is now being questioned regarding warrantless wiretaps.

At the Judiciary Committee hearings, Judge Alito was asked a question on executive powers and warrantless wiretapping. He said he would have to determine ''whether the President's power, inherent powers, the powers given to the President under article 2 are sufficient, even taking away congressional authorization, the area where the President is asserting a power to do something in the face of explicit congressional determination to the contrary''.

The only power in article 2 that Judge Alito could be referring to would be:

> The President shall be Commander in Chief of the Army and Navy of the United States. . . .

Judge Alito was also asked ''. . . is it possible under your construct that an inherent Constitutional power of the President could, under some analysis or some case, override what people believe to be a Constitutional criminal statue?'' Judge Alito responded that this was possible, noting a ''possibility that that might be justified''.

How far do we want Commander in Chief stretched? As Justice O'Connor wrote in a recent case, ''a state of war is not a blank check for the President when it comes to the rights of the Nation's citizens''.

On the issue of Roe v. Wade as with other issues, I am less interested in what Judge Alito wrote or said as a lawyer for his client the Reagan Administration, than how he has ruled as a judge and how he testified at his nomination hearing. As an appellate court judge, Judge Alito was the lone dissenter on Planned Parenthood v. Casey, a court case reviewing the Pennsylvania Abortion Control Act.

The Supreme Court wrote on this landmark affirmation of Roe v. Wade:

> These matters, involving the most intimate and personal choices a person may make in a lifetime, choices central to personal dignity and autonomy, are central to the liberty protected by the Fourteenth Amendment. At the heart of liberty is the right to define one's own concept of existence, of meaning, of the universe, and of the mystery of human life. Beliefs about these matters could not define the attributes of personhood were they formed under compulsion of the state.

The five majority Justices, who wrote that, were all Republican appointees: two Reagan appointees, one each of Bush ''41'', Ford and Nixon.

An important standard of law is the concept of stare decisis—it stands decided. At the hearing Chairman SPECTER asked Judge Alito to discuss his view of stare decisis. He responded:

> It's not an inexorable command, but it is a general presumption that courts are going to follow prior precedents''. In the Supreme Court dissent on Casey, the justices who arguably wanted to overturn Roe v. Wade wrote ''stare decisis is not . . . a universal inexorable command.

Not only did Judge Alito rule in favor of the Pennsylvania Abortion Control Act as a lower court judge, he used the same language as the high court dissenters at his Supreme Court nomination hearing. Stare decisis is not an inexorable command.

Additionally, at his nomination hearing Judge Roberts was willing to call Roe v. Wade ''settled law'' but Judge Alito refused to make a similar statement.

The last point I would like to make concerning constitutional law is on the commerce clause. As you know the Constitution creates a Government of limited power—Congress can only enact legislation in areas that are specifically set out under the Constitution. Congress is expressly prohibited from enacting legislation in other areas, leaving this authority to the States per the tenth amendment:

> The powers not delegated to the United States by the Constitution . . . are reserved to the States respectively, or to the people.

Every law enacted by Congress must be based on one of the powers enumerated in the Constitution. The Framers of the Constitution gave Congress broad power to regulate immigration, national security and economic activity between the states, and left most other power with the States.

However, section VIII of article 1 states that ''the Congress shall have the power to regulate Commerce . . . among the several states''. This is the commerce clause and it is the most powerful provision in the Constitution providing Congress the authority to enact legislation in a host of areas—including environmental protection. A key Supreme Court case regarding the commerce clause was in 1942 when the Supreme Court upheld legislation that allowed USDA to set quotas on local wheat growing. The Court noted that while crops regulated may never actually enter into interstate commerce, such local activity, coupled with similar activity in other States as an aggregate has a direct impact on interstate commerce. Since then using the ''aggregate effects test'' or ''substantial effects test'' Congress has passed broad ranging environmental legislation such as the Clean Air Act, Clean Water Act and the Endangered Species Act, all of which were signed into law by Republican President Nixon.

While I agree there should be constitutional limits on legislative power, Judge Alito seems to have agreed with Justice Thomas who wrote:

> I believe we must further reconsider our substantial effects test with an eye toward constructing a stand that reflects the text and history of the Commerce Clause.

Indeed in a dissent to a gun case heard before his court Judge Alito wrote:

> In sum, we are left with no appreciable empirical support for the proposition that the purely intrastate possessions of machine guns, by facilitating the commission of certain crimes, has a substantial effect on interstate commerce, and without such support I do not see how the statutory provision at issue here can be sustained.

What is noteworthy in this dissent is that Judge Alito was alone with all members of his appeals court ruling the other way.

If ''the aggregate or substantial effects tests'' are overruled as Justice

Thomas has advocated, federal environmental laws could be ruled unconstitutional. Indeed on February 21, the Court is scheduled to hear arguments on two cases, Carabell v. United States and United States v. Rapanos.

In both cases the lower court upheld protection of wetlands, which are currently protected under the Clean Water Act. Environmentalists argue that these wetlands are critical to the health of our nation's water supply and wildlife habitat.

Industry groups argue that the Army Corps of Engineers has no authority under the Clean Water Act to regulate ''isolated wetlands'' that have no connection with ''navigable waters.'' This would be a major setback to the Clean Water Act.

The critical issue is whether under the commerce clause, Congress has the authority to regulate non-navigable bodies of water within a single State. Based on the writing of Judge Alito, he would appear to side with the faction what would greatly limit the ability of Congress to protect such ''intrastate'' issues.

These constitutional issues, the scope of executive power, women's reproductive freedoms and the commerce clause are likely to be heard by the Supreme Court in the coming months. I care deeply about these issues.

Believe me, having been an executive in government, I want to support President Bush's choice to the Supreme Court. The President did win the election. He has made his promises and I have made mine.

I am a pro-choice, pro-environment, pro-Bill of Rights Republican and I will be voting against this nomination.

Ms. LANDRIEU. Mr. President, confirmation of a Supreme Court Justice is one of the most important duties the Senate performs under the Constitution. We should consider the nomination of Judge Alito carefully and conduct our debate on this nominee with dignity and respect.

The Supreme Court is the final arbiter of whether the laws of our land conform to the Constitution. Once confirmed to the Court, Justices serve for life, beholden only to the Constitution and the rule of law. It is an awesome responsibility; and for such an important event, we must have a confirmation process fitting of that responsibility. Too often in recent years, we have not.

Though the judicial branch of our government is supposed to be independent of politics, the nomination and confirmation process has become far too political to the point that it no longer serves the Nation's interests, regardless of partisan or philosophical differences.

Judge Alito, whom I have met and found to be an honorable, intelligent man, was placed in the unfortunate position of having been selected as a result of this process. As my colleagues know, he was not the President's first choice to fill Justice Sandra Day O'Connor's seat. John Roberts was. After his nomination was switched to become Chief Justice, Harriet Miers became the President's second choice. After she was attacked by members of the President's own party, her nomination was withdrawn. Again, politics prevailed.

Judge Alito's nomination was the President's third choice for this seat and, in many ways, a gesture to the organized interest groups of the President's party who had derailed Ms. Miers' nomination. Unfortunately, it was a nomination of, by, and for politics.

This highly charged political process spilled over into the confirmation hearings before the Judiciary Committee. To secure confirmation, Judge Alito said as little as possible. The strategy was clear: hide, don't explain or embrace, your judicial philosophy.

The Supreme Court nomination and confirmation process has become a game of hide-the-ball. It is a process that does not help to inform Senate deliberations, and it sadly leaves the American people uninformed about who will be sitting on this highest of American courts until it may be too late.

The chairman and ranking member of the Judiciary Committee are not to blame for what has happened to the confirmation process. I also thank Judge Alito for his willingness to appear before the committee for as long as he did. But the entire process is clearly not what the Framers of our Constitution intended. No one in America should be afraid to speak his or her mind openly and honestly. The American people are poorly served by a process that places tactical politics above guiding principle.

If confirmed, Judge Alito will replace one of the most important justices on the Court today, Sandra Day O'Connor. Justice O'Connor is a conservative, appointed by a conservative President. Over time, she became a consensus builder on the Court who took great pains to strike a careful balance in her opinions, never forgetting that the Court's decisions have real consequences for real people. She was open-minded and independent. Her influence on the Court was tremendous and her reasoning always carried great weight. She did not prejudge cases and applied the law to the facts in a fair manner.

Justice O'Connor, who was appointed by President Reagan, was a swing vote on a number of important decisions. Whether you or I agree with her individual opinions or not, I think she acted responsibly: someone committed to equal justice under the law, who applied the law to the facts as presented to her and did not ''overreach'' from the bench. She showed proper respect for the legislative branch and was careful not to cater to Executive authority.

While Samuel Alito has solid qualifications to become a Supreme Court Justice, it is our duty to look deeper. Though we can never know how a Justice will decide a case before it is presented and argued, it is important to know, during the confirmation process, which principles of judicial philosophy will underlie a potential Justice's future constitutional interpretations. We can give advice and consent to a Supreme Court nomination without this information or these insights, as this Senate is about to do. But without this information and these insights, we cannot give informed advice or informed consent.

It was never intended that the Senate be a rubberstamp, approving everyone the President nominated simply because he sent them to us. The Framers expected Senators to bring wisdom and understanding to the task, not to simply check off boxes on an application form.

Judge Alito's record gives me cause for concern. And his testimony during the confirmation hearings unfortunately did very little to lessen that concern. His opinions and dissents on the bench leave open very serious questions as to how he views fundamental civil rights for all Americans and how he views protecting the individual rights of average citizens, especially when they are threatened by powerful forces, including the government itself. Judge Alito's nonanswers to so many questions presented to him at the confirmation hearing added to those troubling concerns.

I have voted for conservative judges nominated by Republican Presidents many times. John Roberts was the most recent. But I must oppose this nomination. I want my vote against confirmation to send a signal to all who care that the Supreme Court nomination process has become far too political and far too removed from the original purposes set forth by the Framers of the Constitution.

It is time for all of us, Republicans and Democrats of every possible philosophical persuasion, to stand up against a process that so poorly serves the people of the States we represent in this great body.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Vermont is recognized.

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, on this rainy morning in our Nation's Capital, we just learned the sad news of the passing of Coretta Scott King. We are reminded again of the crucial role our courts played in making real the promises of our national charter, the Constitution. It was the courts to whom Dr. Martin Luther King spoke, and they responded.

The Nation mourns the loss of another civil rights leader and is reminded again of the vital role our courts play as the place where ordinary Americans can turn for justice when justice is denied them. Coretta Scott King and her late husband, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., put their lives on the line to bring those promises to untold millions of Americans. Let us never

squander or take for granted all that has been achieved. Let us keep their dream alive.

That is why, since this debate began last Wednesday, I posed the fundamental question this nomination raises: whether the Senate is going to serve its constitutional role as a check on the President by preserving the Supreme Court as a constitutional check on the expansion of Presidential power.

This nomination now before us is an unacceptable threat to the fundamental rights and liberties for all Americans now and for generations to come. This President is in the midst of a radical realignment of the powers of the Government and its intrusiveness into the private lives of Americans.

I am concerned that if confirmed, this nominee is going to further erode the checks and balances that have protected our constitutional rights for more than 200 years. This is a crucial nomination, one that can tip the balance of the Supreme Court radically away from constitutional checks and balances and from the protection of Americans' fundamental rights.

The vote that the Senate is about to take has real consequences, not just for the 100 of us in this body but for 295 million Americans. We stand in their shoes. We stand in the shoes of generations to come. The vote will determine whether Samuel Alito, Jr., replaces Justice Sandra Day O'Connor on the Supreme Court of the United States. A vote for this nomination is a vote against constitutional checks and balances. A vote for this nomination is a vote against maintaining the fundamental rights and liberties of ordinary Americans.

Republican Senators have pretended that judicial philosophy and personal views do not matter because judges simply apply the rule of law, as if it were some mechanical calculation. Personal views and judicial philosophy often come into play on close and controversial cases. We all know this to be true. Why else did Republican supporters force President Bush to withdraw his previous nominee for this vacancy, Harriet Miers, before she even had a hearing? It mattered to them when the nominee was Harriet Miers. And it matters now. The only difference is that those who hounded Harriet Miers to withdraw are confident that Judge Alito will pass their litmus tests. Harriet Miers failed their litmus tests because, despite all the backroom whispers and public winks and nods, her conservative opponents were not confident that she would rule the way they wanted. Those from among the President's supporters who castigated Ms. Miers wanted certain results. The President allowed his choice to be vetoed by an extreme faction within his party, before hearings or a vote. As Chairman SPECTER has said, they ran her out of town on a rail. Like the more than 60 moderate and qualified judicial nominees of President Clinton on whom Republicans would neither hold hearings or votes—by what was in essence a pocket filibuster. They do not want an independent federal judiciary. They want certain results.

The President says he is fulfilling a campaign promise. I remind him of his biggest campaign promise to be a uniter and not a divider. He could have nominated so many people who would have united this country, would have gotten 90 to 100 votes in the Senate. Republicans and Democrats would have felt united, and the country would have felt united. But instead of uniting the country through his third choice—and this was his third choice—to succeed Justice O'Connor, the President has chosen to reward a faction of his party at the risk of dividing the country.

Those so critical of his choice of Harriet Miers were the very people who rushed to endorse the nomination of Judge Alito. Unlike what has been said on this floor, the criticism of his choice of Harriet Miers came from the Republican Party. But instead of rewarding his most virulent supporters, the President should have rewarded the American people for the unifying choice that would have broad support.

Think how much better America could have done. America can do better if we have consultation—here we didn't have it—to select one of the many consensus conservative Republican candidates who could have overwhelmingly been approved by the Senate.

Judge Alito was asked at the hearing how he got to this nomination. I think we understand the real answer to that question. It has little to do with Judge Alito's family story and a great deal to do with the pressures that forced the President to withdraw the nomination of Harriet Miers and this President's efforts to avoid any check on his expansive claims of additional powers.

This is a President who has been conducting secret and warrantless eavesdropping on Americans for more than 4 years. This President has made the most expansive claims of powers since America's patriots fought the War for Independence to rid themselves of the overbearing power of King George III. He has done so to justify illegal spying on Americans without the essential check of judicial oversight to justify actions that violate our values and laws against torture and protecting human rights, and in order to detain U.S. citizens and others on his say-so—just on his say-so—without any judicial review or due process. This is a time in our history when the protections of Americans' liberties are at risk, as are the checks and balances that have served to constrain abuses of power for more than 200 years.

The President wanted a reliable Justice who would uphold his assertions of power, his most extreme supporters want someone who will revisit the constitutional protection of privacy rights, and his business supporters wanted somebody favorable to powerful special interests.

A Supreme Court nomination should not be conducted through a series of winks and nods designed to reassure the most extreme factions while leaving the American people in the dark. No President should be allowed to pack the courts, but especially the Supreme Court, with nominees selected to enshrine Presidential claims of Government power. The checks and balances that should be provided by the courts, Congress, and the Constitution are too important to be sacrificed to a narrow, partisan agenda. A Democratic-controlled Senate stood up to Democratic President Franklin Roosevelt when he proposed a Court-packing scheme. The Senate acted as the Senate should and so rarely does today, to say ''no'' to a President. I will not lend my support to an effort by this President to undermine our constitutional checks and balances or to move the Supreme Court radically to the right.

The Supreme Court belongs to all Americans, not just the person occupying the White House, not just to a narrow faction of a political party. The President continues to choose confrontation over consensus and to be a divider rather than the uniter he promised Americans he would be. Rather than sending us a nominee for all Americans, the President chose a divisive nominee who raises grave concerns about whether he would be a check on Presidential power and whether he understands the role of the courts in protecting fundamental rights.

The Supreme Court is the ultimate check and balance in our system. Independence of the courts and its members is crucial to our democracy and way of life. The Senate should never be allowed to become a rubber stamp, and neither should the Supreme Court.

As the Senate prepares to vote on this nomination, we should be mindful of Justice O'Connor's critical role on the Supreme Court. Her legacy is one of fairness I want to see preserved. Justice O'Connor has been a guardian of the protections of the Constitution provides the American people. Of fundamental importance, she has come to provide balance and a check on Government intrusion into our personal privacy and freedoms. In the Hamdi decision she rejected the President's claim he could indefinitely detain a U.S. citizen. She said not even the President is above the law. She upheld the fundamental principle of judicial review. She wrote that even war ''is not a blank check for the President when it comes to the rights of the Nation's citizens.''

The American people deserve a Supreme Court Justice who inspires confidence that he or she will not be beholden to the President, but will be immune to pressures from the Government or from partisan interests. The stakes for the American people could not be higher. The appointment of the next Supreme Court Justice must be made in the people's interest and in the Nation's interest, not partisan interest or the President's interest.

It is as the elected representatives of the American people, all the people,

that we are charged with the responsibility to examine whether to entrust their precious rights and liberties to this nominee. The Constitution is their document. It guarantees their rights from the heavy hand of Government intrusion and their individual liberties to freedom of speech and religion, to equal treatment, to due process and to privacy. I want all Americans to know that the Supreme Court will protect their rights. I want a Supreme Court that acts in its finest tradition as a source of justice. The Supreme Court must be an institution where the Bill or Rights and human dignity are honored.

This is Judge Alito's single moment in his lifetime, the only moment in his lifetime, of accountability before the prospect of a lifetime on our Nation's highest Court. But it is also an accountability moment for each of the 100 Senators in the decision we reach on this crucial nomination because we have to speak for 295 million Americans.

I urge all Senators to consult their consciences and their best judgment before casting their votes on this critically important nomination. But, in good conscience, based on the record, I cannot, I will not, vote for this nomination.

Mr. President, what is the parliamentary situation?

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator has 25 seconds remaining.

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, obviously I am distressed for many reasons about this nomination, not the least of which is everything Judge Alito said indicated he would not be a check and balance. I so wish—and I have said this to President Bush personally—I so wish he had been a uniter and not a divider. We could be here with a Senate unanimously approving a nominee, instead of this divisive battle.

I yield the floor.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the time from 10:34 until 10:44 shall be under the control of the Senator from Pennsylvania. He is now recognized.

Mr. SPECTER. I thank the Chair.

Mr. President, as the Senate moves toward the vote on the nomination of Judge Samuel A. Alito, Jr., to be Associate Justice of the Supreme Court, we are mindful of the very heavy responsibility under the Constitution which the Senate has for confirmation of a Supreme Court Justice for a lifetime appointment. There is no vote as important, except for a declaration of war or the resolution authorizing the use of force, which is the practical equivalent of a declaration of war.

In our society, the Supreme Court of the United States is the final decision-maker in, as the process has worked out, many cutting-edge questions that come before the Supreme Court. The Supreme Court decides the issue of who shall live, who shall die—the decision which they had recently on the Oregon law or the application of the death penalty. It is the final protector of civil rights, the adjudicator of the Commerce clause, as to what Congress can do by way of legislation, and its authority and power is magnified because so many of the decisions of the Court are on a 5-to-4 count. When we have Justice O'Connor retiring as the swing vote on so many cases, there is an even heavier air of responsibility as we move through the confirmation process of Judge Alito.

It is our responsibility to examine the nominee in terms of his qualifications. Those qualifications have been established by virtue of his educational background and his professional background. We have to make a determination of his temperament, and I believe we saw poise and patience under a very difficult confirmation process. The confirmation process has evolved and, candidly, I think Judge Alito's was a little tougher, a little more confrontational than most. That is the right of the Senators. But he certainly had ample poise and ample calm and demonstrated steadfastness and temperament.

The tougher inquiry is when we bear in and focus on what he is going to do if confirmed? What are his jurisprudential approaches? I think we have come too much to the point in our confirmation process of looking for definite answers. Some have objected to the confirmation of nominees because there is no guarantee on how they will vote in certain cases. A nominee to the Supreme Court is not supposed to give guarantees. A nominee to the Supreme Court is supposed to respond as to factors to be considered and give us an idea of his or her reasoning power. He or she is not supposed to give us guarantees on how they would rule. This goes back to President Lincoln, who said we should loathe somebody who told us in advance how he or she would rule when nominated to the Supreme Court of the United States.

There is a lot of anxiety about a woman's right to choose. I share that anxiety and I share that concern. We have seen in the history of the Court that early indications as to how an individual may feel about a woman's right to choose will not necessarily be the determinant as to how that nominee will vote when the nominee is a Justice on the Supreme Court. We have the operative case on a woman's right to choose. It is Casey v. Planned Parenthood, decided in 1992. It retained the woman's right to choose but modified the rationale from Roe v. Wade in 1973. The opinion was written jointly by Justice O'Connor, Justice Anthony Kennedy, and Justice David Souter. Prior to their becoming Supreme Court Justices, all had expressed opposition to abortion rights, opposition to a woman's right to choose. But when they came to the Court and they took a look at the precedents, when they took a look, as their joint opinion said, on reliance, they sustained the principle of a woman's right to choose.

While you had Judge Alito's statement in 1985, 21 years ago, about his own view on the subject, he made it emphatic that as a jurist he would look to precedent and his own personal views would not dominate his thinking as he applied the law in a constitutional setting.

He was also questioned at length about his work in the Solicitor General's Office on the Thornburgh case. Too much is made of what an individual does in an advocacy capacity representing a client. But Judge Alito was questioned at great length about the philosophical underpinnings of a woman's right to choose. He agreed with Justice Harlan's dissent in Poe v. Ullman about the Constitution being a living document. And he agreed with Cardozo in Palko v. Connecticut, that constitutional interpretation represents the values of an evolving society. He went about as far as he could go without making a commitment in advance.

When it came to the question of Executive power, here again he described the philosophical underpinnings of the President's authority and he agreed with Justice O'Connor that a state of war does not give a President a blank check. He outlined the considerations going to Justice Jackson's concurrence in the steel seizure case, about how he would face an issue on Executive power.

The Congress of the United States can do considerably more by way of oversight on what the Executive does, and we are going to have a hearing next Monday on the President's power for surveillance. What is the President's authority in the face of a statute, the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act, which requires court approval for certain surveillance operations? What are the President's article II powers as Commander in Chief? There could be a great deal more activism by the Congress. You don't have to wait for these cases to come to the Supreme Court of the United States. But if, as, and when the question does arise, I think Judge Alito outlined the jurisprudential considerations, and he is on target.

When it comes to congressional power, we could also do a lot more. The Supreme Court has been insulting in its characterization of our reasoning power, striking down legislation to protect women against violence, disagreeing with our method of reasoning, or striking down portions of the Americans With Disabilities Act, as Justice Scalia said, being a taskmaster. We are preparing legislation in the Judiciary Committee to grant Congress standing to go to court to uphold the constitutionality of our statutes.

Mr. President, how much time do I have remaining?

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator has 40 seconds.

Mr. SPECTER. When you take a look at the values of an individual, who knows him better than the judges with whom he worked?

Seven judges came before the Committee to testify and they all authenticated the conclusion that he does not have a predetermined set of values that he is going to try to force upon the country.

All factors considered, I think he is worthy of confirmation by this body.

I thank the Chair, and I yield the floor.

Mr. ROBERTS. Mr. President, I rise today to offer my support for Judge Samuel Alito, Jr., for Associate Justice to the U.S. Supreme Court. I am honored to have the opportunity to again participate in a nomination for the Supreme Court. The casting of our votes from our Senate desks, as set forth by Senate tradition, is indicative of the meaningfulness and the importance of the confirmation vote for a judicial nomination to the Supreme Court. As before, I am humbled and honored to represent my fellow Kansans in this manner.

Over the course of the hearings, the Nation has had an opportunity to learn more about Judge Alito's character, professional experience, and approach to the law. It is clear that Judge Alito's educational background is quite impressive. The son of public school teachers, Judge Alito grew up in a family in which the importance of education and hard work were firmly rooted. His father, who arrived in the United States as an infant, knew firsthand the struggles of growing up in poverty. His ability to pull himself up by his bootstraps and emphasizing education as the window to a better life laid a firm foundation for his family.

It is no surprise that Judge Alito's exceptional educational background boasts of two formidable Ivy League universities—a notable accomplishment resulting from hard work and a keen mind. However, during his testimony, his statements demonstrated that he fully recognized what an opportunity it was to attend these renowned universities and took full advantage. He said:

> It was a time of turmoil at colleges and universities. And I saw some very smart people and very privileged people behaving irresponsibly. And I couldn't help making a contrast between some of the worst of what I saw on the campus and the good sense and the decency of the people back in my own community.

It is this type of commonsense that resonates with my Kansas constituents.

One only needs to look at Judge Alito's résumé to see his extensive experience in both prosecuting and applying the law. His distinguished career includes almost 15 years as a Federal prosecutor within the Department of Justice, 3 years as the U.S. Attorney for New Jersey, and most recently, 15 years as a Federal judge on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit. Judge Alito is well versed in the law. While some have alleged that his decisions are biased and that he is an ideologue with a political agenda, his record, his testimony, and the testimony of his colleagues and others who have worked with him dispel those allegations. During his confirmation hearing before the Senate Judiciary Committee, Judge Alito stated:

> The role of a practicing attorney is to achieve a desirable result for the client in the particular case at hand, but a judge can't think that way. A judge can't have any agenda. A judge can't have any preferred outcome in any particular case. And a judge certainly doesn't have a client. The judge's only obligation—and it's a solemn obligation is to the rule of law, and what that means is that in every single case, the judge has to do what the law requires.

His fellow colleagues on the U.S. Court of Appeals affirm his open-mindedness, impartiality, and decisions based on the facts and the law. Notably, the American Bar Association—long viewed as the gold standard among my colleagues on the other side of the aisle—reviewed Judge Alito's judicial background and gave him their highest rating of ''Well Qualified.''

In a time of judicial encroachment in which courts are increasingly imposing their political will on the Nation, Judge Alito's judicial record demonstrates his efforts to stem that tide. In his testimony he refers to the role of the judiciary as very important, but limited by the authorities set forth in the Constitution. The judicial branch's responsibility lies in interpretation and application of the law and not enacting policy judgements. In other words, he is guided by the rule of law set forth by the Constitution. Others describe Judge Alito's judicial philosophy as a philosophy of restraint and in accordance with the rule of law. Other witnesses from a broad range of ideologies who know Judge Alito confirm that he is measured and judicial in his decisions.

In closing, I would like to comment on the increasing political nature in which judicial nominees are subjected to during the nominations process. During my remarks on the nomination of now Chief Justice John Roberts, I highlighted the elevated level of partisanship in the Senate. This trend of partisan bickering further threatens the comity and respect that has long been the standard for conducting Senate business. The tenor and manner of questioning, or grilling as referred to in the news headlines, of Judge Alito frays the spirit of our constitutional fabric under which we operate. I call on my colleagues to work together to raise the level of discourse in these hallowed Halls of Congress.

Mr. SHELBY. Mr. President, I rise today to support the nomination of Judge Samuel Alito to be an Associate Justice of the U.S. Supreme Court.

Judge Alito's education, legal training, and judicial record have positioned him well to serve our Nation with honor and dignity on the Supreme Court. A graduate of Princeton and Yale, Judge Alito has more than 30 years of legal experience. Over the years, he has served as a judicial clerk, a prosecutor, an appellate lawyer before both the U.S. Court of Appeals and the U.S. Supreme Court. He has served as legal counsel to the U.S. Government and most recently as a judge on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Third District. Judge Alito has a full breadth of experience in both criminal and civil cases as well as the trial and appeals phases of the judicial system.

I believe Judge Alito's record on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Third District shows that he is a fair and impartial jurist. During his tenure on that court, it has been clear that he takes all legal theories and arguments into account when making decisions and issuing rulings. Judge Alito is well respected by his colleagues and has even received their praise for the manner and tone he takes in working through the facts to arrive at a decision. I do not recall anyone questioning his ability to do the job and in fact, he received a unanimous ''well-qualified'' rating from the American Bar Association, its highest rating.

While many have criticized Judge Alito's supposed judicial philosophy, I believe that his written decisions and statements as well as his appearance before the Judiciary Committee confirmed his ability to set personal views and ideology aside so as to not cloud his interpretation of the law. I commend Judge Alito for his poise and composure throughout one of the most arduous hearings in recent memory.

The time has come for Congress and the President to serve as a check on the judicial activism that has become so prevalent in the judiciary today.

I believe that we must have judges that interpret the Constitution and the law rather than manipulate it to meet their personal ideologies. Judge Alito fits that mold.

Mr. President, I am proud to support Judge Alito and look forward to him becoming the next Associate Justice on the United States Supreme Court.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Democratic leader is recognized time until 10:54.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, in his opening statement to the Judiciary Committee, Judge Samuel Alito asked, ''How in the world did I get here?'' That rhetorical question raises a serious concern about him, and it has shadowed his nomination from the very beginning. The fact is, Judge Alito became President Bush's candidate to replace Justice Sandra Day O'Connor only after the radical rightwing torpedoed the nomination of White House counsel Harriet Miers and insisted that someone with Sam Alito's ideology be put in her place. That is how Judge Alito ''got here.''

I continue to believe that Harriet Miers received a raw deal. She is an accomplished lawyer, a trailblazer for women, and a strong advocate of legal services for the poor. Not only was she denied the up-or-down vote that my Republican colleagues say every nominee deserves, but she was never even

afforded the chance to make her case to the Judiciary Committee.

I believe radical elements in the President's own party demanded that Miers withdraw not because of her lack of judicial experience as some exclaimed but because they were insufficiently confident she would support their extreme agenda. Remember, approximately 40 percent of all people who have ever served on the Supreme Court had no judicial experience.

The rightwing distrust of Harriet Miers and their immediate elation when Judge Alito was named raised my suspicions on the day that he was nominated. Those suspicions were heightened when Alito's 1985 application for a job in the Reagan administration came to light. In it, Alito stated, ''I am and always have been a conservative.'' He spoke proudly of his work on behalf of the extreme agenda of the Reagan Justice Department, his disagreement with landmark rulings of the Warren Court in favor of equal rights, and his membership in rightwing organizations. In effect, the 1985 document amounted to Judge Alito's pledge of allegiance to conservative, radical Republican ideology.

I don't propose the Alito nomination is on the basis of a 20-year-old job application. Instead, I view that document as a roadmap to Judge Alito's subsequent judicial opinions and speeches.

Judge Alito's judicial opinions have been largely consistent with his ideological signals; that is, the signals he sent in the 1985 job application. One of the most prominent and eminent legal scholars in all of America, Professor Cass Sunstein of the University of Chicago Law School, who generally supported the nomination of Chief Justice John Roberts, analyzed Alito's opinions and found ''a remarkable pattern'' of ''almost uniformly conservative'' dissents. Professor Sunstein concluded that ''the real question about Alito involves the disturbingly close link between his political convictions and his legal conclusions.''

My concern about Judge Alito falls into three broad categories. First, I fear he will not vindicate the role of the judiciary as a check on executive branch power. Second, he is a leader in the so-called federalism movement which would limit congressional power to pass environmental laws and remedy other national problems. Third, in disputes between ordinary American citizens and the powerful corporations and government, Judge Alito is often—and too often—on the side of the powerful and against the interests of the individual.

First, I am disturbed by Judge Alito's overall bowing to Executive pressure, bowing to Executive power. At a time when President Bush asserted unprecedented authority over the lives of American citizens and the Republican-controlled Congress seems too willing to cede those powers to him, I cannot support the nomination of a judge predisposed to giving the President the benefit of every doubt.

In matters ranging from domestic spying to the use of torture, the current President has effectively declared himself above the law. Meanwhile, a Congress controlled by the President's party has stripped the courts of jurisdiction to hear habeas corpus cases brought by Guantanamo detainees, some of whom have absolutely nothing to do with terrorism. In the face of such profound threats to the separation of powers in our Constitution, we need a Supreme Court comprised of independent and impartial judges willing to stand up to imperial Presidencies.

Rather than serving as a check on President Bush's abuses of power, I worry that Judge Alito will instead serve as a rubberstamp. Both on and off the bench, Alito's writings and opinions show a record of extreme deference to Executive power, whether exercised by the President or by Federal and local law enforcement officials.

Even before he was a judge, Alito made a name for himself arguing for expansive Executive power. As a Justice Department attorney, he wrote that the Attorney General should have absolute immunity from lawsuits arising from illegal wiretaps. He also argued on the side of a Tennessee police officer who shot and killed an unarmed 15-year-old boy not because the officer believed the boy was armed, but to prevent escape from a petty crime.

Alito's judicial rulings on executive power heighten my concerns in this area. In the recent decision of United States v. Lee, he found that an FBI undercover probe that included audio and video surveillance of the defendant's hotel suite without a warrant did not violate the Fourth Amendment.

The government wins, you lose.

In an earlier case in which Judge Alito voted to uphold the strip-search of a 10-year-old girl, then-Judge Michael Chertoff, now President Bush's Secretary of Homeland Security, criticized Alito's views as threatening to ''transform the judicial officer into little more than the cliché 'rubber stamp.' ''

Again, government wins, you lose.

Judge Alito's unshakable deference to police officers conducting intrusive searches seems to extend to his view at the power of the President to act unilaterally when setting national policies.

In a speech to the Federalist Society in November 2000, he professed his strong belief in the so-called ''unitary executive'' theory of constitutional law, a theory embraced by those who advocate for expanding executive powers at the expense of the judicial and legislative branches of government.

Judge Alito's disturbing views on the constitutional separation of powers is also reflected in his refusal to condemn laws in which Congress strips courts of jurisdiction to hear certain disputes. For example, Senator LEAHY asked the nominee if Congress could strip the Supreme Court of jurisdiction over all cases arising under the First Amendment. Alito declined to respond directly, saying the matter was the subject of academic dispute.

These comments lead me to doubt that Judge Alito fully appreciates that the role of the courts is to protect constitutional rights and liberties in the face of an overreaching majority.

Second, I am concerned that Judge Alito would limit the authority of Congress to address environmental protection and other national needs. I fear that Alito would join Justices Scalia and Thomas in their activist campaign to narrow congressional power under the Commerce Clause, a movement that threatens important public health and welfare laws in the name of ''federalism.''

Once again, the roots of Judge Alito's ideology can be found in his work during the Reagan Administration. As Deputy Attorney General in 1986, Judge Alito recommended that President Reagan veto the Truth in Mileage Act, a law designed to prevent odometer tampering, because ''it violates the principles of federalism.''

And again, Judge Alito seems to have carried his Reagan-era ideology with him when he joined the Third Circuit. In the Chittester case, for example, he held that Congress lacks authority to allow State employees to enforce aspects of the Family and Medical Leave Act. His logic would cripple the ability of Congress to help people with real problems, such as those who are disabled. Again, government wins, you lose.

There is every reason to fear that Judge Alito will work to continue the Court's unwarranted restriction of Congressional power in these areas.

Third and finally, Judge Alito's nomination troubles me because in his 15 years on the bench he has repeatedly and consistently favored the power of government and corporations over the rights of individual American citizens. As many commentators have observed, Judge Alito hardly ever sides with the proverbial ''little guy.''

The government wins, you lose.

A Knight-Ridder review of Alito's 311 published opinions on the 3rd Circuit Court of Appeals found that Judge Alito very rarely supports individual rights claims. In a separate study, Professor Sunstein found that Judge Alito ruled against the individual in 84 percent of his dissent—84 percent of the time.

Again, government wins, you lose.

In civil rights cases, Judge Alito has often voted to impose higher barriers for people with claims of discrimination.

In Bray v. Marriott Hotels—a case dealing with race discrimination—his colleagues said Title VII of the Civil Rights Act ''would be eviscerated'' if Alito's approach were followed. Again, big business would win, and you would lose. And in Nathanson v. Medical College of Pennsylvania, he dissented in a

disability rights case where the majority said: ''few if any Rehabilitation Act cases would survive'' if Judge Alito's view were the law.

Again, big business and government wins, you lose.

Perhaps the most important instance when the rights of an individual conflict with the interests of the government are when the state seeks to carry out the death penalty.

How anyone could come up with the conclusion of Judge Alito's is really hard to understand.

Senators LEAHY and FEINGOLD asked Judge Alito whether it would be unconstitutional to execute an ''unquestionably innocent man.''

The obvious answer from anyone would be quite clear. It would be plainly unconstitutional. But Judge Alito refused to say so. Instead, he spoke in bland bureaucratic terms about the need for the innocent person to file the proper petitions under proper Federal rule.

Remember, the question was, ''Would it be unconstitutional to execute an unquestionably innocent man?'' Of course, it would.

That was a chilling moment. If the Constitution means anything it means that the state cannot put to death an ''unquestionably innocent'' person. If Judge Alito cannot say that without equivocation, he is not the kind of judge I want on the Supreme Court of the United States.

These three broad concerns about Judge Alito's record on the bench are all the more troubling in light of the fact that Judge Alito has been nominated to replace Justice Sandra Day O'Connor, a national icon who has been a voice of moderation and reason on the Court for the last quarter of a century.

President Bush was not obligated to nominate a clone of Justice O'Connor. But this President has no mandate to move the Supreme Court and American law in a radical rightward direction. That is precisely what replacing Justice O'Connor with Judge Alito will accomplish.

That Judge Alito has been nominated to replace Justice O'Connor is relevant in another sense. Justice O'Connor was the first of only two women ever to sit on the Supreme Court. It remains disturbing to me that she would be replaced by a man, leaving only one woman on the nine-member Court.

Today, more than half of the nation's law students are women. There are countless qualified women on the bench, in elective office, in law firms, and serving as law school deans. I can't believe the President searched the country and was unable to find a qualified female nominee. But maybe he was unable to find a qualified female nominee who satisfied the radical far right wing of the Republican Party.

Meanwhile, for the third time, this President has turned down the opportunity to make history by nominating the first Hispanic to the Court. How much longer must Hispanics across America wait before they see someone on the nation's highest court who shares their ethnic heritage and their shared experiences?

I have no doubt that Sam Alito is a decent man.

But a confirmation debate is not a popularity contest. The rights and liberties of the American people are at stake. This particular nomination raises profound questions about our system of checks and balances.

We need to ask whether a Justice Alito will serve as an effective check on a swaggering President and his reckless policies.

At this critical moment in our Nation's history, I cannot support the confirmation of this nominee to fill this vacancy on the Supreme Court of the United States.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the majority leader is recognized.

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, at the end of a debate in the Senate there is rarely a question of whether everything has been said—only whether every Senator has said it.

After 92 days since this nomination was announced, after 30 hours of Judiciary Committee hearings, after Judge Alito answered more than 650 questions, and after 5 days of debate on the floor of the Senate, there is little left to be said. So I will be brief.

To President Bush I say thank you. To President Bush I say thank you for nominating such an exceptionally qualified individual as Sam Alito to serve on the Supreme Court.

To my Senate colleagues I say well done to the supermajority of Senators who joined yesterday to elevate principle above partisan politics and defeat an unjustified filibuster of this nomination.

And to Judge Alito I say: You deserve the seat on the Supreme Court. Today, you will become the 110th Justice to serve on the Court throughout America's history. It is a seat that is reserved for a few but that impacts millions. May the Constitution and rule of law be the light that illuminates each case that comes before you.

So, momentarily, we will vote from our desks, a time-honored tradition that demonstrates, once again, how important and consequential every Member takes his duty under the Constitution to provide advise and consent on a Supreme Court nomination and to give the nominee the fair up-or-down vote he deserves. It is time to call the roll.

There is only one thing left to say. I ask for the yeas and nays on the nomination of Samuel Alito to serve as Associate Justice of the Supreme Court of the United States.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Is there a sufficient second?

There is a sufficient second.

The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the nomination of Samuel A. Alito Jr., of New Jersey, to be an Associate Justice of the Supreme Court of the United States? On this question, the yeas and nays have been ordered. Senators are requested to vote from their seats.

The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Chair admonishes all present that no reaction to a Senate vote is permitted under Senate rules.

The result was announced—yeas 58, nays 42, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 2 Ex.]

YEAS—58

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Alexander | DeWine | McConnell |
| Allard | Dole | Murkowski |
| Allen | Domenici | Nelson (NE) |
| Bennett | Ensign | Roberts |
| Bond | Enzi | Santorum |
| Brownback | Frist | Sessions |
| Bunning | Graham | Shelby |
| Burns | Grassley | Smith |
| Burr | Gregg | Snowe |
| Byrd | Hagel | Specter |
| Chambliss | Hatch | Stevens |
| Coburn | Hutchison | Sununu |
| Cochran | Inhofe | Talent |
| Coleman | Isakson | Thomas |
| Collins | Johnson | Thune |
| Conrad | Kyl | Vitter |
| Cornyn | Lott | Voinovich |
| Craig | Lugar | Warner |
| Crapo | Martinez | |
| DeMint | McCain | |

NAYS—42

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Akaka | Feingold | Menendez |
| Baucus | Feinstein | Mikulski |
| Bayh | Harkin | Murray |
| Biden | Inouye | Nelson (FL) |
| Bingaman | Jeffords | Obama |
| Boxer | Kennedy | Pryor |
| Cantwell | Kerry | Reed |
| Carper | Kohl | Reid |
| Chafee | Landrieu | Rockefeller |
| Clinton | Lautenberg | Salazar |
| Dayton | Leahy | Sarbanes |
| Dodd | Levin | Schumer |
| Dorgan | Lieberman | Stabenow |
| Durbin | Lincoln | Wyden |

The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader.

Mr. FRIST. I move to reconsider the vote.

Mr. MCCONNELL. I move to lay that motion on the table.

The motion to lay on the table was agreed to.

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

## NOMINATIONS OF BEN S. BERNANKE TO BE A MEMBER AND CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS OF THE FEDERAL RESERVE SYSTEM

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I now ask that the Senate proceed to the nominations of Ben Bernanke, as under the previous order.

For the information of colleagues, we will begin debate on the Bernanke nominations now and will conclude the remaining debate after the policy lunches.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. I cannot hear the leader.

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

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader has the floor.

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

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. BURR). Without objection, it is so ordered.

Under the previous order, the Senate will proceed to consideration of Executive Calendar Nos. 440 and 441, which the clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read the nomination of Ben S. Bernanke, of New Jersey, to be a member of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System.

The legislative clerk read the nomination of Ben S. Bernanke, of New Jersey, to be Chairman of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Alabama.

Mr. SHELBY. Mr. President, I rise this morning in support of the nominations of Benjamin S. Bernanke to be a member and the Chairman of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System.

In November of 2005, I chaired our Banking Committee hearing regarding this nomination, and we heard from Dr. Bernanke on a wide range of economic issues. In reporting this nomination to the floor for consideration, I would reiterate that President Bush has made a superb appointment in selecting Dr. Ben Bernanke for this position.

This nomination is of great importance to our Nation and our economy. As the central bank, the Federal Reserve has the responsibility for conducting monetary policy to maintain maximum employment, stable prices, and moderate long-term interest rates. As the U.S. continues to lead the world economy, sound stewardship of the Federal Reserve also affects the global marketplace.

The Chairman of the Federal Reserve would certainly have a big enough job to do if he were tasked only with serving as head of the central bank of the United States. But his job also entails the supervision and regulation of financial institutions, including some of the largest financial entities in the world. The Federal Reserve must ensure the safety and soundness of these institutions and monitor any potential for systemic risk. The American consumer also counts upon the Federal Reserve to foster the fair and efficient delivery of services to customers of financial institutions.

The Federal Reserve also plays a major role in operating the Nation's payment system. Evolving technology continues to change the way we pay for goods and services. The Federal Reserve must oversee these innovations and adaptations and make certain the U.S. payment system is effective, reliable, and safe.

For nearly two decades, it has been impossible to raise the topic of the Federal Reserve without also mentioning Alan Greenspan, and I will do so briefly here today. Alan Greenspan has been the face and the voice of the Federal Reserve for over 18 years. Today he is chairing his last session of the Federal Open Market Committee.

Chairman Greenspan has made a big impression on all of us—here in Congress, our Nation, and across the world. During his tenure, the U.S. economy and our financial system have withstood a number of significant shocks, including the stock market crash of 1987, the Asian debt crisis which affected capital globally, and, of course, the catastrophic effects of 9/11, which hit the heart of the U.S. financial industry and which affected all of us and our economy in many ways.

Chairman Greenspan also oversaw the longest economic expansion in American history. Because of our economic success, even in the face of great challenges, some consider Chairman Greenspan to be the greatest central banker of all time. I commend Chairman Greenspan for his exemplary service and dedication to our country.

Now it is time for a transition at the Federal Reserve System. As I noted, this will be the first time in nearly two decades that the Congress has had a new nominee before us for consideration. Certainly stepping into Mr. Greenspan's shoes will be a tremendous challenge.

While it may seem a daunting task to follow as distinguished a chairman as Alan Greenspan, we should be mindful of two things.

First, in 1987, many observers wondered whether an economist named Alan Greenspan could successfully follow in the wake of the vaunted Paul Volcker as Chairman of the Federal Reserve. Each person who sits in the Chairman's seat has the opportunity to make that position his own and to become a leader in his own right. That is what has been done, in large part, due to the caliber of the men who Presidents of the United States have chosen for the task.

Second, I would also note that many individuals who hold diverse viewpoints on other topics are in agreement that President Bush has selected the best possible candidate to serve as the next Federal Reserve Chairman. Indeed, Dr. Ben Bernanke may well be the finest monetary economist of his generation. He has both a distinguished career in academia as well as in the policymaking arena.

The list of his experience and achievements is long. I do not have enough time this morning to mention all of them, but I want to mention some of his most important qualifications because his nomination requires someone with the rare expertise that Dr. Bernanke has acquired.

As he moves on to become the Federal Reserve Chairman, Dr. Bernanke will be completing his duties as Chairman of the President's Council of Economic Advisers. During his service at the CEA, Dr. Bernanke provided the President and our Nation with sound economic advice on a variety of significant policy issues. But before his service at the Council of Economic Advisers, Dr. Bernanke served with great distinction as a member of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System from 2002 to 2005. This experience gives him an inside knowledge of the Federal Reserve and the financial markets.

Dr. Bernanke has earned the tremendous respect and confidence of policymakers in this country as well as around the world. He previously served as chair of the economics department at Princeton University, and prior to that tenure he was an associate professor of economics at the Graduate School of Business at Stanford University. He also served as a visiting professor of economics at New York University and at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. He was the director of the Monetary Economics Program of the National Bureau of Economic Research. In 1975, he received his B.A. in economics from Harvard University, where he graduated with honors. In 1979, he received his Ph.D. in economics from MIT.

It will be difficult to follow the long and successful tenure of Alan Greenspan. Dr. Bernanke is an excellent choice for the job. Few individuals have this mix of practical and academic experience, especially his prior experience at the Federal Reserve. The Banking Committee reviewed this nomination thoroughly, and we believe Dr. Bernanke will serve this country well at the helm of the Federal Reserve.

I urge my colleagues to support this nomination.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Colorado.

Mr. ALLARD. Mr. President, I would like to say a few words on behalf of Dr. Bernanke. But before I do, I would like to state for the record what a great pleasure it has been to work with Dr. Greenspan. It was an honor to have had the opportunity to hear his testimony in committee and to work with him on public policy issues. I wish him well as he moves on to other endeavors. The country is forever grateful for his service as Chairman of the Federal Reserve.

I had an opportunity to sit down and visit with Dr. Bernanke. I was impressed not only with him personally but also with the conversation we had and his record. He is going to bring a lot to the Fed. I join the chairman of the Banking Committee in support of Dr. Bernanke.

Dr. Bernanke is known for his tough stance on fighting inflation. Many expect that Dr. Bernanke's views on interest rates will be similar to Dr.

Greenspan's because of his stance on controlling accelerating inflation with interest rate hikes. When I had a chance to visit with him, he stressed the importance of communication and transparency. As Chairman of the Federal Reserve, that is going to be a big part of his responsibilities.

He argued that the final say on debts and deficits lies with the President and the Congress. I couldn't agree more that we need to do more to control deficit spending and the debts we have accumulated over the years. Dr. Bernanke shared with me that his first priority will be to maintain continuity with the policies and strategies established during the Greenspan years.

We have to recognize Dr. Bernanke for what he has already contributed. He is one of the world's leading experts on the subject of how central banks, such as the Fed, should set interest rates and cause the money supply to expand or contract. The combination of Dr. Bernanke's academia, intellect, and his work for and with the Fed will greatly facilitate his transition as the new chairman of the Federal Reserve.

Wall Street and the investment world seemed to like the nomination of Dr. Bernanke as the new Chairman of the Federal Reserve. The Dow Jones Industrial was up some 169.78 points. It was the biggest 1-day point percentage gain since last April. So the response from Wall Street has been good.

Dr. Bernanke spent 20 years at Princeton as a professor of economics and public affairs. He also served as the chairman of Princeton University's economic department. Before being appointed to the President's Council of Economic Advisors, he served as a Governor of the Federal Reserve. His current and past positions have groomed Dr. Bernanke and serve as an apprenticeship to succeed Chairman Greenspan.

Dr. Bernanke was widely considered one of the leading candidates to replace Dr. Greenspan as Chairman of the Federal Reserve. I was glad to see the President make his appointment, and I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting Dr. Bernanke as Chairman of the Federal Reserve.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Maryland.

Mr. SARBANES. Mr. President, what is the parliamentary situation?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Maryland controls 30 minutes. The Senator from Alabama has 18 minutes 43 seconds remaining.

Mr. SARBANES. Mr. President, I yield 2 minutes to the Senator from Massachusetts who wishes to speak on a different subject.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Massachusetts is recognized.

(The remarks of Mr. KENNEDY and Mr. SARBANES are printed in today's RECORD under ''Morning Business.'')

Mr. SARBANES. Mr. President, I join my able colleague from Alabama in supporting the nomination of Ben Bernanke to be a member and Chairman of the Federal Reserve Board of Governors. We will be voting on a 14-year term on the Board of Governors, one of the longest terms we give to anyone other than Federal judges in the workings of our political system, and a 4-year term to be the Chairman of the Federal Reserve Board.

Before I address Dr. Bernanke, I wish to take a moment, as my colleagues have, to say a word about Chairman Alan Greenspan. Chairman Greenspan chairs the Federal Reserve Open Market Committee that is right now taking place. Then he steps down. He has served for over 18 years as Chairman of the Federal Reserve, the second-longest tenure in our history, exceeded only by William McChesney Martin. There have been occasions when I have differed with Chairman Greenspan on some of his decisions, most notably the green light he gave to large and excessive tax cuts in 2001 which helped to precipitate us into a serious deficit situation. But this ought not obscure the many accomplishments and successes during his long tenure.

Others have referenced the stock market crash which happened only a few months after he took office; the Asian Russian long-term capital management crisis, some 10 years later in the late 1990s; and, of course, the 9/11 attacks in 2001. Throughout all of that, he brought a steadying presence to the workings of the financial system and a shrewd understanding of the situation and what needed to be done to address it.

I commend Chairman Greenspan for bringing greater transparency into the workings of the Federal Reserve system, something which Dr. Bernanke has indicated he intends to continue and support, and Chairman Greenspan's rejection of rigid policymaking, rejecting the idea that there was a rigid formula or ideology by which you could establish a monetary policy. In particular, he was able to push the limits on lowering unemployment and providing jobs while still being able to control inflation. As a result we were able to get the unemployment rate down to levels that everyone previously had argued would lead to a spurt of inflation. Chairman Greenspan thought that wouldn't happen. It didn't happen. Now we have established different benchmarks in terms of monetary policy.

Dr. Bernanke, whose nomination is before us, is no stranger to the Senate. This is the fourth time in 3 years that we have been called upon to consider his nomination to a very significant position. In 2002, he was nominated to serve as a member of the Federal Reserve Board of Governors. He was renominated to that position in the following year. In 2005, he was nominated to serve as Chairman of the President's Council of Economic Advisers. Today, we have his nomination to serve as Chairman for a term of 4 years and as a Governor for a term of 14 years.

There is no question about Dr. Bernanke's qualifications for the position to which he has been nominated. He has served with distinction on the Federal Reserve Board from all accounts. He has had direct experience of economic policymaking at the Council of Economic Advisers and he has a very distinguished academic and scholarly background with a B.A. in economics from Harvard and a Ph.D. in economics from MIT. He has been on the faculty at MIT and at Stanford. Most recently, of course, he was at Princeton, where he served as chair of the economics department from 1996 to 2002, a department recognized as one of the very best, if not the best, in the country.

He commands great respect from his peers in the profession and I think great respect from all who have come in contact with him.

I do, though, want to take a moment to speak a bit about the seriousness of the economic challenges we face and which Dr. Bernanke will face as he assumes this important responsibility. We have seen the weakest recovery in our labor market of any post recessionary period since World War II—that is, in 60 years. While we have had some recent improvement, compared with recoveries from previous recessions, we have fallen well short. Furthermore, real wages have fallen over the past few years for middle class and working Americans.

Meanwhile, U.S. economic policy has been marked by a recklessness in its reliance on borrowing on the apparent assumption that substantial borrowing at home and abroad can go on and on and will always remain a continuing option for us. The consequence of this is that we are running dangerous current account deficits and substantial budget deficits in amounts that dwarf anything we have previously experienced. Many observers think that these deficits—the fiscal deficit and the current account deficit threaten our economy and our ability to deal with the challenges of the future.

Mr. President, the most recent figures indicate that economic growth has slowed to almost a crawl over the past 3 months. It was just over 1 percent in the last quarter of last year. That is the lowest rate of growth since 2002, and but for the buildup of inventories that took place in the fourth quarter, economic activity fell by three-tenths of 1 percent. So it was only the inventory accumulation that kept us from experiencing negative economic growth.

Mr. Bernanke, along with his colleagues at the Fed and those on the Open Market Committee, will face questions concerning the conduct of monetary policy. Of course, monetary policy doesn't exist in a vacuum. It plays a significant role in determining the shape and direction of the economy. Therefore, we need to consider it in the broader context. In fact, the Federal Reserve Act clearly mandates two goals: maximum employment and

stable prices. Those goals are set out in the Federal Reserve Act and constitute the guidance and direction from the Congress to the Federal Reserve for the objectives in the conduct of monetary policy.

The act says:

> The Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve system and the Federal Open Market Committee shall maintain long-run growth of the monetary and credit aggregates commensurate with the economy's long-run potential to increase production so as to promote effectively goals of maximum employment, stable prices, and moderate long-term interest rates.

Accomplishing the Fed's dual mandate is the most important responsibility of the Chairman of the Federal Reserve. The experience of the 1990s, with unemployment down at 4 percent and inflation below 3 percent, demonstrated that these goals can be harmonized, unlike the assertion by some that they are inherently in conflict. Dr. Bernanke was pressed on this point in his confirmation hearing because he has been a proponent of what is called ''inflation targeting,'' which requires the Fed to set a specific numeric target for inflation, announce that target to the markets and then manage the economy with the objective of reaching that target.

I want to underscore the importance of the Fed honoring its statutory dual mandate and not replacing it with a policy of inflation targeting. We must be concerned that if a numerical figure were to be set for inflation to the detriment of other considerations, employment foremost among them, policymaking would shift and so, too, would the debate about the health and strength of the economy. I fear that the focus of the debate would become not whether the Fed was successful in meeting the dual mandate, but rather the Fed's one-sided success or failure in reaching a numerical inflation goal.

Chairman Greenspan himself has made this point. Bloomberg News recently reported:

> Fed Chairman Alan Greenspan has rejected adopting a target, saying it would rob U.S. policymakers of the flexibility they need to respond to developments in a rapidly changing economy.

I was, therefore, somewhat reassured when at his confirmation hearing Dr. Bernanke told the Banking Committee that he ''subscribes entirely to the Humphrey-Hawkins mandate,'' which puts employment growth and output growth on a fully equal footing with inflation in terms of the Federal Reserve's objectives. Furthermore he went on to say, ''I would not be interested in pursuing that matter''—referring to inflation targeting—''if I thought it involved changing the mandate of the Federal Reserve.''

Mr. President, I put this issue out here only as a matter to be focused on as we move ahead into the future. Dr. Bernanke indicated that it was not his intention to seek changes in the Federal Reserve Act. I think that is a wise and prudent course to follow. How much time remains?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator has 14 minutes 20 seconds remaining.

Mr. SARBANES. I yield myself an additional 3 minutes. We learned last week that our economy slowed dramatically over the past 3 months to a growth rate of 1.1 percent, the slowest growth level in the past 3 years and, obviously, insufficient to meet our needs. Moreover, as I noted, even that modest growth was based entirely on inventory growth, which is a one-time shot for the economy and not a sustainable basis for growth.

The current unemployment rate of about 5 percent obscures the fact that the job creation during the course of this administration is the worst since the Hoover administration. In other words, every previous administration since that of Herbert Hoover has produced more jobs than this administration has produced. In fact, real wages are down for a great number of Americans, and it is little wonder that working Americans are concerned about their economic future.

Given these factors and the potential problems with our record level of deficits and debt at home and abroad, I urge the Fed to consider taking a pause from what has been a steady upward push in interest rates. We have had 13 successive increases in interest rates. Short-term rates have gone from 1 percent to 4.25 percent. We had 1-percent growth in the economy last quarter.

Furthermore, let me note two or three other serious issues. One is our current account deficit. Our international accounts are steeply imbalanced. We expect the current account deficit to approach $800 billion for 2005, in excess of 6 percent of GDP. We are borrowing from abroad over $2 billion on a daily basis to finance this deficit, and there is a broad consensus among economic experts that current account deficits of this magnitude are not sustainable. We will be obligated to pay this debt out into the future, which means it will come right out of the standard of living at home. Warren Buffet, talking about this situation, warned that we risk becoming what he called a ''sharecropper's society.''

Furthermore, as we continue to fall deeper into debt with the rest of the world, we are experiencing growing imbalances here at home. Real wages for the majority of working Americans have declined, while the real incomes of the wealthiest have increased astronomically. A recent Bloomberg News story observed that U.S. wages are lagging inflation and, even with unemployment near a 4-year low, workers have little leverage to demand higher pay. Other articles have reported the record bonuses that are now being given out on Wall Street. In fact, Chairman Greenspan in testimony before the committee stated:

> I think the income distribution issue is very critical because you can't have a significant inequality of income and expect to have support for the type of institutions which have made this country great.

Mr. President, I also note the Fed's responsibility for carrying out important supervisory and regulatory authority over the safety and soundness of the Nation's banking and financial system. In the area of consumer protection, the Fed has broad jurisdiction over a host of consumer laws—the Community Reinvestment Act, Truth in Lending Act, Truth in Savings Act, Home Mortgage Disclosure Act, Electronic Funds Transfer Act, the Equal Credit Opportunity Act, and the Homeowners Equity Protection Act. These are major responsibilities of the Fed over and above its monetary policy responsibilities.

Finally, as I indicated, I intend to vote for this nominee. I think this nominee is extremely well qualified. He will assume the chairmanship at a time when the economy faces problems that have serious implications for our future economic health and the prospect of a rising standard of living for working Americans. In the current climate, our Nation will be well served by a policy of prudence and independent thought on the part of the Federal Reserve. I am hopeful that Dr. Bernanke will draw upon his distinguished work as an academic economist and his experience as a policymaker at the highest level of the Federal Government to make a prudent and independent policy the hallmark of the Fed in coming years.

Mr. DOMENICI. Mr. President, I rise today to express my support for the nomination of Dr. Ben Bernanke to be Chairman of the Federal Reserve. The Federal Reserve, or the Fed as it is commonly known, was created by Congress over 90 years ago to create a safe and stable financial system for the American people. The Chairman of the Federal Reserve must be a person of sound and prudent judgment and strong character. Throughout his academic and professional career, Dr. Bernanke has exhibited all these traits and I laud President Bush for nominating him to this important public position.

For the past 18 years, Americans have become accustomed to the sound analysis and policy judgments of outgoing Chairman Alan Greenspan. During this period, we as a nation have experienced several transformational events. The stock market crashed in 1987, a mere 2 months into Chairman Greenspan's tenure, and we have also dealt with financial crises in Asia, Latin American, and even closer, Mexico. The country has also suffered major natural disasters and terrorist attacks on our homeland. Throughout these occasions, Chairman Greenspan guided our Nation's financial markets with astute analyses and sound policy decisions. As a result, our economy has endured a number of shocks and continues to remerge from each stronger than it was before.

In his hearings before the Senate, Dr. Bernanke displayed the candor and intellectual gravitas that has endeared

him to colleagues and policymakers throughout his long and distinguished career. Dr. Bernanke was graduated from Harvard College with a bachelor's degree and he later went on to earn a doctorate from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Since then he has taught economics to students at some of America's most prestigious universities and has become a highly regarded scholar of banking and monetary policy. Dr. Bernanke has a history of public service, having served on his local school board in Montgomery Township, NJ, the U.S. Census Advisory Board, and most recently the Council of Economic Advisers.

Our economy faces a number of challenges in the near future. Some of which include the pressures on the Social Security system, rising health care costs, and stresses on the Federal budget. Dr. Bernanke promises to bring a sound, fair, and nonpartisan economic adviser to the President and Congress on a number of macroeconomic matters. I laud his desire to continue pursuing policies aimed at maximum employment and control over inflation.

Dr. Bernanke's qualifications for this job are impeccable, and I ask my colleagues to join me in supporting his nomination to be the fourteenth Chairman of the Federal Reserve.

Mr. CHAMBLISS. Mr. President, I rise today in support of the nomination of a fellow Georgian, Dr. Ben Bernanke, to serve as not only a member of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, but to succeed Dr. Alan Greenspan as the next Chairman of the Board.

Dr. Greenspan has served America well for more than 18 years. During his service as Chairman, he guided the U.S. economy through a number of challenging hurdles including the stock market crash of 1987, the financial crises in Mexico and Asia, recessions in the United States and other spikes in the economy from corporate scandals, terrorist attacks, and natural disasters. Dr. Greenspan's tenure also includes the longest economic expansion in U.S. history which lasted from 1991–2001. For these reasons, it is clear why many refer to Chairman Greenspan as one of the greatest central bankers of all time.

While his footsteps will be difficult to follow, I am fully confident that Dr. Bernanke will continue Chairman Greenspan's legacy by guiding our economy in the right direction, and making the best decisions not only for the American people, but for the role of the United States in the global marketplace.

The Federal Reserve Board guides the Nation and its economy with a safe, flexible, and stable monetary and financial system. As the U.S economy continues to grow, so does the role of the Federal Reserve Board in the global marketplace. Therefore, the qualifications for the Chairman of the Federal Reserve System must be held to the highest standard. I feel Dr. Bernanke's impeccable qualifications and financial expertise make him an excellent candidate to succeed Dr. Greenspan.

Dr. Bernanke graduated from Harvard University with the highest honors and later received his Ph.D. in Economics from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Most recently he served as Chairman of the President's Council of Economic Advisers, CEA, where he ''provided the President with objective economic analysis and advice on the development and implementation of a wide range of domestic and international economic policy issues.'' Prior to serving as Chairman of the CEA, Dr. Bernanke served 4 years on the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System.

Dr. Bernanke's expertise is well respected in the academic community. He was a professor of Economics at Stanford University and later served as a professor of Economics and Public Affairs at Princeton University, where he also served as Chairman of their Economics department for 6 years. Dr. Bernanke also served as the Director of the Monetary Economics Program of the National Bureau of Economics Research, as a member of the National Bureau of Economic Research's Business Cycle Dating Committee, and he has also worked for two terms as a member of New Jersey's Montgomery Township Board of Education, and as the Editor of the American Economic Review.

Dr. Bernanke is also one of the most cited authors in the financial community. He has also given several important lectures at the London School of Economics on monetary theory and monetary policy. Dr. Bernanke has also been the recipient of many prestigious fellowships and awards including the renowned Guggenheim Fellowship, the Sloan Fellowship and the Econometric Society Fellowship.

I have no doubt that with such an impressive background, Dr. Bernanke will serve with impartiality and will continue to guide our economy, as Dr. Greenspan has done for the last 18 years, down a stable and prosperous path. I urge my colleagues to join me in support of this distinguished nominee, and confirm Dr. Bernanke to the Board of Governors, and as Chairman of the Board for the next 4 years.

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, I would like to take this chance to say a few words of thanks to Alan Greenspan for his service to our Government and to wish him well as he leaves the Federal Reserve. Alan Greenspan has done a commendable job as Chair of the Fed, and we are, indeed, fortunate to have had him in that position for the past 18 and a half years.

The previous two decades have seen an amazingly large number of crises that have impacted financial markets. The stock market crash of 1987, the Savings and Loan collapse and subsequent bailout in 1990, the Mexican bond crisis of 1994, the Asian financial panic in 1997, Russia's bond default and the subsequent collapse of Long Term Capital Management in 1998, the collapse of the tech bubble in 2000, and the implosion of Enron in 2001.

In recent years, we have witnessed a sharp rise in housing prices, along with a concomitant chorus of financial experts exhorting him to ''do something.'' Besides these various financial crises, the United States has also been the victim of a massive terrorist attack in 2001, which shut down financial markets for over a week, and we were forced to intervene militarily in Kuwait, Afghanistan, and Iraq.

Despite the staggering number of potentially catastrophic events, the United States has had only two short recessions in the past 20 years, a record that is to me simply amazing. Of course, it would be wrong to give the Federal Reserve and Alan Greenspan full credit for the prosperous conditions of the previous quarter century, but it is impossible to conceive of us achieving this level of prosperity without a vigilant and responsible Federal Reserve.

The main contribution of Chairman Greenspan and the Federal Reserve in the past 18½ years has been the taming of inflation. The effort to control this scourge began with Paul Volker, of course, but the specter of inflation does not die easily. It took Alan Greenspan another 10 or 15 years to finally rid the financial markets of the fear that as the economy expands, so must the rate of inflation. The evidence of high inflation's demise can be seen merely by looking at mortgage rates. The record low interest rates of the past few years has allowed tens of thousands of families in my home State of Utah to afford to buy their own home, something that was beyond the reach of many before.

Chairman Greenspan's success in taming inflation and creating a stable economic climate has paved the way for our next Fed Chairman, Ben Bernanke, to explicitly state that low inflation is his primary goal. Indeed, countries all over the world are following our lead of having an independent central bank dedicated to a stable price system, modeled after the one in the United States. This is no small credit to the ability of Mr. Greenspan and the capable economists employed by the Federal Reserve.

The pressure on the Chair of the Federal Reserve to ''do something'' in response to crises, both real or perceived, can be great. It is to his credit that Chairman Greenspan has been able to resist many of those calls and avoided meddling in situations where the potential economic benefits from such action were slight, but the potential costs heavy. In central banking, inaction is most often the better part of valor.

At this time, I would also like to express my enthusiastic support for the nomination of Ben Bernanke to be the next Chairman of the Federal Reserve's Board of Governors. Mr. Bernanke has

served quite admirably for the past 4 years both as a member of the Board of Governors and for the past 9 months as the head of the President's Council of Economic Advisers. He is a world-renowned scholar on monetary economics and the banking industry, and is one of the preeminent experts on the causes and consequences of the Great Depression.

Before Dr. Bernanke came to Washington, he was a professor of economics at Princeton University, perhaps the top school for economics in the world. He also served as its department chair for a number of years. While living in Princeton, he served on the local school board for a number of years, putting the lie to any notion that he has ever been an ivory tower academic unfamiliar with how the real world operates.

Benjamin Bernanke brings a gifted intellect, a wide variety of relevant experience, and an understanding of the importance of what the Federal Reserve does and the harm that it can bring to an economy. I wholeheartedly encourage my colleagues to join with me in voting for his nomination.

Mr. MENENDEZ. I rise in support of the nomination of Ben Bernanke, of my home State of New Jersey, to be the next Chairman of the Federal Reserve. Once again, New Jersey is honored that the President has nominated one of our own to serve our Nation in such a vital position.

Dr. Bernanke has a remarkable record of scholarship. He graduated from Harvard with top honors and later earned a doctorate in economics from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, MIT. Dr. Bernanke then entered academia and has taught at some of the preeminent universities of our Nation, starting at Stanford before continuing at MIT and New York University and eventually ending as the Chairman of the Economics Department at Princeton University. He has also served our Nation with distinction in his roles at both the Council of Economic Advisers and the Federal Reserve.

As the newest member of the Senate Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs, I look forward to working with Dr. Bernanke in ensuring that inflation remains in check, that our Nation's deficits are addressed and dealt with in a forthright manner, and that all Americans are able to successfully participate in our country's economy. He has a reputation of basing his decisions on sound economics, rather than ideology and partisanship, and I expect this to continue in his new role as Chairman.

Mr. President, I would be remiss if I did not also take this time to thank Alan Greenspan for his almost two decades of service and economic stewardship as the outgoing Chairman.

I am quite pleased that the President has nominated my fellow New Jerseyan, Dr. Bernanke, to be Chairman of the Federal Reserve and am confident that he will do a good job in his new position, while making our shared State of New Jersey proud.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

Mr. SHELBY. Mr. President, how much time do I have?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator has 18 minutes 43 seconds remaining. The Senator from Maryland has 8 minutes 5 seconds remaining.

Mr. SHELBY. Does the Senator wish to continue?

Mr. SARBANES. I will yield half of the remaining time to Senator DORGAN and the other half to Senator SCHUMER.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New York is recognized for 4 minutes 17 seconds.

Mr. SCHUMER. Thank you, Mr. President. I rise in strong support of the nomination of Mr. Bernanke to become Chairman of the Federal Reserve. First, I would be remiss if I didn't say a few words of congratulations to Alan Greenspan, who has truly been a giant in the field. He will be missed. He hovered over our economy similar to a caring guardian and has done an incredibly fine job. Every American of every political stripe should be grateful that Alan Greenspan served so well and so long. I called him yesterday to wish him well. He will do just fine. He is 79 and he is entitled to retire. I, for one, with no aspersions on Mr. Bernanke, wish he would have even stayed a little longer.

I think Mr. Bernanke is extremely well qualified for the job for a number of reasons. That is why I strongly support his nomination. He is erudite, he is smart, and he is one of those rare people who has made monetary policy his life's work. Many of us would not choose to do that, but he did and he has done it very well.

Second, Mr. Bernanke has assured us that he will follow the policies of Chairman Greenspan. That bespeaks well of his wisdom because Chairman Greenspan did such a superb job managing monetary policy. Anybody who says that starts with a leg up.

Third, he is not an ideologue. He is a solid, thoughtful person. He does not go to the extreme. He does not have a narrow theory that governs the way economic policy should be made. He assured us, despite some rumors to the contrary, for instance, that he would not follow a mechanistic, formulaic monetary policy. That is very important because our economy is so complicated and there are so many international considerations that you cannot be mechanistic in this changing new world, and he is not.

He is also not an ideologue in terms of general economic policy. He is not one of these people who advocate tax cuts above all, even if it plunges us into greater deficits. He is a thoughtful, moderate man. He is the right choice for the job.

Senator GRAHAM and I have been very concerned about the balance of trade with China and them pegging their currency at a low rate. He showed sympathy—in fact, greater sympathy than many—when we talked about that with him.

There are great challenges for Chairman Bernanke. There is the internationalization of the economy. That affects monetary policy because, as I said, there are loopbacks. What happens with the yen and the yuan and the Euro affects the dollar in ways that did not occur before when so little of our economy was based on international trade.

He has to deal with another problem in our society—the agglomeration of wealth to the top. Our society cannot continue with the top 10 percent that glomerates most of the wealth. I hope he will speak out on issues beyond monetary policy because we don't have any respected voices who do that without a partisan edge, other than the Chairman of the Fed.

I make one final point. Contrast the nomination of Dr. Bernanke and Judge Alito. Dr. Bernanke is a moderate. There was consultation, and he is getting every Democratic vote. Judge Alito was a partisan nomination. There was no consultation. He is regarded by many of us on key issues at the extreme, and we had a divided vote. I hope and pray that in the future, the President will follow the nomination process more like he did with Dr. Bernanke, a unifying choice, rather than like Judge Alito, a partisan choice.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from North Dakota is recognized.

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, I will be brief. I had thought I agreed to the unanimous consent request in exchange for 10 minutes to speak on this nomination, but if that time does not exist, I will truncate my remarks.

Mr. SHELBY. Mr. President, I will be glad to yield to the Senator from North Dakota some of my time.

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, in that case, let me compliment the chairman and ranking member, which I would have done in any event. Let me spend more time complimenting them for their work.

The Banking Committee is very important in the Senate. It takes a very serious view of these issues and I know did a very thorough job in the hearings held late last year on this nomination for Chairman of the Federal Reserve Board. I thank the chairman for his courtesy, and I thank the chairman and the ranking member for their work, not just on this nomination but on so many important issues.

I don't come to the Chamber to oppose Mr. Bernanke's nomination. That is not my purpose. I wish him well. I want him to succeed. He is going to be confirmed almost unanimously today by the Senate.

Chairman Greenspan and I have had very significant differences over a long period of time. But I wish him well. I want to thank him for his service to our country, even if we have different views about monetary policy.

I know people will talk about big shoes to fill. Whenever someone leaves, there are big shoes to fill. I don't know if the shoes are big, little, Ferragamos or Payless—but they are shoes. We have someone else answering to the call of public service, in this case someone well qualified.

Mr. Bernanke has served at the Federal Reserve Board dealing with monetary policy and at the White House dealing with fiscal policy for President Bush. The Senate will confirm him today, and he will go back to the Federal Reserve Board as Chairman.

What I wanted to say today is that we have the twin issues of fiscal policy and monetary policy, and there needs to be some responsibility to understand how they work together to improve this country's future. I am very concerned about this country's economic future for reasons that Senator SARBANES touched on a moment ago. I wish to describe it to my colleagues.

I think the Federal Reserve Board for some long while—and, yes, it was under Chairman Greenspan's stewardship—has been providing green lights saying, It is OK, go right ahead, to a series of fiscal policy moves which has put us deep in debt. It is not just in budget policy where we have these deep and abiding long-term deficits and, therefore, increases in the Federal debt. We also have large trade deficits. In about a week and a half, we will have an announcement about last year's trade deficit. My expectation is it is going to be about $750 billion, the highest in history. That debt is devastating to this country. It is unsustainable. At the same time, in fiscal policy, the Federal debt will increase in this fiscal year somewhere around $650 billion.

I wish to put up a chart that shows what is happening. This is the wall of debt in fiscal policy. You will see year after year after year, going from 2006 to 2011, up to $12 trillion in fiscal policy debt. Extend this another 5 years, and you get to $16 trillion. This is a relentless wave of bad news in fiscal policy that we cannot continue. This is just fiscal policy. The trade policy debt looks even worse. Its growth is even more dramatic. Of course, that relates to the issues of jobs.

Last week, we heard Ford Motor say: Oh, by the way, we are going to cut 30,000 workers. Several months ago, it was General Motors saying: By the way, we are going to cut 20,000 to 30,000 workers. Four months before that, it was General Motors calling in the heads of the companies that provide the General Motors' parts, 300 people in a room, and the person in charge of parts for General Motors said this to them: You need, when making parts for General Motors cars, to outsource those jobs to China to get the costs down.

Where is all this heading? Ford, General Motors, parts to China, $750 billion trade deficit in a year? It is headed in the wrong direction, and we are today selecting one person who is going to be in a position of very significant influence in our Government about the direction of this country. Mr. Bernanke will play a significant role in determining the amount of economic growth and opportunity that will exist in the future, what kind of good jobs we will have, and how many.

Our fiscal policy, judged by anyone soberly looking at the facts, is seriously off track. I don't blame Mr. Bernanke for that, although he most recently worked at the White House in the fiscal policy arena. It is not a question of blame, it is a proposition that all of us, Republicans and Democrats, liberals, conservatives, moderates, must finally come together to say this is unsustainable.

Our country is off track in fiscal policy and trade policy. This debt will have consequences. And in the construct of monetary policy, it is critically important that Mr. Bernanke understand these messages and not do as has been done in most recent years and put up a big old green light and say to friends in Congress: Oh, by the way, go ahead, it will all work out; be happy. Fine. That is exactly what has happened in recent years, with a couple of exceptions.

The Federal Reserve Board is a strong central bank that is largely accountable to no one. I know, go back to the nineteen-teens when the Federal Reserve Board was created, and it was said on the floor of the Senate, we are not creating a central bank, we are not creating a strong central bank, and we are not for certain creating a strong central bank accountable to no one, but that's exactly what happened. You can make the case over a long period of time that things have gone pretty well with monetary policy here, fiscal policy there.

My colleague from Maryland talks about economic stabilizers. You can talk about some successes. Our recessions have been less deep in recent years because of economic stabilizers and some thoughtful approaches to dealing with monetary policy and fiscal policy. But I believe it is very important for us to understand where we are. If you don't understand where you are at the moment, it is pretty hard to figure out where you are going.

As we consider the nomination of one of the most important people in this country with respect to economic policy, a new Chairman of the Federal Reserve Board, I call attention once again to the fact that we have very serious, abiding, long-term economic problems which, unless resolved, will injure this country's long-term opportunity to remain a world economic power. It is that serious.

One final point. There is a little fund down at the Federal Reserve Board to which I also wish to call attention. I assume Mr. Bernanke knows of it. It is a fund in which $12.9 billion exists. It is a fund at the Federal Reserve Board which is called a surplus account. The Federal Reserve Board, I remind everyone, effectively creates money. It does not need a rainy-day fund because it will never lose money. It has not suffered an annual loss in some 90 years. And yet the Federal Reserve Board has a rainy-day fund, a surplus fund, which has grown now to $12.9 billion.

I believe the Fed and the Congress ought to take a hard look at that and ask themselves, given the fact we are choking on debt these days, is there any reason that the Federal Reserve should continue to have a surplus fund of $12.9 billion? The Fed wants a fund apparently because it might lose money someday. The Fed makes money. The Fed creates money. The Fed does not need $12.9 billion in a surplus account.

So as Mr. Bernanke receives his approval of the Senate today, my hope is he might, with Members of Congress, take a look at that issue. Senator REID and I and others asked for a GAO report on that 10 years ago now—and the Fed blithely ignores the consequences of any of that and does what it wants to do. In fact, at that point, the reserve or surplus rainy-day fund was $4.5 billion. Not only did the criticism of that fund not deter them, it has grown now to nearly triple that amount, in a rainy-day fund in a climate where it never rains. I am sorry, but Mr. Bernanke should take a good, hard look at that, and so should the Congress.

Having said all that, pointing out especially that we have very abiding and serious fiscal policy problems and trade policy problems, my hope is that Mr. Bernanke, in seizing the reins of our monetary policy in this country as Chairman of the Federal Reserve Board, has a successful tenure. I wish him well. I want him to do well. I want our country to do well. I come to the Chamber only to ask that all of us finally join together, including the Chairman of the Federal Reserve Board, to see where we are and where we must be if we want a strong America in the future, one that grows and finds opportunities for our children and grandchildren.

I again thank my two colleagues for the time. I yield the floor.

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

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

Mr. SHELBY. Mr. President, I reserve the remainder of my time at this point.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Alabama reserves the remainder of his time, 11 minutes 17 seconds.

The Senator from Georgia is recognized.

(The remarks of Mr. ISAKSON and Mr. OBAMA are printed in today's RECORD under ''Morning Business.'')

Mr. OBAMA. Mr. President, today I am introducing a resolution honoring the life and contributions of Coretta Scott King. I hope all my colleagues will join me in this effort.

Mr. SARBANES. Will the Senator yield? Will the Senator place me on his resolution?

Mr. OBAMA. I am happy to.

RECESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the hour of 12:30 p.m. having arrived, the Senate will stand in recess until 2:15.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 12:26 p.m., recessed until 2:15 p.m., and reassembled when called to order by the Presiding Officer (Mr. VOINOVICH).

NOMINATIONS OF BEN S. BERNANKE TO BE A MEMBER AND CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS OF THE FEDERAL RESERVE SYSTEM—Continued

Mr. BUNNING. Mr. President, I rise today to oppose the nomination of Dr. Ben Bernanke to be Chairman of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve. I am not one who relishes opposing President Bush's nominees or his policies. I have been supportive of an overwhelming majority of them, but I have opposed a nominee or two on a few occasions. This is one of those rare occurrences.

Dr. Bernanke has an impressive resume and career. He received his bachelor of arts in economics in 1975 from Harvard University. From there he headed off to Massachusetts Institute of Technology where he received his Ph.D. in economics in 1979. He was assistant professor of economics in the graduate School of Business at Stanford University from 1979 to 1983 and then became associate professor of economics at Stanford's graduate School of Business from 1983 to 1985.

Ben Bernanke then popped over to Princeton University. There he became a professor of economics and public affairs from 1985 to 1994. He stayed at Princeton and ultimately became chair of its economic department until 2002. He was then appointed to serve as a member of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System by President Bush.

Dr. Bernanke was then tapped as chairman of the President's Council of Economic Advisers and he has held that post since June of 2005.

Of course, along with this academic and employment résumé, Dr. Bernanke has received many honors and fellowships along the way. He has also published many articles on a wide variety of economic issues, articles relating to monetary policy, inflation targeting, microeconomics, central banking, and many other issues relating to economic and monetary theories.

This all sounds very impressive, and it is. It is an economic elitist dream. For some, it can be a nightmare. I hope he does not hold too many of the ivory-towered theories of academia for real-world wisdom as he heads off to be the next Fed Chairman.

I voted for Ben Bernanke in the Banking Committee and in the Senate to be the Fed Governor in 2002. I supported him to the Board of Governors at the Fed because of a private meeting we had.

Over the years I have had some great concern about the Federal Reserve and the way it operates. One of my biggest concerns is that the Federal Open Market Committee, the FOMC, suffers from ''group think.'' It seems to me no one ever challenges the Fed Chairman. I rarely, if ever, witnessed or heard any of the Fed Governors publicly challenging or disagreeing with Chairman Alan Greenspan.

Chairman Greenspan has done an admirable job during his tenure at the Federal Reserve. He had a difficult task. Part of his job was to predict the future. However, I believe Chairman Greenspan has always erred on the side of raising interest rates. I am not alone with this opinion. History has shown he has made many mistakes in raising rates for too long. My problem is when he did that, not one Governor raised their voice. Instead, they either bit their tongue out of fear they would be viewed as not a team player or perhaps what might be worse is that they all agreed with each other and simply reinforced bad ideas.

Diversity of thought and dissension is, indeed, necessary within the Federal Reserve. After all, the Chairman of the Fed and its Board of Governors essentially have the greatest power over shaping our economy. And the economy affects every American.

I understand the argument that to have an FOMC rife with dissension might not be the best for the markets. I have heard the argument that it would rattle the markets and send Wall Street into a tizzy. Yes, overall, it is important the FOMC speak with one voice. However, the pendulum can swing too far from dissent. My fear is that the FOMC under Chairman Greenspan has arguably suffered from group think and that the FOMC has unintentionally become a rubberstamp for Chairman Greenspan's recommendations.

We need an FOMC that is truly independent. It must be independent from the Congress and the executive branch. We cannot have a Fed that is influenced by the President. We certainly know the Fed does not pay any attention to Congress. For the FOMC to function properly, its members must challenge the Chairman. No Chairman should be able to dominate. There must be intellectual sparring so all members are heard and the FOMC can come up with the best decision for the country.

The Federal Open Market Committee needs independent voices. Dr. Bernanke promised me he would be an independent voice as a member of the FOMC. He promised me he would stand up to the Chairman if he thought he was being rolled. Sadly, I have not seen very much evidence of him being independent. I never saw him vote, not once, against the Chairman. I never, ever saw him challenge the Chairman. And as far as I can tell, they never had a disagreement.

As important as it is for the FOMC member to be independent, it is more important the Chairman be independent. The Fed Chairman must not give in to outside pressures. Monetary policy decisions must be made for the good of the country and not for political considerations. When Dr. Bernanke was a Fed Governor, I did not witness him showing independence from the Chairman at all. During his tenure as a Fed Governor, there were 23 votes taken by the FOMC committee. Not once did Dr. Bernanke vote against Chairman Greenspan. I don't think that is independence; that is group think. He did not show independence as a Fed Governor. How can we be sure he will be an independent person as Chairman of the Fed?

The pressures to go along for a quick political fix will be even greater. Will he stand up to the President? Will he stand up to the New York Times, the Washington Post, the Wall Street Journal? Will he stand up to the business and economic pundits in the broadcast media or anyone else when they call for rate increases or decreases? I am not convinced he will. The past is prologue. I hope I am wrong.

It is mainly for this reason that in 2005 I opposed his confirmation as Chairman of the President's Council of Economic Advisers. I hope Ben Bernanke proves to be a fine Chairman of the Federal Reserve. I hope he uses his vast knowledge of our economy to make correct monetary policy decisions. I hope he gains the trust of Wall Street, much like the last two chairmen.

Dr. Bernanke has talked about bringing more transparency to the Fed. I hope he does this. I hope he continues to be plain spoken.

One other reason I oppose Dr. Bernanke is because he says he will continue the policies of Chairman Greenspan. That does not sit well with me. I hope this is not completely true. I hope Ben Bernanke refrains from talking about things outside the purview of the Federal Reserve. One of my biggest problems with Chairman Greenspan was that he talked about everything under the sun: tax policy, trade deficits, budgets, fiscal policy, the Nation's oil patch. The Fed's jurisdiction is narrowly scoped to monetary policy, but if you asked Chairman Greenspan about monetary policy, he would talk about everything under the Sun without ever answering your questions. If you asked him something that had nothing to do with monetary policy, he was more than happy to give you a clear and concise answer. Hopefully, Dr. Bernanke will be a different

kind of chairman in that respect. Hopefully, he will talk only about monetary policy and not interfere with tax and fiscal policy. Those matters should be left to the legislative branch and other areas of the executive branch.

Also, Chairman Greenspan's problems were not just the fact that he talked outside the monetary policy arena. Yes, Chairman Greenspan's tenure held relatively low inflation with growing economic conditions. However, his record came about from the creation of a fat market bubble that ultimately popped. Then there was a housing bubble. It led to an unbalanced economic recovery fueled by cash raised from soaring home prices. This resulted in record household debt and negative consumer savings rates.

We also witnessed the endless bailouts of Chairman Greenspan. There was the 1997 Fed bailout of the Asian crisis. There was the long-term capital management bailout in 1998. We had a financial crisis and the Fed got involved with Mexico and all this led to a huge trade and Federal budget deficits. This was all further affected by record energy prices which raised the cost of goods and services.

After almost 20 years, Chairman Greenspan is now acknowledging some of the bad consequences of his decisions. He said inflation may be creeping in. But Chairman Greenspan leaves knowing that his mess will fall to his apprentice, Ben Bernanke.

Yes, Dr. Bernanke has an impressive resume. But the question is whether he knows what is waiting for him around each economic corner. It is indeed ironic that Dr. Bernanke finds it necessary to continue the Greenspan policies. I hope this is not true. This would be disastrous. These policies have not been the best for our economy.

I hope Dr. Bernanke does not follow too closely in the footsteps of Chairman Greenspan in his approaches. But regardless, he just might inherit a mess from Chairman Greenspan. If so, I hope he can clean it up.

I hope there is no damaging recession or financial crisis looming. If so, I hope Ben Bernanke does not live up to his nickname of ''Helicopter Ben,'' and throw the U.S. mint's printing presses into overdrive.

I have no personal qualms with Dr. Bernanke. We simply differ on opinions. I do not relish opposing President Bush's nominees. But, regretfully, I must oppose Dr. Ben Bernanke to be Chairman of the Federal Reserve.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that I be recorded as being opposed to Ben Bernanke's nomination upon its approval.

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

Mr. BUNNING. Mr. President, I yield the floor and 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. SHELBY. 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. SHELBY. Mr. President, I yield back the remainder of my time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator yields back his time.

Does the Senator from Kentucky yield back his time?

He does.

The question is on Calendar No. 440. The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the nomination of Ben S. Bernanke, of New Jersey, to be a member of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System?

The nomination was confirmed.

Mr. SHELBY. I move to reconsider the vote.

Mr. BUNNING. I move to lay that motion on the table.

The motion to lay on the table was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on Calendar No. 441. The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the nomination of Ben S. Bernanke, of New Jersey, to be Chairman of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System?

The nomination was confirmed.

Mr. SHELBY. I move to reconsider the vote.

Mr. BUNNING. I move to lay that motion on the table.

The motion to lay on the table was agreed to.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. COLEMAN). Without objection, it is so ordered.

Under the previous order, the President will be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

## LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will return to legislative session.

The Senator from Oregon.

Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to speak for up to 30 minutes as in morning business.

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

## TAXES AND HEALTH CARE

Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, while Senators talk about prebuttal and rebuttal speeches before the State of the Union speech, I hear middle-class folks saying ''drop the buts and make our lives easier.'' I know because in January, when I was home, I held 21 community meetings. The big issues then were those where the second word was ''bill''—medical bills, gas bills, heating bills, mortgage bills, college bills, and especially tax bills.

It is not hard to see why those are the issues. Middle-class folks in this country are not keeping up. Even their wages do not keep up with inflation. And while they want a better life for their kids—the way their parents wanted for them—they stay up nights worrying that they cannot make it happen.

So today I want to spend a few minutes discussing just two issues: taxes and health care. I believe in each of these two issues Congress could work on a bipartisan basis for genuine relief for the middle class. We may not hear about it tonight, but as middle-class folks begin pulling together their 1099s, their W–2s, their schedule this and schedule that, and all of what they have to do to comply with filling out their tax forms, I simply wanted to come to the floor and say it does not have to be this way.

I brought, today, just part of what constitutes the regulations and rules for complying with taxes in America. One of the experts in the field told me there have been more than 14,000 amendments to the Tax Code since the last major overhaul in 1986. It comes to almost three for every working day in America.

This year, Americans are going to spend $140 billion on tax compliance. Americans are going to spend more money complying with the tax rules than the Federal government is spending on higher education in our country.

I have come to the floor today because I want to make it clear I do not think it has to be that way. I have developed an alternative. My one-page 1040 form is just 30 lines long. Take your income from all sources, subtract your deductions, take your credits, send it off to the IRS, and you can even add a note: I'm done. Have a nice day.

I filled this out myself, and that in and of itself is a little bit of a revolution because it has been a long time since a member of the Senate Finance Committee or someone in the other body on the Ways and Means Committee could fill out their own tax form.

What happens today? More than three million people, for example, have to essentially fill out their taxes twice. They have that alternative minimum tax staring at them. Scores of families are pulling together shoe boxes full of receipts, shouting across the living room, ''Honey, can you find that receipt for the copier that we bought months ago?'' because part of it is for business and part of it was used for the family. I say it does not have to be this way.

I have shown that you can have a one-page 1040 form. The President's advisory committee report that came out in the fall had a similar form—I do not happen to agree with all they did, but their one-page form isn't that much longer than mine. For purposes of Government work, we could put the two of

them together and really do something meaningful on a bipartisan basis to simplify the Tax Code, to use that $140 billion now spent on compliance on something I know the Presiding Officer has a great interest in—education and infrastructure and other areas that are of great importance to our country.

But on top of simplifying the Tax Code, there is more that has to be done to help the middle class. I suspect we are not going to hear about it tonight, but Warren Buffett, the second wealthiest man in America, pays a lot lower tax rate than his receptionist. That is because there is a double standard.

We hit people a lot harder when they work for wages than when they make their money off investments. I am not interested in soaking anybody. I believe in markets. I believe in creating wealth. But something is out of whack when middle-class folks have to spend the time to figure out how to wade through all of this and spend literally much of the money they want to spend on their families on just filling out their taxes—it is not right to hammer people who work for a living.

Here is the way it works. If a cop working outside the Capitol gets a little bit of a pay raise—maybe $500—that cop pays 25 percent of the pay raise to the Federal Government in income taxes and pays Social Security payroll taxes on top of it. If, however, you make your money on investments—we want everybody to do well in that area also—you pay 15 percent of what you make on your investments in income taxes and you do not pay any Social Security payroll taxes.

There is a double standard. We discriminate against people who work for a living. In Ohio, in Oregon, across the country, if you work hard, play by the rules, and work for a wage, you get hit a lot harder than the people who make their money on investments.

I have already said I am not interested in soaking anybody. I happen to believe marginal rates are a big deal. And because I do, I have not raised the top rate in my proposal. I have three tax brackets: 15, 25, and 35 percent. So it is progressive. I have said to colleagues on the other side of the aisle, folks in the administration, there is plenty of flexibility in my proposal. If we want to make it 13, 23 and 33, I am up for that, too. We can do that in a bipartisan way.

But tonight, I suspect, instead of hearing that we ought to take on the tax bureaucracy embodied in a few of these volumes, in effect we are going to be told to re-up for business as usual. I don't think it has to be that way. I refer colleagues to what happened in 1986, 20 years ago. Then we had a Republican President, revered by millions of Americans, Ronald Reagan, who worked with Democrats, Dan Rostenkowski, Bill Bradley, Dick Gephardt. They found common ground in a proposal that has many of the same features I bring to the Senate today.

They were concerned about marginal rates. There were Democrats, such as myself, who think marginal rates are a big deal. They worked together with a Republican President to achieve a significant success. They removed a lot of clutter from the Tax Code. I wish we hadn't gone back over the last 20 years since that historic legislation and added it all back, those more than 14,000 provisions. But it happened. We all know it has a little bit to do with the lobbyists, because the lobbyists all come and ask for this particular break or another. I had one of our colleagues say to me: Ron, I don't agree with every part of your proposal, but you are right, probably every 20 years you ought to automatically cleanse the Tax Code. You automatically ought to give it a bath.

So I come tonight to say I am interested in working on a bipartisan basis to do something about all this dead wood. I would rather preserve the trees that go into all these volumes and simplify the life of middle-class folks. We have our folks talking on cell phones all day and pagers and practically tethered to the Internet. I know of young people trying to get ahead. They work 12, 14 hours a day. They come home and they are still checking their e-mail. Do we want to put them through another 30 hours of preparing their taxes?

I filled out my one-page 1040 form. I already said the President's Advisory Panel on tax reform had some good ideas. We could come up with an alternative. But we have to want to lead. We have to want to lead as President Reagan did, as Bill Bradley did. We have to say we want to do it on a bipartisan basis.

I am hopeful that if we hear tonight about business as usual on taxes, I can join with colleagues on the other side of the aisle. I have already talked to some on the Finance Committee where I am honored to serve. I have discussed it both with Chairman GRASSLEY and Senator BAUCUS, two who frankly are role models for bipartisanship.

I came today to particularly talk about how this could help middle-class folks. I am going to put in the RECORD examples of how various middle-class people would be affected. I will ask unanimous consent to print in the RECORD some examples of how my proposal would help the middle class.

Under my proposal we will have a lot of middle-class people, people making $70, $80, $90,000 a year—there are a lot of them in Ohio and Oregon—will get a significant amount of relief. Essentially, all those families who make up to $150,000 a year, primarily on wage income, maybe a little bit of investment thrown in, they are going to get real tax relief or they are going to stay about the same. I want to see us do it in a fiscally responsible way. I know this is of great concern to the Senator from Ohio. The Congressional Research Service said that it is possible to get the tax relief to millions of middle-class people that is outlined in my legislation, the Fair Flat Tax Act, and pay down the Federal deficit by $100 billion. That is clearly not all you have to do to stop the hemorrhaging of the Federal budget, but at least it is a downpayment.

The Senator from Ohio has done an awful lot of good work in terms of pay-as-you-go budgeting and taking on health care costs and some of the skyrocketing cost of entitlements. My proposal doesn't pretend to deal with all of the red ink we see in the Federal budget, but it does get real tax relief to middle-class people and does it in a fiscally responsible way, with the Congressional Research Service saying that it would pay down the Federal deficit by $100 billion over the next few years.

I will be back on the floor over the next few days and weeks trying to make the case for bipartisanship to overhaul the tax system. I don't think it is possible to continue to add a piece here and a piece there and make any sense out of all this. We will only be adding more and more volumes. For example, virtually every Senator I have talked to wants to deal with the alternative minimum tax. We know there are a lot of people being swept up in the alternative minimum tax who certainly don't consider themselves fat cats. They weren't the kind of people anybody was talking about when the AMT came into being. But we are getting to the point now where it is almost impossible to put a patch on the AMT without having that change ripple all the way through the system.

What we ought to say, on a bipartisan basis, is we can make the code simpler, flatter, and fairer. I have described today how it can be made simpler. I have a one-page 1040 form. The President's advisory commission has one that is a bit longer, but they are close enough for purposes of Government work. I have three brackets in my tax proposal: 15, 25, and 35. It is fine with me to adjust the numbers a little bit, particularly the idea of going down a couple of points for each of the brackets. The biggest challenge in terms of working out a bipartisan proposal is on the issue of fairness, because that is obviously in the eye of the beholder. What is fair to one person may not be fair to somebody else.

I want to close on one point with respect to taxes. Ronald Reagan signed a bill in 1986 that treated investment income the way wage income was treated. Ronald Reagan in 1986, working with Bill Bradley, Dick Gephardt, a host of Democrats, signed a bill that treated investment income as it treated wage income. He did it because he thought the overall set of tax brackets made sense. I happen to think mine do as well. Colleagues may have other approaches. What we know for a fact is what was done in 1986 worked. The stock market was not hampered. For colleagues on the other side of the aisle, a Republican got elected President in 1988 so no Republican was hurt

by tax reform, where there was bipartisan leadership.

I come to the floor with my first comments, that while, unfortunately, we are not going to hear about comprehensive tax reform tonight, this Senator wants to make it clear that this is a cause I am not giving up on. I am going to push this at every possible opportunity. I am going to work with colleagues on the other side of the aisle. We know that you can't get anything important done unless it is bipartisan. I am going to do it because I don't think you can defend business as usual with this tax system. The simplification that I have come to argue for makes sense. Frankly, that ought to be a no-brainer for everyone. We can make the code flatter.

Let's role up our sleeves and try to come up with a system that is fairer for everybody, the way it was done back in 1986. If we can get it done—and I have the good fortune of being able to stay on the Senate Finance Committee, if the people of Oregon honor me with a chance to continue to serve there—this time I am going to fight those lobbyists who will try to go back and clutter it up. Frankly, that is what happened in 1986. Nobody really said ''no'' after that historic reform.

How much time do I have remaining?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. There is 10½ minutes.

Mr. WYDEN. I want to conclude on another pocketbook issue for the middle class by talking about health care. I am a Senator who believes there ought to be private choices in American health care. There are some who think that all the health care ought to be privatized, some who think that Government ought to do everything. I am one who believes there is a role for both the private sector and for Government in health care.

Unfortunately, I voted for the Medicare prescription drug program. As a former director of the Oregon Gray Panthers, I still have the welts on my back to show for it. I never conceived that the administration of this program could be so bungled. We have bedlam out there right now with seniors with advanced degrees trying to sort all this out. Again, it did not have to be this way. If, for example, the administration had at least standardized the policies a little bit so that people could compare the various prescription drug coverages available, we could have avoided this chaos. There is a model for this as well, a model used for the private health insurance supplements that seniors bought to add to their Medicare.

Before I came to Congress, I was director of the Gray Panthers. It was not uncommon for a senior to have 10, 15 private health insurance policies. We drained that swamp. Now seniors for the most part have only one Medigap policy. It meets their needs. The insurance industry has indicated it works for them. We ought to be trying to standardize or at least make more understandable the private health policies that seniors are looking at now to meet their prescription drug needs.

I have suggested this to the Secretary of Health and Human Services. To his credit, he has indicated that he is interested in pursuing it. The administration of this program didn't have to roll out this way. It could have been simpler and more understandable, if the choices that were made available to seniors had simply been structured in a clearer, more understandable way.

There is a second thing that needs to be done on health care. Senator SNOWE and I got 51 votes late last year for our legislation to lift the restriction on Medicare's right to bargain to hold down the cost of prescription medicine. The way Medicare is buying this medicine defies anything that goes on in the private sector. It is similar to somebody going to Costco and buying toilet paper one roll at a time. Nobody would shop the way Medicare is purchasing these prescription drugs.

By my count, Senator SNOWE and I now have 53 votes for our legislation to lift the restriction on Medicare bargaining. I commend a number of colleagues who have been involved. On our side of the aisle, Senators STABENOW and FEINSTEIN have done a lot of heavy lifting. Senator MCCAIN has been a wonderful supporter. We ought to pass that legislation. We ought to make it possible for Medicare to bargain to hold down the cost of medicine. I look forward to talking to our colleagues further, including the distinguished Senator in the chair.

There are other steps that ought to be taken to hold down the costs in health care. I hope we will hear about them tonight. One of the best is to make more accurate information available about how doctors and hospitals price their services.

It is possible to shop for just about anything in the United States, but you cannot shop very much for health care. It makes no sense at all. Senator CORNYN, the distinguished Senator from Texas, has a great interest in this issue. Other colleagues do as well. But if we are serious about holding down costs—I think the President will talk about cost containment tonight—let's get better, more understandable, more usable information about doctors and hospitals out to the American people. That is step No. 2.

Step No. 3 involves end-of-life care—one of the most controversial issues in American health care. As my colleagues know, I was the one who blocked the original Schiavo legislation from coming up on the floor. Let me talk about something all of us can agree on, and that is we ought to expand hospice and comfort care to deal with end-of-life services because this is something which will help us save money, will avoid some of the family tragedies that result in these horrible, polarizing kinds of problems such as we saw in the tragic Schiavo case.

There is no reason, given the fact that a growing fraction of the health care dollar gets spent in the last few months of an individual's life, that to be both compassionate and hold down health care costs, Republicans and Democrats cannot join hands on expanding hospice care as an alternative to what our citizens face now with end-of-life choices.

The fourth step is an area the Chair has a great interest in, and that is health care technology. We know many communities have multiple technologies, such as MRI machines. There are some very exciting and tremendous new products that are available. Many communities have lots of these technologies, and some have none at all. There is a maldistribution of health care resources. So an area I have a great interest in is, making it possible in communities in Minnesota and Oregon for health care providers to share these technologies, perhaps even giving them a waiver of antitrust restrictions, so that rather than everybody having to keep up with the Joneses and adding to health care expenses in an area that has fueled our costs, let's figure out a way that will not freeze innovation. Nobody wants to do that.

The Senator from Minnesota has been a leader in that field. We don't want to freeze innovation, but we want to hold down costs and make sure there is access. I think there are ways in which we can create incentives to share these exciting health care technologies. I have suggested just one this afternoon. That is a way to hold down health care costs.

Mr. President, to recap, let's clean up the Medicare prescription drug benefit. Let's figure out how to get better and more accurate information about doctors and hospital costs and services out. Let's expand hospice and compassionate end-of-life care. And let's make sure there are incentives to better use health care technology.

Those are four practical steps which can hold down health care costs and improve health care services in our country.

I close by way of saying that I came to the Senate floor today because I had those 21 town meetings at home. I heard middle-class people talk about all the issues where the second word was ''bill''—medical bill, tax bill, mortgage bill, gas bill, home heating bill. They are concerned about economics and their pocketbooks. We don't need all this dead wood in our tax system. We can come up with a 1-page alternative. I proposed one, as have others. We can work in a bipartisan way to hold down health care costs.

Tonight, we may not hear about some of what I have discussed this afternoon, but I look forward to working with colleagues on both sides of the aisle and with the Bush administration because on both the tax issue and the health care issue, we can do better.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New Jersey is recognized.

(The remarks of Mr. LAUTENBERG are printed in todays RECORD under ''Morning Business.'')

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. 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 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. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

## THE RETIREMENT OF JUSTICE SANDRA DAY O'CONNOR

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, today has been an extraordinarily historic and eventful day, one in which we have paid tribute to, and reflected upon, the great deeds and towering leadership of some of the most consequential individuals of the 20th century. It has also been a fast-paced day of action, of looking to the future, guiding America toward our most cherished goals and most cherished ideals.

One person we honor today, who has helped lead that journey, is retiring Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O'Connor. For over two decades, Justice O'Connor has presided over some of the most complex, difficult, and vexing debates of our times.

Justice O'Connor, who turns 76 this year, retires with a sterling reputation as a brilliant legal scholar, a fair and impartial jurist, and an individual of impeccable personal integrity.

Born in the humble town of El Paso, TX, to Harry and Ada Mae, the young Sandra Day grew up on her family's cattle ranch in southeastern Arizona. It was not far and wasn't long to Stanford University where she graduated magna cum laude with a bachelor's degree in economics. She was accepted into the university's prestigious school of law and earned a coveted position on the law review's board of editors. She completed law school in only 2 years and finished near the top of her class. Among her classmates was a young man who would later sit beside her on the highest Court in the land: the late Chief Justice William Rehnquist.

Despite her extraordinary credentials, the private sector didn't easily welcome a woman into its male-dominated ranks. After a frustrating job search in the private sector, the young lawyer began her career as Deputy County Attorney of San Mateo, CA. A 4-year stint in Europe, where her husband was posted, and 3 sons later, Sandra Day O'Connor became Arizona's Assistant Attorney General in 1965.

She served 4 years before being appointed to fill an unexpired seat in the Arizona State Senate. In the State senate she proved herself an adept and popular lawmaker. She rose to its highest office to become the first woman State majority leader ever in the history of the United States.

In 1975, Sandra Day O'Connor was elected judge of the Maricopa County Superior Court, and 4 years later, in 1979, was appointed to the Arizona Court of Appeals. There she served until President Ronald Reagan appointed her Associate Justice to the Supreme Court.

Twenty-five years ago, on September 21, 1981, the Senate unanimously confirmed her nomination. On that day, Sandra Day O'Connor again made history. She became the first female Justice in the Court's history. When asked for her reaction to her nomination, Sandra Day O'Connor said:

> I can only say I will approach [my work on the bench] with care and effort and do the best job I possibly can do.

So she has. Justice O'Connor has served with distinction and as an example to all Americans that, through persistence and hard work, the highest peaks can be achieved. Despite her early professional obstacles, she never surrendered her determination, her focus, nor did she surrender her Southwestern roots. Fiercely proud of her heritage, Justice O'Connor and her brother H. Alan Day authored a best selling memoir entitled ''Lazy B: Growing Up on a Cattle Ranch in the American Southwest.'' Anyone who has entered the inner compounds of Justice O'Connor's Supreme Court office has seen that sign that reads: ''Cowgirl Parking Only: All Others will be Towed.''

About 11 years ago, when Karen and I first came to Washington, DC, we didn't really know anybody here. We were a little bit lost, a physician and his family moving to this city. We early on met John and Justice O'Connor. Since that time, we have had the opportunity to be with them socially. We respect their wonderful and loving relationship, which has been always and continues to be manifested in so many wonderful ways. They welcomed our family to this Washington community and expressed that welcome in warm and heartfelt ways, again and again.

To echo the worlds of Ronald Reagan, Sandra Day O'Connor is ''truly a 'person for all seasons,' possessing those unique qualities of temperament, fairness, intellectual capacity and devotion to the public good which have characterized the 101 'brethren' who have preceded her.''

Sandra Day O'Connor has served this country for over five decades as an Arizona State Senator and majority leader, State court judge, assistant State attorney general, and in the capacity of which she will long be remembered, as an Associate Justice of the Supreme Court of America. The ''cowgirl from Arizona'' may never have dreamed of riding to the highest Court in the land but, boy oh boy, is America fortunate that she did.

On behalf of my fellow Senators and the American people, I offer my deepest gratitude to Justice O'Connor for her service to this great Nation, and I wish Mrs. O'Connor the best in all of her future endeavors.

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

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

(The remarks of Mr. FRIST are printed in today's RECORD under ''Morning Business.'')

(The remarks of Mr. CHAMBLISS are printed in today's RECORD under ''Morning Business.'')

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

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

## MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that there now be a period for morning business, with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each.

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

## RETIREMENT OF MR. JAMES M. PHILPOTT

Mr. STEVENS. Mr. President, I rise to pay tribute to Mr. James M. Philpott, Assistant Deputy Chief of

Staff for Resource Management, U.S. Army Pacific, who, in early 2006, will retire from a distinguished career spanning 35 years of exemplary service to America.

Mr. Philpott began his Federal career as a Comptroller Management Intern with the U.S. Army Pacific in 1971. He has served with Army organizations in Hawaii, Okinawa, mainland Japan, Korea, and Fort Huachuca, AZ. Mr. Philpott also spent 2 years with the U.S. Department of Energy where he directed the Comptroller's independent financial management review and analysis function.

During his more than 30 years involved in Army resource management, Mr. Philpott was a highly respected leader and expert on the Army budget and a wide range of related issues concerning the Asia-Pacific region. He played a critical role in the formulation, approval, and execution of U.S. Army Pacific budgets that produced a much-needed strengthening of America's defense posture and enabled our military to fulfill its many demanding commitments within the Pacific area of responsibility.

Mr. Philpott developed and led a diverse staff of analysts. Over the years, he mentored and guided a generation of Army budget and management analysts. Mr. Philpott was the primary leader in tracking and resolving budget and realignment matters involving U.S. Army Pacific. He meticulously tracked numerous and complex actions affecting the funding and manpower available to the command. Mr. Philpott has been a loyal and trustworthy adviser to nine commanding generals of U.S. Army Pacific, spanning 19 years. His expertise of Pacific resource management matters is unparalleled.

Mr. Philpott produced substantial top-quality analysis on complex economic, fiscal, and budget topics for commanders of U.S. Pacific Command and U.S. Army Pacific and other senior leaders. He also improved support for these leaders by initiating important resource management reforms that saved staff time and improved the quality of decisionmaking data.

For his extraordinary achievements, Mr. Philpott received the Meritorious Service Award three times. He was awarded the Nick Hoge Award for Professional Development, and Superior Civilian Service Award and Commander's Award two times. He earned the deep respect of leaders throughout the U.S. Army Pacific, Department of the Army, and with Congress's defense oversight committees. These leaders benefited enormously from his exceptional knowledge and dedication. Mr. Philpott's service has substantially helped our Nation's leaders make the wisest possible allocation of its defense resources in order to ensure America's future security.

Throughout his distinguished career, Mr. Philpott has had the resolute support of his wife Kathy and his three children. He has earned the deep gratitude of the American people. I join my staff, particularly our Defense Appropriations Subcommittee Staff Director, Sid Ashworth, in wishing Mr. Philpott and his family all the best in the coming years.

## TRIBUTE TO ALAN GREENSPAN

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, today marks the end of one of the most outstanding public service careers in this country's history.

Today, Dr. Alan Greenspan steps down as Chairman of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System.

These last 18 years many accolades have been showered on Chairman Greenspan's leadership in steering monetary policy—a period that included some very difficult waters.

But I think the true strength of his leadership can be measured by the numbers. The Chairman, I understand, devours statistics in helping to make sound decisions. And the measurable results have been impressive.

Since being appointed to the chairmanship—first by President Reagan in August 1987, and then, later, by Presidents George Bush, Bill Clinton, and George W. Bush—U.S. economic growth has averaged 3 percent per year.

The annual rate of increase in consumer prices has similarly averaged a low 3 percent annually.

If price stability is the key responsibility of our independent Federal Reserve System, one can only conclude that Chairman Greenspan's leadership has been extraordinarily successful.

Meanwhile, the number of payroll jobs in America has grown from 102 million when he took on the chairmanship to nearly 135 million today. The unemployment rate has averaged slightly more than a low 5½ percent.

But Chairman Greenspan has been more than an outstanding captain of the economic seas. He has been a shrewd analyst and forecaster, shaping the economic future.

One key statistic that the Chairman brought to the public's attention—and particularly to those of us involved in the policy process—is the issue of productivity.

He was the first to recognize that the rise of productivity allowed unemployment to fall lower than many economists thought possible without stoking the fires of inflation, therefore, allowing the Federal Reserve to keep interest rates low.

Over his tenure, productivity growth averaged 2.2 percent per year, nearly double the rate of growth in the seventies and eighties.

There were major challenges along the way:

Only 2 weeks after taking his position at the Federal Reserve, the stock market dropped nearly 23 percent—marking the worse 1-day decline in the market's history.

There was an Asian and Russian financial crisis in 1998.

And, of course, the tragedy of September 11 that hit directly at the heart of our financial system.

In each instance, quick action by the Chairman to provide liquidity into the market through interest rate decisions allowed for the economy, indeed the global economy, to right itself, stabilize, and continue to grow.

One measure of the Chairman's counsel has been his highly anticipated testimonies before the Committees of Congress. Those hearings have always been sold out, headliner events. We have always listened very closely.

On a more personal level, it has been my distinct pleasure to have gotten to know Alan Greenspan and discuss informally with him the challenges that confront this country—in particular, our health care system and the increasing costs of health care, pensions and public entitlements.

I will miss those discussions with Mr. Greenspan. But I am confident that he will continue to offer his wise counsel to those who request it. For he will always remain, at heart, a public servant seeking to better the lives of citizens throughout this country and the world.

A counselor to Presidents and Congresses, a thoughtful thinker, flexible and non doctrinaire, Chairman Greenspan possesses the rare ability to communicate complicated ideas clearly and to make difficult decisions under complex, dynamic and uncertain conditions. For 18 years, he has done so consistently. For 18 years, he has done so masterfully.

Alan Greenspan leaves the Federal stage a giant in his field.

And if my high praise suggests a dash of ''irrational exuberance,'' so be it. Chairman Greenspan is deserving of our highest regard.

On the passing of John Maynard Keynes, the British economist Alfred Marshall wrote that: ''a great economist must possess a rare combination of gifts: mathematician, historian, statesman, philosopher.'' Alan Greenspan possesses each in large measure.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman, for your outstanding service to your country and to your fellow Americans.

On behalf of the U.S. Senate, best wishes to you in all of your future endeavors.

## HONORING OUR ARMED FORCES

### SPECIALIST PRINCE KOA TEEWIA

Mr. CARPER. Mr. President, I would like to set aside a few moments today to reflect on the life of SPC Prince Koa Teewia. Prince epitomized the best of our country's brave men and women who fought to free Iraq and to secure a new democracy in the Middle East. He exhibited unwavering courage, dutiful service to his adopted country, and above all else, honor. In the way he lived his life—and how we remember him—Prince reminds each of us how good we can be.

Born in Liberia in 1979, Prince was separated from his mother when she

visited the United States, and civil war broke out in her native country. Due to security concerns, she was not allowed to return to her homeland to be with her children. After his father fled the war-torn region in 1990, Prince stayed with an aunt and eventually found refuge in neighboring Sierra Leone.

One by one, his mother managed to find ways for her eldest sons to join her in the United States. Prince was finally reunited with his parents when he moved to Durham, NC, in 1998 to live with friends and relatives. Shortly after his return, his parents moved to Delaware in the hopes of finding better paying employment. Prince stayed behind in North Carolina with the hopes of furthering his education and to enroll in classes at North Carolina Central University.

Prince Teewia had always wanted to join the military of his adopted homeland and, in 2004, he signed up for the 101st Airborne Division, based out of Fort Campbell, KY. He had been deployed in Iraq for less than a month when he was killed on December 29, 2005, by a roadside bomb that detonated next to the humvee he was riding in.

Specialist Teewia was granted full status as a U.S. citizen shortly after his death. This distinction was bestowed upon him because of his honorable service in the Armed Forces and his willingness to pay the ultimate cost while performing his duty in Iraq.

Prince was laid to rest with full military honors in Delaware Veterans Memorial Cemetery in Bear, DE, on January 13, 2006. He is survived by his parents John and Rebecca, his maternal grandparents, as well as eight brothers and six sisters.

I rise today to commemorate Prince, to celebrate his life, and to offer his family our support and our deepest sympathy on their tragic loss.

## BUDGET SCOREKEEPING REPORT

Mr. GREGG. Mr. President, I hereby submit to the Senate the budget scorekeeping report prepared by the Congressional Budget Office under section 308(b) and in aid of section 311 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974, as amended. This report meets the requirements for Senate scorekeeping of section 5 of S. Con. Res. 32, the first concurrent resolution on the budget for 1986.

This report shows the effects of congressional action on the 2006 budget through January 25, 2006. The estimates of budget authority, outlays, and revenues are consistent with the technical and economic assumptions of the 2006 concurrent resolution on the budget, H. Con. Res. 95. Pursuant to section 402 of that resolution, provisions designated as emergency requirements are exempt from enforcement of the budget resolution. As a result, the attached report excludes these amounts.

The estimates show that current level spending is under the budget resolution by $14.015 billion in budget authority and by $379 million in outlays in 2006. Current level for revenues is $17.286 billion above the budget resolution in 2006.

Since my last report, dated November 18, 2005, the Congress has cleared and the President has signed the following acts that changed budget authority, outlays, or revenues: Military Quality of Life and Veterans Affairs Appropriations Act, 2006, P.L. 109–114; Transportation, Treasury, Housing and Urban Development, the Judiciary, the District of Columbia, and Independent Agencies Appropriations Act, 2006, P.L. 109–115; Valles Caldera Preservation Act of 2005, P.L. 109–132; Naval Vessels Transfer Act of 2005, P.L. 109–134; An act to provide certain authorities to the Department of State, P.L. 109–140; Terrorism Risk Insurance Extension Act of 2005, P.L. 109–144; Department of Defense, Emergency Supplemental Appropriations to Address Hurricanes in the Gulf of Mexico, and Pandemic Influenza Act, 2006, P.L. 109–148; Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2006, P.L. 109–149; Second Higher Education Extension Act of 2005, P.L. 109–150; Employee Retirement Preservation Act, P.L. 109–151; TANF and Child Care Continuation Act of 2005, P.L. 109–161; National Defense Authorization Act for 2006, P.L. 109–163; and, United States-Bahrain Free Trade Agreement Implementation Act, P.L. 109–169.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE,
U.S. CONGRESS,
*Washington, DC, January 26, 2006.*

Hon. JUDD GREGG,
*Chairman, Committee on the Budget, U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.*

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: The enclosed tables show the effects of Congressional action on the 2006 budget and are current through January 25, 2006. This report is submitted under section 308(b) and in aid of section 311 of the Congressional Budget Act, as amended.

The estimates of budget authority, outlays, and revenues are consistent with the technical and economic assumptions for fiscal year 2006 that underlie H. Con. Res. 95, the Concurrent Resolution on the Budget for Fiscal Year 2006. Pursuant to section 402 of that resolution, provisions designated as emergency requirements are exempt from enforcement of the budget resolution. As a result, the enclosed current level report excludes these amounts (see footnote 1 on Table 2).

Since my last letter, dated November 17, 2006, the Congress has cleared and the President has signed the following acts that changed budget authority, outlays, or revenues:

Military Quality of Life and Veterans Affairs Appropriations Act, 2006 (Public Law 109–114);

Transportation, Treasury, Housing and Urban Development, the Judiciary, the District of Columbia, and Independent Agencies Appropriations Act, 2006 (Public Law 109–115);

Valles Caldera Preservation Act of 2005 (Public Law 109–132);

Naval Vessels Transfer Act of 2005 (Public Law 109–134);

An act to provide certain authorities to the Department of State (Public Law 109–140);

Terrorism Risk Insurance Extension Act of 2005 (Public Law 109–144);

Department of Defense, Emergency Supplemental Appropriations to Address Hurricanes in the Gulf of Mexico, and Pandemic Influenza Act, 2006 (Public Law 109–148);

Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2006 (Public Law 109–149);

Second Higher Education Extension Act of 2005 (Public Law 109–150);

Employee Retirement Preservation Act (Public Law 109–151);

TANF and Child Care Continuation Act of 2005 (Public Law 109–161);

National Defense Authorization Act for 2006 (Public Law 109–163); and

United States-Bahrain Free Trade Agreement Implementation Act (Public Law 109–169).

The effects of the actions listed above are detailed in the enclosed tables.

Sincerely,

DONALD B. MARRON,
*Acting Director.*

Enclosure.

TABLE 1.—SENATE CURRENT-LEVEL REPORT FOR SPENDING AND REVENUES FOR FISCAL YEAR 2006, AS OF JANUARY 25, 2006

(In billions of dollars)

| | Budget Resolution [1] | Current Level [2] | Current Level Over/Under (−) Resolution |
|---|---|---|---|
| On-budget | | | |
| Budget Authority | 2,094.4 | 2,080.4 | −14.0 |
| Outlays | 2,099.0 | 2,098.6 | −0.4 |
| Revenues | 1,589.9 | 1,607.2 | 17.3 |
| Off-budget | | | |
| Social Security Outlays [3] | 416.0 | 416.0 | 0 |
| Social Security Revenues [4] | 604.8 | 604.8 | * |

Source: Congressional Budget Office.

Note: * = Less than $50 million.

[1] H. Con. Res. 95. the Concurrent Resolution on the Budget for Fiscal Year 2006, assumed the enactment of emergency supplemental appropriations for fiscal year 2006, in the amount of $50 billion in budget authority and approximately $62.4 billion in outlays, which would be exempt from the enforcement of the budget resolution. Since the current level totals exclude the emergency appropriations in Public Laws 109–13, 109–61, 109–62, 109–68, 109–73, 109–77, 109–88, 109–106, 109–114, 109–135, and 109–148 (see footnote 1 on Table 2), the budget authority and outlay totals specified in the budget resolution have also been reduced (by the amounts assumed for emergency supplemental appropriations) for purposes of comparison.

[2] Current level is the estimated effect on revenue and spending of all legislation that the Congress has enacted or sent to the President for his approval. In addition, full-year funding estimates under current law are included for entitlement and mandatory programs requiring annual appropriations even if the appropriations have not been made.

[3] Excludes administrative expenses of the Social Security Administration, which are off-budget.

[4] The Employee Retirement Preservation Act (Public Law 109–151) has a loss of revenue of $1 million.

TABLE 2.—SUPPORTING DETAIL FOR THE SENATE CURRENT-LEVEL REPORT FOR ON-BUDGET SPENDING AND REVENUES FOR FISCAL YEAR 2006, AS OF JANUARY 25, 2005

[In millions of dollars]

| | Budget Authority | Outlays | Revenues |
|---|---|---|---|
| Enacted in Previous Sessions: | | | |
| Revenues | n.a. | n.a. | 1,607,650 |
| Permanents and other spending legislation | 1,293,035 | 1,250,308 | n.a. |
| Appropriation legislation | 0 | 382,272 | n.a. |
| Offsetting receipts | −479,872 | −479,872 | n.a. |
| Total, enacted in previous sessions: | 813,163 | 1,152,708 | 1,607,650 |
| Enacted This Session: | | | |
| Authorizing Legislation: | | | |
| TANF Extension Act of 2005 (P.L. 109–19) | 148 | 165 | 0 |
| An act approving the renewal of import restrictions contained in the Burmese Freedom and Democracy Act of 2005 (P.L. 109–39) | 0 | 0 | −1 |
| Dominican Republic-Central America-United States Free Trade Agreement Implementation Act (P.L. 109–53) | 27 | 27 | −3 |
| Energy Policy Act of 2005 (P.L. 109–58) | 141 | 231 | −588 |
| Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (P.L. 109–59) | 3,444 | 36 | 9 |
| National Flood Insurance Program Enhanced Borrowing Authority Act of 2005 (P.L. 109–65) | 2,000 | 2,000 | 0 |
| Pell Grant Hurricane and Disaster Relief Act (P.L. 109–66) | 2 | 2 | 0 |
| TANF Emergency Response and Recovery Act of 2005 (P.L. 109–68) | −4,965 | 105 | 0 |
| Natural Disaster Student Aid Fairness Act (P.L. 109–86) | 36 | 18 | 0 |
| Community Disaster Loan Act of 2005 (P.L. 109–88) | 751 | 376 | 0 |
| Medicare Cost Sharing and Welfare Extension Act of 2005 (P.L. 109–91) | 354 | 341 | 0 |
| An act to extend the special postage stamp for breast cancer research for two years (P.L. 109–100) | −1 | −1 | 0 |
| Valles Caldera Preservation Act of 2005 (P.L. 109–132) | 0 | 2 | 0 |
| Naval Vessels Transfer Act of 2005 (P.L. 109–134) | −26 | −26 | 0 |
| An act to provide certain authorities to the Department of State (P.L. 109–140) | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| Terrorism Risk Insurance Extension Act of 2005 (P.L. 109–144) | 210 | 210 | 0 |
| Second Higher Education Extension Act of 2005 (P.L. 109–150) | −50 | −45 | 0 |
| Employee Retirement Preservation Act (P.L. 109–151) | 0 | 0 | −2 |
| TANF and Child Care Continuation Act of 2005 (P.L. 109–161) | 73 | 81 | 0 |
| National Defense Authorization Act for 2006 (P.L. 109–163) | −23 | −24 | 0 |
| United States-Bahrain Free Trade Agreement Implementation Act (P.L. 109–169) | 1 | 1 | −20 |
| Appropriation Acts: | | | |
| Emergency Supplemental Appropriations Act for Defense, the Global War on Terror, and Tsunami Relief, 2005 (P.L. 109–13) | −39 | −21 | 11 |
| Interior Appropriations Act, 2006 (P.L. 109–54) | 26,211 | 17,301 | 122 |
| Legislative Branch Appropriations Act, 2006 (P.L. 109–55) | 3,804 | 3.185 | 0 |
| Homeland Security Appropriations Act, 2006 (P.L. 109–90) | 31,860 | 19,306 | 0 |
| Agriculture Appropriations Act, 2006 (P.L. 109–97) | 99,262 | 57,294 | 0 |
| Foreign Operations Appropriations Act, 2006 (P.L. 109–102) | 20,979 | 8,164 | 0 |
| Energy and Water Appropriations Act, 2006 (P.L. 109–103) | 30,459 | 19,604 | 0 |
| Science, State, Justice, Commerce Appropriations Act, 2006 (P.L. 109–108) | 58,210 | 35,763 | 0 |
| Military Quality of Life and VA Appropriations Act, 2006 (P.L. 109–114) | 83,519 | 67,294 | 0 |
| Transportation, Treasury and HUD Appropriations Act, 2006 (P.L. 109–115) | 81,149 | 69,465 | 0 |
| Defense Appropriations Act, 2006 (P.L. 109–148) | 393,349 | 273,692 | 0 |
| Labor, HHS, and Education Appropriations Act, 2006 (P.L. 109–149) | 505,060 | 370,483 | 0 |
| Total, enacted this session: | 1,335,946 | 945,030 | −472 |
| Entitlements and mandatories: | | | |
| Difference between enacted levels and budget resolution estimates for appropriated entitlements and other mandatory programs | −68,740 | −879 | n.a. |
| Total Current Level [1, 2] | 2,080,369 | 2,098,617 | 1,607,178 |
| Total Budget Resolution | 2,144,384 | 2,161,420 | 1,589,892 |
| Adjustment to budget resolution for emergency requirements [3] | −50,000 | −62,424 | n.a. |
| Adjusted Budget Resolution | 2,094,384 | 2,098,996 | n.a. |
| Current Level Over Adjusted Budget Resolution | n.a. | n.a | 17,286 |
| Current Level Under Adjusted Budget Resolution | 14,015 | 379 | n.a. |

Source: Congressional Budget Office.

Notes: n.a. = not applicable; P.L. = Public Law.

[1] Pursuant to section 402 of H. Con. Res. 95, the Concurrent Resolution on the Budget for Fiscal Year 2006, provisions designated as emergency requirements are exempt from enforcement of the budget resolution. As a result, the current level totals exclude the following amounts:

| | Budget Authority | Outlays | Revenues |
|---|---|---|---|
| Emergency Supplemental Appropriations Act for Defense, the Global War on Terror, and Tsunami Relief, 2005 (P.L. 109–13) | 0 | 30,757 | 0 |
| Emergency Supplemental Appropriations Act to Meet Immediate Needs Arising From Hurricane Katrina, 2005 (P.L. 109–61) | 0 | 7,750 | 0 |
| Second Emergency Supplemental Appropriations Act to Meet Immediate Needs Arising From Hurricane Katrina, 2005 (P.L. 109–62) | 0 | 21,841 | 0 |
| TANF Emergency Response and Recovery Act of 2005 (P.L. 109–68) | 200 | 245 | 0 |
| Katrina Emergency Tax Relief Act of 2005 (P.L. 109–73) | 128 | 128 | −3,191 |
| Community Disaster Loan Act of 2005 (P.L. 109–88) | −751 | 0 | 0 |
| National Flood Insurance Program Further Enhanced Borrowing Authority Act of 2005 (P.L. 109–106) | 15,000 | 14,000 | 0 |
| Military Quality of Life and VA Appropriations Act, 2006 (P.L. 109–114) | 1,225 | 1,103 | 0 |
| Gulf Opportunity Zone Act of 2005 (P.L. 109–135) | 27 | 27 | −3,920 |
| Defense Appropriations Act, 2006 (P.L. 109–148) | 59,152 | 36,572 | 0 |
| Total, enacted emergency requirements | 74,981 | 112,423 | −7,111 |

[2] Excludes administrative expenses of the Social Security Administration, which are off-budget.

[3] H. Con. Res. 95, the Concurrent Resolution on the Budget for Fiscal Year 2006, assumed the enactment of emergency supplemental appropriations for fiscal year 2006, in the amount of $50,000 million in budget authority and $62,424 million in outlays, which would be exempt from the enforcement of the budget resolution. Since the current level totals exclude the emergency appropriations in P.L. 109–13, P.L. 109–61, P.L. 109–62, P.L. 109–68, P.L. 109–73, P.L. 109–77, P.L. 109–88, P.L. 109–106, P.L. 109–114, P.L. 109–135, and P.L. 109–148 (see footnote 1 above), the budget authority and outlay totals specified in the budget resolution have also been reduced (by the amounts assumed for emergency supplemental appropriations) for purposes of comparison.

## IMPROVING THE PATRIOT ACT

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, those of us working constructively and in a bipartisan way to extend the USA PATRIOT Act with improvements have repeatedly offered to meet to work out the remaining differences. Sadly, the Senate leadership has not made the effort to work through the remaining concerns or brought us together.

I have continued meeting and talking with interested Republican and Democratic Senators. Senate staff has finally gotten together this week in a bipartisan meeting. I urge the majority leader to bring together key interested Senators to work out a bipartisan compromise that improves the failed conference report.

A majority of Senators—Republicans and Democrats, those who voted against cloture on the conference report that failed to pass the Senate and those who voted for it urged the Republican leader to act on a short-term, 3-month extension before the end of the last session. Instead, he chose to proceed with a 6-month extension that Republicans in the House found objectionable. That led to the short extension that is about to expire this week. The President had said that he would not approve a short-term extension. House Republicans had said that they would not allow a short-term extension. But just before Christmas they demanded and enacted a shorter extension than anyone else had proposed.

As soon as it became apparent that the conference report filed by the Republican leadership would be unacceptable to the Senate, I joined on Thursday, December 8, in urging a 3-month extension to work out a better bill. On the first day the Senate was next in session, Monday, December 12, Senator SUNUNU and I introduced such a bill, S.2082. We sent out a ''Dear Colleague'' letter to other Senators on December 13 and that bipartisan bill was cosponsored by 46 other Senators. That bill would have extended the PATRIOT Act until March 31, 2006, to allow us all to work out the remaining differences and

improve this reauthorization legislation in ways to better protect the rights of ordinary Americans. It proposed a commonsense solution to allow us to take a few more weeks to get this right for all Americans.

Contrary to the false claims and misrepresentations by some, there was no effort on either side of the aisle to do away with the PATRIOT Act. That is just not true. Along with others here in the Senate, I am seeking to mend and extend the PATRIOT Act, not to end it. There is no reason why the American people cannot have a PATRIOT Act that is both effective and that adequately protects their rights and their privacy. The only people who were threatening an expiration of the PATRIOT Act were the President and House Republicans. As I noted on December 21, the administration and the Republican congressional leadership were the ones who were objecting to extending the act and threatening to have it expire. That was wrong. That made no sense. They came to their senses in the days that followed. But now, as we approach the expiration of the current extension this Friday, the Republican congressional leadership has taken no further action and we risk sections of the PATRIOT Act expiring, again.

Republican and Democratic Senators joined together last month to say we can do better to protect Americans' liberties while ensuring our national security is as strong as it can be. In the days after 9/11 we acted as Americans, not Democrats, not Republicans. The President's political adviser Karl Rove and the rest of those who are seeking to make the PATRIOT Act a partisan political issue should instead join with our bipartisan coalition and work with us to provide a better balance to protect the rights of Americans.

Every single Senator—Republican and Democratic—voted last July to mend and extend the PATRIOT Act. That bipartisan solution was cast aside by the Bush administration and Republican congressional leaders when they hijacked the conference report, rewrote the bill in ways that fell short in protecting basic civil liberties and then tried to ram it through Congress as an all-or-nothing proposition. I have joined with Senators of both parties in an effort to work to improve the bill. Some of us are working hard to protect the security and liberty of Americans. What is wrong is for the White House to manipulate this into a partisan fight for its partisan political advantage. Instead of playing partisan politics, the Bush administration and Republican congressional leadership should join in trying to improve the law.

This is a vital debate. The terrorist threat to America's security is very real, and it is vital that we be armed with the tools needed to protect Americans' security. At the same time, however, the threat to civil liberties is also very real in America today. The question is not whether the Government should have the tools it needs to protect the American people. Of course it should. That is why I coauthored the PATRIOT Act 5 years ago, and that is why that Act passed with broad bipartisan support. When I voted for the PATRIOT Act, I did not think it was an ideal piece of legislation, and I knew that it would need careful oversight and, in due course, reform. None of us wants the PATRIOT Act to expire, and those who threatened to let it expire rather than fix it play a dangerous game.

This is about how to reconcile two shared and fundamental goals—ensuring the safety of the American people and protecting their liberty by means of a system of checks and balances that keeps the Government—their Government—accountable. Those goals are not the goals of any particular party or ideology; they are shared American goals. How to balance security with liberty and Government accountability was the most fundamental dilemma with which the Framers of our Constitution wrestled, and how to adjust that balance in the post-9/11 world is a fundamental dilemma before this Congress.

Our Nation is a democracy, founded on the principles of balanced government. We need to restore checks and balances in this country to protect us all and all that we hold dear. Our Congress and our courts provide checks on the abuse of executive authority and should protect our liberties. Congress must write the law so it provides not just a check on Presidential power but also a clear role for the courts. All Americans need to take notice and need to demand that their liberties be maintained. We can do better and must do better for the American people.

## IRAN'S EFFORTS TO OBTAIN NUCLEAR WEAPONS

Mr. FEINGOLD. Mr. President, as a known sponsor of international terrorism, and in light of the president of Iran's recent apocalyptic statements calling for the destruction of Israel, Iran must not be allowed to develop nuclear weapons. The international community must respond quickly and decisively to Iran's gross disregard of international treaties and obligations and to its concerted and malicious efforts to develop the capability to create nuclear weapons.

The international community must take concerted and decisive action to prevent Iran from furthering its nuclear research and technology development. In its forthcoming meeting on February 2, 2006, the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Board of Governors should heed the calls by Russia, China, the European Union, and the United States to reaffirm its findings that Iran has blatantly violated its international obligations, recognize the grave nature of Iran's recent actions, and refer Iran to the United Nations Security Council. The Security Council should then speak with one voice to condemn Iran's actions and send a clear signal that continued defiance of the international community will not be tolerated.

It is essential that the Security Council approve specific actions to prevent the furthering of Iran's nuclear capabilities. The Security Council specifically, and the international community generally, must recognize the potentially devastating link between the violent and defiant rhetoric of Iran's president and his regime's determined effort to undermine approved and transparent methods of developing civilian nuclear technology for energy use.

Congress can also take steps to help stop or slow Iran's acquisition of nuclear and other WMD-related technology, including adding teeth to export control legislation such as the Iran and Syria Nonproliferation Act. The Iran Nonproliferation Enhancement Act, S.1976, that Senator KYL and I introduced late last year would do just that. It would toughen the ISNA by requiring rather than merely authorizing sanctions on proliferators, extending sanctions to the parent companies, and increasing the types of sanctions that apply to proliferators. By adopting this legislation, we would be sending a crystal clear message to would-be proliferators: if you choose to assist Iran in developing nuclear or other WMD-related capabilities, you are also choosing to forgo doing business with the United States.

History teaches us that we cannot ignore the stated intent of those who seek to destroy nations. A nuclear-armed Iran would pose a grave threat to the region, to Israel, and to the entire international community. A concerted international effort is needed to prevent Iran from procuring the technology and materiel needed to develop a nuclear weapon. This effort must begin now, and it must be comprehensive.

# ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

## IN RECOGNITION OF DR. KATHERINE ESTERLY

• Mr. CARPER. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize the achievements of Dr. Katherine Esterly. Kitty, as she is known to her friends, has had an enormous impact on the lives of countless people, many of whom were too young to even realize that she was helping them.

Dr. Esterly has dedicated her life to advancing the field of neonatology, which is the field of pediatric medicine that deals with the care of newborn infants. She has helped countless mothers-to-be and their young children by helping bring healthier babies to term and assisting those newborns who need a little extra care after their delivery. This work transcends the concepts of reduced health care costs and decreased infant mortality rates. It

means healthier babies and stronger families and that is an accomplishment worthy of our praise and admiration.

Katherine Esterly grew up in Norristown, PA, knowing that she wanted to work with children. After graduating from Temple University's medical school in 1951, she moved to Delaware to work towards that goal. Delaware was truly blessed when she made this decision.

Despite her diminutive size and warm personality, Dr. Esterly has always approached her efforts to care for Delaware's babies with a steel will and an unwillingness to accept ''no'' for an answer. She demands high standards from her colleagues and has lived her life by this same commitment to excellence.

One of the hallmarks of her care is how she continually goes above and beyond the traditional role of simply caring for the newborn child. She uses a gentle hand and an open style of communication to develop a level of trust with parents that greatly improves their hospital experience during such difficult times. Whether it is a reassuring word or a simple explanation of a complex procedure, Kitty is always willing to do whatever it takes to assure parents that their newborn is receiving the best possible care.

Katherine Esterly became a practicing pediatrician in 1954 after completing her internship and residency at the Delaware Hospital. Dr. Esterly then served as an associate in pediatrics for the Children's Bureau of Delaware from 1954 until 1968. During this time, Kitty worked tirelessly to help adoptive and foster children. In 1968, because of her outstanding record of leadership and her dedication to her profession, she was named director of this organization.

After the merger of community hospitals in Wilmington in 1967, the Medical Center of Delaware was formed and a new department of pediatrics was created. Unfortunately, there wasn't a neonatologist on staff at this new institution. Dr. Esterly took the initiative to get the necessary training so she could fill this void in the department's neonatal intensive care unit. She went on to become the director of the neonatology division in 1975. Throughout the 1980s, Dr. Esterly expanded the division and added additional full-time neonatologists to her staff, resulting in a world-class practice where even the sickest of newborns could be cared for.

Dr. Esterly also advanced the cause of nurses by working with colleagues and government officials to highlight and promote the qualifications of professional nurses. Her actions led to nurse practitioners being able to treat patients and write prescriptions, which greatly reduces the workload of practicing physicians and allows for greater responsibility on behalf of nurses.

In addition, Katherine Esterly helped create a neonatal nurse practitioner program for schools in Delaware and New Jersey that continue to train the next generation of caregivers. Her ability and willingness to share her knowledge has ensured that future generations will continue the work that Kitty pioneered so many years ago.

In 1995, while serving as Governor of Delaware, I appointed Dr. Esterly to serve as the chair of Delaware's Perinatal Board. In this capacity, she spearheads Delaware's efforts to promote the health and welfare of countless numbers of children. The First State and her children are better off because of her efforts.

Most recently, the Katherine L. Esterly Nursing Education Scholarship fund was established for the College of Health Sciences at the University of Delaware. When asked if she would allow her name to be used to distinguish this scholarship, Dr. Esterly, in her customary selfless fashion, not only agreed but also made a personal contribution to the very fund that now bears her name. Her generosity will help ensure that her legacy of caring for Delaware's youngest residents will be preserved and passed on to future generations of caregivers.

Kitty's dedication and innovation in the field of neonatology serves as an example to us all. I rise today to honor her achievements and to thank her on behalf of all Delawareans for her years of hard work, dedication, and constant championing of Delaware's youngest residents.●

## RECOGNITION OF THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTHERN IOWA

● Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, on Wednesday, the American Association of Colleges for Teacher Education will present its Best Practice for Collaboration with a Community College Award to the University of Northern Iowa. This award recognizes outstanding collaboration between a university teacher education program and a community college—in this case, Des Moines Area Community College. This partnership is a wonderful example of two fine educational institutions working together to meet the needs of schools in rural Iowa, and I congratulate them for this accomplishment.

Eleven years ago, UNI joined forces with the DMACC campus in Carroll to develop a new approach to address the unique needs of rural school districts. The idea was simple—locate a teacher preparation program where you have the need. Instead of training teachers 160 miles away on its campus in Cedar Falls, UNI established a joint program with DMACC in the heart of rural western Iowa.

Rural communities face many unique challenges, including the need to recruit highly qualified teachers. At the same time, many rural residents have a need to upgrade their skills, but are unable to move to a larger community to attend college. The 2+2 program is a perfect solution. This homegrown approach allows individuals to obtain the training they need to fill the jobs that are literally in their own backyards.

Since 1995, UNI has awarded baccalaureate degrees to nearly 100 teachers at the Carroll campus. It is very important to point out that nearly all of these individuals continue to live in western Iowa, and are working for school districts in the surrounding area.

This program has been an enormous success and I am very proud to have secured Federal funding from the U.S. Department of Education to support this innovative program. UNI is building on this experience and will be expanding the 2+2 model to other fields of study, including technology management, general business and criminology. The University will also expand the partnership to include Western Iowa Tech Community College in Sioux City, Northeast Iowa Community College in Peosta and Calmar, Eastern Iowa Community College in Davenport, and Iowa Western Community College in Council Bluffs.

The success of this project is due to the creative energy and hard work of many individuals from UNI, DMACC and the community of Carroll including: Dr. Constantine Curris, former President of UNI; Dr. Joe Borgen, former President of DMACC; Dr. Robert Koob, President of UNI; Dr. Robert Denson, President of DMACC; Dr. Richard Hawkes, Professor of Teaching at UNI; Dr. Roger Kueter, Director of Community College Projects at UNI; Dr. Jim Knott, Provost of the DMACC Carroll campus; Steve Schultz, coordinator of the 2+2 program for DMACC; Art Neu, former mayor of Carroll and former Lieutenant Governor of the State of Iowa; and Jim Wilson, publisher of the Carroll Daily Times Herald.

I extend my congratulations to all of them on this outstanding achievement.●

## IN MEMORY OF WILLIAM R. ROBERTSON

● Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I am deeply saddened to inform you of the passing of Bill Robertson, former secretary treasurer for the Los Angeles County Federation of Labor, AFL–CIO. I would like to take a few moments to recognize Bill Robertson's many important accomplishments and the tremendous impact he made on the labor movement.

Born in St. Paul, MN, Bill Robertson was a man with humble beginnings. He lost both his parents when he was a child and lived in an orphanage for a brief period. Growing up in difficult circumstances in the middle of the Great Depression shaped Bill's social and personal beliefs. He intimately understood the struggle that working men and women faced to achieve dignity in the United States.

Bill led the Los Angeles County Federation of Labor for nearly two decades. During his tenure, he fought for the rights of working people with passion and great success. In 1975, Bill

Robertson became secretary-treasurer for the Los Angeles County Federation of Labor, AFL–CIO. Under his leadership, The Los Angeles County Federation of Labor saw phenomenal growth. He coordinated many successful labor rights victories and spent a great deal of time building the labor movement and fighting for fairness and equality. In addition to his efforts to further the labor movement, Bill Robertson took steps to assist the city of Los Angeles' homeless population. In the winter of 1985, the city of Los Angeles had authorized a temporary tent shelter to be erected for the city's homeless population. Bill Robertson found this solution to be inadequate and successfully persuaded then Mayor Tom Bradley to authorize construction of a temporary structure to house the 138-bed shelter. Bill Robertson rallied volunteer laborers and secured union funds to buy the construction materials.

Bill also played a major role in bringing prominence and recognition to the city of Los Angeles. In addition to assisting city officials with securing the rights to host the 1984 Olympic Games, Bill also played a pivotal role in establishing a home for a professional football team in Los Angeles. It was through his role as chief negotiator in the $6.7-million deal in 1980 that brought the Raiders football team from Oakland to the Los Angeles Coliseum. Bill Robertson considered this achievement as one of the proudest of his career.

I invite all of my colleagues to join me and the many members of the labor community in recognizing and honoring Bill Robertson for his guidance and lifelong effort in fighting to improve the lives of working people. He is survived by his wife, Dresden Graham Robertson; his two sons, William and Robert; three grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren.●

## IN MEMORY OF JUDGE WILLIAM MATTHEW BYRNE, JR.

● Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I am deeply saddened to inform you of the passing of Judge William Matthew Byrne, Jr. I would like to take a few moments to recognize Judge Byrne's many important accomplishments and the tremendous impact he made on the judicial system.

William Byrne was born in East Los Angeles in 1930 and attended Loyola High School and the University of Southern California. Before becoming a Federal prosecutor in Los Angeles, he served as a judge advocate from 1956 to 1958 in the U.S. Air Force. In 1967, he was appointed as U.S. attorney by President Lyndon B. Johnson. In 1970, when President Richard Nixon created the President's Commission on Campus Unrest, he chose William Byrne as its executive director.

Byrne became the youngest judge ever appointed to the Federal bench when he was confirmed in 1971 at age 40, and he served as the Central District's chief judge from 1994 to 1998. In more than 30 years of service on the Federal bench, Judge Byrne had the opportunity to handle many cases. He is, however, best known for presiding over the Pentagon Papers case, which was assigned to him just 2 years after his confirmation as a Federal judge. The Pentagon Papers case involved military analyst Daniel Ellsberg and co-defendant Anthony J. Russo, Jr. who were indicted on 12 Federal counts, including conspiracy, theft of Government property, and espionage after an unauthorized release of a secret study of U.S. involvement in the Vietnam War. Judge Byrne dismissed the case in 1973 after ruling that it was the Government that was guilty of misconduct.

I invite all of my colleagues to join me in recognizing and honoring Judge William Matthew Byrne, Jr., for his long and distinguished service to our country.●

## AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION

● Mr. DAYTON. Mr. President, I rise today to honor Woodson Kindergarten Center, in Austin, MN, which recently earned an Award for Excellence in Education for its exceptional and innovative achievements in educating children.

The Woodson Kindergarten Center, which is funded by Austin Public Schools, is truly a model of educational success. The district recognized the advantages of joining together all of its kindergarteners in a single building. This made economic sense and also improved the students' experience, allowing all kindergarten teachers and specialists to work together and to benefit from the expertise each person brought to the team. Currently, 390 children attend Woodson Kindergarten Center, which provides special education services and English language learner services for children of all ages.

At Woodson Kindergarten, students are grouped for reading and math based on skill level. A student who has not mastered all of the skills needed for first grade attends 6 weeks of summer school. Woodson emphasizes reading to children in school and at home and also focuses throughout the day on building children's social skills, including conflict resolution.

Woodson Kindergarten Center better prepares students for first grade and provides a stronger foundation for at-risk children. Its full-day curriculum offers more time for hands-on discovery, for experimenting and making mistakes, for reading the whole story, and for richer, more developmentally appropriate learning.

Much of the credit for Woodson Kindergarten Center's success belongs to its principal, Jean McDermott, and her dedicated teachers. The staff at Woodson Kindergarten Center understand that, in order to be successful, a school must go beyond achieving academic success; it must provide a nurturing environment where students develop the knowledge, skills and attitudes for a lifetime of success. All of the faculty, staff, and students at the Woodson Kindergarten Center should be very proud of their accomplishments.

I congratulate Woodson Kindergarten Center in Austin, MN, for winning the Award for Excellence in Education and for its exceptional contributions to education in Minnesota.●

## AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION

● Mr. DAYTON. Mr. President, I rise today to honor Dakota Meadows Middle School, in North Mankato, MN, which recently earned an Award for Excellence in Education for its exceptional and innovative achievements in educating children.

Dakota Meadows Middle School is truly a model of educational success. One hundred of the school's eighth-grade art students have created a glass mosaic, measuring 3 feet by 24 feet, for the school's media center. The project was financed by the Prairie Ecology Bus Center. The overall design, based on nature, correlates with the Dakota Meadows Middle School Ecology curriculum, and includes images of fish, birds, and sky. I had the honor to be present at the school for the official unveiling, and found it to be an awe inspiring piece.

The glass mosaic medium was chosen to introduce the students to an ancient medium. The mosaic's dimensions allowed each student to make a unique contribution toward an artistic work of lasting beauty.

Much of the credit for Dakota Meadows Middle School's success belongs to its principal, Shane Baier, and his dedicated teachers. The school and its artist in residence, Dr. Arnoldus Gruter, made it possible for the students to produce their own work of art, which is also their legacy to the school. The students and staff at Dakota Meadows Middle School understand that, in order to be successful, a school must go beyond achieving academic success; it must also provide a nurturing environment where students develop the knowledge, skills and attitudes for a lifetime of success. All of the faculty, staff, and students at Dakota Meadows Middle School should be very proud of their accomplishments.

I congratulate Dakota Meadows Middle School in North Mankato, MN, for winning the Award for Excellence in Education and for its exceptional contributions to education in Minnesota.●

## AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION PRESENTED TO MANKATO WEST HIGH SCHOOL, YOUTH SERVICE LEARNING CLASS, MANKATO, MINNESOTA

● Mr. DAYTON. Mr. President, today I honor last fall's Youth Service Learning class, at Mankato West High

School, in Mankato, MN, which recently earned an Award for Excellence in Education for its exceptional and innovative achievements.

The Youth Service Learning class at Mankato West High School is truly a model of educational success. As part of its fall curriculum, the class embraced Project Homecoming, a statewide effort to raise money to help pay for the cost of bus transportation from Camp Shelby, MS, to Minnesota, for 400 Minnesota National Guard soldiers. The soldiers had been training at Camp Shelby for deployment to Iraq in early 2006. Although they were given 10 days leave for the holidays, no funding was available through the military or National Guard to provide round-trip transportation to Minnesota and back.

The Youth Service Learning class, which focuses on volunteerism and the functioning of nonprofits in the community, gained some real life experience by helping Project Homecoming raise $75,000 in just under 4 weeks. The students learned how to establish a tax-exempt fundraising effort, engage the media in an event, and raise significant money for a cause they considered extremely important to their communities. In less than 3 days, the students raised over $1,500 from their schoolmates, made telephone calls to potential donors, and asked their own employers to help in the effort. With the students' help, Project Homecoming reached its $75,000 goal.

Much of the credit for the Youth Service Learning class's success belongs to Mr. Bruce Borchers, Mankato West principal; Mr. Tim Walz, Youth Service Learning teacher; and Mr. Pat Griffiths, Project Homecoming coordinator. The students and staff who participated in the class understand that in order to be successful, a school must go beyond achieving academic success; it must also provide a nurturing environment where students develop the knowledge, skills, and attitudes for a lifetime of success. All of the faculty, staff, and students should be very proud of their accomplishments.

I congratulate the Youth Service Learning class at Mankato West High School in Mankato, MN, for winning the Award for Excellence in Education and for its exceptional contributions to education in Minnesota.●

## MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Ms. Evans, one of his secretaries.

## EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The nominations received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

## REPORT ON THE STATE OF THE UNION DELIVERED TO A JOINT SESSION OF CONGRESS ON JANUARY 31, 2006—PM 35

The PRESIDING OFFICER laid before the Senate the following message from the President of the United States, together with an accompanying report; which was ordered to lie on the table:

*To the Congress of the United States:*

Mr. Speaker, Vice President CHENEY, Members of Congress, Members of the Supreme Court and diplomatic corps, distinguished guests, and fellow citizens:

Today our Nation lost a beloved, graceful, courageous woman who called America to its founding ideals and carried on a noble dream. Tonight we are comforted by the hope of a glad reunion with the husband who was taken from her so long ago, and we are grateful for the good life of Coretta Scott King.

Each time I am invited to this rostrum, I am humbled by the privilege, and mindful of the history we have seen together. We have gathered under this Capitol dome in moments of national mourning and national achievement. We have served America through one of the most consequential periods of our history and it has been my honor to serve with you.

In a system of two parties, two chambers, and two elected branches, there will always be differences and debate. But even tough debates can be conducted in a civil tone, and our differences cannot be allowed to harden into anger. To confront the great issues before us, we must act in a spirit of goodwill and respect for one another—and I will do my part. Tonight the state of our Union is strong—and together we will make it stronger.

In this decisive year, you and I will make choices that determine both the future and the character of our country. We will choose to act confidently in pursuing the enemies of freedom—or retreat from our duties in the hope of an easier life. We will choose to build our prosperity by leading the world economy—or shut ourselves off from trade and opportunity. In a complex and challenging time, the road of isolationism and protectionism may seem broad and inviting—yet it ends in danger and decline. The only way to protect our people . . . the only way to secure the peace . . . the only way to control our destiny is by our leadership—so the United States of America will continue to lead.

Abroad, our Nation is committed to an historic, long-term goal—we seek the end of tyranny in our world. Some dismiss that goal as misguided idealism. In reality, the future security of America depends on it. On September 11, 2001, we found that problems originating in a failed and oppressive state seven thousand miles away could bring murder and destruction to our country. Dictatorships shelter terrorists, feed resentment and radicalism, and seek weapons of mass destruction. Democracies replace resentment with hope, respect the rights of their citizens and their neighbors, and join the fight against terror. Every step toward freedom in the world makes our country safer, and so we will act boldly in freedom's cause.

Far from being a hopeless dream, the advance of freedom is the great story of our time. In 1945, there were about two dozen lonely democracies on Earth. Today, there are 122. And we are writing a new chapter in the story of self-government—with women lining up to vote in Afghanistan . . . and millions of Iraqis marking their liberty with purple ink . . . and men and women from Lebanon to Egypt debating the rights of individuals and the necessity of freedom. At the start of 2006, more than half the people of our world live in democratic nations. And we do not forget the other half—in places like Syria, Burma, Zimbabwe, North Korea, and Iran—because the demands of justice, and the peace of this world, require their freedom as well.

No one can deny the success of freedom, but some men rage and fight against it. And one of the main sources of reaction and opposition is radical Islam—the perversion by a few of a noble faith into an ideology of terror and death. Terrorists like bin Laden are serious about mass murder—and all of us must take their declared intentions seriously. They seek to impose a heartless system of totalitarian control throughout the Middle East, and arm themselves with weapons of mass murder. Their aim is to seize power in Iraq, and use it as a safe haven to launch attacks against America and the world. Lacking the military strength to challenge us directly, the terrorists have chosen the weapon of fear. When they murder children at a school in Beslan . . . or blow up commuters in London . . . or behead a bound captive . . . the terrorists hope these horrors will break our will, allowing the violent to inherit the Earth. But they have miscalculated: We love our freedom, and we will fight to keep it.

In a time of testing, we cannot find security by abandoning our commitments and retreating within our borders. If we were to leave these vicious attackers alone, they would not leave us alone. They would simply move the battlefield to our own shores. There is no peace in retreat. And there is no honor in retreat. By allowing radical Islam to work its will—by leaving an assaulted world to fend for itself—we would signal to all that we no longer believe in our own ideals, or even in our own courage. But our enemies and our friends can be certain: The United States will not retreat from the world, and we will never surrender to evil.

America rejects the false comfort of isolationism. We are the Nation that saved liberty in Europe, and liberated

death camps, and helped raise up democracies, and faced down an evil empire. Once again, we accept the call of history to deliver the oppressed, and move this world toward peace.

We remain on the offensive against terror networks. We have killed or captured many of their leaders—and for the others, their day will come.

We remain on the offensive in Afghanistan—where a fine president and national assembly are fighting terror while building the institutions of a new democracy.

And we are on the offensive in Iraq, with a clear plan for victory. First, we are helping Iraqis build an inclusive government, so that old resentments will be eased, and the insurgency marginalized. Second, we are continuing reconstruction efforts, and helping the Iraqi government to fight corruption and build a modern economy, so all Iraqis can experience the benefits of freedom. Third, we are striking terrorist targets while we train Iraqi forces that are increasingly capable of defeating the enemy. Iraqis are showing their courage every day, and we are proud to be their allies in the cause of freedom.

Our work in Iraq is difficult, because our enemy is brutal. But that brutality has not stopped the dramatic progress of a new democracy. In less than 3 years, that nation has gone from dictatorship, to liberation, to sovereignty, to a constitution, to national elections. At the same time, our coalition has been relentless in shutting off terrorist infiltration, clearing out insurgent strongholds, and turning over territory to Iraqi security forces. I am confident in our plan for victory . . . I am confident in the will of the Iraqi people . . . I am confident in the skill and spirit of our military. Fellow citizens, we are in this fight to win, and we are winning.

The road of victory is the road that will take our troops home. As we make progress on the ground, and Iraqi forces increasingly take the lead, we should be able to further decrease our troop levels—but those decisions will be made by our military commanders, not by politicians in Washington, DC.

Our coalition has learned from experience in Iraq. We have adjusted our military tactics and changed our approach to reconstruction. Along the way, we have benefited from responsible criticism and counsel offered by Members of Congress of both parties. In the coming year, I will continue to reach out and seek your good advice.

Yet there is a difference between responsible criticism that aims for success, and defeatism that refuses to acknowledge anything but failure. Hindsight alone is not wisdom. And second-guessing is not a strategy.

With so much in the balance, those of us in public office have a duty to speak with candor. A sudden withdrawal of our forces from Iraq would abandon our Iraqi allies to death and prison . . . put men like bin Laden and Zarqawi in charge of a strategic country . . . and show that a pledge from America means little. Members of Congress: however we feel about the decisions and debates of the past, our Nation has only one option: We must keep our word, defeat our enemies, and stand behind the American military in its vital mission.

Our men and women in uniform are making sacrifices—and showing a sense of duty stronger than all fear. They know what it is like to fight house to house in a maze of streets . . . to wear heavy gear in the desert heat . . . to see a comrade killed by a roadside bomb. And those who know the costs also know the stakes. Marine Staff Sergeant Dan Clay was killed last month fighting the enemy in Fallujah. He left behind a letter to his family, but his words could just as well be addressed to every American. Here is what Dan wrote: ''I know what honor is. It has been an honor to protect and serve all of you. I faced death with the secure knowledge that you would not have to . . . Never falter! Don't hesitate to honor and support those of us who have the honor of protecting that which is worth protecting.''

Staff Sergeant Dan Clay's wife, Lisa, and his mom and dad, Sara Jo and Bud, are with us this evening. Our Nation is grateful to the fallen, who live in the memory of our country. We are grateful to all who volunteer to wear our Nation's uniform—and as we honor our brave troops, let us never forget the sacrifices of America's military families.

Our offensive against terror involves more than military action. Ultimately, the only way to defeat the terrorists is to defeat their dark vision of hatred and fear by offering the hopeful alternative of political freedom and peaceful change. So the United States of America supports democratic reform across the broader Middle East. Elections are vital—but they are only the beginning. Raising up a democracy requires the rule of law, protection of minorities, and strong, accountable institutions that last longer than a single vote. The great people of Egypt have voted in a multi-party presidential election—and now their government should open paths of peaceful opposition that will reduce the appeal of radicalism. The Palestinian people have voted in elections—now the leaders of Hamas must recognize Israel, disarm, reject terrorism, and work for lasting peace. Saudi Arabia has taken the first steps of reform—now it can offer its people a better future by pressing forward with those efforts. Democracies in the Middle East will not look like our own, because they will reflect the traditions of their own citizens. Yet liberty is the future of every nation in the Middle East, because liberty is the right and hope of all humanity.

The same is true of Iran, a nation now held hostage by a small clerical elite that is isolating and repressing its people. The regime in that country sponsors terrorists in the Palestinian territories and in Lebanon—and that must come to an end. The Iranian government is defying the world with its nuclear ambitions—and the nations of the world must not permit the Iranian regime to gain nuclear weapons. America will continue to rally the world to confront these threats. And tonight, let me speak directly to the citizens of Iran: America respects you, and we respect your country. We respect your right to choose your own future and win your own freedom. And our Nation hopes one day to be the closest of friends with a free and democratic Iran.

To overcome dangers in our world, we must also take the offensive by encouraging economic progress, fighting disease, and spreading hope in hopeless lands. Isolationism would not only tie our hands in fighting enemies, it would keep us from helping our friends in desperate need. We show compassion abroad because Americans believe in the God-given dignity and worth of a villager with HIV/AIDS, or an infant with malaria, or a refugee fleeing genocide, or a young girl sold into slavery. We also show compassion abroad because regions overwhelmed by poverty, corruption, and despair are sources of terrorism, organized crime, human trafficking, and the drug trade.

In recent years, you and I have taken unprecedented action to fight AIDS and malaria, expand the education of girls, and reward developing nations that are moving forward with economic and political reform. For people everywhere, the United States is a partner for a better life. Short-changing these efforts would increase the suffering and chaos of our world, undercut our long-term security, and dull the conscience of our country. I urge Members of Congress to serve the interests of America by showing the compassion of America.

Our country must also remain on the offensive against terrorism here at home. The enemy has not lost the desire or capability to attack us. Fortunately, this Nation has superb professionals in law enforcement, intelligence, the military, and homeland security. These men and women are dedicating their lives to protecting us all, and they deserve our support and our thanks. They also deserve the same tools they already use to fight drug trafficking and organized crime—so I ask you to reauthorize the Patriot Act.

It is said that prior to the attacks of September 11th, our Government failed to connect the dots of the conspiracy. We now know that two of the hijackers in the United States placed telephone calls to al-Qaida operatives overseas. But we did not know about their plans until it was too late. So to prevent another attack—based on authority given to me by the Constitution and by statute—I have authorized a terrorist surveillance program to aggressively pursue the international communications of suspected al-Qaida operatives and affiliates to and from America. Previous

presidents have used the same constitutional authority I have—and Federal courts have approved the use of that authority. Appropriate Members of Congress have been kept informed. This terrorist surveillance program has helped prevent terrorist attacks. It remains essential to the security of America. If there are people inside our country who are talking with al-Qaida, we want to know about it—because we will not sit back and wait to be hit again.

In all these areas—from the disruption of terror networks, to victory in Iraq, to the spread of freedom and hope in troubled regions—we need the support of friends and allies. To draw that support, we must always be clear in our principles and willing to act. The only alternative to American leadership is a dramatically more dangerous and anxious world. Yet we also choose to lead because it is a privilege to serve the values that gave us birth. American leaders—from Roosevelt to Truman to Kennedy to Reagan—rejected isolation and retreat, because they knew that America is always more secure when freedom is on the march. Our own generation is in a long war against a determined enemy—a war that will be fought by Presidents of both parties, who will need steady bipartisan support from the Congress. And tonight I ask for yours. Together, let us protect our country, support the men and women who defend us, and lead this world toward freedom.

Here at home, America also has a great opportunity: We will build the prosperity of our country by strengthening our economic leadership in the world.

Our economy is healthy, and vigorous, and growing faster than other major industrialized nations. In the last two-and-a-half years, America has created 4.6 million new jobs—more than Japan and the European Union combined. Even in the face of higher energy prices and natural disasters, the American people have turned in an economic performance that is the envy of the world.

The American economy is pre-eminent—but we cannot afford to be complacent. In a dynamic world economy, we are seeing new competitors like China and India. This creates uncertainty, which makes it easier to feed people's fears. And so we are seeing some old temptations return. Protectionists want to escape competition, pretending that we can keep our high standard of living while walling off our economy. Others say that the Government needs to take a larger role in directing the economy, centralizing more power in Washington and increasing taxes. We hear claims that immigrants are somehow bad for the economy—even though this economy could not function without them. All these are forms of economic retreat, and they lead in the same direction—toward a stagnant and second-rate economy.

Tonight I will set out a better path—an agenda for a Nation that competes with confidence—an agenda that will raise standards of living and generate new jobs. Americans should not fear our economic future, because we intend to shape it.

Keeping America competitive begins with keeping our economy growing. And our economy grows when Americans have more of their own money to spend, save, and invest. In the last 5 years, the tax relief you passed has left $880 billion in the hands of American workers, investors, small businesses, and families—and they have used it to help produce more than 4 years of uninterrupted economic growth. Yet the tax relief is set to expire in the next few years. If we do nothing, American families will face a massive tax increase they do not expect and will not welcome.

Because America needs more than a temporary expansion, we need more than temporary tax relief. I urge the Congress to act responsibly, and make the tax cuts permanent.

Keeping America competitive requires us to be good stewards of tax dollars. Every year of my presidency, we have reduced the growth of non-security discretionary spending—and last year you passed bills that cut this spending. This year my budget will cut it again, and reduce or eliminate more than 140 programs that are performing poorly or not fulfilling essential priorities. By passing these reforms, we will save the American taxpayer another $14 billion next year—and stay on track to cut the deficit in half by 2009. I am pleased that Members of Congress are working on earmark reform—because the Federal budget has too many special interest projects. And we can tackle this problem together, if you pass the line-item veto.

We must also confront the larger challenge of mandatory spending, or entitlements. This year, the first of about 78 million Baby Boomers turn 60, including two of my Dad's favorite people—me, and President Bill Clinton. This milestone is more than a personal crisis—it is a national challenge. The retirement of the Baby Boom generation will put unprecedented strains on the Federal Government. By 2030, spending for Social Security, Medicare, and Medicaid alone will be almost 60 percent of the entire Federal budget. And that will present future Congresses with impossible choices—staggering tax increases, immense deficits, or deep cuts in every category of spending.

Congress did not act last year on my proposal to save Social Security, yet the rising cost of entitlements is a problem that is not going away—and with every year we fail to act, the situation gets worse. So tonight, I ask you to join me in creating a commission to examine the full impact of Baby Boom retirements on Social Security, Medicare, and Medicaid. This commission should include Members of Congress of both parties, and offer bipartisan answers. We need to put aside partisan politics, work together, and get this problem solved.

Keeping America competitive requires us to open more markets for all that Americans make and grow. One out of every five factory jobs in America is related to global trade, and we want people everywhere to buy American. With open markets and a level playing field, no one can out-produce or out-compete the American worker.

Keeping America competitive requires an immigration system that upholds our laws, reflects our values, and serves the interests of our economy. Our Nation needs orderly and secure borders. To meet this goal, we must have stronger immigration enforcement and border protection. And we must have a rational, humane guest worker program that rejects amnesty . . . allows temporary jobs for people who seek them legally . . . and reduces smuggling and crime at the border.

Keeping America competitive requires affordable health care. Our Government has a responsibility to help provide health care for the poor and the elderly, and we are meeting that responsibility. For all Americans, we must confront the rising cost of care . . . strengthen the doctor-patient relationship . . . and help people afford the insurance coverage they need. We will make wider use of electronic records and other health information technology to help control costs and reduce dangerous medical errors. We will strengthen Health Savings Accounts—by making sure individuals and small business employees can buy insurance with the same advantages that people working for big businesses now get. We will do more to make this coverage portable, so workers can switch jobs without having to worry about losing their health insurance. And because lawsuits are driving many good doctors out of practice—leaving women in nearly 1,500 American counties without a single OB–GYN—I ask the Congress to pass medical liability reform this year.

Keeping America competitive requires affordable energy. Here we have a serious problem: America is addicted to oil, which is often imported from unstable parts of the world.

The best way to break this addiction is through technology. Since 2001, we have spent nearly $10 billion to develop cleaner, cheaper, more reliable alternative energy sources—and we are on the threshold of incredible advances. So tonight, I announce the Advanced Energy Initiative—a 22-percent increase in clean-energy research at the Department of Energy, to push for breakthroughs in two vital areas. To change how we power our homes and offices, we will invest more in zero-emission coal-fired plants; revolutionary solar and wind technologies; and clean, safe nuclear energy.

We must also change how we power our automobiles. We will increase our research in better batteries for hybrid and electric cars, and in pollution-free

cars that run on hydrogen. We will also fund additional research in cutting-edge methods of producing ethanol, not just from corn but from wood chips, stalks, or even leaves. Our goal is to make this new kind of ethanol practical and competitive within 6 years. Breakthroughs on this and other new technologies will help us reach another great goal: to replace more than 75 percent of our oil imports from the Middle East by 2025. By applying the talent and technology of America, this country can dramatically improve our environment . . . move beyond a petroleum-based economy . . . and make our dependence on Middle Eastern oil a thing of the past.

And to keep America competitive, one commitment is necessary above all: We must continue to lead the world in human talent and creativity. Our greatest advantage in the world has always been our educated, hard-working, ambitious people—and we are going to keep that edge. Tonight I announce the American Competitiveness Initiative, to encourage innovation throughout our economy, and to give our Nation's children a firm grounding in math and science.

First: I propose to double the Federal commitment to the most critical basic research programs in the physical sciences over the next 10 years. This funding will support the work of America's most creative minds as they explore promising areas such as nanotechnology, supercomputing, and alternative energy sources.

Second: I propose to make permanent the research and development tax credit, to encourage bolder private-sector investment in technology. With more research in both the public and private sectors, we will improve our quality of life—and ensure that America will lead the world in opportunity and innovation for decades to come.

Third: We need to encourage children to take more math and science, and make sure those courses are rigorous enough to compete with other nations. We have made a good start in the early grades with the No Child Left Behind Act, which is raising standards and lifting test scores across our country. Tonight I propose to train 70,000 high school teachers, to lead advanced-placement courses in math and science . . . bring 30,000 math and science professionals to teach in classrooms . . . and give early help to students who struggle with math, so they have a better chance at good, high-wage jobs. If we ensure that America's children succeed in life, they will ensure that America succeeds in the world.

Preparing our Nation to compete in the world is a goal that all of us can share. I urge you to support the American Competitiveness Initiative . . . and together we will show the world what the American people can achieve.

America is a great force for freedom and prosperity. Yet our greatness is not measured in power or luxuries, but by who we are and how we treat one another. So we strive to be a compassionate, decent, hopeful society.

In recent years, America has become a more hopeful Nation. Violent crime rates have fallen to their lowest levels since the 1970s. Welfare cases have dropped by more than half over the past decade. Drug use among youth is down 19 percent since 2001. There are fewer abortions in America than at any point in the last three decades, and the number of children born to teenage mothers has been falling for a dozen years in a row.

These gains are evidence of a quiet transformation—a revolution of conscience, in which a rising generation is finding that a life of personal responsibility is a life of fulfillment. Government has played a role. Wise policies such as welfare reform, drug education, and support for abstinence and adoption have made a difference in the character of our country. And everyone here tonight, Democrat and Republican, has a right to be proud of this record.

Yet many Americans, especially parents, still have deep concerns about the direction of our culture, and the health of our most basic institutions. They are concerned about unethical conduct by public officials, and discouraged by activist courts that try to redefine marriage. And they worry about children in our society who need direction and love . . . and about fellow citizens still displaced by natural disaster . . . and about suffering caused by treatable disease.

As we look at these challenges, we must never give in to the belief that America is in decline, or that our culture is doomed to unravel. The American people know better than that. We have proven the pessimists wrong before—and we will do it again.

A hopeful society depends on courts that deliver equal justice under law. The Supreme Court now has two superb new members, Chief Justice John Roberts and Justice Sam Alito. I thank the Senate for confirming both of them. And I will continue to nominate men and women who understand that judges must be servants of the law, and not legislate from the bench. Today marks the official retirement of a very special American. For 24 years of faithful service to our Nation, the United States honors Justice Sandra Day O'Connor.

A hopeful society has institutions of science and medicine that do not cut ethical corners, and that recognize the matchless value of every life. Tonight I ask you to pass legislation to prohibit the most egregious abuses of medical research—human cloning in all its forms . . . creating or implanting embryos for experiments . . . creating human-animal hybrids . . . and buying, selling, or patenting human embryos. Human life is a gift from our Creator—and that gift should never be discarded, devalued, or put up for sale.

A hopeful society expects elected officials to uphold the public trust. Honorable people in both parties are working on reforms to strengthen the ethical standards of Washington—and I support your efforts. Each of us has made a pledge to be worthy of public responsibility—and that is a pledge we must never forget, never dismiss, and never betray.

As we renew the promise of our institutions, let us also show the character of America in our compassion and care for one another.

A hopeful society gives special attention to children who lack direction and love. Through the Helping America's Youth Initiative, we are encouraging caring adults to get involved in the life of a child—and this good work is led by our First Lady, Laura Bush. This year we will add resources to encourage young people to stay in school—so more of America's youth can raise their sights and achieve their dreams.

A hopeful society comes to the aid of fellow citizens in times of suffering and emergency—and stays at it until they are back on their feet. So far the Federal Government has committed $85 billion to the people of the Gulf Coast and New Orleans. We are removing debris, repairing highways, and building stronger levees. We are providing business loans and housing assistance. Yet as we meet these immediate needs, we must also address deeper challenges that existed before the storm arrived. In New Orleans and in other places, many of our fellow citizens have felt excluded from the promise of our country. The answer is not only temporary relief, but schools that teach every child . . . and job skills that bring upward mobility . . . and more opportunities to own a home and start a business. As we recover from a disaster, let us also work for the day when all Americans are protected by justice, equal in hope, and rich in opportunity.

A hopeful society acts boldly to fight diseases like HIV/AIDS, which can be prevented, and treated, and defeated. More than a million Americans live with HIV, and half of all AIDS cases occur among African-Americans. I ask Congress to reform and reauthorize the Ryan White Act . . . and provide new funding to States, so we end the waiting lists for AIDS medicine in America. We will also lead a nationwide effort, working closely with African-American churches and faith-based groups, to deliver rapid HIV tests to millions, end the stigma of AIDS, and come closer to the day when there are no new infections in America.

Fellow citizens, we have been called to leadership in a period of consequence. We have entered a great ideological conflict we did nothing to invite. We see great changes in science and commerce that will influence all our lives. And sometimes it can seem that history is turning in a wide arc, toward an unknown shore.

Yet the destination of history is determined by human action, and every great movement of history comes to a point of choosing. Lincoln could have accepted peace at the cost of disunity

and continued slavery. Martin Luther King could have stopped at Birmingham or at Selma, and achieved only half a victory over segregation. The United States could have accepted the permanent division of Europe, and been complicit in the oppression of others. Today, having come far in our own historical journey, we must decide: Will we turn back, or finish well?

Before history is written down in books, it is written in courage. Like Americans before us, we will show that courage and we will finish well. We will lead freedom's advance. We will compete and excel in the global economy. We will renew the defining moral commitments of this land. And. so we move forward—optimistic about our country, faithful to its cause, and confident of victories to come.

Thank you, God bless you, and may God bless America.

GEORGE W. BUSH.

THE WHITE HOUSE, *January 31, 2006*.

## MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 5:15 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Hays, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has agreed to the following resolution:

H. Res. 650. A resolution informing the Senate that a quorum of the House is present and that the House is ready to proceed with business.

The message also announced that the House has agreed to the following concurrent resolution, without amendment:

S. Con. Res. 77: Concurrent resolution to provide for a joint session of Congress to receive a message from the President on the state of the Union.

## INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mr. VITTER:

S. 2227. A bill to amend the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States to remove the 100 percent tariff imposed on roasted chicory and other roasted coffee substitutes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mrs. LINCOLN (for herself and Mr. PRYOR):

S. 2228. A bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 2404 Race Street, Jonesboro, Arkansas, as the ''Hattie W. Caraway Post Office.''; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. KENNEDY:

S. 2229. A bill to provide quality, affordable health care for all Americans; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. DODD (for himself and Mr. KENNEDY):

S. 2230. A bill to ensure that members of the Armed Forces have complete personal armored protection necessary for their duties, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Armed Services.

## SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Ms. LANDRIEU:

S. Res. 359. A resolution concerning the Government of Romania's ban on intercountry adoptions and the welfare of orphaned or abandoned children in Romania; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mrs. MURRAY:

S. Res. 360. A resolution designating the week of February 6 through February 10, 2006, as ''National School Counseling Week''; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. ALLEN (for himself and Mr. STEVENS):

S. Res. 361. A resolution honoring professional surveyors and recognizing their contributions to society; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. FRIST (for himself, Mr. REID, Mr. OBAMA, Mr. ISAKSON, Mr. CHAMBLISS, Mr. SANTORUM, Mr. AKAKA, Mr. ALEXANDER, Mr. ALLARD, Mr. ALLEN, Mr. BAUCUS, Mr. BAYH, Mr. BENNETT, Mr. BIDEN, Mr. BINGAMAN, Mr. BOND, Mrs. BOXER, Mr. BROWNBACK, Mr. BUNNING, Mr. BURNS, Mr. BURR, Mr. BYRD, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. CARPER, Mr. CHAFEE, Mrs. CLINTON, Mr. COBURN, Mr. COCHRAN, Mr. COLEMAN, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. CONRAD, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. CRAIG, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. DAYTON, Mr. DEMINT, Mr. DEWINE, Mr. DODD, Mrs. DOLE, Mr. DOMENICI, Mr. DORGAN, Mr. DURBIN, 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. JEFFORDS, Mr. JOHNSON, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. KERRY, Mr. KOHL, Mr. KYL, Ms. LANDRIEU, Mr. LAUTENBERG, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. LIEBERMAN, Mrs. LINCOLN, Mr. LOTT, Mr. LUGAR, Mr. MARTINEZ, Mr. MCCAIN, Mr. MCCONNELL, Mr. MENENDEZ, Ms. MIKULSKI, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. NELSON of Florida, Mr. NELSON of Nebraska, Mr. PRYOR, Mr. REED, Mr. ROBERTS, Mr. ROCKEFELLER, Mr. SALAZAR, Mr. SARBANES, Mr. SCHUMER, 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):

S. Res. 362. A resolution honoring the life of Coretta Scott King and expressing the condolences of the Senate on her passing; considered and agreed to.

## ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 8

At the request of Mr. ENSIGN, the name of the Senator from Kansas (Mr. ROBERTS) was added as a cosponsor 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. 58

At the request of Mr. INOUYE, the names of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. JOHNSON) and the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ) were added as cosponsors of S. 58, a bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to permit former members of the Armed Forces who have a service-connected disability rated as total to travel on military aircraft in the same manner and to the same extent as retired members of the Armed Forces are entitled to travel on such aircraft.

S. 403

At the request of Mr. ENSIGN, the name of the Senator from Kansas (Mr. ROBERTS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 403, 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. 409

At the request of Mr. COLEMAN, the name of the Senator from Washington (Ms. CANTWELL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 409, a bill to establish a Federal Youth Development Council to improve the administration and coordination of Federal programs serving youth, and for other purposes.

S. 1173

At the request of Mr. DEMINT, the name of the Senator from Alabama (Mr. SESSIONS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1173, a bill to amend the National Labor Relations Act to ensure the right of employees to a secret-ballot election conducted by the National Labor Relations Board.

S. 2049

At the request of Mr. DOMENICI, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Mr. COLEMAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2049, a bill to improve the security of the United States borders and for other purposes.

S. 2157

At the request of Mrs. BOXER, the name of the Senator from Maine (Ms. SNOWE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2157, a bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to provide for the Purple Heart to be awarded to prisoners of war who die in captivity under circumstances not otherwise establishing eligibility for the Purple Heart.

S. 2178

At the request of Mr. DEWINE, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 2178, a bill to make the stealing and selling of telephone records a criminal offense.

S. 2179

At the request of Mr. OBAMA, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. KERRY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2179, a bill to require openness in conference committee deliberations and full disclosure of the contents of conference reports and all other legislation.

S. 2197

At the request of Mr. DOMENICI, the name of the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. ROCKEFELLER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2197, a bill to improve the global competitiveness of the United States in science and energy technology, to strengthen basic research programs at the Department of

Energy, and to provide support for mathematics and science education at all levels through the resources available through the Department of Energy, including at the National Laboratories.

S. 2198

At the request of Mr. DOMENICI, the name of the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. ROCKEFELLER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2198, a bill to ensure the United States successfully competes in the 21st century global economy.

S. 2199

At the request of Mr. DOMENICI, the name of the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. ROCKEFELLER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2199, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide tax incentives to promote research and development, innovation, and continuing education.

S. 2201

At the request of Mr. OBAMA, the names of the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. AKAKA), the Senator from Washington (Ms. CANTWELL), the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. KENNEDY) and the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. DORGAN) were added as cosponsors of S. 2201, a bill to amend title 49, United States Code, to modify the mediation and implementation requirements of section 40122 regarding changes in the Federal Aviation Administration personnel management system, and for other purposes.

S. RES. 354

At the request of Ms. LANDRIEU, her name was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 354, a resolution honoring the valuable contributions of Catholic schools in the United States.

S. RES. 355

At the request of Mr. NELSON of Nebraska, the names of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. LEAHY), the Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER) and the Senator from Florida (Mr. MARTINEZ) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 355, a resolution honoring the service of the National Guard and requesting consultation by the Department of Defense with Congress and the chief executive officers of the States prior to offering proposals to change the National Guard force structure.

## STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. KENNEDY:

S. 2229. A bill to provide quality, affordable health care for all Americans; to the Committee on Finance.

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, in this century of the life sciences, medical miracles have the potential to improve the health and extend the lives of millions of Americans and millions more across the world.

But for too many of our citizens, quality affordable health care is a distant dream, and the promise of the century of the life sciences rings hollow.

Forty-six million Americans have no health insurance. Under the current Administration, the number has climbed every year of this Administration, from 40 million in 2000 to 46 million today. That's equivalent to the population of 24 States and the District of Columbia—combined.

That's 46 million Americans who wonder whether a cough or fever will turn into a serious illness that brings financial ruin, and 46 million Americans who have to make the impossible choice between paying for a visit to the doctor or paying the rent to keep a roof over their heads.

Even these figures understate the problem. Over a two year period, 82 million Americans, one out of every three Americans under 65, will be uninsured for a period of at least two months.

The burden of lack of health insurance falls most heavily on minority populations. Less than 13 percent of white Americans are uninsured, but over 20 percent of African Americans lack health insurance. For Hispanic Americans, the figure is even more appalling—over a third of Hispanic Americans lack coverage.

Over 80 percent of the uninsured are members of working families. They work 40 hours a week, fifty-two weeks a year—but all their hard work can't buy them the health insurance they need to protect themselves and their families—because they can't afford it and their employers don't provide it.

In any given year, one third of the uninsured go without needed medical care. Eight million uninsured Americans fail to take the drugs their doctors prescribe—because they can't afford to fill the prescription. 270,000 children suffering from asthma never see a doctor. 27,000 uninsured women are diagnosed with breast cancer each year. They are twice as likely as insured women not to receive medical treatment until their cancer has spread. As a result, they are 50 percent more likely to die of the disease.

The list of grim examples goes on and on.

Some argue that despite the lack of health care coverage, the uninsured get the care they need. But that's a myth. The facts prove otherwise.

Thirty five percent of the uninsured—over 15 million Americans—skip recommended treatment because of cost. Over a third of the uninsured need care but do not get it, and nearly half postpone care because of its cost. Millions of Americans are at risk of ignoring serious illnesses, because they can't afford to see a doctor for a needed test.

Whether the disease is AIDS or mental illness or cancer or heart disease or diabetes, the uninsured are left out and left behind. In hospital and out, young or old, black or white, they receive less care, suffer more, and are 25 percent more likely to die than those who are insured.

But the large and growing number of the uninsured is only part of the health care crisis. Costs are rising out of control, making health care coverage less affordable for businesses and individuals, and undercutting American industry in the global marketplace.

There is no doubt that America has the finest health care professionals, the best hospitals and the most creative medical researchers in the world. But having the best components is no guarantee of success for the health care system as a whole.

In the amount of money spent on health care per person, America is first in the world by a large margin. By that standard, we spend 49 percent more than the Swiss, 88 percent more than the Germans, 150 percent more than the British, and 160 more than the Japanese. Despite this enormons expenditure, America's health care system fails all too often to deliver quality health care. Among the world's leading industrialized countries, the United States ranks only 22nd in average life expectancy and 25th in infant mortality.

The most significant difference between the American health care system and those of our economic competitors is that these other nations regard health as a right, not a privilege. They make certain that their citizens have access to good health care. By establishing a national system of care, they have been able to hold down costs and keep quality high.

In the United States, we have refused to commit to quality health care for all Americans.

As a result, those who can afford the best care receive it, but millions of other Americans are left by the wayside.

Because of our fractured system of care, America's health care system is the most economically inefficient in the industrial world. The administrative costs alone of our system are nearly double those of Canada. Reducing our administrative costs to the low level of the Canadian system would save about $250 billion every year.

The difference between the way health care is financed in Canada and the U.S. saves the Canadian auto industry $4.00 an hour in worker compensation compared to the U.S. The Canadian branches of the big three automakers have released a joint letter with the Canadian Auto Workers Union stating that the Canadian system is a ''strategic advantage for Canada'' and ''has been an important ingredient'' in the success of Canada's ''most important export industry.''

Wise investments have helped contain health care costs here at home too. Since 1996, costs per patient in the Veterans medical system have actually decreased 7 percent, while private sector costs per patient have increased by 62 percent. The VA system did not achieve these savings by stinting on patient care or denying needed services. The VA has been widely praised for improving its quality of care through investments in information technology and a strong commitment to quality for all.

As a result of America's failure to focus on comprehensive care and cost reduction, costs are soaring out of control. Health care premiums have gone up over 70 percent in the last five years—over 5 times the overall rate of inflation in the economy. More and more small businesses can't afford to offer health care to their employees.

Health care costs mean that working Americans who have health coverage through their job are increasingly worried that their employer will eliminate the coverage on which they rely. Those who obtain coverage on the individual market must often pay huge premiums and accept large gaps in their coverage if they have any history of illness, no matter how slight. Many cannot obtain coverage at any price.

Even those who have health insurance have little security. Millions of Americans have seen health care costs eat away their savings and cut into their paychecks more and more every year.

Since the year 2000, the average cost of a family health insurance policy has increased by over $4,500, so that it now costs the average family nearly $11,000 for a health care policy. Family earnings have not kept pace. According to the Kaiser Family Foundation, health insurance premiums climbed by 73 percent over the last five years—but earnings increased only 15 percent.

The costs keep climbing higher and higher. Almost one in five working families have seen their premiums go up over 15 percent—and one in ten have faced increases over 20 percent.

These out-of-control costs are devastating for both individuals and businesses. Working families often face the agonizing choice between paying for health insurance and paying rent or buying groceries. Or they compromise by buying a meager insurance policy that provides little refuge when big danger strikes.

It's no wonder that unpaid medical bills cause nearly half the bankruptcies in America.

It's no wonder that practically every business leader in America cites rising health care costs as a top concern. When General Motors has to spend more on health care than it does on steel, it's time for a change. When ten percent of the total cost of a ton of steel manufactured in the United States is consumed by retiree health benefits alone, it's time for a change. When Starbucks spends more on health care than it does on coffee, it's time for a change.

In world markets, American businesses have to compete with foreign firms whose health costs are heavily subsidized by the government. American workers are the best in the world, but we give other nations an unfair advantage, because we refuse to enact long overdue policies to reduce health costs and ease the heavy burden of health care for American employees.

To say that this Administration and its Republican allies in Congress have stood idly by as this crisis has worsened would be untrue. To say they have taken no action as 3,000 more Americans have become uninsured during every single day of the Bush Administration would be inaccurate. They have taken action—by making the health care crisis worse.

Tomorrow, the House of Representatives will vote on a budget bill that will make the health care crisis worse for the 50 million Americans for whom Medicaid is literally the difference between life or death. The Republican bill makes them pay more and more for the health care on which their lives depend. I urge the House to reject these distorted priorities.

Currently, communities across the nation are struggling to cope with the disaster caused by the Republican Medicare drug ''plan''. Millions of seniors have faced a baffling array of choices, instead of the certainty of Medicare in getting the medications they need. Millions of persons with disabilities, or those facing the challenge of HIV/AIDS or living with mental illnesses have been denied the prescriptions they require, or have been told to pay exorbitant fees by the insurance companies that Republicans put in charge of the drug benefit. Try telling those who have been denied their medicines that they are in charge of their health care.

Tonight, the President will try to make the American people believe that the solution to rising health costs is to shift more and more of those costs to patients, or to deny care to those in need. That's the wrong prescription for health care.

The President's proposal will let the wealthiest Americans rack up billions of dollars in tax giveaways, while shifting the costs of health care to working families and those least able to pay.

Our people deserve true health care reform—not gimmicks and giveaways that worsen the crisis. They deserve a guarantee that when they get sick, they'll be able to obtain decent health care at a price they can afford.

Medicare has meant quality health care for millions of senior citizens for forty years. The time has come to make Medicare available to every American who wants to enroll in it. It's the best way to bring the enormous promise of this new century of the life sciences to every American.

America's failure to guarantee the basic right to health care for all its citizens was one of the great public policy failures of the 20th century, and we must not allow that failure to continue in this new century.

There is a better way. Our goal should be an America where no citizen of any age fears the cost of health care, and no employer stops creating jobs because of the high cost of providing health insurance.

We should build on the tried and true and trusted model of Medicare. Administrative costs are low, patient satisfaction is high, and patients have the right to choose any doctor and hospital they think is best—not the one an insurance company thinks is best for them.

Today I am introducing legislation to extend Medicare to all Americans, from birth to the end of life. Those who prefer private insurance can choose any of the plans offered to members of Congress and the President. I call this approach Medicare for All, because it will free all Americans from the fear of medical expenses and enable them to seek the best possible care when illness strikes. Nothing is more cynical than a Member of Congress who gives a speech denouncing health care for all, then goes off to see his doctor for a visit paid for by the Federal Employees Health Benefit Plan.

To ease the transition, Medicare for All will be phased in by age group, starting with those 55–65 years old and children up to the age of 20.

The plan contains a number of provisions to reduce costs and improve quality, including more effective use of health information technology. It also puts new emphasis on preventive care, because preventing illness before it occurs is always better and less expensive than treating patients after they become ill.

My proposal will be entirely voluntary. Any American who wishes to stay in their current employer-sponsored plan can do so, and employers can tailor their health plans to provide additional services to their employees that wrap around Medicare coverage.

As we implement this reform, financing must be a shared responsibility. All will benefit, and all should contribute. Payroll taxes should be part of the financing, but so should general revenues, to make the financing as progressive as possible.

We can offset a large part of the expense by a single giant step—bringing health care into the modem age of information technology. By moving to electronic medical records for all Americans when they go to the hospital or their doctor, we can save hundreds of billions of dollars a year in administrative costs while improving the quality of care. Equally important, we should pay for health care based on value and results, not just the number of procedures performed or days in a hospital bed.

We all know that Medicare is one of the most successful social programs ever enacted. It makes no sense to make it available only to senior citizens. I have no doubt that if we were enacting Medicare today, we would not limit its benefits to seniors. The need for good health coverage is as urgent today for all Americans as it was for senior citizens 40 years ago, when Medicare was first enacted.

The battle to achieve Medicare for All will not be easy. Powerful interests will strongly oppose it, because they profit immensely from the status quo. But no battle worth fighting is easy—and the struggle to fulfill the promise

of this century of the life sciences for all our citizens is as worthy as any in American history.

I urge my colleagues to make good on the promise of America, and see that all our citizens receive the quality health care that should be their birthright. I urge the Senate to support Medicare for All.

## SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

### SENATE RESOLUTION 359—CONCERNING THE GOVERNMENT OF ROMANIA'S BAN ON INTERCOUNTRY ADOPTIONS AND THE WELFARE OF ORPHANED OR ABANDONED CHILDREN IN ROMANIA

Ms. LANDRIEU submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

S. RES. 359

Whereas following the execution of Romanian President Nicolae Ceausescu in 1989, it was discovered that more than 100,000 underfed, neglected children throughout Romania were living in hundreds of squalid and inhumane institutions;

Whereas citizens of the United States responded to the dire situation of these children with an outpouring of compassion and assistance to improve conditions in those institutions and to provide for the needs of abandoned children in Romania;

Whereas, between 1990 and 2004, citizens of the United States adopted more than 8,200 Romanian children, with a similar response from the citizens of Western Europe;

Whereas the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) reported in March 2005 that more than 9,000 children a year are abandoned in Romania's maternity wards or pediatric hospitals and that child abandonment in Romania in ''2003 and 2004 was no different from that occurring 10, 20, or 30 years ago'';

Whereas there are approximately 37,000 orphaned or abandoned children in Romania today living in state institutions, an additional 49,000 living in temporary arrangements, such as foster care, and an unknown number of children living on the streets and in maternity and pediatric hospitals;

Whereas, on December 28, 1994, Romania ratified the Hague Convention on Protection of Children and Co-operation in Respect of Intercountry Adoption which recognizes that ''intercountry adoption may offer the advantage of a permanent family to a child for whom a suitable family cannot be found in his or her State of origin'';

Whereas intercountry adoption offers the hope of a permanent family for children who are orphaned or abandoned by their biological parents;

Whereas UNICEF's official position on intercountry adoption, in pertinent part, states: ''For children who cannot be raised by their own families, an appropriate alternative family environment should be sought in preference to institutional care, which should be used only as a last resort and as a temporary measure. Inter-country adoption is one of a range of care options which may be open to children, and for individual children who cannot be placed in a permanent family setting in their countries of origin, it may indeed be the best solution. In each case, the best interests of the individual child must be the guiding principal in making a decision regarding adoption.'';

Whereas unsubstantiated allegations have been made about the fate of children adopted from Romania and the qualifications and motives of those who adopt internationally;

Whereas in June 2001, the Romanian Adoption Committee imposed a moratorium on intercountry adoption, but continued to accept new intercountry adoption applications and allowed many such applications to be processed under an exception for extraordinary circumstances;

Whereas on June 21, 2004, the Parliament of Romania enacted Law 272/2004 on ''the protection and promotion of the rights of the child'', which creates new requirements for declaring a child legally available for adoption;

Whereas on June 21, 2004, the Parliament of Romania enacted Law 273/2004 on adoption, which prohibits intercountry adoption except by a child's biological grandparent or grandparents;

Whereas there is no European Union law or regulation restricting intercountry adoptions to biological grandparents or requiring that restrictive laws be passed as a prerequisite for accession to the European Union;

Whereas the number of Romanian children adopted domestically is far less than the number abandoned and has declined further since enactment of Law 272/2004 and 273/2004 due to new, overly burdensome requirements for adoption;

Whereas prior to enactment of Law 273/2004, 211 intercountry adoption cases were pending with the Government of Romania in which children had been matched with adoptive parents in the United States, and approximately 1,500 cases were pending in which children had been matched with prospective parents in Western Europe; and

Whereas the children of Romania, and all children, deserve to be raised in permanent families: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) supports the desire of the Government of Romania to improve the standard of care and well-being of children in Romania;

(2) urges the Government of Romania to complete the processing of the intercountry adoption cases which were pending when Law 273/2004 was enacted;

(3) urges the Government of Romania to amend its child welfare and adoption laws to decrease barriers to adoption, both domestic and intercountry, including by allowing intercountry adoption by persons other than biological grandparents;

(4) urges the Secretary of State and the Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development to work collaboratively with the Government of Romania to achieve these ends; and

(5) requests that the European Union and its member states not impede the Government of Romania's efforts to place orphaned or abandoned children in permanent homes in a manner that is consistent with Romania's obligations under the Hague Convention on Protection of Children and Co-operation in Respect of Intercountry Adoption.

### SENATE RESOLUTION 360—DESIGNATING THE WEEK OF FEBRUARY 6 THROUGH FEBRUARY 10, 2006, AS ''NATIONAL SCHOOL COUNSELING WEEK''

Mrs. MURRAY submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 360

Whereas the American School Counselor Association has declared the week of February 6 through February 10, 2006, as ''National School Counseling Week'';

Whereas the Senate has recognized the importance of school counseling through the inclusion of elementary and secondary school counseling programs in the reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965;

Whereas school counselors have long advocated that the education system of the United States must leave no child behind and must provide opportunities for every student;

Whereas personal and social growth results in increased academic achievement;

Whereas school counselors help develop well-rounded students by guiding them through their academic, personal, social, and career development;

Whereas school counselors have been instrumental in helping students, teachers, and parents deal with the trauma that was inflicted upon them by hurricanes Katrina, Rita, and Wilma;

Whereas students face myriad challenges every day, including peer pressure, depression, and school violence;

Whereas school counselors are usually the only professionals in a school building who are trained in both education and mental health matters;

Whereas the roles and responsibilities of school counselors are often misunderstood, and the school counselor position is often among the first to be eliminated in order to meet budgetary constraints;

Whereas the national average ratio of students to school counselors of 478-to-1 is more than double the 250-to-1 ratio recommended by the American School Counselor Association, the American Counseling Association, the American Medical Association, the American Psychological Association, and other organizations; and

Whereas the celebration of National School Counseling Week would increase awareness of the important and necessary role school counselors play in the lives of students in the United States:

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) designates the week of February 6 through February 10, 2006, as ''National School Counseling Week''; and

(2) encourages the people of the United States to observe the week with appropriate ceremonies and activities that promote awareness of the role school counselors perform in the school and the community at large in preparing students for fulfilling lives as contributing members of society.

### SENATE RESOLUTION 361—HONORING PROFESSIONAL SURVEYORS AND RECOGNIZING THEIR CONTRIBUTIONS TO SOCIETY

Mr. ALLEN (for himself and Mr. STEVENS) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 361

Whereas there are over 45,000 professional surveyors in the United States;

Whereas 2006 marks the 200th anniversary of the end of the Lewis and Clark landmark expedition through the upper reaches of the Louisiana Territory and the American West;

Whereas this journey is one of the most important surveying expeditions in the history of the United States because of the wealth of geographical and scientific information it provided about the new Nation;

Whereas the nature of surveying has changed dramatically since 1785, as it is no

longer limited to the description and location of land boundaries;

Whereas hydrographic surveys are important to the use of all our bodies of water;

Whereas engineering surveys are utilized in the study and selection of engineering construction;

Whereas geodetic surveys determine precise global positioning for such activities as aircraft and missile navigation;

Whereas cartographic surveys are used for mapping and charting, as well as photogrammetry, the science of using aerial photographs for measurement and map production;

Whereas many services are provided through the use of sophisticated equipment and techniques, such as satellite-borne remote sensing devices and automated positioning, measuring, recording, and plotting equipment;

Whereas the role of the surveyor has been, and remains, of vital importance in the development of the United States;

Whereas since the colonial days of this Nation, surveyors have been leaders in the community, Statesmen, influential citizens, and shapers of cultural standards;

Whereas former surveyors include George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, and Abraham Lincoln;

Whereas it was the work of the surveyor that determined the boundaries of land, the greatest economic asset in the colonies that became the United States;

Whereas Thomas Jefferson chaired a committee in 1784 to devise a plan for disposing of lands west of the 13 original colonies;

Whereas Thomas Jefferson argued that surveying before sale was necessary to prevent overlapping claim and to simplify deeds and registers;

Whereas Thomas Jefferson reportedly wrote a plan, which was debated in Congress and in modified form was adopted as the Land Ordinance of May 20, 1785, establishing the Public Land Survey System (''PLSS''), the rectangular system that continues today in 30 midwestern and western states; and

Whereas the establishment of the third week of March as National Surveyors Week would be a fitting tribute to all surveyors: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) recommends the establishment of National Surveyors Week;

(2) calls on the people of the United States to observe National Surveyors Week each year with appropriate ceremonies and activities paying tribute to professional surveyors and their contribution to society; and

(3) invites the people of the United States to look back at the historic contributions of surveying and look ahead to the new technologies which are constantly modernizing this honored and learned profession.

## SENATE RESOLUTION 362—HONORING THE LIFE OF CORETTA SCOTT KING AND EXPRESSING THE CONDOLENCES OF THE SENATE ON HER PASSING

Mr. FRIST (for himself, Mr. REID, Mr. OBAMA, Mr. ISAKSON, Mr. CHAMBLISS, Mr. SANTORUM, Mr. AKAKA, Mr. ALEXANDER, Mr. ALLARD, Mr. ALLEN, Mr. BAUCUS, Mr. BAYH, Mr. BENNETT, Mr. BIDEN, Mr. BINGAMAN, Mr. BOND, Mrs. BOXER, Mr. BROWNBACK, Mr. BUNNING, Mr. BURNS, Mr. BURR, Mr. BYRD, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. CARPER, Mr. CHAFEE, Mrs. CLINTON, Mr. COBURN, Mr. COCHRAN, Mr. COLEMAN, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. CONRAD, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. CRAIG, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. DAYTON, Mr. DEMINT, Mr. DEWINE, Mr. DODD, Mrs. DOLE, Mr. DOMENICI, Mr. DORGAN, Mr. DURBIN, 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. JEFFORDS, Mr. JOHNSON, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. KERRY, Mr. KOHL, Mr. KYL, Ms. LANDRIEU, Mr. LAUTENBERG, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. LIEBERMAN, Mrs. LINCOLN, Mr. LOTT, Mr. LUGAR, Mr. MARTINEZ, Mr. MCCAIN, Mr. MCCONNELL, Mr. MENENDEZ, Ms. MIKULSKI, Mrs. MURKOWSKI, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. NELSON of Florida, Mr. NELSON of Nebraska, Mr. PRYOR, Mr. REED, Mr. ROBERTS, Mr. ROCKEFELLER, Mr. SALAZAR, Mr. SARBANES, Mr. SCHUMER, 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:

S. RES. 362

Whereas Coretta Scott King was an inspirational figure and a woman of great strength, grace, and dignity who came to personify the ideals for which her husband fought;

Whereas Coretta Scott was born and raised in rural Alabama, graduated as the valedictorian from Lincoln High School, and received a Bachelor of Arts degree from Antioch College in Yellow Springs, Ohio;

Whereas Coretta Scott fought to be allowed to teach in the local public schools in Ohio but was denied because of her race;

Whereas Coretta Scott studied music at the New England Conservatory of Music in Boston and, while attending school in the City, met a graduate student who was studying for his doctorate degree at Boston University;

Whereas that graduate student, Martin Luther King, Jr., told her on their first date, ''The four things that I look for in a wife are character, personality, intelligence, and beauty. And you have them all.'';

Whereas Coretta Scott and Martin Luther King, Jr. were married on June 18, 1953, and moved to Montgomery, Alabama;

Whereas Mrs. King gave birth to her first child, Yolanda, 2 weeks before the start of the Montgomery bus boycott, and protected her when opponents of the boycott bombed the King household;

Whereas Dr. and Mrs. King were to have 3 more children named Martin Luther, III, Dexter, and Bernice;

Whereas during the lifetime of Dr. King, Mrs. King balanced the demands of raising their 4 children, serving as the wife of a pastor, and speaking before church, civic, college, fraternal, and peace groups;

Whereas Mrs. King participated in more than 30 ''Freedom Concerts'', where she lectured, read poetry, and sang to raise awareness of and money for the civil rights movement;

Whereas Mrs. King stood by the side of her husband during many civil rights marches and other notable occasions, including a 1957 trip to Ghana to mark the independence of that country, a 1959 trip to India to visit sites associated with Mahatma Gandhi, and a 1964 trip to Oslo, Norway, to accept a Nobel Peace Prize awarded to Dr. King;

Whereas just 4 days after the assassination of her husband in 1968, Mrs. King led a march of 50,000 people through the streets of Memphis and, later that year, took his place in the Poor People's March to Washington;

Whereas Mrs. King devoted her energy to carrying on the message of nonviolence and the work of her husband to create a United States in which all people have equal rights;

Whereas Mrs. King dedicated herself to raising funds and developing programs for the Atlanta-based Martin Luther King, Jr. Center for Nonviolent Social Change, where she served as founding President, Chair, and Chief Executive Officer;

Whereas Mrs. King was instrumental in seeing that the birthday of her husband was honored as a Federal holiday, an occasion first marked in 1986;

Whereas Mrs. King received honorary doctorates from over 60 colleges and universities, and authored 3 books;

Whereas Mrs. King received the congressional gold medal for her invaluable contributions to the United States as a leader of the civil rights movement;

Whereas Mrs. King traveled to every corner of the United States and the globe to speak out on behalf of a number of important issues, including racial and economic justice, the rights of women and children, religious freedom, full employment, health care, and education; and

Whereas Coretta Scott King was a civil rights icon and one of the most influential African Americans in history: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) mourns the loss of Coretta Scott King;

(2) admires her lifelong commitment to social justice and peace;

(3) recognizes her role as a leading participant in the American Civil Rights Movement and her support to democracy movements world-wide;

(4) expresses its sympathies to the family of Coretta Scott king and;

(5) directs the Secretary of the Senate to transmit an enrolled copy of this resolution to the family of Coretta Scott King.

## AUTHORITIES FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

### COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION

Mr. SHELBY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation be authorized to meet on Tuesday, January 31, 2006, at 2:30 p.m., on video content.

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

### COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

Mr. SHELBY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Foreign Relations be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, January 31, 2006, at 2:30 p.m., to hold a hearing on nominations.

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

### COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, EDUCATION, LABOR, AND PENSIONS

Mr. SHELBY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions be authorized to hold a hearing during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, January 31, 2006, at 2 p.m., in SD–106.

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

COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

Mr. SHELBY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs be authorized to meet on Tuesday, January 31, 2006, at 10 a.m. for a hearing titled, ''Challenges in a Catastrophe: Evacuating New Orleans in Advance of Hurricane Katrina.''

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

## NATIONAL SCHOOL COUNSELING WEEK

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of S. Res. 360, submitted earlier today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 360) designating the week of February 6 through February 10, 2006, as ''National School Counseling Week.''

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, today I am pleased to submit this resolution designating the week of February 2, 2006 as ''National School Counseling Week,'' on behalf of my colleagues, Senator BIDEN, Senator DORGAN, Senator JOHNSON, and Senator DODD. This resolution honors and celebrates the important work of school counselors, which the Senate has recognized since 1965 through the inclusion of school counseling in the Elementary and Secondary Education Act.

Across the country, there are approximately 95,000 school counselors, including 2,100 in Washington State. School counselors are critical components of a successful school and contribute significantly to the growth and success of students. In fact, school counselors were instrumental in helping students, teachers, and parents deal with the trauma of terrorism on September 11, 2001, and its aftermath. However, despite their important service, counselors are expected to serve, on average, 485 students each, and are overwhelmed. The American School Counseling Association, the American Medical Association, and the American Psychological Association recommend the ratio of students to school counselors be 250 students to 1 school counselor.

I want to share just a few examples of how school counselors throughout America are helping students.

In a middle school in southern California, school counselors realized that 257 students were in danger of not passing on to the next grade. They discovered that only 15 percent of the students understood the promotion and retention requirements. The school counselors presented a series of individual and small-group lessons on promotion and retention criteria. After the lessons, 100 percent of the students understood the requirements. As a result, 72 of the 257 students, about 28 percent, avoided retention that year.

In a high school in Racine, WI, a math teacher realized that 100 of his students failed algebra in the first quarter of the year. He asked a school counselor for help. Together, they discovered some of the reasons why students were failing. They initiated several programs, such as peer tutoring and homework assistance. As a result, 93 of the 100 students passed algebra by the end of the year and were able to move on to the next level of math.

A school district in Kentucky realized that the retention rate among ninth grade students was unacceptably high. School counselors, teachers and administrators worked together to develop and implement strategies targeted at helping ninth graders move to tenth grade. As a result, retention rates improved in 16 of the 17 high schools in the county in just 1 year. One school saw the retention rate improve more than 25 percent.

This resolution, though, is merely the beginning of what we need to be doing to support school counselors. We need to reduce the ratio of students to counselors to, at the most, 250 to 1. We need to help schools maintain their funding so that school counselors are not cut from school budgets. And we need to support our school counselors so that they can continue to be integral in the fabric of our schools and help our students achieve success in high school and beyond.

School counselors design and implement comprehensive developmental school counseling programs that are integral to the success of every student. They help students improve academic achievement, develop personally and socially and prepare for successful careers that will enable them to be contributing members of society. National School Counseling Week focuses public attention on the unique contribution of professional school counselors and highlights the tremendous impact that school counselors have in helping students achieve success in school and beyond.

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table, and that any statements relating thereto be printed in the RECORD, without intervening action or debate.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 360) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 360

Whereas the American School Counselor Association has declared the week of February 6 through February 10, 2006, as ''National School Counseling Week'';

Whereas the Senate has recognized the importance of school counseling through the inclusion of elementary and secondary school counseling programs in the reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965;

Whereas school counselors have long advocated that the education system of the United States must leave no child behind and must provide opportunities for every student;

Whereas personal and social growth results in increased academic achievement;

Whereas school counselors help develop well-rounded students by guiding them through their academic, personal, social, and career development;

Whereas school counselors have been instrumental in helping students, teachers, and parents deal with the trauma that was inflicted upon them by hurricanes Katrina, Rita, and Wilma;

Whereas students face myriad challenges every day, including peer pressure, depression, and school violence;

Whereas school counselors are usually the only professionals in a school building who are trained in both education and mental health matters;

Whereas the roles and responsibilities of school counselors are often misunderstood, and the school counselor position is often among the first to be eliminated in order to meet budgetary constraints;

Whereas the national average ratio of students to school counselors of 478-to-1 is more than double the 250-to-1 ratio recommended by the American School Counselor Association, the American Counseling Association, the American Medical Association, the American Psychological Association, and other organizations; and

Whereas the celebration of National School Counseling Week would increase awareness of the important and necessary role school counselors play in the lives of students in the United States:

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) designates the week of February 6 through February 10, 2006, as ''National School Counseling Week''; and

(2) encourages the people of the United States to observe the week with appropriate ceremonies and activities that promote awareness of the role school counselors perform in the school and the community at large in preparing students for fulfilling lives as contributing members of society.

## HONORING PROFESSIONAL SURVEYORS

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate now proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 361, which was submitted earlier today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 361) honoring professional surveyors and recognizing their contributions to society.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 361) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 361

Whereas there are over 45,000 professional surveyors in the United States;

Whereas 2006 marks the 200th anniversary of the end of the Lewis and Clark landmark expedition through the upper reaches of the Louisiana Territory and the American West;

Whereas this journey is one of the most important surveying expeditions in the history of the United States because of the wealth of geographical and scientific information it provided about the new Nation;

Whereas the nature of surveying has changed dramatically since 1785, as it is no longer limited to the description and location of land boundaries;

Whereas hydrographic surveys are important to the use of all our bodies of water;

Whereas engineering surveys are utilized in the study and selection of engineering construction;

Whereas geodetic surveys determine precise global positioning for such activities as aircraft and missile navigation;

Whereas cartographic surveys are used for mapping and charting, as well as photogrammetry, the science of using aerial photographs for measurement and map production;

Whereas many services are provided through the use of sophisticated equipment and techniques, such as satellite-borne remote sensing devices and automated positioning, measuring, recording, and plotting equipment;

Whereas the role of the surveyor has been, and remains, of vital importance in the development of the United States;

Whereas since the colonial days of this Nation, surveyors have been leaders in the community, Statesmen, influential citizens, and shapers of cultural standards;

Whereas former surveyors include George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, and Abraham Lincoln;

Whereas it was the work of the surveyor that determined the boundaries of land, the greatest economic asset in the colonies that became the United States;

Whereas Thomas Jefferson chaired a committee in 1784 to devise a plan for disposing of lands west of the 13 original colonies;

Whereas Thomas Jefferson argued that surveying before sale was necessary to prevent overlapping claim and to simplify deeds and registers;

Whereas Thomas Jefferson reportedly wrote a plan, which was debated in Congress and in modified form was adopted as the Land Ordinance of May 20, 1785, establishing the Public Land Survey System (''PLSS''), the rectangular system that continues today in 30 midwestern and western states; and

Whereas the establishment of the third week of March as National Surveyors Week would be a fitting tribute to all surveyors: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) recommends the establishment of National Surveyors Week;

(2) calls on the people of the United States to observe National Surveyors Week each year with appropriate ceremonies and activities paying tribute to professional surveyors and their contribution to society; and

(3) invites the people of the United States to look back at the historic contributions of surveying and look ahead to the new technologies which are constantly modernizing this honored and learned profession.

## HONORING THE LIFE OF CORETTA SCOTT KING

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate now proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 362, which was submitted earlier today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 362) honoring the life of Coretta Scott King and expressing the condolences of the Senate on her passing.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I rise today to mark the passing of a great American.

Coretta Scott King, a leader of the civil rights movement, died in her sleep yesterday evening.

In 15 years of marriage to Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. and nearly four decades of tireless advocacy after his assassination, Mrs. King proved herself a strong and tireless voice for the principle of human equality.

At her husband's side through good times and bad, she played a major role in speaking out against the injustice and evils of State-mandated discrimination and private bigotry.

Her work with her husband played a key role in the passage of our most vital civil rights laws: the 1964 Civil Rights Act and the 1965 Voting Rights Act.

Following her husband's death, she helped found the Martin Luther King Jr. Center for Nonviolent Social Change and led the successful campaign to establish her husband's birthday as a national holiday.

As a Southerner who hails from a state that once imposed the terrible evils of Jim Crow, I am deeply grateful for the work of the Civil Rights Movement.

As majority leader of the Senate, I had the privilege and the pleasure of being with Coretta Scott King on a number of occasions. As I was reflecting back over the course of the day, the one I remember most was now 2 or maybe 3 years ago when I joined her for a church service at Ebenezer Baptist Church Heritage in Atlanta where the family has been historically attending services.

Without the achievements of the civil rights movement, Tennessee, and indeed the entire American South, would have remained mired in cultural and political and economic patterns of the distant past. It took leadership. It took boldness. It took vision.

As we move forward with our work today and in the whole of this Congress, let us remember that heroic, that bold, yet humble, work of Coretta Scott King. Let us prove ourselves worthy of the legacy of the civil rights movement the King family have bequeathed to our Nation.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, we were all awakened this morning to the news of the passing of one of our Nation's true heroes in the struggle for civil rights, Coretta Scott King. Together, Americans all mourn her passing. We offer our deepest thanks for her dedication to keeping the dream of racial equality and national harmony alive even after losing her husband, the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. I join all Americans in extending our thoughts and prayers to her extended family.

Mr. OBAMA. Mr. President, today we mourn the passing of Coretta Scott King.

When I think about Coretta Scott King, I think about a little girl who walked 5 miles to school on those rural Alabama roads and felt the heat of racism each day she passed the door of the Whites-only school, so much closer to home.

It didn't matter, because she studied and succeeded and excelled beyond most of her classmates, Black and White. She earned a college degree, and an acceptance to a prestigious graduate school up North.

One day she met a young preacher from Atlanta, and she fell in love with him. And he told her his dreams. And she believed in them. And she decided that she would help to make them real—not just as a wife or as a friend, but as a partner in freedom's cause.

Over the next years, Coretta Scott King did that in so many ways we can't even imagine. She raised a family, she marched through the streets, she inspired through song, she led through speech, and she even dodged countless attempts on her family's life.

And when one of those attempts finally took her love from this world, she made the selfless decision to carry on. With no time to even cry or mourn, to wallow in anger or vengeance, Coretta Scott King took to the streets just four days after Dr. King's assassination and led 50,000 people through the streets of Memphis in a march for the kind of justice for which her husband had given his life.

She spent the rest of her time on this earth marching for that same justice—leading the King Center for Nonviolent Social Change in Atlanta, and spreading her family's message of hope to every corner of this world.

I had the great honor of knowing Mrs. King, and the occasion to visit with her in Atlanta last year. She was an extraordinarily gracious woman. We sat and chatted in her living room. She showed me an album of photographs of her, Dr. King and the children. Then she told me what her husband had said to her once, at a time when she was feeling burdened, understandably, by all the stress and strain that had been placed on the family as a consequence of his role in the civil rights movement. She said her husband advised:

When you are willing to make sacrifices for a great cause, you will never be alone. Because you will have divine companionship and the support of good people.

Coretta Scott King died in her sleep last night, but she certainly was not alone. She was joined by the companionship and support of a loving family

and a grateful Nation—inspired by her cause, dedicated to her work, and mournful of her passing.

My thoughts and condolences today are with her children. I ask that she and her husband now rest together in eternal peace.

Mr. ISAKSON. Mr. President, I rise on behalf of myself, all Georgians, and I am sure all Americans, to express my deepest sympathy and condolences to the family of Coretta Scott King, the wife of Dr. Martin Luther King. We learned this morning that she passed away yesterday at the age of 78. Coretta Scott King is known in history for being the wife of Dr. Martin Luther King, but she was far more than that. As he wrote in his ''Letter from the Birmingham Jail'' to the concerned clergy of Birmingham about his justification for coming to Birmingham on behalf of the citizens who had been discriminated against, Dr. King said:

> I come because injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere.

As we all know from history, he took his mission wherever it took him to fight on behalf of justice for all Americans. He was able to do that in large measure with the support and the partnership of his great partner in life, Coretta Scott King. I had the privilege, as a Georgian, of knowing her since my days in the legislature. I saw her as an equal with Dr. King in the movement. I saw her as a loving mother in the raising of their four children. And I have seen her, since the loss of Dr. King, as an untiring advocate on behalf of ensuring that the legacy of Dr. King and his movement is perpetuated in American history.

A few months ago, the United States of America and this Senate honored the life of Rosa Parks as a significant leader, the matriarch of the civil rights movement. There is no question today, as we pause in sympathy for the loss of Dr. King's wife, Coretta Scott King, that she joins Rosa Parks as a great woman in American history and as a tireless advocate for equality for all Americans.

On behalf of my State, myself, and all those who love peace and justice, I express our sympathy on the loss of Coretta Scott King.

Mr. CHAMBLISS. Mr. President, I rise today to remember an extraordinary and courageous woman, Coretta Scott King.

Coretta Scott King was one of the most influential women leaders in our world. She entered the public stage in 1955 as wife of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and as a leading participant in the American civil rights movement.

Born and raised in Marion, AL, Coretta Scott graduated valedictorian from Lincoln High School. She received a B.A. in music and education from Antioch College in Yellow Springs, OH, and then went on to study concert singing at Boston's New England Conservatory of Music, where she earned a degree in voice and violin. While in Boston she met Martin Luther King, Jr. who was then studying for his doctorate in systematic theology at Boston University. They were married on June 18, 1953, and in September 1954 took up residence in Montgomery, AL, with Coretta Scott King assuming the many functions of pastor's wife at Dexter Avenue Baptist Church.

During Dr. King's career, Mrs. King devoted most of her time to raising their four children. However, she balanced mothering and work, speaking before church, civic, college, fraternal and peace groups. She conceived and performed a series of favorably-reviewed Freedom Concerts which combined prose and poetry narration with musical selections and functioned as fundraisers for the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, the direct action organization of which Dr. King served as first president.

After Dr. King's assassination in 1968, Mrs. King devoted much of her energy and attention to developing programs and building the Atlanta-based Martin Luther King, Jr. Center for Nonviolent Social Change as a living memorial to her husband's life and dream. For 27 years, Mrs. King devoted her life to developing the King Center. As founding President, Chair, and Chief Executive Officer, she dedicated herself to providing local, national and international programs that have trained tens of thousands of people in Dr. King's philosophy and methods; she guided the creation and housing of the largest archives of documents from the civil rights movement; and, perhaps her greatest legacy after establishing the King Center itself, Mrs. King spearheaded the massive educational and lobbying campaign to establish Dr. King's birthday as a national holiday. In 1983, an act of Congress instituted the Martin Luther King, Jr. Federal Holiday Commission, which she chaired for its duration. And in January 1986, Mrs. King oversaw the first legal holiday in honor of her husband—a holiday which has come to be celebrated by millions of people world-wide and, in some form, in over 100 countries.

Coretta Scott King carried the message of nonviolence around the world. She led goodwill missions to many countries in Africa, Latin America, Europe and Asia. She spoke at many of history's most massive peace and justice rallies. She was the first woman to deliver the class day address at Harvard, and the first woman to preach at a statutory service at St. Paul's Cathedral in London.

In 1974 Mrs. King formed a broad association of over 100 religious, labor, business, civil and women's rights organizations dedicated to a national policy of full employment and equal economic opportunity, as co-chair of the Full Employment Action Council. In 1983, she brought together more than 800 human rights organizations to form the Coalition of Conscience, sponsors of the 20th anniversary march on Washington, until then the largest demonstration in our Nation's capital. In 1988, she reconvened the Coalition of Conscience for the 25th anniversary of the March on Washington. In preparation for the Reagan-Gorbachev talks, in 1988 she served as head of the U.S. delegation of Women for a Meaningful Summit in Athens, Greece; and in 1990, as the USSR was redefining itself, Mrs. King was coconvener of the Soviet-American Women's Summit in Washington, DC.

Mrs. King received honorary doctorates from over 60 colleges and universities; authored three books and a nationally-syndicated column; and served on, and helped found, dozens of organizations, including the Black Leadership Forum, the National Black Coalition for Voter Participation, and the Black Leadership Roundtable.

On a very personal note, I had the pleasure of meeting Mrs. King on a number of occasions, both within my great State of Georgia as well as outside of our State. Most notably, I have been to a number of the Martin Luther King, Jr., Day celebrations at Ebenezer Baptist Church and was there last year, which happened to be the last time that Ms. King was there. She was unable to be there this year.

She was a remarkable lady in that, in spite of her high profile relative to the civil rights movement, as well as since Dr. King's death, she remained a very humble, a very personable, a very congenial lady who had a great sense of humor. Certainly during the time of the civil rights movement, this lady was undoubtedly one of the most admired women in the world because of what she saw her husband going through.

She was loyal and steadfast in the support of her husband. She obviously loved her husband. She loved her family until her death last night. Her legacy will live on for generations, generations and generations to come.

Coretta Scott King worked tirelessly to make a better world. History will judge that she did. We mourn her passing.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, in 1968, I was a law student at Georgetown University here in Washington, DC. It was a tumultuous year, and I recall sitting in the library working for my class assignments when a law professor walked in and said: I would like all of you students who are second- and third-year law students to come outside. We walked outside, and he said: We need to ask for your help. The District of Columbia is in an uproar. With the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King, there are riots all over our Nation's Capital and many cities across the country, and our legal system has broken down. They have arrested people for a variety of charges and have filled up the DC jails. They have no room for them and no attorneys to represent them. We would like to ask you as a law student to walk across the street to the DC courts and provide some legal advice to the people who are being arrested.

I couldn't believe that as a law student they would ask me to serve as a lawyer, but it was an emergency situation.

As I went over there and saw the DC courts in turmoil over the uproar and the riots, if you will, in the streets of the District of Columbia, I reflected on that terrible year and all that we had been through. Dr. Martin Luther King, Robert Kennedy—it was a year no one will ever forget.

I did my part and recall shortly afterwards watching as the television was filled with the funeral of Dr. Martin Luther King. I can recall his casket being drawn by a team of mules to his final resting place. I can recall his brave wife walking in the front of the line behind him.

Many of us still recall when Jackie Kennedy faced that same awful burden with the assassination of her husband, John Kennedy, the exceptional courage she showed under what must have been the most stressful and terrible moment of her life.

Coretta Scott King showed that same courage that day, leading the followers of Dr. Martin Luther King to his final resting place. She could have easily retired from public life at that moment and become honored in her own right for having given so much to this country, but she did not. She decided to carry on his legacy, and she led a public life from that point forward in his memory.

The strength we saw on the day of his burial was the strength that continued until her last moment of life a few hours ago. We were all saddened this morning to wake up to the news of the death of Coretta Scott King, a champion of justice and human rights. We honor her memory and send our deep condolences to her family.

A few days ago, Martin Luther King, her son, spoke at Mayor Daley's Martin Luther King breakfast in Chicago, IL. He did an exceptional job. He spoke to us about the challenges his mother faced even in her illness and told us about the continued commitment of his family to civil rights.

Because of her deep humility, there is a tendency to think of Coretta Scott King as her husband's supporter. In fact, as Dr. King himself made clear, she was his indispensable partner. Listen to what Dr. King told an interviewer in 1967. Speaking of Mrs. King, he said:

> I never will forget [that] the first discussion we had when we met was the whole question of racial injustice and economic injustice and the question of peace. In her college days, she had been actively engaged in movements dealing with these problems.

And then he added:

> I must admit, I wish I could say, to satisfy my masculine ego, that I led her down this path; but I must say we went down together, because she was as actively involved and concerned when we met as she is now.

For more than 50 years, Mrs. King called America toward greater justice and equality. She spoke with dignity and a quiet authority that challenged us to fulfill our American obligation to create a more perfect union by embracing equal rights and genuine economic and social justice for all Americans, regardless of race, religion, gender, national background, or sexual orientation.

Coretta Scott King was the driving force behind the establishment of the Martin Luther King, Jr., national holiday, for which I was proud to vote, and of the construction of the King Center in Atlanta which I visited with Congressman John Lewis. Yet she reminded us that the best way to honor her husband's legacy was to devote our lives to his work.

It is perhaps no accident that as Coretta Scott King laid her head down for the last time, it was the very day that a decision was made to locate the new Museum of African-American History and Culture near the Lincoln Memorial where her husband delivered his immortal ''I Have a Dream'' speech. It was a dream they shared and to which they both dedicated their lives.

Now Coretta Scott King and Martin Luther King, Jr., rest together in eternal peace, and it is up to us to keep that dream alive.

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, Coretta Scott King was a driving force, not just for the civil rights movement, but for the great march toward progress.

Martin Luther King and Coretta Scott King awakened the conscience of a nation that began the journey toward equality, knocking down the walls of discrimination based on race, on religion, and on ethnicity. We have all benefited so much from their inspiration and their leadership.

Coretta was not only a powerful and charismatic figure and leader for our time, but she was a mother who helped her children grow up to be individuals with a sense of dignity, a sense of pride in their heritage and a strong commitment to do something for someone else. I admire her for that as well, and my thoughts and prayers are with her children today.

The signs of bigotry and discrimination are still evident today. They're much more sophisticated and much more subtle than when Dr. King was facing the police dogs and the beatings that took place in Selma, Montgomery, and in towns and cities across America. There's no question that we're a fairer and a better nation because of Dr. King, and I believe what Coretta Scott King would want us to do is continue this march toward progress when it comes to disability rights, women's rights, civil rights—and not retreat from it.

Mr. SARBANES. Mr. President, I thank the able Senator from Massachusetts. I was privileged to have worked with Mrs. King on the Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday bill for which she pushed so hard and which eventually was passed by the Congress. I agree with the Senator from Massachusetts, she was a champion of decency and human rights and a more just and humane society in her own right, not only as a partner of her husband. We mourn her death and recognize the extraordinary contributions she has made to our Nation.

Mr. LAUTENBERG. Mr. President, today, I rise to pay tribute to the life of a great American, Coretta Scott King, who passed away last night at the age of 78.

Mrs. King, Alabama born, was educated in Ohio and Boston. It was while attending the New England Conservatory of Music that she met a young man from Atlanta, Martin Luther King, Jr. She knew from their first date that Martin Luther King, Jr., was brilliant and exceptional, a born leader.

When they were married at her home in Alabama in 1953, Reverend King's father, who was a pastor, performed the ceremony. But at Coretta's request, he omitted the bride's vow to obey her husband. That was pretty bold at that time. It was highly unusual, but it provided a glimpse of the strength and independence Coretta Scott King would demonstrate throughout her life.

Coretta Scott King joined her husband in the fight for equality and justice. She believed that was our Nation's promise to every citizen, but it had too long been denied to African Americans. She was Dr. King's constant partner in the struggle for civil rights. She marched alongside him and used her talent as a singer to raise money for their cause while raising their children and keeping their family together in the face of constant threats and a bombing by the Ku Klux Klan.

After Dr. King's assassination 38 years ago, Coretta Scott King might have quietly slipped out of public life, but she chose to continue his work. She created the Martin Luther King, Jr., Center for Nonviolent Social Change in Atlanta in search of civil rights and equality for everyone in America. Coretta Scott King never lost faith in her husband's dream of peace and mutual respect. I had the honor of being able to identify a courthouse in the city of Newark that was being built as the Martin Luther King, Jr., Courthouse. I called Coretta Scott King to be certain that this was an acceptable item in the memory of Dr. Martin Luther King. We were pleased to do it, and that courthouse stands today as a reminder to everybody who passes in that area, everybody who lives in that region, that Martin Luther King was the great leader that he was, and his wife followed closely in his footsteps. She never wavered from Dr. King's commitment to achieve change through nonviolent means.

Dr. King lived long enough to see the passage of landmark legislation that removed legal barriers to equality. His wife lived to see more African Americans and Latino Americans elected as public officials and serving as Secretary of State for the United States,

Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of the military, and CEOs of companies such as American Express, Kmart, and Time-Warner.

Although some of the legal barriers to equality have fallen, economic barriers remain. At the time of his assassination, Dr. King was beginning to focus on economic justice. Today, 38 years later, we still have not achieved his dream of economic justice. That promise rings hollow today for millions of hard-working Americans. It rings hollow for the people who clean the rooms in the big hotels but cannot afford a decent place to live. It rings hollow for garment workers, those who work in the factories over sewing machines and needles and the pressing machines, whose children wear hand-me-down clothes. They work making beautiful clothing, but they cannot afford to clothe their own children in many cases. And farm workers who grow and harvest the crops, they often cannot afford healthy food for their families.

Last year, Hurricane Katrina revealed to the whole world the stark poverty that still afflicts our Nation. The greatest majority of the poor people we saw stranded in New Orleans were African Americans. In the past 5 years, the poverty level among African Americans has increased. More than one-third of all Black children in this country live in poverty. That suggests something in the long-term that is not good for them, nor for country.

I had the privilege yesterday of going to a school in Patterson, NJ, that I attended many years ago. Patterson, NJ, is a minority city of African Americans and new immigrants. I looked at the faces of those children. We had a demonstration by the band. My wife and I were there. In the faces of those kids you could see hope, and you could see a desire to have a chance at life. It is a terrible condition that prohibits, many times, their opportunity to get an education, to have the kind of nutrition they need to grow healthy bodies and strong minds. The overall poverty rate among African Americans is almost three times as high as non-Hispanic Whites. That is not economic justice, Mr. President.

The great promise of America has always been that if you work hard, you can build a better life for your family. Poverty is a national disgrace in this wealthy country we inhabit. Dr. King and Coretta Scott King knew that. They believed America could do better. They loved this country for its promise of liberty and justice for all, and in holding us to that promise, they appealed to the best nature of the American spirit.

Mr. President, I find it fitting that on the very day Coretta Scott King passed away, the Smithsonian Institute announced its intention to build a museum of Black history on the National Mall. That is where it belongs; it belongs in the founding elements of our country, to demonstrate the contribution that has been made by African Americans in our society. That museum will be just a few blocks from the Lincoln Memorial, where her husband delivered his famous ''I have a dream'' speech during the 1964 march on Washington. It is an appropriate place—a place where President Abraham Lincoln is remembered for his fight against slavery and the abuse of the people who were kept in this condition.

For almost four decades, Coretta Scott King has helped keep that dream alive. Now we must all do the same.

Mr. NELSON of Florida. Mr. President, I wish to share my thoughts on the passing of Coretta Scott King. I once had the privilege of hosting Mrs. King at my home. She was an extraordinary woman who was deeply involved in a movement that led our nation closer to a more equal and just society.

Although Mrs. King is often referred to as the wife of the late Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, she was a civil rights activist in her own right. Following Dr. King's death in 1968, she devoted her energies to the Martin Luther King, Jr. Center for Nonviolent Social Change. Her leadership helped spread Dr. King's message of positive social change through nonviolent means. She often said, ''The center enables us to go out and struggle against the evils in our society.''

Mrs. King, like her husband, was a uniter. She brought together diverse groups for common causes. In 1974, Mrs. King formed the Full Employment Action Council, consisting of civil rights, religious, labor, and business groups promoting equal economic opportunity and full employment for all Americans. Nine years later, she helped form the Coalition of Conscience, consisting of over 800 human rights groups, to commemorate the 20th anniversary of the March on Washington. Globally, she was a goodwill ambassador to countries around the world and an adviser to world leaders such as Nelson Mandela. Later this year, Mrs. King and her late husband were to receive the Congressional Gold Medal for their contributions to the Nation.

Mrs. King has left us, but her legacy lives on as we remember and honor her historical impact. We should strive to follow in her footsteps. Today, my thoughts and prayer are with Mrs. King and her family and friends.

Ms. CANTWELL. Mr. President, I was saddened today to learn of the death of Coretta Scott King. Her work and life gave one man great strength and inspired a nation. In a lifetime, suffering and pain can envelop communities and span generations; it can also touch us intimately and immediately. When her husband was assassinated in April of 1968, Mrs. King suffered a world of loss in one moment. She persevered with passion and devotion, honoring the movement her husband made so strong. She taught the world that carrying on a great legacy requires more than simply remembering the words of the dead, but requires imbuing those words with action, life, leadership, and vision. Mrs. King has left our Nation a vital legacy of her own.

Mrs. LINCOLN. Mr. President, today I rise to pay tribute to a fallen pillar of the movement to extend civil and social rights to millions of African Americans: Coretta Scott King.

Mrs. King was loved and respected the world over as one of the pioneers of the civil rights movement of the 1950s and 1960s. She was the friend, partner and wife of the leader of the civil rights movement, the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Born in Marion, AL, on April 27, 1927, Coretta Scott graduated as valedictorian of her high school class and attended Antioch College in Yellow Springs, OH. She received a B.A. in music and education and then studied concert singing at the New England Conservatory of Music in Boston, MA.

As the young Martin Luther King, Jr., began his civil rights work in Montgomery, AL, Mrs. King worked closely with him, organizing marches and sit-ins at segregated restaurants while at the same time raising their four children: Yolanda Denise, Martin Luther III, Dexter Scott, and Bernice Albertine.

During the height of the civil rights movement, Mrs. King and her husband endured threats and attempts on their lives. In spite of the violence that surrounded them and that would one day take Dr. King's life, they never abandoned a fundamental belief in nonviolence. They were committed to peace.

After her husband's death, Mrs. King took a more visible role in the movement. She worked to keep his ideology of equality for all people at the forefront of the Nation's agenda. She pushed for more than a decade to have her husband's birthday observed as a national holiday, then watched with pride in 1983 as President Reagan signed the bill into law.

King became a symbol, in her own right, of her husband's struggle for peace and brotherhood, presiding with a quiet, steady, stoic presence over seminars and conferences on global issues. Throughout her years of service, however, she never lost sight of the fact that her children were her greatest responsibility.

Mrs. King was also a role model for many young women. She showed them that their own voices had value and that their thoughts and actions mattered.

Our loss of Mrs. King leaves a void that won't soon be filled. We have lost a great leader, a great role model, a great woman, and a great American, but it is also important for us to remember that her children have lost their mother. May the Lord grant them peace in this time of mourning. Our thoughts and prayers go out to her family and friends.

Mr. President, today is a sad day for the Nation. We have lost one of our

leading voices for equality and justice. In closing, I am sure that the entire Senate will join with me in honoring the life of Mrs. Coretta Scott King.

Mr. KYL. Mr. President, today I rise to pay tribute to the life of Mrs. Coretta Scott King. She was a steady force in the civil rights movement who ably supported the work of her late husband, the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Her legacy, like that of Dr. King, is steeped in the American principles we all hold dear: those of equality and justice, patriotism, faith, and family values.

As a young woman, Coretta Scott, a native of Marion, AL, experienced the racism and prejudice that characterized the South at that time. She had a desire to exceed expectations in the most challenging of environments. Coretta was valedictorian of Lincoln High School in 1945 and pursued the serious study of music at Antioch College in Ohio, and then at the New England Conservatory of Music. It was in Boston that Coretta first met the young Martin King, a divinity student earning his doctorate in theology.

Both of them knew the value of education and study, but both were also determined to serve others. Coretta had been involved in the civil rights movement before she met Dr. King; but when they joined forces as husband and wife in 1953, the movement was strengthened. Each place they lived in was roiled by the controversies of the movement to end racial segregation. In every place, bigots threatened the King family's safety. Amidst the violence, the arrests of peaceful protesters, the bombings, and assassination attempts against her husband, Mrs. King remained a bedrock for her husband and the protector of her children. Yolanda, Martin III, Dexter, and Bernice found remarkable role models in both of their parents, but it was Mrs. King's steady hand that directed their upbringing.

As the world took notice of Dr. King's philosophy of nonviolent social change, Mrs. King spread it effectively, especially among women. She lent her time and talents to numerous educational causes and civil rights groups. She exhibited poise, dignity, and grace in everything she did.

Mrs. King's commitment to civil rights did not diminish in 1968 when her husband's life was ended by an assassin's bullet. She instead made a commitment to the nonviolent achievement of social justice as her life's work. The Martin Luther King Jr. Center for Nonviolent Social Change in Atlanta, GA, stands today as a testament to Dr. King's work and to that of his wife, for it was she who made the institution what it is. Mrs. King's strong will and courageous strength allowed her to stay the course and further the movement.

She was also a strong force behind the national holiday to commemorate Dr. King's life.

Coretta Scott King and the late Rosa Parks were often regarded as ''Mothers of the Civil Rights Movement.'' We are sad to have lost both of them in so short a time. But as we enter Black History Month in February and then Women's History Month in March, the message and example of these American heroines will be before us. They demonstrate that ordinary people can achieve extraordinary things. Their selflessness will not be forgotten.

May Mrs. Coretta Scott King find the peace for which she and Martin strived so hard to achieve. God speed...

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to the first lady of the civil rights movement—Coretta Scott King. Mrs. King, the widow of the late Reverend Martin Luther King, Jr., dedicated her life to sharing Dr. King's quest for social justice and peace.

Although one cannot say enough about her lifelong commitment to the cause of racial and economic equality, it is important to also note that Coretta Scott King was a visionary for women's rights on her own merit. She was the first woman to deliver the Class Day address at Harvard, and the first woman to preach at a statutory service at St. Paul's Cathedral in London. And Mrs. King served as a liaison to international peace and justice organizations even before Dr. King took a public stand in 1967 against United States intervention in the Vietnam war.

As we mourn the passing of Coretta Scott King, we are once again reminded of her quiet and resolute compassion for others. As she once remarked, and continued to demonstrate throughout her long life, Dr. King's dream was equally hers as well. ''I didn't learn my commitment from Martin. We just converged at a certain time.''

Together, their fearless commitment to the civil rights movement shaped and inspired the revolutionary social changes in the United States over the last half-century.

Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr., and Coretta Scott King were first vaulted to the national stage during the Montgomery bus boycott. Led by Dr. King, the 1955 boycott lasted nearly 13 months and truly ignited the Nation's civil rights movement.

The boycott led to the Supreme Court questioning the legality of the Jim Crow law that mandated the discrimination of African-Americans on the public bus system. And on November 13, 1956, in the landmark case Browder v. Gayle, the Supreme Court banned segregation on buses. It was truly a remarkable victory for the cause of freedom and equality.

Throughout the turbulent decades of the 1950's and 60's, Dr. King's vision helped the Nation form a new and better understanding of itself, one that celebrates its diverse nature and strengthens its commitment to the principles of equality and justice.

Yet one cannot simply overlook the passion and commitment of Mrs. King as her own individual. Throughout her long life, Mrs. King served as an inspirational presence around the world for the values of equality and peace.

Coretta Scott was born April 27, 1927, the middle of three children born to Obadiah and Bernice Scott. She grew up in the two-room house her father built on land that had been owned by the family for three generations. Her exposure to the injustices of segregation were formed early on, as she walked to her one-room school house each day, watching buses full of white children kick up dust as they passed.

During high school, Mrs. King excelled academically and demonstrated a great talent for music. She attended Antioch College in Yellow Springs, OH, where 2 years earlier her older sister, Edythe, had become the first black to enroll. At Antioch, she studied education and music.

In 1953, the young Coretta Scott was preparing for a career in music at the New England Conservatory of Music in Boston, when she met a young graduate student in philosophy. A year later she and Dr. King, then a young minister from a prominent Atlanta family, were married.

During Dr. King's career, Mrs. King mostly shied away from the prominent spotlight of her husband, balancing motherhood and movement work. She devoted most of her time to raising their four children: Yolanda Denise, born in 1955, Martin Luther III, born in 1957, Dexter Scott, born in 1961, and Bernice Albertine, born in 1963. But she also gained recognition for the ''Freedom Concerts'' she organized, where she lectured, read poetry and sang to raise awareness of and money for the burgeoning civil rights movement.

Upon the tragic assassination of Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr., on April 4, 1968, Mrs. King bravely took up the mantle of the civil rights cause. Even before her husband was buried, she marched at the head of the garbage workers he had gone to Memphis to champion.

Over the next few decades, Coretta Scott King gained nationwide interest and admiration for her efforts to establish a national holiday in honor of her husband. By an act of Congress, the first national observance of the holiday took place in 1986. Dr. King's birthday is now marked by annual celebrations in over 100 countries.

During the 1970s, Mrs. King continued to work on behalf of the cause of economic justice. In 1974 she formed the Full Employment Action Council, a broad coalition of over 100 religious, labor, business, civil and women's rights organizations dedicated to a national policy of full employment and equal economic opportunity.

She also helped to found the Martin Luther King Jr. Center for Non-Violent Social Change in Atlanta, dedicated both to scholarship and to activism.

Over time, Mrs. King also developed her own causes and rhetoric, which were consistent with the vision of her

husband. For example, when she stood in for her husband at the Poor People's Campaign at the Lincoln Memorial on June 19, 1968, she spoke not just of his vision for social justice, but also of gender and racial equality. She called upon American women ''to unite and form a solid block of women power to fight the three great evils of racism, poverty and war.''

Mrs. King also dedicated herself to the cause of peace, traveling throughout the world on goodwill missions to Africa, Latin America, Europe and Asia. In 1983, she marked the 20th anniversary of the historic March on Washington by leading a gathering of more than 800 human rights organizations, the Coalition of Conscience, in the largest demonstration the Capital City had seen up to that time. And in 1993, Mrs. King was invited by President Clinton to witness the historic handshake between Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and Chairman Yassir Arafat at the signing of the Middle East peace accords.

Mrs. King also envisioned plans for a memorial dedicated to her husband. Recently, I cosponsored a bill that approved funding for such a memorial. This memorial will be the first on the National Mall in honor of a person of color. It is my hope that this memorial will continue to remind the Nation, and the world, of the powerful words of hope Dr. King expressed here in Washington, DC, more than 40 years ago.

Throughout her life, Mrs. King was seen as an inspirational figure around the world, someone who truly personified the ideals to which she and Dr. King pledged their lives.

But although our country has come a long way since the days when our country first met the legendary Coretta Scott King and Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr., we still have much to accomplish. We must steadfastly protect the advances already made in the fight for social equality, and also further those advances in the years ahead.

We owe the legacy of Coretta Scott King, and that of her remarkable husband, the late Martin Luther King, Jr., no less.

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 362) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 362

Whereas Coretta Scott King was an inspirational figure and a woman of great strength, grace, and dignity who came to personify the ideals for which her husband fought;

Whereas Coretta Scott was born and raised in rural Alabama, graduated as the valedictorian from Lincoln High School, and received a Bachelor of Arts degree from Antioch College in Yellow Springs, Ohio;

Whereas Coretta Scott fought to be allowed to teach in the local public schools in Ohio but was denied because of her race;

Whereas Coretta Scott studied music at the New England Conservatory of Music in Boston and, while attending school in the City, met a graduate student who was studying for his doctorate degree at Boston University;

Whereas that graduate student, Martin Luther King, Jr., told her on their first date, ''The four things that I look for in a wife are character, personality, intelligence, and beauty. And you have them all.'';

Whereas Coretta Scott and Martin Luther King, Jr. were married on June 18, 1953, and moved to Montgomery, Alabama;

Whereas Mrs. King gave birth to her first child, Yolanda, 2 weeks before the start of the Montgomery bus boycott, and protected her when opponents of the boycott bombed the King household;

Whereas Dr. and Mrs. King were to have 3 more children named Martin Luther, III, Dexter, and Bernice;

Whereas during the lifetime of Dr. King, Mrs. King balanced the demands of raising their 4 children, serving as the wife of a pastor, and speaking before church, civic, college, fraternal, and peace groups;

Whereas Mrs. King participated in more than 30 ''Freedom Concerts'', where she lectured, read poetry, and sang to raise awareness of and money for the civil rights movement;

Whereas Mrs. King stood by the side of her husband during many civil rights marches and other notable occasions, including a 1957 trip to Ghana to mark the independence of that country, a 1959 trip to India to visit sites associated with Mahatma Gandhi, and a 1964 trip to Oslo, Norway, to accept a Nobel Peace Prize awarded to Dr. King;

Whereas just 4 days after the assassination of her husband in 1968, Mrs. King led a march of 50,000 people through the streets of Memphis and, later that year, took his place in the Poor People's March to Washington;

Whereas Mrs. King devoted her energy to carrying on the message of nonviolence and the work of her husband to create a United States in which all people have equal rights;

Whereas Mrs. King dedicated herself to raising funds and developing programs for the Atlanta-based Martin Luther King, Jr. Center for Nonviolent Social Change, where she served as founding President, Chair, and Chief Executive Officer;

Whereas Mrs. King was instrumental in seeing that the birthday of her husband was honored as a Federal holiday, an occasion first marked in 1986;

Whereas Mrs. King received honorary doctorates from over 60 colleges and universities, and authored 3 books;

Whereas Mrs. King received the congressional gold medal for her invaluable contributions to the United States as a leader of the civil rights movement;

Whereas Mrs. King traveled to every corner of the United States and the globe to speak out on behalf of a number of important issues, including racial and economic justice, the rights of women and children, religious freedom, full employment, health care, and education; and

Whereas Coretta Scott King was a civil rights icon and one of the most influential African Americans in history: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved,* That the Senate—

(1) mourns the loss of Coretta Scott King;

(2) admire her lifelong commitment to social justice and peace;

(3) recognizes her role as a leading participant in the American Civil Rights Movement and her support to democracy movements world-wide;

(4) expresses it sympathies to the family of Coretta Scott King and;

(5) directs the Secretary of the Senate to transmit an enrolled copy of this resolution to the family of Coretta Scott King.

## ORDERS FOR WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 2006

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it recess until 8:35 p.m. tonight, at which time the Senate will proceed as a body to the House of Representatives Chamber for the President's State of the Union Address; provided that upon the dissolution of the joint session, the Senate adjourn until 9:15 a.m. on Wednesday, February 1. 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 proceed to the consideration of Calendar No. 325, H.R. 4297, the tax reconciliation bill. I further ask consent that following the majority leader, there be a period of morning business for up to 60 minutes, with the first 30 minutes under the control of the majority leader or his designee and the final 30 minutes under the Democratic leader or his designee, with that time counted against the underlying statutory time limitation.

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

## PROGRAM

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, we have had a very productive day with the Senate confirming the nominations of Samuel Alito as an Associate Justice of the Supreme Court and Ben Bernanke as Chairman of the Federal Reserve. The Senate will recess until 8:35 tonight and, just after that, we will proceed as a body to the House for a joint session of Congress to hear the President's State of the Union Address. Tomorrow the Senate will begin consideration of the tax reconciliation bill. We have already passed this bill once and had hoped that we could expedite the process of sending the bill to conference and resolving our differences with the House. Unfortunately, it appears that this will be a somewhat lengthy process, and it will take several days and multiple votes. We will finish it this week.

## RECESS

Mr. FRIST. If there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate stand in recess until 8:35 p.m. tonight, under the previous order.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 4:14 p.m., recessed until 8:36 p.m. and reassembled when called to order by the Presiding Officer (Mr. THUNE).

## JOINT SESSION OF THE TWO HOUSES—ADDRESS BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES (H. DOC. NO. 109–80)

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate wlll proceed to the Hall of the House of Representatives to hear the address by the President of the United States.

Thereupon, the Senate, preceded by the Assistant Sergeant at Arms, Lynne Halbrooks, the Secretary of the Senate, Emily J. Reynolds, and the Vice President of the United States, RICHARD B. CHENEY, proceeded to the Hall of the House of Representatives to hear the address by the President of the United States, George W. Bush.

(The address delivered by the President of the United States to the joint session of the two Houses of Congress is printed in the proceedings of the House of Representatives in today's RECORD.)

## ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 9:15 A.M. TOMORROW

At the conclusion of the joint session of the two Houses, and in accordance with the order previously entered, at 10:10 p.m., the Senate adjourned until Wednesday, February 1, 2006, at 9:15 a.m.

## NOMINATIONS

Executive nominations received by the Senate January 31, 2006:

### EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

EDWARD P. LAZEAR, OF CALIFORNIA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE COUNCIL OF ECONOMIC ADVISERS, VICE BEN S. BERNANKE.

### DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

W. RALPH BASHAM, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE COMMISSIONER OF CUSTOMS, DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY, VICE ROBERT C. BONNER, RESIGNED.

### DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

PAUL DECAMP, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE ADMINISTRATOR OF THE WAGE AND HOUR DIVISION, DEPARTMENT OF LABOR, VICE TAMMY DEE MCCUTCHEN, RESIGNED.

### DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

JEFFREY L. SEDGWICK, OF MASSACHUSETTS, TO BE DIRECTOR OF THE BUREAU OF JUSTICE STATISTICS, VICE LAWRENCE A. GREENFELD, RESIGNED.

### IN THE AIR FORCE

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE RESERVE OF THE AIR FORCE UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

*To be colonel*

JULIE K. STANLEY, 0000

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE RESERVE OF THE AIR FORCE UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

*To be colonel*

JOHN JULIAN ALDRIDGE III, 0000
MARY J. BURNS, 0000
TERRI L. CARVER, 0000
AMY M. GRIESE, 0000
ODELL GROOMS, 0000
JAMES A. KING, JR., 0000
JERRY M. LANG, 0000
JANE S. LOVE, 0000
PAULA W. RISENHOOVER, 0000
SUSAN L. SIEGMUND, 0000

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE RESERVE OF THE AIR FORCE UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

*To be colonel*

ISIDRO ACOSTA CARDENO, 0000
GEORGE F. COHEN, 0000
CHARLES R. ELLIS, 0000
FERNANDO FERNANDEZ, 0000
ROBERT L. LANDGRAF, 0000
JACOB C. MARSHALL, JR., 0000
VIRENDRA S. MEHTA, 0000
BILLY R. MORGAN, 0000
CATHERINE C. OHSIEK, 0000
DEAN E. ROBINSON, 0000
EDMUND J. RUTHERFORD, 0000
JOSEF F. SCHMID III, 0000
ROSS A. SNOW, 0000
JOHN G. SOTOS, 0000
THOMAS L. WALKER, 0000
LARRY A. WOODS, 0000

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE RESERVE OF THE AIR FORCE UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

*To be colonel*

EVELYN L. BYARS, 0000
JAMES W. CONLEY, 0000
MARY C. DELUCIA, 0000
SUSAN E. DRAINE, 0000
PATRICK N. FRANCISCO, 0000
CHERYL A. HEYWARD, 0000
PAMELA C. MCBRIDE, 0000
LEOLA MCNEILL, 0000
MAUREEN F. MINTZLAFF, 0000
LISA A. NAFTZGERKANG, 0000
KIM H. NEIMAN, 0000
BARBARA RUTH NITZ, 0000
MARCIA D. PARKER, 0000
DALENE D. PERDUE, 0000
SUSAN EISEL SIDES, 0000
DEBRA A. STEPHENS, 0000
LOUIS J. SYTSMA, 0000
KENNETH R. WHEELER, JR., 0000
SHERALYN A. WRIGHT, 0000

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

*To be colonel*

RONALD A. ABBOTT, 0000
WOODY C. BAKER, 0000
SHARON RUSCH BANNISTER, 0000
THOMAS S. BINGHAM, 0000
CHRISTOPHER M. COLLIER, 0000
JULIE M. COLLINS, 0000
ROBERT I. DELO, 0000
PAUL D. DEVEAU, 0000
JON M. DOSSETT, 0000
DREW W. FALLIS, 0000
PAUL M. FORTUNATO, 0000
JENNIFER A. HARTE, 0000
HARRY HOLIDAY, 0000
KELVIN K. KRAUSE, 0000
JOSEPH S. KROBOCK, 0000
CHRISTOPHER S. LAURITZEN, 0000
MICHAEL J. MAYERCHAK, 0000
KEVIN J. MURPHY, 0000
JOSEPH E. NOVAK, 0000
DAVID B. POWERS, 0000
MICHAEL D. SIGNORELLI, 0000
DAVID M. SMITH, 0000
JEFFREY S. THOMPSON, 0000
JOSE VILLALOBOS, 0000

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

*To be colonel*

DALE R. AGNER, 0000
KATHLEEN M. ANKERS, 0000
ELEANOR E. AVERY, 0000
DAVID P. BLAKE, 0000
DANIEL G. BURNETT, 0000
MARK S. CAMPBELL, 0000
CRAIG Y. CASTILLO, 0000
RICHARD D. CESPEDES, 0000
WILBERT E. CHARLES, 0000
JAMES W. COCKERILL, 0000
JOHN J. DEGOES, 0000
ROBERT J. DIGERONIMO, 0000
WARREN C. DORLAC, 0000
MARY D. DVORAK, 0000
KATHLEEN B. ELMER, 0000
PAUL A. FRIEDRICHS, 0000
JAMES W. GASQUE, 0000
ROBERT T. GILSON, 0000
MARC V. GOLDHAGEN, 0000
TERRY L. HASKE, 0000
STEPHEN W. HIGGINS, 0000
HELEN M. HOOTSMANS, 0000
TIMOTHY A. HURSH, 0000
GARY L. HURWITZ, 0000
MARK A. KOENIGER, 0000
EDWARD R. KOST, 0000
JOHN G. LEVASSEUR, 0000
DAVID S. LOUDER, 0000
KENNETH P. MCDONNELL, 0000
MICHAEL R. MURCHLAND, 0000
SCOTT B. NORRIS, 0000
MICHAEL B. OSSWALD, 0000
CRAIG S. PACKARD, 0000
SUSAN M. PEREZDETAGLE, 0000
GORDON C. PETERS, 0000
TIMOTHY D. ROBINETTE, 0000
MARTHA P. SCHATZ, 0000
GALE J. SKOUSEN, 0000
DAVID L. SMITH, 0000
ERIC B. STONE, 0000
GERALD V. WIEST, 0000
JOHN M. WIGHTMAN, 0000
DAVID A. WILLIAMS, 0000

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE RESERVE OF AIR FORCE UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

*To be colonel*

MARK ROBERT ACKERMANN, 0000
CRAIG R. ALLISON, 0000
JON G. ANDRE, 0000
PHIL L. AUSTIN, 0000
PAUL T. BABIN, JR., 0000
ABEL BARRIENTES, 0000
SCOTT LEE BATTLES, 0000
MARK M. BAUKNIGHT, 0000
DAVID JOHN BEK, 0000
PATRICIA S. BLASSIE, 0000
DENIS O. BOUDREAUX, 0000
RHONDA JEAN BRAUDIS, 0000
GEORGE F. BREWER II, 0000
MICHAEL J. BRILL, 0000
NANCY JANE BROOKS, 0000
RICHARD ANTHONY BRUNNER, 0000
ERIC L. BUCHANAN, 0000
CHARLES F. CALAMONERI, 0000
PAUL WESLEY CARR, 0000
WINONA N. CASON, 0000
CLIVE SHUN HSIAO CHI, 0000
DAVID H. CLARK, 0000
STEVEN R. CLAYTON, 0000
LYNN ELIZABETH COEHOORN, 0000
MICHAEL J. COLE, 0000
KEVIN C. COLEMAN, 0000
BETHANY J. COLOMBO, 0000
RICHARD NICHOLAS CONFORTI, 0000
MICHAEL P. CONNER, 0000
LEON E. CONTRERAS, 0000
TIMOTHY S. COSTA, 0000
STEPHEN J. COUBROUGH, 0000
ROBERT AUSTIN CRAMER, 0000
RICKY L. CREWS, 0000
DAVID F. CROWDEN, 0000
DAVID L. CULBERTSON, 0000
LIDA DAIS DAHNKE, 0000
JENNIFER JOAN DALRYMPLE, 0000
GERALD J. DANKO, 0000
JOSE H. DAVISON, 0000
CYNTHIA A. DECARLO, 0000
DAVID M. DELGADO, 0000
JAMES A. DENTON, 0000
TIMOTHY D. DODGE, 0000
KEVIN P. DOHERTY, 0000
SCHERRY E. DOUGLAS, 0000
TIMOTHY DUFFY, 0000
ANNE L. DUNLAP, 0000
ROBERT L. DUNN, 0000
GREGORY A. ECKFELD, 0000
CHRISTOPHER L. EDDY, 0000
LYMAN L. EDWARDS, 0000
RICHARD T. EGTVEDT, 0000
DARREL L. EKSTROM, 0000
JONATHAN M. ELLIS, 0000
WILLIAM L. ERICKSON, 0000
JAMES A. ESCH, 0000
PATRICIA A. EVANS, 0000
BRENT J. FALKENBERG, 0000
DAVID C. FEDORS, 0000
GEORGE W. FENIMORE III, 0000
BRUCE A. FERNALD, 0000
ELLEN M. FIEBIG, 0000
MARK J. FREDERICKSON, 0000
JAMES D. FRISHKORN, 0000
ROGER M. GALLET, 0000
EDWARD GARCIA, 0000
MELVIN J. GIDDINGS, JR., 0000
KAREN D. GILES, 0000
JEAN L. GLINES, 0000
JOHN GONZALES, 0000
DAVID H. GOODHUE, 0000
OZZIE H. GORBITZ, 0000
ROBIN F. GRANTHAM, 0000
JOHN T. GUNNOE, 0000
KURT A. HAMMER, 0000
CRAIG A. HARDIN, 0000
LINDA L. HARLAN, 0000
HARRY E. HEFLIN, JR., 0000
CHRISTINE M. HEIKKINEN, 0000
EDWARD H. HENSON, 0000
JAMES W. HERRON, 0000
MARK P. HETTERLY, 0000
JOHN A. HICKOK, 0000
WALTER LEROY HOLMES, 0000
LLOYD W. HULSEY, 0000
MICHAEL J. HUMPHREY, 0000
JANET M. HUMPHREYS, 0000
MICHAEL W. HUTTNER, 0000
RICHARD T. HYLAND, 0000
JON K. ILSENG, 0000
VIRGINIA M. JABOUR, 0000
DENNIS J. JACOBS, 0000
LILLIAN A. JAMESONEAL, 0000
WILLIAM D. JENNE, 0000
JEFFREY L. JOHNSON, 0000
STEVEN D. JOHNSON, 0000
JAMES A. KELLEY, 0000
STUART C. KENNEY, 0000
TERRI A. R. KETT, 0000
GERALD P. KIRCHNER, 0000
KEVIN D. KISER, 0000
THOMAS E. KITTLER, 0000
STEVEN M. KLEINMAN, 0000
TERRY A. LAWRENCE, 0000
MARGARET Z. LAWSON, 0000
PAMELA A. LEBLANC, 0000
STEWART M. LEBLANC, 0000
MICHAEL J. LICATA, 0000
DALE S. LINDER, 0000
MICHAEL F. LOGRANDE, 0000

CAROLYN A. LOHMAN, 0000
THOMAS E. LOHR, 0000
JANE M. LOUMA, 0000
ROGELIO LOZANO, JR., 0000
ROBERT LOUIS MACHO, 0000
JAMES F. MACKEY, 0000
SCOTT A. MALCOLM, 0000
THOMAS F. MANLEY III, 0000
STEVE L. MANN, 0000
PHILIP J. MANNING, 0000
PAUL J. MARKLEY, 0000
CLAUDETTE S. MARTIN, 0000
ROBERT J. MARTIN, 0000
JEFFERY L. MATTOX, 0000
SHAUN T. MAYNARD, 0000
CHRISTOPHER A. MAZUR, 0000
SEAN D. MCCLUNG, 0000
GIORDANO B. MCMULLEN, 0000
KEVIN J. MCNEIGHT, 0000
JOSEPH E. MCREYNOLDS, 0000
MARK A. MELCHER, 0000
ROY ANTHONY MERRELL, 0000
ROBERT EARL MICHAEL, 0000
SCOTT A. MLYNARCZYK, 0000
CHARLES W. MOOD, 0000
MICHAEL HOLLIS MORGAN, 0000
GUY H. MORLEY, JR., 0000
PAUL J. MUNYON, 0000
ELLIE F. NIX, JR., 0000
NOEL CHRISTINA NOLTA, 0000
DAVID B. OBRIEN, 0000
SHARON A. OLBETER, 0000
MICHELLE OSBORNE, 0000
STEVEN J. PANETTA, 0000
MATTHEW A. PARKS, 0000
ARTHUR G. PETRUCCELLI, 0000
ROBERT N. POLUMBO, 0000
RAYMOND DANIEL RABATIN, 0000
JOSEPH C. RALLO, 0000
ALBERT M. REIF, 0000
DANA G. RICHARD, 0000
DAVID L. ROBIE, 0000
MARY K. ROEHL, 0000
RALPH J. ROMINE, 0000
STEVEN T. ROSE, 0000
GLENN D. ROSENBERGER, 0000
ROBERT J. ROXBROUGH, 0000
CLETUS G. RUDD, 0000
SCOTT S. RUSSELL, 0000
PATRICK M. RYAN, 0000
WALTER J. SAMS, 0000
PAMELA S. SANDERS, 0000
THOMAS R. SANDERS, JR., 0000
JAMES PATRICK SCANLAN, 0000
AUGUST G. SCHALKHAM, 0000
JOSEPH P. SCHERRER, 0000
KARL A. SCHMITKONS, 0000
JAMES A. SCHNELL, 0000
GLENN R. SCHUMACHER, 0000
RICHARD W. SCOBEE, 0000
STAN A. SHELEY, 0000
JAMES C. SHORE, 0000
RONALD D. SIMS, 0000
DANIEL R. SITTERLY, 0000
CHRISTOPHER F. SKOMARS, 0000
JEFFRY JOHN SMITH, 0000
WADE ROBERT SMITH, 0000
WILLIAM J. SMITH, 0000
ROBIN G. SNEED, 0000
SHARON L. SOUNHEIN, 0000
JON R. SPANGLER, 0000
MICHAEL L. SPEER, 0000
KELLEY J. SPELLMAN, 0000
RUSSELL L. STINE, 0000
VICKI L. SULLIVAN, 0000
ALLAN L. SWARTZMILLER, 0000
DAVID C. TALLEY, 0000
LISA K. TANK, 0000
DARRELL A. TAYLOR, 0000
VINCENT J. TEUBER, 0000
MICHAEL W. THORNAL, 0000
DIANNE E. TIANO, 0000
SIMON TONG, 0000
JOHN E. TRNKA, JR., 0000
JAMES E. TULLY, 0000
CHARLES P. UNTERREINER, 0000
KEVIN S. VAILLE, 0000
KENT A. VALENTINE, 0000
STEVEN D. VAUTRAIN, 0000
EDUARDO A. VILLAVICENCIO, 0000
JANICE E. VINCENT, 0000
CYNTHIA L. VISEL, 0000
WILLIAM B. WALDROP, JR., 0000
TIMOTHY J. WARD, 0000
JOHN R. WEIGAND, 0000
STEVEN V. WILKERSON, 0000
HARRY H. WILKINS, 0000
SCOTT A. WILSON, 0000
MARTIN S. WISEMAN, 0000
KEVIN M. WOODS, 0000
DARRELL G. YOUNG, 0000
SHEILA ZUEHLKE, 0000

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

*To be lieutenant colonel*

JAVIER A. ABREU, 0000
LLOYD H. ANSETH, 0000
LENA M. ARVIDSON, 0000
PHILIP R. BARONE, 0000
LARS O. BOUMA, 0000
ERIC L. CATHEY, 0000
HAEOH CHOE, 0000
SARA A. DIXON, 0000
MIROSLAWA R. DUDEK, 0000
RICHARD J. ECKERT, JR., 0000
ROBIN E. FONTENOT, 0000
MARTIN F. GIACOBBI, 0000
MARTIN J. HAMILTON, 0000
TAMMY KNAPP HEISEY, 0000
ANDRE A. HENRIQUES, 0000
JOHN W. HULTQUIST, 0000
PHILIP S. JUNGHANS, 0000
DAVID B. KIESER, 0000
JEFFRY J. LARSON, 0000
LARRY K. LONG, 0000
DAVID L. MAPES, 0000
ANGELA M. MONTELLANO, 0000
JOSEPH A. MUHLBAUER, 0000
BASEEMAH S. NAJEEULLAH, 0000
GRACE S. NIEVES, 0000
ALBERT L. OUELLETTE, 0000
RYLLIS A. ROUSSEAU, 0000
RUBEN S. SAGUN, JR., 0000
DANIEL A. SAVETT, 0000
ROBERT S. SHEPERD, 0000
TONI C. STRONG, 0000
DAWN M. WAGNER, 0000
MARK A. WEISKIRCHER, 0000
KYLE S. WENDFELDT, 0000

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

*To be lieutenant colonel*

ERIC J. ASHMAN, 0000
BROADUS Z. ATKINS, 0000
MATT A. BAPTISTA, 0000
TODD M. BERTOCH, 0000
RICHARD E. BLAIR, 0000
PAUL BOSTROM, 0000
STEVEN P. BOWERS, JR., 0000
ANDREW N. BOWSER, 0000
SCOTT C. BRANDON, 0000
LAURA A. BRODHAG, 0000
DAVID M. BUSH, 0000
THATCHER R. CARDON, 0000
LI ING CHANG, 0000
YUN C. CHONG, 0000
STEVEN L. CLARK, 0000
CHRISTINE S. CLARKE, 0000
GEORGE A. CLARKE, 0000
DAVID S. COCKRUM, 0000
JUNE M. COOK, 0000
MARK O. COVINGTON, 0000
DANA K. CRESSLER, 0000
JIM D. CROWLEY, 0000
GREGORY A. DEYE, 0000
JAMES P. DOLAN, 0000
ERIC J. DUDENHOEFER, 0000
STEVEN J. DURNING, 0000
DAVID V. EASTHAM, 0000
RAYMOND FANG, 0000
SUSAN L. FARBER, 0000
MICHAEL A. FORGIONE, 0000
JEFFREY J. FREELAND, 0000
CARL A. FREEMAN, 0000
STEPHEN M. GALVIN, 0000
FANG YUN GAN, 0000
JUAN GARZA, 0000
MICHAEL R. GAURON, 0000
STEPHEN L. GEORGE, 0000
DOUGLAS J. GOTTSCHALK, 0000
BARRY J. GREER, 0000
RUTH P. GULLOTTA, 0000
JOHN D. HALLGREN, 0000
SCOTT A. HARTWICH, 0000
FRANCIS T. HOLLAND, 0000
STEPHEN H. HOOPER, 0000
LIDIA S. ILCUS, 0000
ALAN J. IVERSON, 0000
MONICA L. JOHNSON, 0000
VALERIE V. T. JOHNSON, 0000
WILLIAM T. JOHNSTON, 0000
BENJAMIN C. KAM, JR., 0000
JOHN CHOONGWHA KANG, 0000
PACHAVIT KASEMSAP, 0000
LEONID M. KATKOVSKY, 0000
JAY D. KERECMAN, 0000
MARK W. KOLASA, 0000
THOMAS E. KOLKEBECK, 0000
JERRY D. LABSON, 0000
JENNIFFER L. LAPOINTE, 0000
ERNEST C. LEE, 0000
BRADLEY A. LLOYD, 0000
JAMES D. LOWE, 0000
CHERYL L. LOWRY, 0000
KAI WOOD MA, 0000
DANIEL M. MACALPINE, 0000
MICHAEL L. MARTIN, 0000
TIMOTHY J. MAZZOLA, 0000
KURT D. MENTZER, 0000
MICHAEL T. MEYER, 0000
GIOVANNI G. MILLARE, 0000
PATRICK J. MILLER, 0000
JESSICA T. MITCHELL, 0000
PATRICK B. MONAHAN, 0000
RICHARD L. MOONEY, 0000
SUSAN O. MORAN, 0000
DARIN K. MORGAN, 0000
CHRISTOPHER C. MUENCHEN, 0000
PAIGE L. NEIFERT, 0000
ERIC W. NELSON, 0000
NGHIA H. NGUYEN, 0000
TERRI J. NUTT, 0000
JOHN Y. OH, 0000
MARK D. PACKER, 0000
MYUNG S. PARK, 0000
MICHAEL A. PECK, 0000
STEVEN J. PECKHAM, 0000
DAWN E. PEREDO, 0000
JAMES A. PHALEN, 0000
ALLAN S. PHILP, JR., 0000
KIMBERLY D. PIETSZAK, 0000
LAURA L. PLACE, 0000
PAUL W. PLOCEK, 0000
RAY L. PLUMLEY, 0000
HARRIS R. PRAGER, 0000
JOHN C. RABINE, 0000
MICHAEL RAJNIK, 0000
STEVEN E. RASMUSSEN, 0000
CHARLES D. REILLY, 0000
PETER L. REYNOLDS, 0000
KAREN C. RICHARDS, 0000
MICHAEL F. RICHARDS, 0000
SCOTT A. RIISE, 0000
TERRI L. RIUTCEL, 0000
JOSHUA S. ROTENBERG, 0000
RICHARD M. RUBIN, 0000
STEPHANIE A. SCHAEFER, 0000
LARRY R. SCHATZ, 0000
DARLENE P. SCHULTZ, 0000
GREGORY L. SCHUMACHER, 0000
PARIMAL K. SHAH, 0000
JON R. SHERECK, 0000
PAUL A. SKLUZACEK, 0000
DANIEL T. SMITH, 0000
JOHN J. STEELE III, 0000
MICHAEL D. STEVENS, 0000
PAMELA L. STRICKLAND, 0000
RICHARD J. STRILKA, 0000
ERIC A. SUESCUN, 0000
LEIGH A. SWANSON, 0000
SUSAN M. SWAYNE, 0000
ANTHONY A. TERRERI, 0000
JOHN M. TOKISH, 0000
GEOFFREY D. TOWERS, 0000
BLAINE A. TUFT, 0000
CHARLES A. TUJO, 0000
JANET L. VEESART, 0000
NINO A. VIDIC, 0000
BRIAN A. VROON, 0000
JAMES M. WARD, 0000
CHARLES N. WEBB, 0000
KYLE J. WELD, 0000
GREGORY C. WIGGINS, 0000
LINDY W. WINTER, 0000
RANDY W. WOBSER, 0000
MATTHEW P. WONNACOTT, 0000
DAVID A. WOOD, 0000
MICHAEL J. WOOD, 0000
SAMUEL K. WOOD, 0000
JENNIFER A. WRIGHT, 0000
KENNETH C. Y. YU, 0000

IN THE ARMY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED ARMY NATIONAL GUARD OF THE UNITED STATES OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE RESERVE OF THE ARMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 12203 AND 12211:

*To be colonel*

LISA R. LEONARD, 0000
MICHAEL D. POWELL, 0000
BRET A. SLATER, 0000

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY DENTAL CORPS AND FOR REGULAR APPOINTMENT (IDENTIFIED BY AN ASTERISK(*)) UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C. SECTIONS 624, 531, AND 3064:

*To be colonel*

BRUCE B. BREHM, 0000
CLARK M. COMEAUX, 0000
STEVEN M. FLORENCE, 0000
GEORGE M. GIBSON, 0000
ROBERT L. HOLMES, 0000
JAMES R. HONEY, 0000
NAOMI J. HOROWITZ, 0000
KAREN M. KEITH, 0000
DAVID J. KRYSZAK, 0000
JONATHAN A. MAHAFFEY, 0000
ROBERT B. NEESE, 0000
SANDFORD W. PRINCE, 0000
KENDALL L. RAY, 0000
FRANCISCO RUIZ, 0000
COLLEEN C. SHULL, 0000
*ROBERT W. WINDOM, 0000

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY MEDICAL CORPS AND FOR REGULAR APPOINTMENT (IDENTIFIED BY AN ASTERISK(*)) UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C. SECTIONS 624, 531, AND 3064:

*To be colonel*

BRUCE D. ADAMS, 0000
DARRYL J. AINBINDER, 0000
LARRY K. ANDREO, 0000
VICTOR J. BERNET, 0000
RICHARD H. BIRDSONG, 0000
CRAIG R. BOTTONI, 0000
JOHN C. BRADLEY, 0000
* GEORGE T. BRANDT, 0000
ALAN D. BRUNS, 0000
DAVID A. CANCELADA, 0000
WILLIAM P. CORR III, 0000
THOMAS G. CRABTREE, 0000
KEVIN M. CREAMER, 0000
ROBERT C. DEAN, 0000
THOMAS M. DEBERARDINO, 0000
ROBERT A. DELORENZO, 0000
ANDREW S. EISEMAN, 0000
MARLEIGH E. ERICKSON, 0000
DAVID R. FINGER, 0000
MICHAEL J. FINGER, 0000

DAVID T. FLOYD, 0000
SUSAN D. FRACISCO, 0000
THOMAS B. FRANCIS, 0000
STEVEN P. FRIEDEL, 0000
* ANDREW C. FRIEDMAN, 0000
VINCENT X. GRBACH, 0000
STEPHEN E. GREEFKENS, 0000
* STEPHEN C. GROO, 0000
JOHN B. HALLIGAN, 0000
ELEANOR R. HASTINGS, 0000
KEITH L. HIATT, 0000
RICHARD B. HILBURN, 0000
JAMES B. HILL, 0000
CURTIS J. HUNTER, 0000
LONNIE L. IMLAY, 0000
RICHARD B. JACKSON, 0000
JEFFREY L. KINGSBURY, 0000
BEVERLY C. LAND, 0000
EMIL P. LESHO, 0000
DAVID B. LONGENECKER, 0000
MARK A. LOVELL, 0000
GLYNDA W. LUCAS, 0000
WILLIAM P. MAGDYCZ, JR., 0000
GREGORY A. MARINKOVICH, 0000
* JOHN MATLOCK, 0000
ROBERT A. MAZUR, 0000
SCOTT D. MCLEAN, 0000
ANNA MILLER, 0000
COLIN K. MILLER, 0000
JOSEPH P. MILLER, 0000
ROBERT S. MILLER, 0000
LISA K. MOORES, 0000
PETER G. NAPOLITANO, 0000
JOHN J. OBRIEN, 0000
KAREN S. PHELPS, 0000
RONALD D. PRAUNER, 0000
BERTRAM C. PROVIDENCE, 0000
ROBERT A. PUNTEL, 0000
MICHAEL A. RAVE, 0000
WILLIAM A. RICE, 0000
GAYLORD S. ROSE, 0000
STEPHEN M. SALERNO, 0000
KEITH L. SALZMAN, 0000
JAMES R. SANTANGELO, 0000
DANIEL A. SCHAFFER, 0000
JOHN P. SCHRIVER, 0000
GREGORY J. SEMANCIK, 0000
CYNTHIA H. SHIELDS, 0000
JOHN J. SIMMER, 0000
MARK H. SMITH, 0000
SCOTT A. STANEK, 0000
RONALD T. STEPHENS, 0000
MARK W. THOMPSON, 0000
CAROLYN A. TIFFANY, 0000
IAN S. WEDMORE, 0000
* GREGORY P. WELCH, 0000
MALCOLM A. WHITAKER, 0000
MORGAN P. WILLIAMSON, 0000
STEPHEN M. YOEST, 0000
LISA L. ZACHER, 0000

IN THE MARINE CORPS

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS RESERVE UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

*To be colonel*

JOHN D. ADAMS, 0000
PAUL AMATO, 0000
JAMES E. BACCHUS, 0000
PATRICE M. BAUMANN, 0000
THOMAS J. BECKMAN, 0000
PHILIP A. BENNETT, 0000
THOMAS E. BOWERS, 0000
DAVID S. BUNN, 0000
LINDERMAN L. BURKHART, 0000
CLYDE T. BURTON, 0000
WILLIAM H. BUTLER, JR., 0000
DANIEL A. CAJKA, 0000
JOHN M. CALDWELL, 0000
JOSEPH H. CALLAHAN, JR., 0000
ELOY CAMPOS, 0000
KENT A. CARPENTER, 0000
LEONARD D. CHRISTIAN, 0000
WILLIAM T. COLLINS, 0000
DAVID J. CONAWAY, 0000
PATRICK P. CONNELLY, 0000
HARRY G. CONSTANT, JR., 0000
DAVID A. DAVENPORT, 0000
JAMES A. DAVIDSON, 0000
JAMES G. DONLAN, 0000
MICHAEL J. DRAKE, 0000
TIMOTHY M. DUNN, 0000
DAVID B. DYSART, 0000
JONATHAN T. ELLIOTT, 0000
DAVID M. ELSE, 0000
ERIC S. ERDMANN, 0000
LAURA A. FALKENBACH, 0000
HAROLD J. FLANAGAN, 0000
KARL F. FROST, 0000
GEOFFREY A. GALLO, 0000
JEFFERY A. GARDNER, 0000
JOEL P. GARLAND, 0000
ORPHEUS L. GARRISON, JR., 0000
JOSEPH F. GATELY, 0000
KIMBERLY J. HARDING, 0000
JAMES R. HARPER III, 0000
DANIEL C. HERBERT, 0000
PATRICK J. HERMESMANN, 0000
MARK C. HICKMAN, 0000
ROBERT W. HIGBEE, 0000
ROBERT L. HOSTETTER, 0000
JAMES C. HULL, 0000
BRADLEY S. JAMES, 0000
CARL J. JOHNSON, 0000
DAVID M. JOHNSON, 0000
RAYMOND JOHNSON, 0000
RICHARD A. JOHNSON, JR., 0000
DANIEL P. KENNEDY, 0000
MICHAEL K. KOZIK, 0000
GRAYDON A. KRAPOHL, 0000
KEVIN K. KUTINA, 0000
ROBERT J. LAIN, 0000
MARTIN E. LAPIERRE, JR., 0000
MICHAEL A. LAWRENCE, 0000
THOMAS H. LEDBETTER, 0000
IGNATIUS P. LIBERTO, 0000
ANTHONY M. LOMBARDO, 0000
NATHAN S. LOWREY, 0000
THOMAS A. LYNN, 0000
ANDREW C. MACLACHLAN, 0000
ROBERT C. MCARTHUR, 0000
JOHN G. MCGONAGLE, 0000
BRIAN J. MCGOVERN, 0000
THOMAS C. MCKELVEY, 0000
ROBERT B. MCMONAGLE, 0000
MARK A. MELIN, 0000
GREGG L. MOORE, 0000
JEFFREY A. MOORE, 0000
JOSEPH S. MOORE, 0000
GLEN C. MORRIS, 0000
JOSEPH A. NEBEL, JR., 0000
WALTER E. OHNEMUS III, 0000
PATRICK J. OROURKE, 0000
TIMOTHY J. OTT, 0000
KEITH W. PANKHURST, 0000
MAURICE C. PERDOMO, 0000
JOSEPH F. PERITO, 0000
JOHN M. PIOLI, 0000
STEPHEN C. PUCKETT, 0000
PAUL L. PUGLIESE, 0000
THOMAS M. QUOSS, 0000
WILLIAM J. RAPP, 0000
NANCY R. RATHGEBER, 0000
JOHN V. RESCHAR, JR., 0000
JEFFREY A. RIEHL, 0000
CHRIS J. ROACH, 0000
TOM M. RODGERS, 0000
OTTO J. RUTT, 0000
CHARLES B. SAGEBIEL, 0000
MICHAEL K. SAMMONS, 0000
JOSEPH A. SHEEHAN, 0000
MICHAEL R. SILVEN, 0000
MARK A. SILVIA, 0000
DAVID M. SMITH, 0000
MARK A. SMITH, 0000
ROBERT S. STARBUCK, 0000
GREGORY D. STEVENS, 0000
GREGORY A. STUDDS, 0000
PAUL J. SWEENEY, 0000
JONATHAN M. TAYLOR, 0000
MATTHEW C. TAYLOR, 0000
DAVID M. THOMPSON, 0000
GORDON L. TODD, JR., 0000
KEVIN M. TREPA, 0000
DEAN F. TRIEBEL, 0000
KENT M. VARNEY, 0000
BURKE W. WHITMAN, 0000
MINDY G. WILLIAMS, 0000
BRANDON W. WILSON, 0000

THE FOLLOWING NAMED LIMITED DUTY OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

*To be lieutenant colonel*

SANFORD P. PIKE, 0000

THE FOLLOWING NAMED LIMITED DUTY OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

*To be lieutenant colonel*

PHILLIP R. WAHLE, 0000

THE FOLLOWING NAMED LIMITED DUTY OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

*To be lieutenant colonel*

JAMES A. CROFFIE, 0000

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

*To be lieutenant colonel*

JAMES H. ADAMS III, 0000
JOE H. ADKINS, JR., 0000
DARRELL L. AKERS, 0000
JOHN L. ALBERS, 0000
MICHAEL E. ALOISE, 0000
JAMES H. ANDERSON II, 0000
MARCUS B. ANNIBALE, 0000
MICHAEL P. ANTONIO, 0000
TRAY J. ARDESE, 0000
ERIC E. AUSTIN, 0000
CHARLES R. BAGNATO, 0000
JAMES M. BAKER, 0000
ANTHONY S. BARNES, 0000
BRAD S. BARTELT, 0000
GARY L. BASH, JR., 0000
ERIC E. BATTLE, 0000
RAYMOND E. BEAL II, 0000
JASON A. BEAUDOIN, 0000
DOUGLAS L. BELL, 0000
GRADY A. BELYEU, JR., 0000
DARREL C. BENFIELD, 0000
JEANNE A. BENFIELD, 0000
WILLIAM C. BENTLEY III, 0000
PAUL F. BERTHOLF, 0000
ANTHONY J. BIANCA, 0000
BRENT W. BIEN, 0000
STEFAN E. BIEN, 0000
EDWARD W. BLIGH, 0000
JOHN A. BOLT, 0000
RICHARD L. BOMHOLD, JR., 0000
MICHAEL J. BORGSCHULTE, 0000
JOSE L. BORJA, 0000
BRETT A. BOURNE, 0000
THOMAS S. BOWERS, 0000
ANTHONY W. BOWN, 0000
ROBERT C. BOYLES, 0000
JAMES D. BRACKEN, 0000
FREDERICK W. BREMER, 0000
THOMAS A. BRUNO, 0000
GREGORY A. BRYANT, 0000
WILLIAM T. BUFKIN II, 0000
BRIAN E. BUFTON, 0000
WAYNE M. BUNKER, 0000
RAYMOND R. BURKEMPER, 0000
DAVID W. BUSSEL, 0000
MAX W. CAIN II, 0000
PETER S. CALOGERO, 0000
SCOTT E. CAMDEN, 0000
STEVE L. CANTRELL, 0000
MARIO D. CARAZO, 0000
JOHN J. CARROLL, JR., 0000
MITCHELL E. CASSELL, 0000
MICHAEL N. CASTLE, 0000
ALEXANDER A. CHATMAN, JR., 0000
KEVIN M. CHENAIL, 0000
JEFFREY S. CHESTNEY, 0000
DONALD C. CHIPMAN, 0000
JOHN P. CHRISTOPHER, 0000
ALTON L. COCHRAN, JR., 0000
DOUGLAS S. COCHRAN, 0000
KEVIN P. COLLINS, 0000
MATTHEW S. COOK, 0000
BENJAMIN W. COPELAND, 0000
KIRK F. CORDOVA, 0000
MICHAEL S. COTTREAU, 0000
CHARLES B. COX, 0000
WAYNE O. COX II, 0000
SCOTT S. CREED, 0000
DANIEL P. CREIGHTON, 0000
CHARLES M. CROMWELL, 0000
VANCE L. CRYER, 0000
MICHAEL J. CURTIN, 0000
EVAN W. DAVIES, 0000
JOHN B. DAVIS, 0000
THOMAS E. DAVIS, 0000
MATTHEW A. DAY, 0000
KENNETH R. DEVERO II, 0000
OSSEN J. DHAITI, 0000
PETER J. DILLON, 0000
CHRISTOPHER G. DIXON, 0000
THOMAS P. DOLAN, 0000
RONALD A. DOMINGUE, JR., 0000
DOUGLAS G. DOUDS, 0000
CHARLES DOWLING, 0000
DANIEL H. DUBBS, 0000
JON D. DUKE, 0000
EVERETT W. DUNNICK, 0000
ROBERT H. DURYEA, 0000
MATTHEW D. DWYER, 0000
JOHN W. EVANS, JR., 0000
JOSEPH M. EVANS, JR., 0000
ADRIENNE F. EVERTSON, 0000
SHAWN S. FARRINGTON, 0000
DANIEL E. FENNELL, 0000
MATTHEW P. FERGUSON, 0000
ROBERT S. FERGUSON, 0000
TODD R. FINLEY, 0000
BRIAN G. FITZPATRICK, 0000
MARK A. FLOURNOY, 0000
ROBERT B. FORD, 0000
TODD D. FORD, 0000
DAVID C. FORREST, 0000
JONATHAN D. FOSTER, 0000
THOMAS E. FREDERICK, 0000
ROBERT C. FRIEDMAN, 0000
RICHARD F. FUERST, 0000
CHRISTOPHER D. GIDEONS, 0000
MICHAEL P. GILBERT, 0000
STEVEN R. GIRARD, 0000
SEAN M. GODLEY, 0000
THOMAS J. GORDON IV, 0000
GERALD C. GRAHAM, 0000
DONALD E. GRAY, JR., 0000
ROBERT M. GREEN, 0000
SCOTT M. GRIFFITH, 0000
MICHAEL R. GRISCHKOWSKY, 0000
JESSE L. GRUTER, 0000
CHRIS T. GUARNIERI, 0000
DAVID A. GUNDLACH, 0000
SCOTT V. HALLSTROM, 0000
RICHARD K. HALSTED, 0000
JEFFREY G. HANCOCK, 0000
PATRICK M. HAYDEN, 0000
ANTHONY M. HENDERSON, 0000
ELAINE M. HENSEN, 0000
JAMES R. HENSIEN, 0000
WAYNE M. HERBERT, 0000
MATTHEW N. HESS, 0000
ROBERT W. HESSER, 0000
ALEXANDER G. HETHERINGTON, 0000
JOHN D. HICKS, 0000
ERIC W. HILDEBRANDT, 0000
CURTIS L. HILL, 0000
THOMAS K. HOBBS, 0000
JEFFREY P. HOGAN, 0000
GEORGE N. HOUGH, 0000
KELLY P. HOULGATE, 0000
KEVIN M. HUDSON, 0000
CHRISTOPHER W. HUGHES, 0000

THEODORE J. HUNTINGHORSE, 0000
JAMES T. IULO, 0000
MICHAEL S. JACKSON, 0000
TODD M. JENKINS, 0000
MARK J. JOHNSON, 0000
PAUL H. JOHNSON III, 0000
MARION D. JONES, 0000
PRESTON W. JONES, 0000
RICHARD E. JORDAN, 0000
KENNETH R. KASSNER, 0000
DARRIN D. KAZLAUSKAS, 0000
JAMES J. KELLEY III, 0000
JAMES R. KENDALL, 0000
BRIAN M. KENNEDY, 0000
MICHAEL J. KENNEDY, 0000
PETERJOHN H. KERR, 0000
TODD A. KERZIE, 0000
BRIAN J. KING, 0000
GLENN M. KLASSA, 0000
CHARLEY A. KNOWLES II, 0000
KURT A. KOCH, 0000
ROBERT W. LAATSCH, 0000
LAWRENCE M. LANDON, 0000
GERALD R. LAY, 0000
PETER E. LAZARUS, 0000
EVAN G. LEBLANC, 0000
PETER N. LEE, 0000
JAMES C. LEWIS, 0000
MICHAEL J. LINDEMANN, JR., 0000
STUART R. LOCKHART, 0000
DANIEL E. LONGWELL, 0000
BRYAN F. LUCAS, 0000
BARTLETT D. LUDLOW, 0000
VINCENT J. LUMALCURI, 0000
DOUGLAS J. MACINTYRE, 0000
MARK D. MACKEY, 0000
SEAN R. MADDEN, 0000
GARY L. MADDUX, JR., 0000
ARTURO J. MADRIL, 0000
CHRISTOPHER S. MANIS, 0000
JEFFREY L. MANNING, 0000
MICHAEL A. MANNING, 0000
ANTHONY M. MARRO, 0000
DAMIEN M. MARSH, 0000
BRADFORD L. MARTIN, 0000
RICARDO MARTINEZ, 0000
TROY C. MAYO, 0000
SEAN M. MCBRIDE, 0000
ROBERT E. MCCARTHY III, 0000
WILLIAM F. MCCOLLOUGH, 0000
KATHERINE M. MCDONALD, 0000
DANIEL P. MCGOVERN, 0000
ROY MCGRIFF III, 0000
CHRISTOPHER T. MCKAY, 0000
MATTHEW MCLAUGHLIN, 0000
CHARLES A. MCLEAN II, 0000
WILLIAM D. MCSORLEY IV, 0000
MELANIE A. MERCAN, 0000
GUILLERMO G. MEZAORTEGA, 0000
SCOTT G. MILES, 0000
JOHN C. MOORE, 0000
MICHAEL A. MOORE, 0000
KEVIN G. MOSS, 0000
SAMUEL P. MOWERY, 0000
ANDREW J. MOYER, 0000
DOUGLAS J. MRAK, 0000
JOSEPH W. MURPHY, 0000
CHRISTOPHER B. NASH, 0000
DAVID NATHANSON, 0000
WILLIAM J. NEMETH, 0000
CHRISTIAN L. NICEWARNER, 0000
SETH L. OCLOO, JR., 0000
DAVID L. ODOM, 0000
JACK E. O'DONNEL, JR., 0000
DAVID S. OLIVER, 0000
JOHN R. ONEAL, 0000
TODD J. ONETO, 0000
MICHAEL H. OPPENHEIM, 0000
CARL L. OROS, 0000
LUIS E. ORTIZ, 0000
RICHARD T. OSTERMEYER, 0000
KURT S. OSUCH, 0000
RANDOLPH T. PAGE, 0000
BENJAMIN J. PALMER, 0000
MARK T. PALMER, 0000
MATTHEW W. PARK, 0000
JOHN E. PASSANT IV, 0000
PHILIP M. PASTINO, 0000
DOUGLAS R. PATTERSON, 0000
JOHN M. PECK, 0000
MARK B. PENNINGTON, 0000
FRITZ W. PFEIFFER, 0000
KRISTI E. PHELPS, 0000
WILLIAM N. PIGOTT, JR., 0000
CHRISTOPHER S. PINCKNEY, 0000
MICHAEL M. PITTS, 0000
STEVEN A. PLATO, 0000
JOHN C. POEHLER, 0000
THOMAS E. POST, 0000
THOMAS M. PRATT, 0000
MARK C. PRICE, 0000
MORRIS W. PRIDDY, 0000
JOHN H. PYLANT, JR., 0000
KEITH H. RAGSDELL, 0000
JOHN A. RAHE, JR., 0000
MINTER B. RALSTON IV, 0000
WILLIAM A. RANDALL, 0000
STEPHEN E. REDIFER, 0000
MICHAEL S. REED, 0000
ANDREW M. REGAN, 0000
DESMOND A. REID, JR., 0000
THOMAS R. REILLY, 0000
WILLIAM H. REINHART, 0000
ROBERT A. RENARD, 0000
ROBERTO V. RICHARDS, 0000
PAUL W. RICHARDSON, 0000
DONALD B. RICHWINE, JR., 0000
ERIC L. RINE, 0000
JEROME P. RIZZO, 0000
DANIEL B. ROBINSON, 0000
RICHARD J. ROCHELLE, 0000
RANDY W. ROSS, 0000
SHANE L. ROSSOW, 0000
PETER S. RUBIN, 0000
JOSEPH J. RUSSELL, 0000
SEAN M. SALENE, 0000
THOMAS J. SANZI, 0000
ERIC W. SCHAEFER, 0000
MARK R. SCHAEFER, 0000
HERBERT E. SCHWEITER, 0000
THOMAS R. SEIFERT, 0000
JASPER W. SENTER III, 0000
MILO L. SHANK, 0000
ROBERTA L. SHEA, 0000
BRETT T. SHERMAN, 0000
MICHAEL D. SHERMAN, 0000
JAMES E. SHORES, 0000
CHARLES L. SIDES, 0000
MATTHEW M. SIEBER, 0000
JOSEPH D. SINICROPE, JR., 0000
THOMAS J. SISAK, 0000
ROBERT J. SMULLEN, 0000
MIKE D. SNYDER, 0000
MARK E. SOJOURNER, 0000
DANIEL U. SPANO, 0000
ROGER D. STANDFIELD, 0000
PAUL A. STEELE, 0000
DAVID STOHS, 0000
ARTHUR J. STOVALL II, 0000
MICHAEL D. STOVER, 0000
CRAIG H. STREETER, 0000
DAVID A. SUGGS, 0000
DANIEL M. SULLIVAN, 0000
PAUL T. SULLIVAN, 0000
JAMES E. SZEPESY, 0000
MICHAEL W. TAYLOR, 0000
ROBERT J. TERSELIC, 0000
CHRISTOPHER C. THIBODEAUX, 0000
ALAN D. THOBURN III, 0000
DANIEL T. THOELE, 0000
MATTHEW R. THOMAS, 0000
STEPHEN S. TIELEMANS, 0000
MARK E. TINGLE, 0000
JEFFREY S. TONTINI, 0000
STEPHEN P. TREICHEL, 0000
MICHELLE L. TRUSSO, 0000
JEFFREY D. TUGGLE, 0000
LORETTA L. VANDENBERG, 0000
DANNY J. VERDA, 0000
JOHN E. VINCENT, 0000
LEWIS D. VOGLER, JR., 0000
JOHN E. WALKER, JR., 0000
MICHAEL A. WALL, 0000
TYE R. WALLACE, 0000
ALBERT C. WANG, 0000
GAINES L. WARD, 0000
SCOTT C. WARD, 0000
HUGH R. WARE, 0000
JAMES S. WASHBURN, 0000
BENJAMIN T. WATSON, 0000
AARON S. WELLS, 0000
DIXON D. WELT, 0000
STEVEN L. WHALEY, 0000
DANIEL F. WHITE II, 0000
RAYMOND M. WHITE III, 0000
DWAYNE A. WHITESIDE, 0000
ALAN F. WILLIAMS, 0000
CHRISTOPHER J. WILLIAMS, 0000
ERIC S. WISE, 0000
CHRISTOPHER P. WOODBURN, 0000
CHRISTIAN F. WORTMAN, 0000
JAMES B. WOULFE, 0000
BRIAN P. WRIGHT, 0000
ROBERT C. WRIGHT, JR., 0000
MICHAEL P. WYLIE, 0000
WILLIAM E. ZAMAGNI, JR., 0000
MICHAEL W. ZELIFF, 0000
SIDNEY G. ZELLER, 0000
RICHARD D. ZYLA, 0000

THE FOLLOWING NAMED LIMITED DUTY OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

*To be major*

DAVID T. CLARK, 0000
CHRISTOPHER D. DIEDERICH, 0000
FRANK A. FARROW, 0000
SCOTT A. JOHNSON, 0000
TODD J. KROME, 0000
NIEVES G. VILLASENOR, 0000

## CONFIRMATIONS

Executive nominations confirmed by the Senate: Tuesday, January 31, 2006:

### FEDERAL RESERVE SYSTEM

BEN S. BERNANKE, OF NEW JERSEY, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS OF THE FEDERAL RESERVE SYSTEM FOR A TERM OF FOURTEEN YEARS FROM FEBRUARY 1, 2006.

BEN S. BERNANKE, OF NEW JERSEY, TO BE CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS OF THE FEDERAL RESERVE SYSTEM FOR A TERM OF FOUR YEARS.

THE ABOVE NOMINATIONS WERE APPROVED SUBJECT TO THE NOMINEES' COMMITMENT TO RESPOND TO REQUESTS TO APPEAR AND TESTIFY BEFORE ANY DULY CONSTITUTED COMMITTEE OF THE SENATE.

### SUPREME COURT OF THE UNITED STATES

SAMUEL A. ALITO, JR., OF NEW JERSEY, TO BE AN ASSOCIATE JUSTICE OF THE SUPREME COURT OF THE UNITED STATES.

# EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

## TRIBUTE TO STATE SENATOR NORMA ANDERSON

### HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 31, 2006*

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I occasionally use this forum to acknowledge the contributions my fellow Coloradans make on behalf of Colorado and our country. Today, I rise to commend the service of just such a person, my former colleague, State Senator Norma Anderson.

Last month, Senator Anderson announced her retirement from the Colorado State Senate after nearly 20 years of uninterrupted service as a legislator. Both Democrats and Republicans lauded her record, and I wanted to lend my name to her long list of unabashed admirers. While we have served in different political parties and held separate offices in the public arena, I have always admired Norma Anderson's direct and honest approach to public service. She is the kind of person who speaks her mind, knows the rules, respects the needs of her constituents and above all, she is the kind of leader who is not afraid to let the chips fall after making a decision. Norma has never suffered fools and she is not one to be intimidated. In my brief service in the Colorado General Assembly I came to deeply respect her judgment; I appreciated her way of dealing with colleagues, and I still consider her a friend.

A respected Denver Post columnist, Diane Carman, has called her "an old-fashioned Republican with a sharp tongue, impeccable taste and a stubborn independent streak." I don't believe I can improve on this description of Norma except to add that she has always struck me as a formidable and principled woman, and her record of accomplishment and service to Colorado has few equals.

[From the Denver Post, Jan. 4, 1906]

SENATOR WIELDED GRACE, INDEPENDENCE

(By Diane Carman)

She's an old-fashioned Republican with a sharp tongue, impeccable taste and a stubborn independent streak.

In a lot of ways, that explains it all.

Norma Anderson retired Tuesday after 19 years in the Colorado legislature, saying only, "It's the right thing for me at this time."

She's not sick, the vibrant 73-year-old said. She's not angry or frustrated or bored. She's simply finished.

The fact that a successor to her Senate seat will be appointed under a Republican governor and will have the edge of incumbency in the next election surely must have crossed her mind, though, as well as the inescapable reality that with the Republicans in the minority again this session, she wouldn't be wielding any gavels in the last months of her term-limited legislative career.

Still, she exited gracefully with a subtle nod to partisan interests, a private party for her supporters and a firm commitment to personal priorities.

No news conferences with TV cameras trained on her face. No razzmatazz.

It was pure Norma, her ego in check.

Many times over the years, she has been on the short lists to run for the U.S. Congress, for governor or for other statewide offices. She never caught the fever.

"At one time I was thinking about secretary of state. I sat down with Donetta Davidson: We talked a little bit, and I just said, 'You do it, Donetta.' "

Being a state legislator was enough, she said, "I never had any desire to do anything else."

Not that it's been all bill-signing galas and warm accolades.

Anderson is known for her ability to irritate her fellow lawmakers, maybe especially those in her own party.

In the 1990s, when Colorado Republicans started leaning decidedly far to the right, Anderson remained a moderate—and a sometimes exasperating one at that.

In one memorable stand against the party juggernaut, she voted against a bill to outlaw same-sex marriage. In another, she opposed a bill to require students to say the Pledge of Allegiance in schools.

She wasn't being obstinate, she said, she just didn't believe the government should be messing around in people's personal lives or requiring people to repeat pledges. She'd done her homework, she said, and it didn't seem right.

She accepts credit for marshaling support for dozens of bills over the years, for establishing the state departments of transportation and human services, and for breaking untold barriers that kept women out of legislative leadership positions for decades.

There are a few episodes she doesn't recall fondly, however, and one of them was the infamous midnight gerrymander.

Anderson played a crucial role in slamming through the Republican redistricting scheme in the last three days of the 2003 legislative session, though she was clearly ambivalent about it.

Sure, her expertise with Senate rules and circumventing them was critical to passage of the last minute bills, and she presided over most of the chaotic sessions. But she was not happy about it.

In the midst of the nasty political uproar, she even declined to return a call from Bush adviser Karl Rove, who was either the mastermind of the ham-handed strategy or simply an interested observer, depending on whose spin you believe.

That may have been her proudest moment in the whole mess.

"It was pretty common knowledge that I had concerns," Anderson told me back then, "but I was elected to lead my caucus, and that's what I did."

Months later, when the state Supreme Court threw out the redistricting plan and the U.S. Supreme Court refused to hear the Republicans' appeal, she didn't join the party bigs in fulminating about judicial overreach and legislating from the bench. She kept quiet.

She respected the process. She believed in the democratic system. And if some folks think that's being stubbornly independent, she's OK with that.

In a lot of ways, that explains it all.

## RECOGNIZING THE OUTSTANDING EFFORTS OF DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

### HON. C.A. DUTCH RUPPERSBERGER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 31, 2006*

Mr. RUPPERSBERGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the life and the contributions of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., and to mark the 77th anniversary of his birth on January 15, 1929.

History is indeed made up of significant events which shape our future and outstanding leaders who influence our destiny. Martin Luther King, Jr. has had numerous historic moments in the struggle for civil rights that have been used to identify him—prime mover of the Montgomery bus boycott, keynote speaker at the March on Washington, youngest Nobel Peace Prize laureate.

But in retrospect, Mr. Speaker the single events are less important than the fact that King, and his policy of nonviolent protest, was the dominant force in the civil rights movement during its decade of greatest achievement, from 1957 to 1968.

Born on January 15, 1929, a son was born to the Reverend and Mrs. Martin Luther King in an upstairs bedroom of 501 Auburn Avenue, in Atlanta, GA. The couple named their first son after Rev. King, but he was simply called "M.L." by the family.

Mr. Speaker, during the next 12 years, this fine two story Victorian home is where M.L. would live with his parents, grandparents, siblings, aunts, uncles, and their boarders. It was in these surroundings of home, church and neighborhood that M.L. experienced his childhood. Here, M.L. learned about family and Christian love, segregation in the days of "Jim Crow" laws, diligence and tolerance.

Mr. Speaker, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. was undoubtedly a vital figure of the modern era. His lectures and dialogues stirred the concern and sparked the conscience of a generation. The movements and marches he led brought significant changes in the fabric of American life through his courage and selfless devotion. His charismatic leadership inspired men and women, young and old, in this Nation and around the world.

Dr. King's concept of "somebodiness," which symbolized the celebration of human worth and the conquest of subjugation, gave African-Americans and all people hope and a sense of dignity.

The Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday celebrates the life and legacy of a man who brought hope and healing to America. We commemorate as well the timeless values he taught us through his example—the values of courage, truth, justice, compassion, dignity, humility and service that so radiantly defined Dr. King's character and empowered his leadership. On this holiday, we commemorate the universal, unconditional love, forgiveness and nonviolence that empowered his revolutionary spirit.

Mr. Speaker, let there be no misunderstanding that the King holiday honors the life and contributions of America's greatest champion of racial justice and equality, the leader who not only dreamed of a color-blind society, but who also lead a movement that achieved historic reforms to help make it a reality.

It is a day of interracial and intercultural cooperation and sharing. No other day of the year brings so many peoples from different cultural backgrounds together in such a vibrant spirit of brother and sisterhood. Whether you are African-American, Hispanic or Native American, whether you are Caucasian or Asian-American, you are part of the great dream Martin Luther King, Jr. had for America. This is not just an African-American holiday; it is a peoples' holiday. And it is the young people of all races and religions who hold the keys to the fulfillment of his dream.

Mr. Speaker, I challenge all Americans by making your personal commitment to serve humanity with the vibrant spirit of unconditional love that was his greatest strength, and which empowered all of the great victories of his leadership.

May we who follow Martin now pledge to serve humanity, promote his teachings and carry forward his legacy into the 21st century.

We honor Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. because he showed us the way to mend those broken fences and to move on in building this land rather than destroying it. He led campaign after campaign in the streets of America and on to the governor's mansion—even to the White House—in an effort to secure change.

Mr. Speaker, today African-Americans have Federal legislation which provides access and legal protection in the areas of public accommodations, housing, voting rights, schools, and transportation. Thank you Dr. King for being the drum major who was able and ready to lead our Nation to greater heights through love and peace.

## TRIBUTE TO ROBERT J. SAMUELS

### HON. JIM DAVIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 31, 2006*

Mr. DAVIS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise in honor of Robert J. Samuels, this year's recipient of the Minority Health Leadership Award from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Public Health and Science, Office of Minority Health.

Following his own battle with cancer, Bob dedicated his life to helping others in the fight against prostate cancer. He quickly become a passionate and dedicated advocate for men's health not only in Florida, but nationwide, and his visionary leadership has produced significant advances in beating back prostate cancer.

Bob is the founding chairman of the Florida Prostate Cancer Network (FPCN) and the National Prostate Cancer Coalition, as well as an advisor on a host of other national committees and task forces that are working to promote cancer research and treatment. In Congress and the Florida Legislature Bob has been a strong voice for increased funds for cancer research. He played a critical role in the passage of the Florida Prostate Cancer Awareness Act and in the effort to secure a $1 million federal grant to establish a prostate cancer training and research institute at Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University.

Numerous organizations, including the Florida Legislature, Florida Department of Health, Hillsborough County, the City of Tampa and The Prostate Net, have honored Bob for his tireless efforts. On behalf of the Tampa Bay community, I would like to thank Bob for his commitment to helping those struggling with cancer and thank the Department of Health and Human Services for recognizing Bob's work.

## HONORING MASTER SERGEANT SUSAN M. RAINONE UPON HER RETIREMENT

### HON. LOIS CAPPS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 31, 2006*

Mrs. CAPPS. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to pay tribute to MSgt Susan Rainone upon her retirement, and wish to thank her for her service to our country. Originally from Waukesha, Wisconsin, MSgt Susan M. Rainone enlisted in the United States Air Force in January of 1986. After graduating from Basic Military Training at Lackland AFB, she was sent to Chanute AFB, Illinois to attend the Airframe Repair Apprentice course.

In June 1986, A1C Rainone was assigned to the 6515th Field Maintenance Squadron at Edwards AFB, California. During her assignment at Edwards, she worked as an Airframe Repair Journeyman on a variety of airframes from the small A–37 to a much larger KC–135. In her second year in service, A1C Rainone competed and was selected for Senior Airmen Below the Zone, which allowed her to sew on the Senior Airman stripe six months early. In late 1988, she was promoted to the rank of Buck Sergeant and within the following six months she was notified of her selection to Staff Sergeant. In May, 1989 she completed the Training Systems Specialist course at Sheppard AFB, Texas and returned to Edwards AFB, to work in the Base Training office where she responsible for the training programs of the base. While at Edwards AFB, SSgt Rainone attended the Airman Leadership School and upon graduation was selected as a distinguished graduate, finishing in the top 10% of her class.

After being stationed at Edwards AFB for almost 9 years SSgt Rainone and was transferred to Osan Air Base in the Republic of South Korea. While at Osan, SSgt Rainone served as the Unit Training Manager for the 51st Transportation Squadron. During her tenure she nearly doubled the number of personnel enrolled in college courses. After her tour in Korea, SSgt Rainone was assigned to Davis-Monthan AFB, Arizona where she served as the Non-commissioned Officer in Charge of the Scheduling Element. Here she was responsible for scheduling and updating training for over 3,500 aircraft maintenance personnel.

In September 1998 SSgt Rainone was promoted to Technical Sergeant. She applied and was selected for the position of Training Manager for the United States Air Force Air Demonstration Squadron, ''Thunderbirds.'' In April, 1999 TSgt Rainone relocated to Nellis AFB, Nevada where she was assigned as the Unit Safety Representative, a load team member responsible for 50,000 pounds of air show equipment. In October 1999, MSgt Rainone attended the Non-Commissioned Officer Academy and again graduated as a distinguished graduate. TSgt was promoted to the rank of Master Sergeant in December 2002.

MSgt Rainone was reassigned to Vandenberg AFB, California April 2003. She was assigned to the 392nd Training Squadron as the Superintendent, Space and Missile Operations Training Development responsible for managing courses supporting the combat readiness of the nation's Intercontinental Ballistic Missile force. While at Vandenberg, MSgt Rainone completed the Senior Non-Commissioned Officer Academy course by correspondence, earning the Academic Excellence Award by averaging 95% over five closed book exams. One year later, she was moved to Detachment 1, 345th Training Squadron, Naval Base Ventura County, where she is the Chief, Education and Training Programs and Course Manager for Vehicle and Equipment courses.

I wish to commend and thank MSgt Rainone for her leadership and dedication. She is truly a role model and deserves the many commendations and awards that she has received. I wish her a happy and relaxing retirement.

## TRIBUTE TO MR. ROBERT ''SONNY'' SMITH

### HON. MARILYN N. MUSGRAVE

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 31, 2006*

Mrs. MUSGRAVE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Robert ''Sonny'' Smith who was recently inducted into the Babe Ruth Baseball Hall of Fame. Babe Ruth Baseball was started as a ''grass roots'' movement in the small, rural communities of Colorado. The town of Las Animas is no exception, and like most towns, the Babe Ruth program has flourished because of the efforts and actions of volunteers like Sonny who stepped up to the plate to serve others.

Sonny's involvement with Babe Ruth began around 1982. He was the District 2 Commissioner for 10 years and then became the Assistant State Commissioner for the 15 year-old Babe Ruth program. He has held that position from 1992 to the present time.

Sonny has not just been active in Babe Ruth in his community, but in other endeavors as well. He was the Las Animas Ball Association Vice President from 1978–1980. He served as a Las Animas City Councilman from 1982–1986 and was the chairman for the Parks and Swimming Pool committees. Sonny was a member of the Las Animas School Board from 1996–2000. He has been a member of the Bent County Recreation Committee from 1978 to the present time. He served on the St. Mary's Catholic Church Council from 1988–1992, and he has served as a football, baseball, softball, and basketball official from 1978 to the present time.

One of Sonny's most notable achievements was his work on the Ad-Hoc Committee for building the new baseball field in Las Animas from 1998–2004. This field has hosted many

area tournaments, as well as the local Babe Ruth League games.

Where does this man get the energy to accomplish these feats? I believe it comes from a strong desire to see the young people in his community and around the state have an opportunity to participate and excel in the great game of baseball.

Sonny has been a very valuable member of the Colorado Babe Ruth League, Inc. management team. His good-natured attitude and ''laid back'' style have served him well when handling issues that come up at the various levels of tournament play. He has even worked on Babe Ruth Tournaments for the Midwest Region.

Because of Sonny's love for kids and his commitment to the Babe Ruth program, he has been welcomed into the Colorado Babe Ruth Hall of Fame, and I am proud to represent such a fine individual in the U.S. Congress. I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Robert ''Sonny'' Smith for his outstanding contributions to his community.

## CONGRATULATING KEN STROM, RECIPIENT OF THE NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY'S GOLDEN EGRET AWARD

### HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 31, 2006*

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge Ken Strom, who is this recipient of the National Audubon Society's Golden Egret Award.

Ken is the Director of Conservation and Public Policy for Audubon Colorado, a graduate of Cornell University, and a Viet Nam veteran.

Ken started his Audubon experience at Francis Beidler Forest in South Carolina. For 11 years Ken managed Audubon's Rowe Wildlife Sanctuary, a critical habitat for Whooping Cranes and Sandhill Cranes on the Platte River in Nebraska. Ken's efforts protected hundreds of thousands of these birds so that they could use the same feeding grounds as their predecessors.

Ken coordinated a series of international partnerships for over ten years in which he advised scientists and policy-makers in a number of countries including Russia and Pakistan, countries without a history of wildlife conservation. These unique partnerships allowed Ken to establish conservation strategies for water resources and wetland habitats. Due to his work with Mumtaz Malik in the Northwest Frontier of Pakistan, two protected areas for cranes today exist on branches of the Indus River. In Russia, he was part of team with Serge Smirenski, George Archibald and Noritaki Ishida that established the first private park on the Indus River.

In Colorado, Ken has helped to establish and monitor 53 Important Bird Areas (IBA). Given the state of wetlands in Colorado, this accomplishment stands out. Ken also directed Audubon's highly visible nationwide population and habitat program that engaged hundreds of leaders and 20,000 activists working on education and public advocacy. A result of this significant project, millions of Americans learned about the effects between human population growth and the environment.

Ken served as an instructor and director of Audubon's Ecology Camp in the Rockies, educating teachers, instructors and citizens. He inspired hundreds of people each year to become voices on behalf of conservation.

Ken is also an accomplished writer with a keen sense for describing nature. He is the co-editor with his wife, Pat Waak, of the book, ''Sharing the Earth: Cross Cultural Perspectives on Population, Wildlife and the Environment.'' He is also the author of ''Population and Habit in the New Millennium.''

Ken Strom is effectively working to fight the good fight to protect and win important victories for wilderness, wetlands and other critical habitat areas. As Audubon honors Ken Strom with its highest award, I believe it is fitting for my colleagues to join me in acknowledging a lifetime of achievement in conservation.

## TRIBUTE TO THE 376TH ENGINEER BATTALION OF HAMMOND, INDIANA

### HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 31, 2006*

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride and respect that I take this opportunity to welcome home members of the 376th Engineer Battalion of Hammond, Indiana, and to honor them for their patriotism, their dedication, and their willingness to defend their country. These brave soldiers, known as the Men of Steel, recently returned to Northwest Indiana after completing several missions in Mosul, Iraq in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. The 376th honorably provided security during the recent Iraqi elections, took part in reconstruction efforts within Iraqi cities, provided humanitarian support to the people of Iraq, and courageously disposed of improvised explosive devices. The members of the 376th Engineer Battalion will be recognized at a homecoming ball in their honor, which will take place on January 21, 2006, at the Dynasty Banquet Hall in Hammond, Indiana.

The people of this entire nation, as well as the citizens of Iraq, can be proud of the sacrifice and courage of these fine individuals: CPT Sean Begley, PV2 Alexander Baker, SPC Christopher Bennett, PV1 Adam Branson, SPC David Croyle, PV1 Joseph Gibbs, SPC Jaime Hoch, SPC Muain Issa, SPC Tobey Johnson, SGT Nicholas Kowalczyk, SPC Ashley Sharp, SPC Terry Specyal, SGT Jose Tovalin, SPC Aaron Vance, SPC Michael Vician, SGT Travis Wheatley, SFC William Johnson, SPC Luke Abbott, SPC Daniel Wiley, SPC Joseph Veyette, SPC Enrique Uribe, SSG Mark Tegtman, SPC William Sideris, SPC Aaron Santonelli, SPC Carlos Reyes, SPC Brian Panzik, SGT Donald Mull, PFC William Mills, SPC Angel Lozano, SPC Timothy Bishop, PFC Christopher Boger, SPC Steven Bramer, PV2 David Kuzmar, SPC Jason Loebbaka, SPC Thomas Martinez, PFC Brandon McCormick, SGT David Moake, SSG Stephen Otten, SGT Gershom Parr, SFC Melvin Pennington, SPC Daniel Rubalcava, SPC Vincent Lenart, SPC Allen Hughes, SGT Robert Jaso, SPC Matthew Gabrano, SGT Ryan Bood, SPC Jonathan Bright, SPC Corrie Covelli, SPC Ryan Eder, SGT Michael Guz, SGT Brian Brandenburg, SPC Joshua Buikema, SPC Jonathan Cuevas, SSG Thomas Kopanda, SPC Paul Gordon, SSG Matthew Hamater, PFC Michael Brunsman, and SPC Michael Coughlin.

Mr. Speaker, at this time I ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in honoring the members of the 376th Engineer Battalion, the Men of Steel, for their dedication and courage in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. They will forever remain heroes in the eyes of their families, their communities, and their country. Let us welcome them home and thank them for their commitment to preserve the ideals of freedom and democracy.

## HONORING JAN BORMAN'S COMMITMENT TO THE LABOR MOVEMENT

### HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 31, 2006*

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor the exemplary service that Jan Borman provided for the labor community of western New York.

Jan began her career in the labor force in 1966 as an operator at New York Telephone. She was active as a job steward and then chief steward as a frame tech at the Hertel Central office in Buffalo, NY.

In 1986 Jan was elected area vice president of the Communication Worker's of America, CWA, Local 1122 where she represented New York Telephone, Visiting Nursing Association and Jewish Family Services employees.

As CWA area vice president, Jan extended herself and her talents to several worthy community organizations including: The United Way, Citizens Action, AFL–CIO and the Monsignor Healy Foundation. In 1994 Jan was elected to the Board of Directors of the United Way and was also active on the boards of the Work Force Development Committee, and Independent Health of western New York.

Jan's involvement in organized labor flourished, and she served in several leadership capacities. In 2000, Jan was the first woman ever to be elected as executive vice president of CWA Local 1122. Jan demonstrated her commitment to labor and earned the trust of her fellow members and in 2003 Jan Borman became the first woman President of CWA Local 1122.

Most recently Jan was elected as recording secretary for the Buffalo Council AFL–CIO CLC where she demonstrated her commitment to the organized labor movement.

Jan will be remembered for her dedication and pursuit of just labor causes. Her service enriched the lives of so many men and women who live and work in the western New York area.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to have worked with Jan Borman. She served CWA Local 1122 proudly and with strong conviction. I would like to thank Jan for her service to our community and wish her well in all of her future endeavors.

## HONORING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE HONORABLE JOHN D. DINGELL'S SERVICE IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

### HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 31, 2006*

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, I rise to join my colleagues to honor the dean of the House—a man who over the course of a half century has changed the face of this institution. Over the course of 25 Congresses, serving under 10 Presidents, JOHN DINGELL has embodied the best of public service—of honoring those who elect us to office and fulfilling our obligations to people. His is an ideal each of us, in our own way, hopes to achieve in our time as Members of this institution.

Like his father before him, JOHN DINGELL has made a mark on every Member with whom he has served. He is shrewd, he is tough, and he is as skilled as any public official I have ever known. Indeed, when I was elected to the Congress, one of my first orders of business was to meet with JOHN DINGELL—not to say anything, but to listen. And I will never forget what he told me that day: ''Assist your colleagues when you can—but if they ask for something you can't deliver, just be honest and tell them. Always maintain credibility with your colleagues.'' For 15 years, that advice has stayed with me, helping me serve my constituents and the American people more effectively.

In whatever capacity he has served his country—from his 4 years as a page in this institution as a boy, to his time in the Army when he rose to the ranks of second lieutenant to his half-century in Congress—JOHN DINGELL has served with dignity, with distinction and with historic consequences.

## TRIBUTE TO SPECIALIST ERIC McGONIGLE

### HON. BILL SHUSTER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 31, 2006*

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Specialist Eric McGonigle of the United States Army. Specialist McGonigle was on active duty in Iraq for 3 years, serving in Kuwait, Camp Spearhead, and Operation Iraqi Freedom from April 2003 to April 2004. Not only has Specialist McGonigle served his country abroad, he has protected his community serving as a firefighter for the Duncansville Volunteer Fire Department for the past 5 years.

While serving in Iraq, Specialist McGonigle worked as a truck driver and ran convoys for the Army. He acknowledged the appreciation of the people of Iraq for our continued help. McGonigle continues to serve our country as a member of the Army Reserves in the E–4 332nd Engineering Company of Kittanning, PA.

Now back home in Duncansville, PA, Specialist McGonigle is dedicated to his family and his community. He has been a truck engineer for the Duncansville Fire Department for the past 2 years. His fellow firefighters regard him as a community-oriented man, helping the people around him as much as possible.

Prior to volunteering at the Duncansville Fire Department, Specialist McGonigle volunteered with the Cresson Fire Department. His current fire department chief, Dave Boland, remembers meeting him as a young member of the Cresson Fire Department and hearing what an asset he was to the department. Chief Boland was pleasantly surprised when he moved to Duncansville and began volunteering at the Duncansville Fire Department.

Mr. Speaker, Specialist McGonigle has dedicated much of his life to serving his country and his community, and the citizens of Duncansville and I would like to thank him for his courage and devotion.

## TRIBUTE TO ALI SAHABI

### HON. KEN CALVERT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 31, 2006*

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor Ali Sahabi for his dedication and commitment to improving the community of Corona, California. The Corona Chamber of Commerce honored Ali by presenting him with its 2005 ''Citizen of the Year'' award on January 14, 2006.

Ali is currently the President of SE Corporation, a privately held, California-based land planning, entitlement, and development firm. For nearly 18 years, Ali Sahabi has been an active member of our community, devoting a tremendous amount of time and effort to causes greater than his own.

After spending much of his youth in a middle class family in the country of Iran, Ali was sent to Michigan to live with an uncle and aunt at the age of thirteen. After graduating high school, Ali and his brother drove to California, where they lived in a small apartment with their grandmother and another uncle.

In California, the two brothers worked at a variety of odd jobs and Ali, always the entrepreneur, began trying his hand at different kinds of small business opportunities including sales. He became a print broker and opened his own printing business in downtown Los Angeles. Ali finished his bachelor's degree in business management at Pepperdine University, which he had been working on in the evening, and sold the print shop. Later, Ali obtained his Master of Real Estate Development degree from the School of Urban Planning and Development at the University of Southern California.

Throughout his career, Ali has undertaken a number of development projects across Southern California including industrial, multi-family residential and commercial retail projects. He has been instrumental in implementing innovative planning solutions and environmentally sensitive development plans for the Dos Lagos mixed use development in southwest Riverside County, making it a true model for sustainable development.

Ali is an active and leading proponent of local and regional collaboration and the stewardship of natural resources, establishing and endowing the Blakeley Center for Suburban Sustainable Development at UC Riverside. Through his vision and tireless efforts the Center has contributed to forming alliances across jurisdictional lines bringing individuals, local governments and communities together to address major issues that represent significant challenges for entire regions and communities.

Locally, Ali somehow finds time to play a significant role in a number of non-profit and community-based organizations. He serves notably on the Board of Directors of the Children's Spine Foundation and the Corona Regional Medical Center Foundation, Governor's Mentoring Program, and is active with the American Cancer Society, YMCA, At Risk Children's Angels, Boy Scouts, and ICUC among others.

I want to express my appreciation for Ali's tireless efforts on behalf of our entire community and congratulate him on receiving this award.

## TRIBUTE TO DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY EMPLOYEES FOR WORK IN CLEANING UP ROCKY FLATS

### HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 31, 2006*

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge and praise the extraordinary efforts of so many Department of Energy, DOE, employees in the successful cleanup and closure of the Rocky Flats Nuclear Weapons Facility in Colorado.

Last year, the DOE began the process of certifying the completion of Kaiser-Hill Corporation's cleanup of the Rocky Flats facility. This certification marks the end of an era in our Nation's history. The story of Rocky Flats includes two different chapters that describe human achievement and technological prowess—not only the buildup of our nuclear arsenal during the tense days of the Cold War but also the completion of a remarkably complicated environmental restoration program that is a model for the world.

I believe that the men and women who worked to write both of these chapters in the Rocky Flats story deserve our admiration and appreciation. All involved deserve recognition as heroes of the Cold War era and also heroes in the new era of environmental protection. That includes Federal officials and employees of the Environmental Protection Agency, the Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board and DOE, as well as officials and employees of Colorado's Department of Health and Environmental Protection and the private-sector employees of DOE's contractors.

In December 2005, Kaiser-Hill rightly sponsored a community event that celebrated these achievements. Invitations went to employees of DOE as well as others, but the DOE Office of General Counsel insisted that DOE employees be charged more than other Federal employees to attend this celebration. I objected to this decision because it did not apply to high-ranking DOE officials who had speaking roles at the event, and struck me as an unduly restrictive interpretation of Federal ethical guidelines that sounded a sour note in an otherwise happy occasion. I felt so strongly about it that I decided against attending the event as a message of solidarity with DOE employees.

In part to reinforce my admiration and respect for the hard work of so many DOE employees at Rocky Flats, and to ensure that this

body fully acknowledges their contributions to our national security and our environment, I will place in the RECORD the names of DOE employees who deserve our thanks and an acknowledgement of the service they gave in turning Rocky Flats into a success story:

Jeff Allison, Charlie Anderson, Mariane Anderson, Tod Anderson, Robert Birk, Robert Bistline, Ron Bostic, Gerald Boyd, Ken Brakken, Lisa Bressler, Patti Bubar, Roger Butler, George Cannode, Kathleen Carlson, William Casey, Norma Castaneda, Jack Craig, Hank Dalton, Charlie Dan, Gina Dan, Ann Davis, Paul Detwiler, Glenn Doyle, Patrick Etchart, Jim Fiore, Cliff Franklin, Mark Frei, David Garman, Christine Gelles, Dave George, Fred Gerdeman, Mark Gilbertson, Paul Golan, Robert Goldsmith, Dave Grosek, Kent Grover, Tom Grumbley, James Hartman, Art Haugh, Larry Helmerick, Dave Hicks, Richard Hopf, Rod Hoffman, Gary Huffman, Carolyn Huntoon, Brent Johansen, Elizabeth Jordan, Jeremy Karpatkin, Keith Klein, Joe Legare, Gary Lietz, Ellen Livingston, Frazer Lockhart, Paul Longsworth, Tom Lukow, Karen Lutz, Mary Lynch, Larry Maghrak, Barbara Male, Barbara Mazurowski, Matt McCormick, Steve McCracken, Deanna McCranie, Anna Martinez-Barnish, Greg Moore, Gary Morgan, John Mullarkey, Theresa Nash, Robert Nelson, Ricky Newton, Dennis Oba, Shirley Olinger, Mike Owen, Jim Owendoff, Jeff Parkin, Ray Plieness, Lloyd Piper, Jane Powell, Barbara Powers-Hargreaves, Michael Hargreaves, Richard B. Provencher, William Prymak, Don Rack, John Rampe, William C. Rask, Brad Ring, Jessie Roberson, Mell Roy, Norm Sandlin, Dero Sargent, Rich Schassburger, Roy Schepens, Lance Schlag, Gene Schmitt, John Schneider, Gary Schuetz, Clay Sell, Beth Sellers, Warren Seyfert, Frank Sheppard, Mark Silverman, Dave Simonson, Steve Sohinki, Joe Springer, Jim Steward, John Stover, Scott Surovchak, Maryanne Tinney, Ines Triay, Reginald Tyler, Phil VanLoan, David Vaughn, Patty Wagner, Bruce Wallin, Bob Warther, Kerry Watson, Mike Weis, Ed Westbrook, Dotti Whitt, Elizabeth Wilson and Lam Xuan.

## TRIBUTE TO SSG KEITH A. BENNETT

### HON. C.A. DUTCH RUPPERSBERGER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 31, 2006*

Mr. RUPPERSBERGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise before you today to pay tribute to SSG Keith A. Bennett who faithfully served his country by fighting the war on terror.

He joined the National Guard in February 1997. He was a loyal soldier determined to serve our great Nation. During his time with the Guard, Sergeant Bennett traveled to Saudi Arabia. There, he was a military escort for less than a year.

Bennett, a member of the Second Brigade Combat Team, 28th Infantry Division, was killed by a suicide bomber. While standing guard at a checkpoint which protects a facility where United States Marines train Iraqis to be police officers, an insurgent detonated the explosives leading to Bennett's death.

Sergeant Bennett is survived by his father, Harry E. Bennett of Aberdeen, MD, his mother and stepfather, Carolyn Hasson and Thomas Miller of Holtwood, PA, his sister, Tina Daley, and his stepbrother, Tommy Miller, Jr. His family remembers him as a devoted soldier, son, and brother with a flare for adventure and loving to spend time riding his motorcycle and cruising in his 2003 black Mustang Cobra.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you join with me today to honor SSG Keith A. Bennett for the dedication he has shown to his family, his friends, and the American people.

## TRIBUTE TO BERNARD B. ''SKIP'' GARCIA

### HON. JIM DAVIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 31, 2006*

Mr. DAVIS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise in honor of Bernard B. ''Skip'' Garcia, a legend in Tampa's political circles, an asset to any Tampa politician who ran for office and a staple in the Tampa community.

Skippy helped good people win elections the right way—by knocking on doors, talking to friends and shaking hands. Skippy's energy was boundless. He knew just about everyone in Tampa and they all knew how much he cared for his community. So when Skippy would call, people would listen. For someone who is trying to reach out to voters, that kind of help was essential.

When Skippy wasn't helping win elections, he was always at work for our community. He served in the Merchant Marines during World War II and went on to work as a Hillsborough sheriff's deputy and deputy state fire marshal. Skippy supported the West Tampa Little League, the Boys and Girls Clubs, St. Joseph's Catholic School and Church and the Salesian Sisters, and he was an active Shriner, member of the Scottish Rite and a 32nd degree Mason.

Tampa won't be the same without Skippy. On behalf of the entire Tampa community, I would like to extend my deepest sympathies to his family.

## HONORING BOB BASON UPON HIS RETIREMENT

### HON. LOIS CAPPS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 31, 2006*

Mrs. CAPPS. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to pay tribute to Bob Bason on the occasion of his retirement after 35 years as fundraiser and capital campaign consultant to charities and nonprofits throughout the United States. He is truly an asset to our local community and his work has touched the hearts of people worldwide.

Mr. Bason has spent his life ministering to those in need in a variety of ways. Born in Wisconsin, Bob earned a bachelors and masters in Theology from Fuller Theological Seminary in Pasadena and was ordained in the Methodist Church. In 1967, Mr. Bason left the active ministry to become executive director of an organization working with the church in South and East Africa.

In 1969, Bob, his wife Carol, and their two daughters moved to Santa Barbara—a move they consider to the best decision of their lives. Here, Bob's ministry in the philanthropic community began. He became assistant Director of Development at Westmont College in 1969, Director of Development at the University of California, Santa Barbara in 1972, and Director of Development at the Sansum Diabetes Research Institute in 1974. Also in 1974, Mr. Bason established Charitable Funding Services, Inc., a consulting firm specializing in capital campaigns. In the middle of his consulting career, Mr. Bason joined UCSB as assistant Chancellor for University Relations from 1980 to 1985 and served as the Senior Vice President for Development and Marketing at the Planned Parenthood Federation of America in New York City from 1993 to 1995.

Mr. Bason has conducted more than 130 capital campaigns, raising nearly $1 billion, an accomplishment he attributes to the volunteers with whom he worked. His clients have included universities, colleges, hospitals and medical research institutions, museums, zoos, botanical gardens, churches, private schools and countless social service agencies. Highlights of his consulting career include one of the first national campaigns to end child abuse and a $50 million campaign for the first Africa food crisis.

Bob has volunteered with numerous charities in California and throughout the U.S. With a life-long passion for the work of Planned Parenthood, he is particularly proud of his years as a Planned Parenthood volunteer where he conducted fundraising seminars and trainings for more than 100 Planned Parenthood affiliates across the country and his 15 years as a board member for the local Planned Parenthood and Planned Parenthood Federation of America.

I commend Mr. Bason's gift of talent, passion, and devotion to charitable organizations helping our most needy citizens. His work has been instrumental in making dreams come true and miracles happen. I feel deeply honored to share this community with Bob Bason and I have seen first hand the difference his work has made in the lives of so many. I wish him much happiness and much deserved relaxation in retirement.

## HONORING MR. SCOTT DOYLE

### HON. MARILYN N. MUSGRAVE

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 31, 2006*

Mrs. MUSGRAVE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor an exceptional public servant, Mr. Scott Doyle of Fort Collins, Colorado. Throughout his tenure as Larimer County's Clerk and Recorder, Mr. Doyle has distinguished himself as an innovator and a natural leader.

Mr. Doyle was recently named the 2005 Public Official of the Year by the National Association of County Recorders, Election Officials, and Clerks. This award honors an individual who has made exceptional contributions to both his profession and community.

Two of Mr. Doyle's initiatives as County Clerk and Recorder have received particular recognition. In an effort to provide Larimer County residents more convenient access to county services, Mr. Doyle created the Citizen Information Center. The Citizen Information

Center is located on the first floor of the county courthouse and provides a one-stop-shop for many county services. Furthermore, Mr. Doyle spearheaded the development and implementation of Larimer County's innovative Vote Center concept. This concept has earned national recognition as a cost effective way of implementing the goals and requirements of the Help America Vote Act.

During Mr. Doyle's remarkable career, his commitment to public service has been unmistakable. While serving our country in the Navy, Mr. Doyle worked on nuclear submarines and for Naval Intelligence in Washington, DC. He has also served as a Wyoming State Patrol officer, Public Information Officer for the Wyoming Air and Water Quality Division, and Hazardous Waste Manager for the Larimer County Department of Natural Resources.

Mr. Speaker, I applaud Larimer County Clerk and Recorder Scott Doyle's dedication to his community and urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing Mr. Doyle's unrivaled commitment to public service.

## TRIBUTE TO TINA ARAPKILES

### HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 31, 2006*

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge a dear friend and a good citizen, Ms. Tina Arapkiles. Tina recently ''retired'' from the Rocky Mountain Regional office of Sierra Club to spend more time with her family and other pursuits. I have known Tina for many years and have the highest regard for her work on behalf of conservation and the environment.

Tina's reputation for gentle, but persuasive, advocacy is well known in Colorado and I think it is fair to say that she has admirers from across the broad spectrum of public opinion, and not just from within the environmental community. Certainly, her reputation with members of the Colorado Congressional Delegation (past and present) from both parties has been above reproach.

Advocacy in the public arena is all too often characterized by angry debate and an unhealthy appetite for making villains out of those with whom one disagrees. This has never been Tina's way, and it is much to her credit that she leaves her service at the Sierra Club with a well-deserved reputation for thoughtfulness and respect for others. Her example of quiet, but determined and passionate advocacy, is one I greatly admire.

For the last 20 years, she has been a consistent advocate for protecting the West's land, air, water, and wildlife. She began her work on these matters with a lobbying trip to Washington to help pass the Superfund law in 1985. In 1989 and 1990, she worked with Congress to revise the Clean Water Act and Clean Air Act. She has worked to protect the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge since the inception of the campaign and has been a staunch supporter of Utah wilderness.

She also helped pass the California Desert Protection Act and the Colorado Wilderness Act of 1993. In fact, Tina, some say, single-handedly gained protections for the Wheeler Peak area. She also worked to designate Colorado's first Wild and Scenic River—the Cache la Poudre along Colorado's northern Front Range just north and east of Rocky Mountain National Park.

Because of her work on environmental issues and her reputation for thoughtful advocacy, Tina was invited to be a member of the Denver Post's Community Roundtable in 1995 to discuss international trade issues. She was also appointed in 1992 to the Board of Editorial Contributors for the Rocky Mountain News to offer regular perspectives on environmental policy.

In January of 2000, Tina directed the Southern Rockies Wolf Restoration Project, a coalition of groups and individuals that played a strong role in the Colorado Wolf Working Group, which pushed the State to allow wolves to roam freely throughout the State. Her essay on wolves and camping with her family appears in the recently published collection Comeback Wolves.

She highlights working with Sierra Club volunteers as one of the best memories of her job, as well as attending the signing of the Colorado Wilderness Act of 1993 in Colorado by President Clinton.

In addition to her work in the public arena, Tina has perhaps the more important distinction of successfully raising two children. For anyone who knows Tina, it is clear that her passion for the natural world is directly related to her interest in humanity. She cares deeply about Mother Earth, not because trees are more important than people, but because people need trees and all the other wonders of the natural world in order to be fully human.

Although she is leaving a distinguished career of service on behalf of the environment, and will be missed at the Colorado State capitol and in the halls of Congress, I know she will continue to be active in all the causes that she believes in, and I ask my colleagues to join me in wishing her the very best in her future endeavors.

## TRIBUTE TO MR. JAMES REYOME

### HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 31, 2006*

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, it is with great honor that I congratulate Mr. James Reyome on his retirement as Public Works Director for the Town of Griffith. James has spent over 40 years of his life dedicated to the interests of the residents of Griffith, Indiana. His career in public service has allowed him the opportunity to touch the lives of numerous people.

James has accomplished many visionary goals throughout his career. He started his career with the Griffith Police Department in 1962, where he worked until 1983, spending the last 7 years as Chief of Police. James also worked security at LTV Steel. He then became Lake County Police Chief under then Sheriff Bob Stiglich. In 1997, he was named Town of Griffith Public Works Director, a position his father held for 20 years. However, shortly before assuming the position of Public Works Director, James had a major stroke, followed by 2 milder strokes in 2002 and August 2005, which caused him to speed up his retirement plans.

James's family and friends should be proud of his efforts, as his leadership has served as a beacon of hope throughout the community. His longstanding commitment to improving the quality of life for the citizens in Griffith, Indiana is truly inspirational and should be commended. Our community has certainly been rewarded by the true service, uncompromising dedication, and loyalty displayed by Mr. Reyome.

While James has dedicated a considerable amount of time and energy to his community, he has never limited the time he gives to his most important interest: his family. James and his wife, Anna, have 3 children, 2 grandchildren, and 2 great-grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, I respectfully ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in congratulating Mr. James Reyome for his outstanding devotion to Indiana's First Congressional District. His unselfish, lifelong dedication to those in need is worthy of the highest commendation, and I am proud to represent him in Congress.

## HONORING MARY UBER FOR HER SUCCESSES

### HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 31, 2006*

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mary Uber for her success in overcoming disabilities to become a high quality worker. Please insert the following article from the Jamestown Post Journal of December 18, 2005 into the RECORD.

STATE AGENCY NAMES JAMESTOWN WOMAN ''OUTSTANDING PERFORMER''

Mary Uber of Jamestown recently was honored by the state as an ''Outstanding Performer'' for her success in overcoming disabilities to become a high-quality worker.

Ms. Uber was recognized by New York State Industries for the Disabled as part of its annual program to acknowledge exceptional job performance and personal success by people with disabilities employed on NYSID contracts. She has a job through The Resource Center's Environmental Services division, which employs people with disabilities in janitorial jobs throughout Chautauqua and Cattaraugus counties. Some of its cleaning contracts come to The Resource Center through NYSID.

Ms. Uber has overcome disabilities and a history of short-term job experiences to become a successful member of the Environmental Services team. While lacking in self-assurance at first, Ms. Uber, who now is in her fifth year as a custodian, proved that she had a desire to work and was willing to try any job assigned to her. She has grown tremendously in terms of personal maturity and her ability on the job.

Due to hard work and personal growth, Ms. Uber was promoted to the position of leader of a three-person crew that cleans the Western New York Developmental Disabilities Services Office in Little Valley. As the lead member of the crew, she is responsible for seeing that all cleaning tasks are completed and supplies are on hand. She must also communicate with the customer as well as her supervisor, who says of Ms. Uber, ''She takes charge, thinks on her feet and can lead others.''

With the Resource Center's assistance, Ms. Uber has obtained her driver's license, so she now can transport her crew members and cleaning supplies to Little Valley, and she

also is able to work extra cleaning jobs at some of Environmental Services' other contract sites.

The Resource Center honored Ms. Uber as part of its observance of October as National Disability Employment Awareness Month.

Ms. Uber has overcome many odds to set herself apart and achieve great things, that is why, Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor her today.

## THE PENSION PROTECTION ACT OF 2005

### HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 31, 2006*

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, pension plans are today underfunded in this country by $450 billion—up over 1,000 percent since 2000—and the agency that insures these pension plans, the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation, is $23 billion in debt, facing billions more in possible claims from companies such as Delta Airlines, Delphi, and Northwest Airlines.

Why? Well, my colleagues on the other side of the aisle give the same excuse every time: September 11. We are at war. Times are tough. But during that same time, corporate profits have risen an astonishing 50 percent and CEO compensation has grown even faster. Indeed, USA Today reports that 300 executives responsible for more than three-quarters of a trillion dollars in corporate losses since 2000 were rewarded with salary, bonuses and stock options totaling a staggering $12 billion—$8 million per year.

Times are not so tough for them—and little wonder. As a confidential letter sent to the SEC shows, CEO compensation at many publicly traded companies bears no relation to company performance. But as we all know, pensions do.

And when we talk about pensions and why reform is so badly needed, we should remember who it is that depend on them most—we are talking about people who have worked all their lives and are looking to enjoy their later years with some measure of financial security. Most of the 34 million Americans who are covered by a traditional pension that provides a guaranteed monthly benefit in retirement are not young adults starting out, with their whole careers in front of them—people who can change course at a moment's notice. These are very often seniors, people who have raised families; again, people who have worked their entire lives and paid not only their taxes but their dues to society with the expectation that what they have invested will be returned to them. The least we can do as their elected representatives is tell them that we will ensure that the Government does its part to guarantee that their employers will honor their end of this bargain.

That should be the bedrock principle on which this legislation is predicated, but it is not. H.R. 2830 fails to protect older and longer-service workers that are involved in cash balance pension plan conversions. It does not prevent employers from giving the same conflicted financial advice to their workers that gave us Enron and WorldCom. And perhaps most disturbingly, it fails to stop companies from dumping billions of dollars of unfunded pension obligations onto the PBGC by declaring bankruptcy at the expense of taxpayers and employees.

And let's be clear, that is very much by design. The goal of this Republican majority from the beginning with pension reform these last few years has been the same—relieving companies from their obligations to employees, providing an out to the point where we would have no choice but to switch from a strong pension system to one that leaves retirees in a much more tentative, less secure financial state. And with Republicans in charge these last 4 years, we have almost reached that point—but not quite yet.

But this is not the direction we want to take as a country. And so, I urge my colleagues to make a statement with this vote that says companies do have obligations their workers—that says reforming our pension system is possible but only if we ask employees and employers alike to share in the benefits and the sacrifice. We can do better than this bill and I urge my colleagues to oppose it.

## TRIBUTE TO CPT MICHAEL GONSMAN

### HON. BILL SHUSTER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 31, 2006*

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor CPT Michael Gonsman of the Pennsylvania Army National Guard. Captain Gonsman of Altoona, PA, served in Beiji, Iraq for 11 months. In addition to serving our country on the streets of Iraq, Captain Gonsman serves his home community as a member of the Duncansville Volunteer Fire Department.

Captain Gonsman has dedicated 19 years to the fire department, serving as a truck foreman and a line officer. His fellow firefighters were like family to him, and while it was difficult for him to leave them and his wife and three children, he courageously moved forward to serve his country.

His fellow firefighters have said that he has always been dedicated to serving his country, and he has done just that. Captain Gonsman, who served as company commander, bravely led his soldiers to help the people of Iraq. He loved serving, and felt that the local people appreciated their presence.

Mr. Speaker, Captain Gonsman's fire department chief regarded him as a person who worked to better himself while helping others, and was willing to do anything he can for people in need. Through his service in Iraq and on the Duncansville Volunteer Fire Department, he has proven that he is still that way today. The citizens of Duncansville and I would like to thank Captain Gonsman for his service and dedication to his country and community.

## TRIBUTE TO RADM MICHAEL G. MATHIS

### HON. KEN CALVERT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 31, 2006*

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor Rear Admiral Michael G. Mathis, United States Navy, for his more than 30 years of active duty service to our country. Admiral Mathis most recently served as the deputy commander for Test and Evaluation at the Naval Sea Systems Command and he retired on January 26, 2006.

For over two decades, Admiral Mathis shaped the Navy's strategic planning of surface ship combat systems, from electronic warfare and tactical data systems to advanced radars and several generations of surface-to-air missiles. He is the rare combination of leadership at sea, exceptional engineering and scientific accomplishments, and success as a program executive and program manager. Serving tirelessly as a Navy and Joint leader, including as the Assistant Secretary of the Navy, Chief Engineer, Admiral Mathis kept the spotlight on the RDT&E required to meet the Department of Defense's current and future needs.

In his many years as the leader of the Surface Navy's acquisition professionals, as well as the Navy's senior expert in advanced and future weapons systems, Admiral Mathis instilled pride in generations of naval officers and civilian engineers. A strong proponent of technical proficiency in naval officers, he promoted the Navy's advanced science and engineering degree programs for junior officers.

Admiral Mathis's inspirational leadership and management of the 22,000 men and women of the Naval Surface Warfare Systems Command during wartime has directly contributed to the tremendous record of success in Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom, including the fielding of thermobaric weapons and innovative Force Protection advances developed in his warfare center laboratories. He put the weapons and tools in the hands of the warfighters when they were needed. Most recently, his talents and dedication to our warfighters were further put to use by our country as he served in the Joint Staff as Deputy Director, J–8 for Force Protection.

Throughout his career, the Navy's leadership selected Admiral Mathis for a series of key positions to mold the technical direction of the Navy's Theatre Missile Defense program. His foresight, vision, and management decisions led to the development and continuing success of missile defense programs vital to our Nation's defense. Key among his assignments was as the Director, Joint Theater Air and Missile Defense Organization, where he was responsible to the Chairman and Secretary of Defense for evaluating systems and emerging technologies to determine the optimum mix of surveillance, fire control systems, and the associated battle management system to counter aircraft, cruise missile and ballistic missile threats to our Nation.

More than just a leader providing the technical punch for the global war on terror, Admiral Mathis has focused on maintaining our Nation's technological edge in future weapons systems. He is the senior advocate and leader for the RDT&E in laser and directed energy weapons, inspiring industry and government engineers to solve engineering challenges and ensuring our next generation of warfighters has the weapons needed to win. He has championed the need for battle force, joint, and coalition interoperability and warfighting capabilities, serving as the Single Integrated Air Picture System Engineer for

the Chairman, JCS, and Commander, Joint Forces Command. He also led the development of the Joint Integrated Air and Missile Defense roadmap, and to identify joint solutions to surveillance and command and control challenges.

As the Joint Staff lead for Interagency Homeland Air Security issues, Admiral Mathis most recently worked in close cooperation with USNORTHCOM, NORAD, the Services, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Homeland Security, and the Office of Homeland Security.

On behalf of a grateful nation, I want to express my appreciation for his dedicated service and I wish him well in his retirement from the Navy.

## TRIBUTE TO RON NEELY

### HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 31, 2006*

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Mr. Ronald Neely. Ron passed away in January. He was a passionate and effective leader of historic preservation and community betterment in Georgetown, Colorado, an historic mining town nestled in the Clear Creek Valley along Interstate 70 just east of the Continental Divide.

Ron established a distinguished career in Georgetown on a number of projects, and was known throughout the state as a champion of preserving local history. His accomplishments were recently acknowledged through his selection as the recipient of three simultaneous awards in Colorado: the Stephen H. Hart Award from the Colorado Historical Society, the Dana Crawford Award for Excellence from Colorado Preservation, Inc., and the President's Award from the National Trust for Historic Preservation. No one has ever received all three awards before, which underscores his influence for enhancing community quality of life and historic appreciation, not only in Georgetown, but throughout Colorado and the nation.

Much can be said of Ron and how he affected the lives of many people. Perhaps the best synopsis comes from The Denver Post columnist Joanne Ditmer. In a column appearing in The Denver Post in late November, she wrote:

Counting our Thanksgiving blessings usually is a litany of material things, as well as family and friends who enrich our lives. But this year I'm giving thanks for the people who have vision, commitment and practical know-how to make our communities the best possible places to live.

A sterling example is Ron Neely of Georgetown, who for 35 years has had one goal: to keep that splendid old Victorian mining town as a wonderful place to live and visit. He's a historic preservationist, not just for saving beautiful old buildings, but for preserving and nurturing the unique man-built qualities that make his town one of the most attractive and healthy in the state.

I can think of no other individual who has made such an impact on the looks and spirit of this historic community. He is a visionary, hard-headed and practical, with financial savvy. All over Colorado, those with similar interests see Georgetown as the example of how to get it right, despite some really tough battles along the way.

I agree with these reflections on Ron and his work.

In 1966, Georgetown was named a National Historic Landmark District, among the first designated by Congress. Shortly thereafter, Ron founded and became executive director of Historic Georgetown Inc. (HGI) in 1970. The next year, HGI bought the 1867 Hammil House and converted it into a museum, which showcases how wealthy mine owners and others lived in the harsh environment of the west at the turn of the century. From there, Ron and others went on to purchase and protect a number of historic structures throughout the town.

In addition, Ron helped lead an effort to stop the building of a condominium complex on a mountain above the town. Following that success in 1982, Ron and HGI helped to buy the land on which the development would have occurred in order to keep it as open space. Presently, HGI has secured 2,000 acres of open space on the mountainsides towering above the town. This will not only preserve the historic feel of the area, but it also will protect some of the old mining artifacts and workings on these open spaces.

In 1995, Ron worked with HGI to purchase an old filling station right of the interstate. His vision was to turn this into a Gateway Visitors Center to create an inviting first impression for visitors to Georgetown. Together with HGI and the Colorado Department of Transportation, Ron's vision became a reality when this facility was opened in 2003. Now, the Center sees 300,000 visitors annually.

I had the pleasure of knowing and working with Ron. He continued to work steadfastly on projects and efforts to preserve, protect and enhance the Georgetown community. The town will reap the benefits of his work for years to come. I also had the chance to thank him personally at the ceremony early this year where he received the three awards.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the life and achievement of Ron Neely. His legacy will live on in Georgetown and in others who work to preserve our past and make our communities vibrant places to live, work, raise a family, and appreciate. I have also included a story from the Rocky Mountain News regarding his death and life's work.

[From Rocky Mountain News, Jan. 14, 2006]

NEELY HELPED CREATE HISTORIC GEORGETOWN

(By Mary Voelz Chandler)

Ronald J. Neely's passion for preservation led to the founding of Historic Georgetown, new life for numerous buildings and stature as a wellspring of information for others who battle to save historic sites.

Even a diagnosis in June of amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, the progressive neuromuscular disease also known as Lou Gehrig's disease, didn't temper his love of talking about preservation battles past or present—or future.

But complications from the disease ended his life Friday morning at Lutheran Medical Center. He died at age 66 of respiratory failure.

''Ron is the epitome of a leader who takes on a community with pride and passion and takes it light-years ahead,'' said Dana Crawford, a preservationist and developer, as well as president of Urban Neighborhoods. ''He did so much for that community and for others.''

Mr. Neely moved out of Denver to work at Loveland Ski Area in the late 1960s, tired of the city and eyeing a life on skis. Soon after, he settled in Georgetown and, with friends, in 1970 founded the preservation group that is credited with being the oldest in Colorado.

''A town like this kind of grabs you in a hurry,'' Mr. Neely said last year in an interview with the Rocky Mountain News.

A few weeks before, he had been honored by three preservation groups with the Colorado Historical Society's Stephen H. Hart Award, Colorado Preservation Inc.'s Dana Crawford Award for Excellence in Historic Preservation, and the National Trust for Historic Preservation's President's Award.

During the emotional program at the Oxford Hotel, Crawford looked out at the crowd and said, ''I feel we all went to college together—at Ron Neely University.''

The line brought laughter then; on Friday it brought agreement.

''He was one of the early preservation pioneers in the state and set the standard for the rest of us to follow in how you do it, in what grass-roots preservation is all about,'' said Barbara Pahl, head of the Mountains/Plains Office of the National Trust for Historic Preservation. ''He was one of the best and one of our state's treasures.''

Mr. Neely and Historic Georgetown worked to preserve several buildings in that city and were in discussions about buying and restoring the town's 1874 school building.

His wife, Cynthia Neely, said Friday that effort will continue. When she told the school's owner of Mr. Neely's death, ''He said, 'This will be a different place without him.' And he's right. This will be a different place without him.''

Passion and determination are words that come up often in conversations about Mr. Neely.

''The loss of Ron is a tremendous loss on so many levels,'' said Mark Wolfe, director of the State Historical Fund. ''He symbolized the determination preservation needs to be successful with sensitivity and generosity. I think that is a unique combination. He sincerely cared, not just about preservation, but the way it affected people.''

Survivors include his mother, Fran Phipps, of Arvada; wife, Cynthia, of Georgetown; son, Ronald J. (Burr) Neely Jr., of Fairbanks, Alaska; sister, Cherie DeAngelis, of Arvada; stepson, Ted Wadsworth, of Boston; close friend, Christine Bradley, of Georgetown; and several nieces and nephews.

A tribute will be next week at the Hamill House in Georgetown, though the date has not been set, said Dana K. Abrahamson, executive director of Historic Georgetown Inc.

## RECOGNITION OF MS. CHRISTINE TOLBERT'S EXTRAORDINARY WORK AS AN EDUCATOR

### HON. C.A. DUTCH RUPPERSBERGER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 31, 2006*

Mr. RUPPERSBERGER. Mr. Speaker, it is with great honor that I rise before you today to recognize the efforts of a truly significant person in the education field. Not only is it a privilege to represent her in the Second Congressional District of Maryland, but also to call Ms. Christine Tolbert a friend.

Ms. Tolbert breathed her passion for educating youth into the Hosanna School, known for being the first African-American school in Harford County. As years have past, the school has been adopted by the National Registry of Historic Places, serving as a museum

and as grounds for living history. Ms. Tolbert has been the Executive Director of this project since nineteen hundred eighty.

She took particular interest in this school because her ancestors have lived in Harford County as early as the 1700s. During her years as a student, schools, libraries, theatres, and restaurants were segregated. Here she is able to share with students of all ages the African American history unique to Harford County. Spectators are able to tour the one-room schoolhouse while learning what our fellow Americans have overcome.

This generation's students may be surprised that furthering her education seemed a mere fantasy. However, a friend, Mr. Stephen P. Moore, Jr. showed her family it was not only a reality, but an undeniable opportunity. She attended Maryland State Teachers' College in Bowie, Maryland. Upon graduation, she began work in Harford County Public School where she taught every grade level in elementary school except kindergarten and third grade. Not feeling satisfied there, her thirst for knowledge continued. She went on to obtain a Master's degree from Loyola College in guidance and counseling.

Next, she served as a guidance counselor at Aberdeen High School where she developed Harford School's first Black Heritage Club. She didn't stop there; she also worked with others to form Black Youth in Action. Despite the demands of her current job, Ms. Tolbert sought more for herself. Her quest for reaching students still did not seem complete. Back to school again, this time earning the requirements needed to qualify for an administration position. She served as Supervisor of Elementary and Secondary schools until she retired from the Harford County Public School system.

Retirement didn't last long; she accepted a position as a Career Counselor at Open Doors Career Center. Shortly thereafter, she spread her branches into the college world as she joined the Harford Community College team as an adjunct professor.

Ms. Tolbert has dedicated her life to educating the future leaders of our country. She has received awards from the Maryland Retired Teachers' Association, the National Retired Teachers' Association, and she's received an award for Excellence from Colin Powell's group America's Promise. She's also received Harford County's coveted historic preservation award for her book A Journey Through Berkley Maryland which she co-authored with Constance Beims. She's an inductee of Harford County's Educator's Hall of Fame, and she's received recognition by Governor Hughes for the time she and her husband spent as foster parents.

Mr. Speaker, as you can see from this incredible list of accomplishments Ms. Christine Tolbert is truly an asset to the educational field. Her heart has always been devoted to bettering our nation's youth. She is an advocate for kids of all ages. I have often heard her say that if you guide children in the right direction and educate them, they will be successful. I ask that you join with me today to applaud the tremendous work she has done for this community.

## TRIBUTE TO RALPH C. DELL

### HON. JIM DAVIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 31, 2006*

Mr. DAVIS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise in honor of Ralph C. Dell, a prominent, greatly respected attorney whose passing is a tremendous loss to the Tampa Bay community.

Raised in St. Petersburg, Florida, Ralph graduated from the University of Florida and earned his law degree at University of Florida Law School. Ralph settled down in Tampa and soon cofounded his law practice, Allen Dell, representing clients such as Tampa General Hospital and the Atlantic Coast Line railroad.

Ralph gave all his work his very best, earning acclaim not only from his loyal clients, but also from his colleagues. In 1987, he was selected by the Hillsborough Bar Association to receive the prestigious Herbert Goldberg Award. He also served as a member of the board of governors of the Florida Bar and as a fellow in the American College of Trial Lawyers.

But Ralph will also be remembered for his involvement in his community through a number of local organizations. An active member of the First Presbyterian Church of Tampa, Ralph served as an elder and clerk of session and he taught Sunday school for nearly 60 years.

Ralph's tremendous integrity, vivacious spirit, his dedication to the legal profession and the quality of his work will always be remembered. On behalf of the Tampa Bay community, I extend my deepest sympathies to Ralph's family.

## HONORING THE LIFE OF WARREN M. DORN OF MORRO BAY

### HON. LOIS CAPPS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 31, 2006*

Mrs. CAPPS. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Warren M. Dorn, a longtime resident of Morro Bay, California in my District, who died on January 10, 2006.

A graduate and recipient of the Lifetime Achievement Award of University of California, Santa Barbara, Warren served as Mayor of Pasadena, on the Los Angeles Board of Supervisor from 1956–72, and later, as Mayor of Morro Bay. He chaired the Los Angeles Air Pollution Control District for eight years during his board tenure where he managed to have a profound impact on more than 160 laws improving our air quality. He also played key roles in the creation of the Los Angeles County Music Center and in developing airports, museums, sports areas and medical centers. He was passionate about water conservation and was instrumental in building the California Aqueduct. Throughout his time in public life, Warren Dorn was known for bipartisan efforts with all that he undertook.

This distinguished public servant also had another area of devotion: to his wife of 63 years, Phyllis, and to his three children and their families. Warren and Phyllis co-founded Morro Bay Beautiful in 1980, spending two decades dedicated to keeping area beaches clean.

The city of Morro Bay and the state of California are forever enriched by the contributions of Warren Dorn. His friendships were many, from the famous to the not so famous. Indeed, by his life's work he was a friend to us all.

## RECOGNIZING JOHN TWEEDY OF LANDLOCKED FILMS

### HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 31, 2006*

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Mr. John Tweedy on the success of his documentary film-making company, Landlocked Films. His work is deserving of recognition for its superb quality, emotional realism, and the depth and diversity of its subject matter. John Tweedy's Boulder-based independent documentary video company is co-owned and run in collaboration with his wife, Ms. Beret Strong.

Tweedy's films have won both national and local awards and have been screened at film festivals both in the U.S. and abroad, as well as being broadcast on over 100 Public Broadcasting System affiliates in the U.S. and Canada. Before moving to Boulder, Tweedy received his law degree from Stanford University Law School and an M.A. in Sociology from Brown University. In addition to practicing law and making films, he has worked for the court system of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands on Saipan. His films are as broad-ranging as his background and are inspiring and evocative.

''Lieweila: A Micronesion Story,'' is an apt example of Tweedy's ability to render a compelling history through his art. Using historical footage, old photographs, and the voice of a Refalawasch narrator, Tweedy helps an indigenous people give their history and describe their struggles with colonialism and modernization, creating an educational and inspirational film experience.

His films on the education of children include ''Song of Our Children,'' ''The Dance of Conversation: Strategies for Encouraging Children's Language Development,'' and ''Training 3, from C to B: Age Transitions for Kids with Special Needs.'' John actively participates in local education, serving on the boards of Sojourner Charter School, Horizons Alternative School, and Kids Connections.

In another film, ''Streams of Gold,'' Tweedy makes himself a subject of his own filmmaking. Traveling to southern Ecuador, Tweedy uncovers a piece of his own history by documenting the story of an Andean gold mining town in which his grandparents lived and worked for nearly 30 years. The result is a personal and informational film that has much to say about economics and the modern world.

Landlocked Films also produces videos profiling non-profit organizations, schools, and companies in a way that projects more heart than glitz. Each of the promotional videos is designed and produced as a mini-documentary, allowing the viewer to experience the organization from the inside out. Among recent promotional efforts are ''Mothers Acting Up,'' showing this organization's actions to redefine

the priorities of our national government, and "Teaching from the Heart: Celebrating Ten Years of Horizons Alternative," a film that guides the viewer from the school's founding with archival footage through the present with student interviews.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in expressing our gratitude to John Tweedy for making films that speak to our community socially, culturally, and artistically. We thank him for his film achievements and look forward to appreciating his films for many years to come. I wish him, his wife Beret, and his children, Paige and Marcus, good health and happiness in their future.

## CELEBRATING THE RAWLINGS MUSEUM AND THE MAN WHOSE LEGACY MADE IT POSSIBLE

### HON. MARILYN N. MUSGRAVE

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 31, 2006*

Mrs. MUSGRAVE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the Rawlings Museum in Las Animas, Colorado, and to pay tribute to the man whose legacy made this dream possible.

The Pioneer Historical Museum, which celebrates the history of Bent County, will be housed in the newly restored 106-year-old Odello Lodge building. The project is being spearheaded by the local Pioneer Historical Society and the Bent County Development Foundation, and is funded by a generous gift from Robert Hoag Rawlings, publisher of the Pueblo Chieftain. The gift was given in honor of Mr. Rawlings' late father and civic leader, John W. Rawlings.

Mr. John W. Rawlings served in the Army during World War I and was promoted to the rank of Second Lieutenant shortly thereafter. While in the service, he met Dorothy Hoag who he married in April 1920. After Mr. Rawlings and his wife were discharged in 1919, they took residence in Monte Vista, Colorado and had three children: John William Jr., Robert Hoag, and Dorothy Louise.

In 1941, Mr. Rawlings became president of First National Bank in Las Animas and later became chairman of the board. He was active in the community and sought to promote progress in southeastern Colorado. Mr. Rawlings served as president of the Las Animas Chamber of Commerce. Moreover, Mr. Rawlings was an influential member of the Agriculture Committee of the Colorado Bankers Association and served as the president of the local Lions Club.

As the Rawlings Museum progresses and exhibits begin to open, I urge my colleagues to join me in celebrating the life of Mr. John W. Rawlings and honoring his lifetime of contributions to the Las Animas community.

## TRIBUTE TO CORETTA SCOTT KING

### HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 31, 2006*

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, it is with great sorrow that I rise to remember the late Coretta Scott King. Our nation has lost one of its great leaders, but her memory will live on forever. Her legacy will live on so that future generations will continue to know and fight for the compassion and equality that she treasured so dearly.

With the passing of Coretta Scott King, our country has lost a leader; a leader who dedicated her life to doing what was right and what was just. In order to carry out her legacy—and that of her husband, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.—we must each individually dedicate ourselves to the causes they so passionately believed in.

Equality, justice, and opportunity drive the human spirit forward, and by working on behalf of these principles, Coretta Scott King advanced the causes of mankind. My heart, thoughts and prayers go out to her friends and family. Our nation will miss her greatly.

As we reflect on Coretta Scott King's legacy, we are reminded of the challenges that democracy poses to us and the delicate nature of liberty. Her life reminds us that we must continually fight to secure and protect our freedoms. In her courage to act, her willingness to meet challenges, and her ability to achieve, she embodied all that is good and true in the battle for liberty.

After she married Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., and as a young pastor he began his civil rights work in Montgomery, Alabama, Mrs. King worked closely with him. She organized marches and sit-ins at segregated restaurants while balancing an equally daunting task: raising their four children. She held the family together as it endured the tragic events surrounding Dr. King. Even after her family home was bombed in Montgomery, she persevered—at a time when most would have given up. Those children, Yolanda Denise, Martin Luther III, Dexter Scott, and Bernice Albertine are as much a part of her legacy as her dynamic civil rights work.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues rise in honor of the legacy and life of Coretta Scott King. Her determination and dedication has made our world a better place to live, and I am proud to honor her legacy.

## HONORING TONI AND DAVID "GOOGIE" WILLIS

### HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 31, 2006*

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Toni and David "Googie" Willis of Dunkirk, New York for their leadership in raising funds for the Muscular Dystrophy Association.

This amazing pair of dedicated people have been the organizers for the annual Muscular Dystrophy Association for many years.

Their countless hours of volunteer work should never go unnoticed. These unsung heroes give their all in the effort to raise funds so that others may have a better life.

Through the years Toni and Googie have helped raise $65,000 for the cause. Without their devotion and passion this would never be possible.

Toni and Googie have given their all for a wonderful cause without stopping to think of themselves, that is why, Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor them today.

## THE "NATIONAL LEVEE SAFETY PROGRAM ACT OF 2005"

### HON. JOHN J. DUNCAN, JR.

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 31, 2006*

Mr. DUNCAN. Mr. Speaker, I am very pleased that prior to the end of the 1st Session of the 109th Congress, Subcommittee Ranking Member EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON, Chairman DON YOUNG, Ranking Member JIM OBERSTAR, and I introduced H.R. 4650, the "National Levee Safety Program Act of 2005."

We have seen in the Gulf Region what can happen when hurricane and flood protection infrastructure is inadequate or fails to perform.

The National Inventory of Dams shows that 45 percent of all Federal dams are at least 50 years old; and that 80 percent of them are at least 30 years old.

We know less about the status and capabilities of our levees. We do not know how many levees there are in the United States, we do not know how old they are, and in many cases we do not know who constructed them or who is responsible for their operation and maintenance. There has never been a national inventory of levees.

Over the decades, levees have been built by different entities, at different times, and to different standards. They have been linked together to provide a protective system for a city, but with such a mixture of conditions, the true level of protection may be in doubt.

Every day the Nation's engineers and scientists learn more about the reliability and limitations of dams and levees. New techniques and materials are discovered in the laboratories. Without investments in infrastructure, we cannot benefit from what we have learned.

What is the condition of our hurricane and flood protection infrastructure? What should it be? Do we need to make policy changes to be sure that we are making the best investments of taxpayer dollars? Before we make a massive investment of taxpayer dollars, we need to do an inventory of levees across the United States.

That is why today we are introducing the "National Levee Safety Program Act", to get an inventory of levees in the United States and work with the States to encourage them to develop their own levee safety programs.

We have worked closely with members on both sides of the aisle and the various groups to advance the goal of improving the infrastructure in the most cost effective manner. We have received favorable feedback from diverse parties. The National Levee Safety Program Act of 2005 embraces innovative solutions for these parties and I urge members to support this legislation.

## TRIBUTE TO IRVIN "MIKE" FAULKNER

### HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 31, 2006*

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Irvin "Mike" Faulkner posthumously for his tremendous service to his country and community. Mr. Faulkner passed away on December 12, 2005, and is survived by his wife

Eleanor, children, grandchildren, great grandchildren and great-great grandchildren.

Mike was born in 1919 in Blackwell, Oklahoma. Growing up during the Great Depression, he faced many hardships, but with great determination and a strong work ethic he strived to achieve a better life.

At the onset of World War II, Mike Faulkner answered his country's call. Serving in the Third Army, Mike was involved in many major battles throughout Europe. He stormed the beach at Normandy, survived the Battle of the Bulge and participated in the liberation of Dachau. It was at Dachau that Mike saw the cruelty of the Nazi regime. Mike later shared his story in a documentary on the concentration camps to remind generations to come of some of our world's darkest history.

Upon returning home, he moved to California where he attended Fresno College, known today as California State University—Fresno. He obtained a degree in Biology and a teaching credential. In 1955, he became a teacher with the Madera Unified School District. Many will remember Mr. Faulkner as their favorite biology teacher at Thomas Jefferson Middle School.

In 1960, the science teacher married his beloved Eleanor and together they raised 3 daughters, Glenda, Shirley and Joyce Ann as well as 2 foster children, John and Carolyn Sue Vogel.

One of the crowning achievements of Mr. Faulkner's career in education was as Principal at John Adams Elementary School in Madera, California. As Principal, he was known as a strict taskmaster who was quick to punish you when you did wrong but equally quick to recognize and reward a job well done.

Retirement couldn't keep Mike Faulkner out of the classroom. He continued to lend his years of experience to troubled youth at the Juvenile Hall and the Sugar Pine Continuation School. He served as a substitute teacher at Madera High School and when he wasn't substitute teaching, he spent time baking, sharing stories with friends, and caring for his beloved family.

Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Irvin ''Mike'' Faulkner posthumously for his tremendous service to his country and community. I invite my colleagues to join me in celebrating the life of Irvin ''Mike'' Faulkner and to express the condolences of a grateful Nation to the Faulkner family.

## TRIBUTE TO VIVIAN TESSIERI ON THE OCCASION OF HER RETIREMENT FROM THE U.S. HOUSE COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE

### HON. BART GORDON

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 31, 2006*

Mr. GORDON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on behalf of the Democratic Members and staff of the House Science Committee to recognize a long-time member of the Committee staff—Vivian Tessieri.

Vivian will be leaving the Science Committee early next month after nearly 30 years of devoted service. She is one of the longest serving staff members in the history of the Committee and she will be greatly missed.

Vivian was hired by the Committee on Science in 1977, shortly after legislation passed to significantly expand committee staffs. At that time, the Science Committee had 7 subcommittees and the minority staff (then Republican) grew from 4 to its present size.

I'm told that the rapidly growing staff needed someone to bring order to the chaos, and Vivian—then a young staff assistant with a number of years experience at the General Accounting Office—fit the bill.

Vivian's job has not been easy. Her first assignment was on an extremely busy subcommittee. Vivian jumped right in and brought unprecedented discipline to the operation.

Staff who worked with her assured me that Vivian's years on the Energy Subcommittee were some of its most productive—laying the foundation of energy policy still adhered to today. Vivian excelled at her job and was quickly promoted. When the Full Committee's legislative clerk retired in the early 1980s, Vivian was the obvious choice for that position.

She brought her enthusiasm for organization, common sense to ask questions, and savvy communications ability to the position and it has never been the same.

Generations of members and staff assume that Committee events automatically run smoothly and flawlessly, but the fact is that Vivian has been the force behind the Committee's administrative success.

Even in the midst of her daily workload—endless archiving, copying and maintenance of Committee records—Vivian has always found time to take a personal interest in staff members' legislative issues and keep them informed of related topics moving forward outside of the Science Committee's jurisdiction. She has a keen eye and depth of historical Committee knowledge that is unparalleled.

Only one other Committee employee has worked for the Republicans, then the Democrats, then the Republicans once again. This is a testament to Vivian's unparalleled professionalism and devotion to her job.

Those who have worked alongside Vivian through the years say that to describe Vivian is to combine a high level of competence with an unfailingly helpful, professional and friendly manner. She has been a delight to work with, always dependable and conscientious in her work, while maintaining her serenity and good cheer under pressure.

Vivian loves this institution. Her commitment to her work is a testament to her genuine desire to see members, Committees and staffs succeed for the constituents they serve.

People like Vivian do not come along very often and many times we don't realize their true value until they have gone. Regrettably that time has come. Vivian, we wish you nothing but success and happiness as you take your immense talents to the private sector.

## HONORING CHIEF RICHARD CUPIT

### HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 31, 2006*

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend Chief Richard Cupit for 43 years of service to the Mundy Township Fire Department and community.

Over the past 43 years, Chief Cupit has saved lives, homes, and businesses. His actions have directly impacted the quality of life in Genesee County. His courageous actions saving a life in 1988 and the Chief's assistance during the Clara Barton Nursing Home disaster are just two of many acts that have been singled out by the State of Michigan and Genesee County.

The Mundy Township community has changed since Chief Cupit first started working as a fire fighter for the township in 1963. As he moved up through the ranks the community grew and the nature of firefighting changed. His work with the 800MHz Committee, the Hazmat Committee, the Local Emergency Planning Committee, the Genesee County, Michigan and International Fire Chiefs associations, reflect his strong commitment to serving the people of this community. As the director of county fire department coordination he exhibited the ability to work with a diverse group of peers with competing priorities and often under stressful and life threatening circumstances.

I ask the Congress to rise with me today and congratulate Chief Richard Cupit on a long and illustrious career as a fire fighter and a Fire Chief and extend our best wishes to him as he enters a new phase of his life.

## TRIBUTE TO FOUR WWII U.S. ARMY CHAPLAINS

### HON. SUE W. KELLY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 31, 2006*

Mrs. KELLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the heroism and courageous act of self-sacrifice of four U.S. Army Chaplains. On a chilly February day in 1943 during the perilous times of World War II, these four soldiers selflessly gave their life jackets to their fellow comrades as the USS *Dorchester* sunk to the depths of the Atlantic Ocean. The chaplains may have perished on that fateful day but their memory of sacrifice lives on forever.

The chaplains included: LT George L. Fox, LT Alexander D. Goode, LT Johnny P. Washington, and LT Clark V. Poling. The four honorable men represented differing religious faiths ranging from Catholic to Jewish to Protestant. Not only did each chaplain teach of their respective religion, but with their humble act exercised their faiths inherent principles of goodwill and charity toward others.

I would like to commend the American Legion Argonne Post No. 71 in Brewster, New York, who on Monday, February 6, 2006, will remember the four Army chaplains in ceremony. Honoring the requests of the Argonne Legion post I gratefully join them in remembering February 5th as Four Chaplain's Sunday. As a Nation, it's imperative that we follow the lead of the American Legion and join in honoring these four brave and courageous soldiers.

## TRIBUTE TO MR. WILLIAM LEPSCH

### HON. THOMAS M. REYNOLDS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 31, 2006*

Mr. REYNOLDS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. William Lepsch on the occasion

of his retirement and his dedication to public service.

Mr. Lepsch has made a lifetime commitment to his community and Nation. As a young man, he served our Nation in the army during the Vietnam War. He has spent over 30 years as a member of the Attica Fire Department, serving as Chief, Rescue Squad Captain, EMT, and representing the department on various county and regional boards. He has served the residents of the Village of Attica as a Village Trustee for 10 years, most recently as Deputy Mayor. Mr. Lepsch has also been active in his parish church, serving as a parish board member and parish school volunteer accountant.

Colleagues, friends, and family alike hail Mr. Lepsch as someone who has exemplified genuine concern and dedication to his family and his neighbors and constituents.

It is with a great pride and gratitude that I rise to thank and honor Mr. Lepsch for his many years of commitment and loyalty to the citizens of Attica and Wyoming County.

## HONORING GEORGETTE ''TOOTSIE'' LASKE ON THE OCCASION OF HER RETIREMENT

### HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 31, 2006*

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to join the many family, friends, and community members who have gathered to pay tribute to an outstanding member of the Branford community and a dear friend of mine, Georgette ''Tootsie'' Laske. After twenty-seven years of dedicated service to the Town of Branford, Tootsie has retired from municipal service. Though she will no longer be at Town Hall, I have no doubt that Tootsie will continue to be a fixture in the Branford community.

A life-long resident of Branford, Tootsie graduated from Branford High School where she was an active and skilled athlete. Playing basketball, field hockey, volleyball, and gymnastics, Tootsie was recognized in 1999 for her accomplishments with induction into the Branford Sports Hall of Fame. After high school, Tootsie began working for Security Insurance Company and Nationwide Insurance. However, in 1978, Tootsie was hired by then Town Clerk Peter Abondi as Branford's Assistant Town Clerk—a position which she held until her election as Town Clerk in 1992. In her many years of service at Town Hall, Tootsie has made residents and non-residents alike feel welcome with her complimentary Tootsie Roll candies. Her kind heart and special way with people made her a popular figure at Town Hall and there is no doubt that her presence will be missed.

Tootsie's dedication to her community extended far beyond her work at Town Hall. Our communities would not be the same without those individuals who so willingly volunteer their time and energy on behalf of others. Throughout her lifetime, Tootsie has been this kind of community member—always willing to help in any way that she could. Whether it was as a volunteer for the Special Olympics World Games Connecticut in 1995, as a longtime member of the Italian-American Women's Auxiliary of Branford, or her work with a multitude of local civic organizations, Tootsie's unwavering efforts have touched the lives of many. I have no doubt that, though she will be enjoying her retirement, Tootsie will continue to find ways in which she can enrich the community as well as the lives of others.

I am also glad to have this opportunity to extend my personal thanks and sincere appreciation to Tootsie for her many years of support and friendship. Tootsie is an extraordinary woman and I consider myself privileged to call her my friend.

For her countless hours of service, both professionally and personally, to the Town of Branford, I am proud to rise today to join her husband, James; her four children, Kathleen, Nancy, Thomas, and James; her eight grandchildren, Jenna, Bridget, Kelly, Scott, Mikayla, Patrick, Allison, and Kirsten; family, friends, colleagues, and community members in extending my sincere congratulations to Georgette ''Tootsie'' Laske as she celebrates her retirement. Her generosity, compassion, and good heart have left an indelible mark on the Branford community and a legacy that will inspire generations to come. My very best wishes for many more years of health and happiness.

## HONORING THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF CATHOLIC CHARITIES OF SAN JOSE'S REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT PROGRAMS

### HON. ZOE LOFGREN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 31, 2006*

Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise to acknowledge and honor Catholic Charities of San Jose's 25th anniversary of its refugee resettlement programs.

Less than 1 percent of the refugees in camps are accepted by Western countries for resettlement. Refugees who have already suffered unthinkable crimes and injustices are often forced to wait in camps for as long as 10 years before being interviewed for consideration. The very lucky few who are accepted for immigration to the United States often arrive with little to no money, few, if any, family and only the hope and dream of a better life.

To ease this very difficult transition, Catholic Charities meets these refugees at the airport and begins the resettlement process immediately. They and their team of committed volunteers provide financial support for housing, food, clothing and other necessities, medical care, case management and independent living skills training such as budgeting skills, housing assistance and food preparation.

In their 25 years of dedication and hard work, over 20,000 refugees have been assisted in their quest to build a better life for themselves and their future generations. Catholic Charities of San Jose provides these valuable services at no cost to the immigrant.

This program is one of many that Catholic Charities provides in its overall vision of transforming lives. This wonderful organization strives to empower meaningful, quality living through economic, familial and emotional stability. Catholic Charities serves people of all beliefs, cultures, ethnicities and ages and serves a diverse population from various ethnic backgrounds and provides services in 17 languages.

It is indeed an honor and a privilege to have a warm, welcoming and nurturing organization in my district that appreciates and honors the diversity that makes America, and specifically San Jose, California, a desirable place to live, work and raise a family.

## TRIBUTE TO THE GARY FRONTIERS SERVICE CLUB

### HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 31, 2006*

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, as we celebrate the birth of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., and reflect on his life and work, we are reminded of the challenges that democracy poses to us and the delicate nature of liberty. Dr. King's life and, unfortunately, his untimely death remind us that we must continually fight to secure and protect our freedoms. Dr. King, in his courage to act, his willingness to meet challenges, and his ability to achieve, embodied all that is good and true in the battle for liberty.

The spirit of Dr. King lives on in the citizens of communities throughout our Nation. It lives on in the people whose actions reflect the spirit of resolve and achievement that will help move our country into the future. In particular, several distinguished individuals from Indiana's First Congressional District will be recognized during the 27th Annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Breakfast on Monday, January 16, 2006, at the Genesis Center in Gary, Indiana. The Gary Frontiers Service Club, founded in 1952, sponsors this annual memorial breakfast.

This year the Gary Frontiers Club will pay tribute to five local individuals who, for decades, have unselfishly contributed to improving the human condition of others in the City of Gary. Those individuals who will be recognized as Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Marchers at this year's breakfast include: Reverend Norman L. Hariston Sr., who is retired and a member of St. John Baptist Church; Dr. Alfonso D. Holliday II, a semi-retired physician who served Gary residents and is now a consultant; Roosevelt Haywood Jr., activist and former Gary City Councilman; Willie Kuykendall, a 1960's voting activist; and Cherrie B. White, a retired activist, will receive the 2006 Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Drum Major Award.

The late Mrs. Rosa Louise Parks will become the only person to receive a Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Honorary Drum Major Award for her single courageous act of dignified defiance on December 1, 1955, which set in motion the Modern Civil Rights Movement.

Though very different in nature, the achievement of all these individuals reflect many of the same attributes that Dr. King possessed as well as the values he advocated. Like Dr. King, these individuals saw challenges and rose to the occasion. Each one of the honored guests' greatness has been found in their willingness to serve with ''a heart full of grace and a soul generated by love.'' They set laudable goals, and they worked hard to achieve them.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in commending the Gary Frontiers Service Club:

President Floyd Donaldson, Breakfast Chairman Oliver Gilliam, Breakfast Co-Chairman Clorius L. Lay, Master of Ceremonies Alfred Hammond, Melvin Ward, and all other members of the service club for their initiative, determination, and dedication to making Northwest Indiana a better place for all who live and work there.

## SALUTING THE TENNESSEE ARMY NATIONAL GUARD'S 168TH MILITARY POLICE BATTALION

### HON. JIM COOPER

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 31, 2006*

Mr. COOPER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to salute an outstanding group of men and women—the Tennessee Army National Guard's 168th Military Police Battalion of Lebanon, TN. On Sunday, February 5, the 168th will receive the Valorous Unit Award at a special presentation at the Armory in Lebanon.

The Valorous Unit Award is one of the Nation's most prestigious military awards. It is presented to units of the Armed Forces of the United States for extraordinary heroism in action against an armed enemy of the United States while engaged in military operations involving conflict with an opposing force. To receive this award, a unit must have performed with marked distinction under difficult and hazardous conditions in accomplishing its mission so as to set it apart from, and above, other units participating in the same conflict. Its equivalent in individual awards is the Silver Star.

I know all Tennesseans, and all Americans, join with me in thanking the 168th for their bravery, their commitment and their selfless service while in Iraq.

The 168th received its award for performance of duties from May 20, 2003 through January 31, 2004. While they performed many duties, some of their key accomplishments during their service were to establish law and order operations in all of east Baghdad, establish Iraqi police stations, train Iraqi police officers and establish an Iraqi police academy. The battalion coordinated numerous offensive operations and patrols within its area of operations under very austere conditions. They were responsible for confiscating numerous weapons caches, counterfeit money, and ammunition. And they frequently provided escort and security service to convoys in the region.

During their service, the 168th Battalion and its subordinate units receive numerous Bronze Stars, Purple Hearts, and Army Commendation Medals for Valor. Their service was one that required heroism and courage on a daily basis.

I am honored to serve as the Congressman for Lebanon and privileged to represent these men and women in Washington. We are all blessed to live in the greatest country in the history of the world. And we are particularly blessed that men and women, like the members of Tennessee's 168th Military Police Battalion, willingly put their lives on the line every day so that we may continue to enjoy freedom here at home.

Words cannot adequately thank the members of the 168th for their exceptional service. But I want to take this moment, and this occasion of their Valorous Unit Award presentation, to salute them on behalf of all Americans for their heroic service to our country and to freedom around the world.

## HONORING ST. XAVIER UNIVERSITY ON ITS 50TH ANNIVERSARY

### HON. DANIEL LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 31, 2006*

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor as a community St. Xavier University and to celebrate its 50th Anniversary. St. Xavier is located in Chicago's Mount Greenwood neighborhood.

When founded in 1846 by the Sisters of Mercy, St. Xavier was a Catholic institution grounded in the tradition of the liberal arts. As one of 18 colleges and universities sponsored by the Sisters of Mercy, St. Xavier has evolved into an institution that seeks to provide its students with the meaning of scholarship, the support of the community, and the spirit of moral and ethical sensibility.

Although a Catholic university of approximately 5,700 students, St. Xavier welcomes students of all faiths and religious backgrounds. Because of its rich traditions and commitment to excellence St. Xavier has become one of Chicago's premier collegiate institutions for students studying nursing, business, as well as education.

It is my honor to recognize this school and its many achievements both academically and athletically. In addition, I commend St. Xavier University for fostering the intellectual and cultural growth of the administration, faculty and students who all play a vital role in the success of the university's existence in today's society.

## TRIBUTE TO THE TOWN OF GUADALUPE, ARIZONA ON THE 31ST ANNIVERSARY OF ITS INCORPORATION

### HON. ED PASTOR

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 31, 2006*

Mr. PASTOR. Mr. Speaker, I rise before you today to pay tribute to the Town of Guadalupe, Arizona, a community in my district which I proudly represent, on the occasion of the 31st Anniversary of its incorporation. Named after the patron saint of Mexico, the Virgin of Guadalupe, this culturally-rich community is home to about 5,500 residents.

Guadalupe was founded by Yaqui Indians around the turn of the century when they fled their traditional homeland along the Yaqui River in Sonora, Mexico to avoid persecution and enslavement by the Mexican government under Porfirio Diaz. When the Yaqui people fled as refugees, many were able to find a home in the Salt River Valley's agricultural economy. One of the villages was in south Tempe, just north of the present Guadalupe site. A missionary Franciscan Friar, Lucius Zittier, petitioned President Woodrow Wilson for 40 acres of land so the Yaqui could permanently settle. The site, undesirable as uncultivable, is located in the center of the present community, known as ''La Cuarenta,'' or ''The 40,'' as some still call it today.

Guadalupe also became home to many Hispanic families over the years, and it has become a stopping point for Mexican immigrant workers. As the community has grown, it has demonstrated its resilience in the face of difficult economic times, poverty, and racism.

Many young men of Mexican and Yaqui descent answered the call for military service and defended our country. Dozens of Guadalupe veterans' names are on the rolls of those who served, and many paid the ultimate sacrifice.

In the early 1960s, Guadalupe Organization, Inc., was formed and it began to identify and address the community's needs. Many services taken for granted in other communities were not provided in Guadalupe and residents began to get organized. A new voting precinct in Guadalupe was formed, and U.S. Sen. Carl Hayden was instrumental in securing home mail delivery for residents. As the Guadalupe Organization advocated for community betterment and educated residents about civil awareness, many small victories were achieved for the community. The organization prevented a freeway from being built through the center of Guadalupe, opened a dental clinic with volunteer dentists, fought discrimination against Guadalupe students, and most notably, led the charge for incorporation.

Neighboring cities had mostly rebuffed Guadalupe and its residents until property values soared. To stop annexation attempts and preserve their community's rich culture, the Guadalupe Organization began incorporation efforts and the Citizens Committee to Incorporate Guadalupe was formed. It was led by Mr. Andres ''Andy'' Jimenez, who served as president of the group. Election results of Feb. 4, 1975, which showed an 83 percent voter turnout, approved the plan of incorporation, and the Town of Guadalupe was born.

Since then, the Town of Guadalupe has been a leader in demonstrating concern for its residents and passing progressive policies. The Town Council was the first in Arizona to ban smoking in public places. It declared a paid Cesar Chavez Holiday for Guadalupe town employees. The town has also donated land for construction of educational and recreational entities.

Maricopa County Community Colleges also have established a branch of South Mountain Community College in Guadalupe with its rental fee subsidized for many years by the Guadalupe Organization. Guadalupe had one college graduate in 1960 and one in 1967. Now graduates at all levels, from high school to Ph.D., call Guadalupe their home.

As you can see, Guadalupe is a community rich with the traditions of three cultures, deeply devoted to the welfare of its residents, and the prosperity of its community. As the former director of the Guadalupe Organization, I feel a special bond to this community and take great pride in its progress. This bond is felt by many, as children follow in their parents' footsteps, opting to make a home in Guadalupe as they begin to make a life of their own. Ironically, the current Mayor of Guadalupe is Ms. Bernadette Jimenez, daughter of Andy Jimenez, who led the Citizens Committee to Incorporate Guadalupe.

In honor of the success of this community and its residents, I ask my colleagues to

please stand and join me today in paying tribute to the Town of Guadalupe, Arizona, on the occasion of the 31st Anniversary of its Incorporation.

## SUPPORT FOR JOHANNA'S LAW

### HON. KAY GRANGER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 31, 2006*

Ms. GRANGER. Mr. Speaker, I would like to draw attention to a disease affecting women throughout the United States. According to the American Cancer Society, ovarian cancer accounts for 3 percent of all cancers among women and over 22,220 new cases are expected to be diagnosed this year in the U.S. Unfortunately, the death rate for this disease has remained steady in the last 50 years.

I am a proud cosponsor of Johanna's Law which would create a national public education campaign to increase awareness of gynecologic cancers, including ovarian cancer. The legislation will also provide grants to local and national organizations to increase such awareness among women and health professionals. Johanna's Law is named after Johanna Silver Gordon who died of ovarian cancer in 2000.

It is essential that ovarian cancer, like all gynecologic cancers, be detected in the earliest stages of the disease because it is more easily treatable at that time. Unfortunately, as the cancer progresses, it becomes more difficult to treat and is generally fatal in later stages. Johanna's Law would help women to recognize their symptoms and encourage regular check-ups, thereby preventing many of these cancers from becoming terminal. The best hope of survival is early detection.

I would like to highlight language in the FY2006 Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education Appropriations bill, which addresses key goals of Johanna's Law. Specifically, this report language directs $100,000 for a national education campaign concerning gynecologic cancer, with an emphasis on early detection. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, CDC, and the Secretary of Health and Human Services', HHS, Office of Women's Health will work together to coordinate these education and outreach efforts.

As a member of the Labor-HHS Subcommittee, I am proud of this important first step in helping to educate women and health care professionals about gynecologic cancer. I look forward to working with my colleagues to continue our public education efforts and pass Johanna's Law in the 109th Congress.

## IN RECOGNITION OF JUDGE HILDA R. GAGE

### HON. JOE KNOLLENBERG

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 31, 2006*

Mr. KNOLLENBERG. Mr. Speaker, I want to recognize the extraordinary career and accomplishments of the Honorable Hilda R. Gage as she retires this year. I am honored to recognize her service to Michigan and Oakland County as Judge of the Michigan Court of Appeals and the Oakland County Circuit Court.

Judge Gage has long been an influential woman in both Oakland County and Michigan. Elected to the Oakland County Circuit Court in November of 1978, she presided there for three terms before she was appointed to the Michigan Court of Appeals by Governor Engler. She is retiring this year after a combined total of 37 years of service in Michigan courts.

While presiding, Judge Gage has been honored by many associations for her exemplary service. She is widely regarded as a very influential woman not only in the State of Michigan but nationally as well. In March 2002 she was recognized by Corp! Magazine as one of "Michigan's 95 Most Powerful Women" and has been honored by the Women's Bar Association in December, 2000 for her contributions to the practice of law, improving the legal system, and her dedication to the community. Additionally, she was given the Roberts P. Hudson Award in October 1991, by the State Bar of Michigan for Outstanding Contributions to the Bar. This is the highest honor bestowed by the State Bar.

Judge Gage is also credited with many "firsts" throughout her judicial career. She was the first female chairperson of the National Conference of State Trial Judges in 1986 and holds the same distinction for the Michigan Judicial Tenure Commission in 1991. She also chaired and helped to originate the State Bar of Michigan Judicial Conference, holding the chair of that conference from its inception in 1982 through 1984. This conference was the first organized body in which the circuit, probate, and district judicial associations meet on a regular basis. Finally, she was the first recipient of the Award of Judicial Excellence, given by the National Conference of State Trial Judges and American Bar Association in August of 1994.

Judge Hilda Gage has served Oakland County and the State of Michigan with honor and pride for the duration of her career and I am honored to thank her for her commitment to justice and integrity.

## IN RECOGNITION OF THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BOARD OF COOPERATIVE EDUCATION SERVICES, BOCES, MONROE COUNTY, NY

### HON. JAMES T. WALSH

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 31, 2006*

Mr. WALSH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the Board of Cooperative Educational Services, BOCES' 50th anniversary. Enacted in 1948, New York State Legislature and the New York State Education Department sought a way to offer districts an even stronger cooperative network. In 1955, school board members from several eastside Monroe County school districts petitioned the State Education Department for a BOCES to serve their area. On January 5, 1956, Monroe BOCES was established.

Boards of Cooperative Educational Services, or BOCES, are public education collaborative that function as extensions of local school districts. A BOCES helps school districts provide quality programs and services that are more economical to offer cooperatively, sharing costs with other districts. The function of a BOCES is to provide shared services to the component school districts, providing efficiency, effectiveness and equity for students.

Monroe BOCES provides support for thousands of individuals, from newborns to adult students, to help them achieve success and improve the quality of their lives. BOCES coordinated more than 86 programs and services that helped students of diverse backgrounds and abilities discover their learning potential in an environment that benefited all students. More than 5,500 students from the 10 suburban school districts in eastern Monroe County attended BOCES programs. BOCES also served school districts by helping their students meet the State learning standards in specialized areas.

BOCES programs and services provide valuable hands-on learning opportunities for students that they might not experience otherwise, opportunities such as career and technical training, workplace preparation and internships, as well as a network of services for transitioning to the workforce.

An organization such as Monroe BOCES will sustain itself and continue to coordinate innovative educational enrichment programs, from the arts to technology, to help students reach beyond classroom walls.

It is my honor to recognize and congratulate Monroe County BOCES on its continued success and 50th anniversary.

## TRIBUTE TO JOSEPH MATTHEW GONDOLA

### HON. BILL PASCRELL, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 31, 2006*

Mr. PASCRELL. Mr. Speaker, I would like to call your attention to the life and work of an outstanding individual whom I feel fortunate to call my friend, Mr. Joseph Matthew Gondola. He was recognized on Sunday, January 15, 2006, on the occasion of his retirement after 42 years of service to the United States Postal Service, USPS.

Joseph Gondola is the youngest of seven children, having five sisters and one brother. Over the course of his childhood, he overcame frequent hospitalization, where he received treatments for medical ailments ranging from septic poisoning to the dreaded disease, polio. Through it all, Joseph persevered and he did not allow his health problems to prevent him from accomplishing his goals.

Joseph attended Central High School in Paterson, where he began his academic growth. This experience was translated effectively to Montclair State College where he received his bachelor of science and master of arts degrees, both cum laude. From that point, he continued his pursuit in higher learning at Seton Hall University.

At age 31, Joseph was appointed Clifton postmaster by Representative Charles Joelson, NJ-8th, making him the youngest postmaster for that size postal district. Over the course of his term, he served the USPS as officer in charge in Jamestown, PA, and Newark, NJ. He has hosted and chaired many safety committee meetings in his Clifton office, and served on several review boards. He is

very proud that several of his employees have also become postmasters under his guidance.

Joseph has remained active in NAPUS, previously serving as president of the New Jersey Chapter, area vice-president, national legislative chairman, and postmaster representative. In 1981, he was elected to a 2-year term as the national president of NAPUS, a position that he currently holds. He also serves as president of the NAPUS Federal Credit Union. He has served, on numerous committees for the American Cancer Society, Boy Scouts of America, and Saint Andrew the Apostle Church in Clifton, NJ.

Joseph's tenure at both the USPS and NAPUS is a testament of his character and a remarkable story of one person's belief in the power of public service. It is only fitting that Joseph Matthew Gondola be honored for his commitment to improving the quality of life in Clifton, and on a national level through the postal service, in this, the permanent record of the greatest freely elected body on earth.

Joseph remains happily married to Dorothy, his wife of 46 years, with whom he has three children, Mark, Kristen, and Jennifer, and eight adored grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, the job of a United States Congressman involves so much that is rewarding, yet nothing compares to recognizing the efforts of devoted public servants like Mr. Joseph Matthew Gondola. I ask that you join the city of Clifton, the employees of the USPS, Mr. Gondola's family and friends and me, in recognizing Joseph Matthew Gondola for his years of outstanding service to the citizens of our great Nation.

## HONORING THE LEGACY OF CORETTA SCOTT KING

### HON. KENDRICK B. MEEK

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 31, 2006*

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the passing of a tremendous voice in the struggle for equality, Coretta Scott King.

Mrs. King was best known as the wife of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., but she was a key advocate for civil rights in her own right.

Mrs. King was with Dr. King when he received the Nobel Peace Prize in 1964 and marched by his side in the Selma march.

Following Dr. King's assassination in 1968, Mrs. King championed her husband's work, leading the effort to establish a national holiday in her husband's honor, and founding the Martin Luther King Jr. Center for Non-Violent Social Change in Atlanta, a center dedicated to learning and activism.

She worked to keep Dr. King's dream alive by keeping his ideology of equality and social change at the top of our Nation's agenda. She became a symbol of her husband's struggle for peace and brotherhood, but developed a voice separate from that of her late husband. She branched out from issues of race and was outspoken on a number of international human rights concerns.

Mrs. King continued her husband's mission with a keen sense of devotion. She has kept his work alive and evolved his mission of equality to confront new times and new challenges. We must now work to renew our community's commitment to the ideals that Mr. and Mrs. King embraced, and ensure that generations to come never forget the groundbreaking contributions of these two legends.

## A TRIBUTE TO FLORENCE GERTRUDE BAKER

### HON. ROBERT E. ANDREWS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 31, 2006*

Mr. ANDREWS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the 100th birthday of Florence Gertrude Baker of Collingswood, New Jersey. A dedicated kindergarten teacher for 46 years, Ms. Baker has served my community well throughout her lifetime.

During World War II, Ms. Baker organized and served as Co-Chair of the Collingswood Veterans' Service Council. As Chair, she organized military wives in Collingswood and helped to provide them with many beneficial programs. During that time, she began a lifelong commitment to service through the Red Cross. Ms. Baker served as a Red Cross Gray Lady and spent numerous hours at Fort Dix and Walson Army Hospital. Additionally, she was a Red Cross Canteen worker and over the years has chaired many successful Red Cross Blood Drives. These are just a few of the many charitable works to which she has devoted her time and energy.

I stand here today to commend Ms. Baker, as so many other groups have before. She has educated our children, cared for our wounded, and been a shining example of civic responsibility and dedication. Happy Birthday, Ms. Baker, and thank you for your decades of generosity and service.

## ELMONT MEMORIAL JUNIOR-SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL RECEIVING THE DISPELLING THE MYTH AWARD

### HON. CAROLYN McCARTHY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 31, 2006*

Mrs. McCARTHY. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to announce that on November 3, 2005, Elmont Memorial Junior-Senior High School, which is in my district, was honored with the Dispelling the Myth Award at the Education Trust National Conference.

Elmont Memorial is one of five schools recognized for "dispelling the myth" that poor and minority children cannot learn to high levels. At Elmont, 75 percent of the students are African American, 12 percent Latino, and 24 percent are low income. Most ninth-graders become seniors and almost every senior graduates, with a majority going on to attend 4-year colleges. In 2004, Elmont had the Nation's highest number of African-American students who received college credit on the Advanced Placement World History exam.

The success at Elmont Memorial is due in no small part to its staff. Former principal, Al Harper, who is now the superintendent of the Elmont Union Free School District, has said "Because a child is poor doesn't mean he can't learn." With the high standards set at Elmont, Principal John Capozzi takes pains to ensure teachers are carefully selected, and teachers are forewarned about the intense expectation at the school. Teachers at Elmont Memorial are considered to be part of a larger enterprise with a lot of support and encouragement, not punishment. Elmont Memorial's staff takes a coherent approach to both instruction and the building of personal relationships among adults and students which has led to high achievement.

In addition to former Principal Harper, and Principal Capozzi, Elmont Memorial boasts many other superb staff members including: Alicia Calabrese, English chairperson; Karen Dunkley, social studies teacher; Russell Marino, math teacher; Baytoram Ramharack, social studies chairperson; Wendy Tague, English teacher; Chris Yee, art and technology chairperson. Elmont also has a hardworking, driven and determined student body. Many students are in the school building long after classes end, as part of clubs, sports, or getting help from teachers.

Elmont Memorial's success can be attributed to school system unity, a supportive school board and superintendent, teachers, administrative staff and the students themselves. Mr. Speaker, it is with pride and admiration I offer my congratulations to Elmont Memorial.

## TRIBUTE TO CORETTA SCOTT KING

### HON. BENJAMIN L. CARDIN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 31, 2006*

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. Speaker, "Struggle is a never ending process. Freedom is never really won—you earn it and win it in every generation."—Coretta Scott King

Coretta Scott King not only spoke those words, she lived them. Today, America mourns her passing at age 78, and we celebrate her remarkable life.

So many images of Mrs. King's life are etched on the American canvas, and we recall them on this day.

Her exuberance as she marched alongside Dr. King, JOHN LEWIS, Ralph Abernathy, and Andrew Young through the 1950's and 1960's South, blazing new paths of hope for the disenfranchised.

Her joy as she called upon her New England Conservatory of Music training to organize Freedom Concerts across the country raising money for the movement.

Her grace in the depths of sorrow as she comforted her four young children at Dr. King's funeral in 1968.

Her steadfast commitment to justice as she opened the King Center for Nonviolent Social Change in Atlanta in 1969 and continued to speak out against injustice everywhere.

And her beaming smile as she watched President Reagan sign into law the 1983 bill establishing the third Monday in January as a Federal holiday honoring her husband.

What would have shattered many others instead became a source of strength for Mrs. King. Throughout the nearly 4 decades that followed Dr. King's assassination, this daughter of the segregated South continued to carry the mantle of nonviolent social change, addressing students and activists, writing books,

and inspiring new generations to continue the struggle. America is a better place because of Coretta Scott King's life.

Our thoughts and prayers are with Marty, Dexter, Yolanda, and Bernice, who following in the steps of their legendary parents, have dedicated their lives to achieving equality through peace.

## CONGRATULATIONS TO BRUSH ENGINEERED MATERIALS INC.

### HON. STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 31, 2006*

Mrs. JONES of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 75th anniversary of Brush Engineered Materials Inc., a company that has been a pillar of the Cleveland business community and which, I hope, will continue to be an important part of our city and our regional economy for years to come. The company's predecessor was incorporated on January 9, 1931, to develop innovative applications for beryllium. These applications play a significant role in many aspects of our lives, from early diagnosis and treatment of disease to critical areas of homeland security and national defense.

It is well known that for more than a hundred years the City of Cleveland has been a major center of this country's industrial might, providing the essential goods and services needed by fellow citizens throughout the United States and, indeed, by people throughout the world. In addition to its economic contributions, Cleveland has been a world-class center of learning, of the arts and music, and of medical research and health care. It is a city with a proud and productive tradition.

In recent years, like many other cities in the Midwest, Cleveland has been buffeted by a national economic downturn, exacerbated by competition overseas. A number of our Cleveland companies have been forced to close down, others cut their payrolls, still others relocated.

Brush Engineered Materials has never wavered in its commitment to the City of Cleveland. Headquartered for all of its 75 years within the city, it provides quality employment and payroll tax revenues, business opportunities for suppliers and vendors, property taxes, and a measure of hope for its Collinwood-Nottingham neighborhood.

This Cleveland company played a major role in defending freedom and providing support for our armed forces in World War II, in lowering the Iron Curtain, in developing the Nation's space program, in increasing the efficiency of oil exploration, improving the mileage of our automobiles, saving lives through mammography X-ray and other medical imaging equipment, and saving lives on the road through air bags and improved automotive braking systems. It also provides essential parts for the computers and cell phones that keep us connected every day.

In today's military, it helps save the lives of our brave men and women in uniform in Iraq and Afghanistan by providing infrared and optical sensors for radar and navigation systems and unmanned aerial vehicles. And in homeland security, materials from Brush are used in air traffic control radar, airport X-ray inspection, wireless communications, global positioning systems and other applications.

Brush Engineered Materials of Cleveland has provided 75 years of innovation in beryllium and non-beryllium materials that have benefited our Nation in many fields. It has also established a tradition of public service and commitment to the community in which we can all take pride. I congratulate the people of Brush Engineered Materials for their many achievements and wish them continued success.

## TRIBUTE TO DIANA L. GOLDBERG

### HON. STENY H. HOYER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 31, 2006*

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor Diana Goldberg, one of my closest friends. Diana is stepping down as Chairman of the Board, a post that she has held since 2002, for the Children's National Medical Center in Washington, DC, one of the finest pediatric institutions in the Nation.

The leadership, work and generosity of Diana and her husband, Stephen, have helped to make our Nation's Capital a stronger, healthier community. Diana has been heavily involved with Children's Hospital for the past 20 years. She has served on the Child Health Center Board, of which she was president from 1994 to 1996, and the boards of Children's Hospital Foundation, of which she was chairman from 1999 to 2001, Children's Hospital, and, eventually, Children's National Medical Center. However, her dedication to the health of children in the Washington Metropolitan region extends far beyond her leadership positions. Diana has taken a hands-on approach to volunteering and given countless hours of her time to ensuring that the patients receive the care that they need, while Diana herself has continued to be personally involved with many of the organization's operations.

Furthermore, Diana has truly been a philanthropic leader in Washington, DC, especially for Children's where Children's School Services, a child health data lab, and Jazzmatazz, which is a major benefit to raise money for Children's, are among the programs and fundraising events that she has generously supported. However, Mr. Speaker, most laudatory are Diana's efforts to set up health centers across the city. In 2001, Diana and Stephen donated an astounding $25 million to Children's National Medical Center for the Diana L. and Stephen A. Goldberg Center for Community Pediatric Health. This significant gift allows the Center to maintain community-based health centers in Shaw, Adams Morgan, and Anacostia and three mobile vans. The Center provides immediate healthcare needs, with special attention given to primary care, HIV and AIDS, asthma, sickle cell disease, child abuse, childhood injuries, lead poisoning, and violence prevention. The Goldberg Center is also focused on the greater neighborhood by sponsoring programs like the Adolescent Employment Readiness Center, which prepares disabled adolescents and young adults to enter the workforce.

The Goldbergs' benevolence also includes work with the Edmund Burke School, the Black Student Fund, the Washington AIDS Partnership, a scholarship for the Frederick B. Abramson Memorial Foundation, the National Kidney Foundation of the National Capital Area, Arena Stage, and numerous other worthy causes and organizations. Notably, when the Centers for Disease Control, CDC, was forced to cut its funding for important HIV prevention programs in the District, Diana stepped in and made a sizeable financial gift to make up for the shortfall. Diana Goldberg is a shining model for the good that can be accomplished through the power of giving and a passionate dedication to public service.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the thousands of children that Diana has helped over the years as a member of the greater Washington community, I would like to congratulate and thank Diana Goldberg for her leadership as the Chairman of the Board of Children's National Medical Center and for all her projects. I look forward to seeing what exciting new challenges Diana will undertake next. Undoubtedly, she will continue to give back to the community and help make Washington, DC a better place for all its citizens.

## STATEMENT HONORING THE LIFE AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF CIVIL RIGHTS LEADER CORETTA SCOTT KING

### HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 31, 2006*

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the life of an American icon, Mrs. Coretta Scott King. After living a remarkably accomplished life that spanned 78 years, Coretta Scott King passed away on Monday, January 30, 2006.

As the matriarch of the civil rights movement, Coretta Scott King displayed dignity and strength in time of great tragedy and injustice. After Dr. King's assassination, she continued his legacy promoting racial and economic justice for all Americans. Mrs. King was determined to make his dream a reality. As Americans, and as human beings, we are blessed to have known her compassion and dedication.

Coretta Scott King and I traveled to South Africa in 1994 for Nelson Mandela's inauguration. I am proud to say that she was a friend and confidant as well as one of my greatest mentors. I regard Mrs. King as one of the finest individuals I have known. I will continue to hold her spirit and strength close to my heart.

It has been said that the ultimate measure of a person's life is the extent to which they made the world a better place. Coretta Scott King's work has forever shaped the way we treat each other as human beings. Though her passing marks the end of an era, it is up to all of us to continue the compassion that her husband preached and she so graciously followed.

## IN RECOGNITION OF AMELIA EARHART ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

### HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 31, 2006*

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Amelia Earhart Elementary School, in Alameda, California, on being named a 2005–2006 National Blue Ribbon School.

Amelia Earhart Elementary School has been serving students in the Bay Farm Island community of Alameda, California, since 1979. The mission of the school is to inspire academic excellence, a passion for learning and respect for self and community.

Amelia Earhart Elementary school was named a California Distinguished School in 2004 by the California Department of Education and a National ''No Child Left Behind'' Blue Ribbon School in 2005.

The teachers, staff, administration, parents and community members work together to create a culture at the school that promotes a dynamic school-wide vision of academic success for all students.

Amelia Earhart teachers, staff and administrators collaborate to use student data to drive informed decisions about instruction and provide a quality educational setting where all children can learn and excel.

Amelia Earhart Elementary School is a national model of excellence and an outstanding example of the ideal that all students should have an equal educational opportunity in a supportive environment and that none should be forgotten.

I join in congratulating Amelia Earhart Elementary School for its commitment to excellence, which has earned the school the well-deserved, nationally recognized, Blue Ribbon School honor.

## CELEBRATING THE CENTENNIAL OF SUSTAINED FILIPINO IMMIGRATION TO THE UNITED STATES

### HON. NANCY PELOSI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 31, 2006*

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of Con. Res. 218 and join my colleagues and the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus in recognizing the upcoming centennial celebration of sustained Filipino immigration to the United States. For over a century now, Filipino Americans have been a vibrant part of the American story, adding to our great diversity and contributing to the success of our country.

Since the first small group of Filipino immigrants arrived in 1906 to work in the sugar plantations of Hawaii, Filipino Americans have been an important part of our country's history. Indeed, their story of struggle and success is the story of America, whether as migrant laborers working in the fields of California, or as soldiers fighting for freedom and democracy in every major conflict of the past century. One hundred years later, the Filipino American community is now over 2 million strong and the second largest Asian Pacific Islander American community in our country.

In addition, this centennial also celebrates the strong bond and friendship that the United States and the Philippines have shared for over 100 years. From the period of American governance starting in 1898 and independence in 1946, the Philippines have proven to be one of our most enduring and important allies. Today, that bond has been strengthened through sustained immigration where the exchange of ideas and cultural experiences has added to our diverse landscape.

I cannot stress enough the enormous contributions of Filipino Americans, especially all those who have served with great distinction in our Armed Services. That is why, as we celebrate this centennial, it is so important to recognize and honor the service of those Filipino veterans who served honorably during World War II. The United States made a promise to these veterans and I will continue to fight to fully restore their benefits that are 6 decades overdue.

Filipino Americans are the second most populous Asian American community in my district of San Francisco, and I am proud to represent this vibrant and active community in Congress. I look forward to commemorating the contributions of Filipino Americans and advancing the issues of the community throughout the upcoming centennial year.

## HONORING THE LIFE OF DR. ROBERT SANDERS

### HON. BART GORDON

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 31, 2006*

Mr. GORDON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Dr. Robert Sanders, a generous man who dedicated his life to keeping our children safe. Dr. Sanders passed away earlier this month.

Dr. Sanders wore many hats in my hometown of Murfreesboro, where he resided. He was a husband, father, farmer and pediatrician. He served as Director of the Rutherford County Health Department from 1969 to 1991 and served as the county's medical examiner from 1983 to 1999.

As a pediatrician, Dr. Sanders cared for thousands of Murfreesboro's children. As an advocate for child safety restraints in vehicles, he saved the lives of countless more. Because of Dr. Sanders' tireless efforts, Tennessee became the first State in the Nation to pass a law requiring children in vehicles to be restrained in safety seats. Every other State in the country eventually followed Tennessee's lead.

Even after the passage of that law in 1977, Dr. Sanders kept working to keep children safe while riding in vehicles. His efforts led to a state seat belt law and loaner programs to help low-income families acquire child-restraint seats.

The Tennessee Medical Association, Tennessee Public Health Association and Tennessee Pediatric Society all have honored Dr. Sanders for his great service.

Although Dr. Sander's dedication to a noble cause will benefit children for generations to come, I know he will be deeply missed by his family, his friends and countless Middle Tennesseans like me.

## HONORING THE SERVICE OF K. LARRY STORRS ON HIS RETIREMENT FROM CONGRESSIONAL RESEARCH SERVICE

### HON. JIM KOLBE

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 31, 2006*

Mr. KOLBE. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to extend my appreciation to a dedicated public servant at the Congressional Research Service of the Library of Congress. Dr. K. Larry Storrs is retiring from CRS after more than 30 years of service to Congress and the Nation. This length of public service is not only a credit to Dr. Storrs, but also a demonstration of the dedication that he and many others at the Congressional Research Service bring to support our work in Congress.

Hailing from the small farm town of American Fork, Utah, Dr. Storrs first became interested in politics and public policy through his participation in debate and student government in high school and college. For 2½ years he was a missionary in Brazil, beginning his life-long involvement with Latin America. After returning from Brazil, he completed his undergraduate studies at Brigham Young University majoring in political science and won a fellowship funded by the National Defense Education Act to support his doctoral studies in government and Latin American studies at Cornell University. Newly married, he returned to Brazil in the mid-1960s to research his dissertation on Brazil's foreign policy. Before joining the Library of Congress, Dr. Storrs taught for 8 years at Vassar College and the George Washington University, focusing on Latin American politics and U.S.-Latin American relations. His love of teaching ensured that he would continue teaching part-time during his public service career, including at George Washington University, American University, the Foreign Service Institute, and National Defense University. He has continued to teach me and many other Members of Congress about Latin America.

Dr. Storrs began work with CRS in 1975 as analyst in Latin American affairs and was later promoted to specialist. During his career, he has written almost 400 memoranda and reports for Members of Congress and congressional committees, organized numerous seminars, and provided thousands of briefings to congressional staff on Latin American policy issues. Until the late 1970s, Dr. Storrs worked primarily on issues in U.S. relations with Chile and Panama. On Chile, he helped support the hearings on the role of the Central Intelligence Agency in foreign policy. He also provided extensive support to the Senate during the Panama Canal Treaties debate and to both houses during consideration of the legislation creating the Panama Canal Commission that operated the Canal until the end of 1999. In the 1980s and 1990s, Dr. Storrs wrote extensively on several controversial issues related to Central America and the Caribbean: congressional conditions on military aid to El Salvador and Guatemala; congressional prohibitions on covert assistance to the contras in Nicaragua; the recommendations of the bipartisan Kissinger Commission on Central America; and enactment of the Caribbean Basin Initiative.

Beginning in the early 1990s, Dr. Storrs's research focused more on Brazil and Mexico within the context of U.S. initiatives to promote free trade in Latin America. On Mexico, he dealt with issues relating to congressional passage of the North American Free Trade Agreement in 1993, congressional concerns with political stability and a guerrilla insurgency in 1994, and a large financial assistance package for Mexico in 1995. He also worked extensively on congressional initiatives to strengthen regional and bilateral drug control programs with Mexico. For well over a decade Larry has provided extensive support to the annual U.S.-Mexico Isnterparliamentary Group meetings, and he has accompanied the U.S. delegation for the past 7 years.

Larry Storrs is a fine example of those many dedicated staff of the Congressional Research Service who help inform Congress as it deliberates important public policy issues. His gracious demeanor and considerable expertise on Latin America made him an invaluable asset to Congress for many years. On behalf of my colleagues, I extend our deep appreciation to Larry for his service, and wish him the very best in future endeavors. I doubt he will really retire from teaching. Good teachers never do. There will always be someone lucky enough to learn from Dr. Storrs. We wish you the best, Larry!

## PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. SUE WILKINS MYRICK

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 31, 2006*

Mrs. MYRICK. Mr. Speaker, due to surgery, I was unable to participate in the following votes. If I had been present, I would have voted as follows:

December 17, 2005:

Rollcall vote 663, on Agreeing to H. Res. 623—Providing for consideration of motions to suspend the rules, I would have voted aye.

Rollcall vote 664, on the Motion to Suspend the Rules and Agree to the Senate Amendment to H.R. 2520—the Stem Cell Therapeutic and Research Act, I would have voted aye.

December 19, 2005:

Rollcall vote 665, on Agreeing to the Conference Report H.R. 1815—the National Defense Authorization Act of FY 2006, I would have voted aye.

Rollcall vote 666, on Agreeing to H. Res. 639—Waiving points of order against the conference report on H.R. 2863, FY 2006 Department of Defense Appropriations, I would have voted aye.

Rollcall vote 667, on Motion to Suspend the Rules and Agree, as Amended to H. Con. Res. 284—Expressing the sense of Congress with respect to the 2005 presidential and parliamentary elections in Egypt, I would have voted aye.

Rollcall vote 668, on the Motion to Recommit with instructions H.R. 2863—Making appropriations for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2006, and for other purposes, I would have voted nay.

Rollcall vote 669, on Agreeing to the Conference Report H.R. 2863—Making appropriations for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2006, and for other purposes, I would have voted aye.

Rollcall vote 670, on Agreeing to the Conference Report S. 1932—the Budget Reconciliation Act of 2006, I would have voted aye.

Rollcall vote 671, on the Motion to Suspend the Rules and Agree—Expressing the sense of Congress regarding the education curriculum of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, I would have voted aye.

## U.N. SECRETARY GENERAL KOFI ANNAN INAUGURATES INTERNATIONAL DAY OF COMMEMORATION FOR THE VICTIMS OF THE HOLOCAUST

### HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 31, 2006*

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to call to my Colleagues' attention to a very important event, the first annual International Day of Commemoration for the Victims of the Holocaust, which took place last Friday, January 27, 2006, at the U.N. in New York.

Mr. Speaker, under the leadership of my two good friends, Secretary General Kofi Annan and General Assembly President Jan Eliasson, the U.N. established this annual remembrance, and in doing so, has taken a critical step to begin to undue a dark legacy of bias and hatred directed against Jews and the Democratic State of Israel that has long plagued the U.N. The idea for an annual U.N. Commemoration for the Victims of the Holocaust, which was instituted by Resolution 60/7 on November 1, 2005, grew out of an event that took place one year ago in New York, an historic Special Session of the U.N. General Assembly to mark the 60th Anniversary of the Liberation of the Nazi Death Camps on January 25, 2005. Last year's U.N. Special Session was convened with the support of the vast majority of U.N. member State's at the urging of Secretary General Annan.

The relevance of and the need for this International Day of Commemoration for the Victims of the Holocaust could not be more clear. Mr. Speaker, in the months following the establishment of the International Day of Commemoration for the Victims of the Holocaust by Resolution 60/7, the current President of Iran, Mr. Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, has publicly stated that he believes that Holocaust is a "myth" and that Israel "should be wiped off the map."

Mr. Speaker, I draw my colleagues attentions to the courageous remarks U.N. Secretary General Kofi Annan delivered on the occasion of the International Day of Commemoration in Memory of the Victims of the Holocaust last Friday, January 27th. The Secretary General stated, "Remembering is a necessary rebuke to those who say the Holocaust never happened or has been exaggerated. Holocaust denial is the work of bigots. We must reject their false claims whenever, wherever and by whomever they are made."

Mr. Speaker, I ask that the entire text of the Secretary General's important address be placed in the RECORD. I also ask that the entire text of remarks delivered at that same event by General Assembly President Jan Eliasson of Sweden and Israel's Permanent Representative to the United Nation's, Ambassador Dan Gillerman be included in the RECORD.

MESSAGE FOR THE INTERNATIONAL DAY OF COMMEMORATION IN MEMORY OF THE VICTIMS OF THE HOLOCAUST BY SECRETARY-GENERAL KOFI ANNAN

Today, for the first time, the United Nations marks what will, from now on be an annual observance: the International Day of Commemoration in memory of the victims of the Holocaust.

There can be no reversing the unique tragedy of the Holocaust. It must be remembered, with shame and horror, for as long as human memory continues.

Only by remembering can we pay fitting tribute to the victims. Millions of innocent Jews and members of other minorities were murdered in the most barbarous ways imaginable. We must never forget those men, women and children, or their agony.

Remembering is a necessary rebuke to those who say the Holocaust never happened or has been exaggerated. Holocaust denial is the work of bigots. We must reject their false claims whenever, wherever and by whomever they are made.

Remembering is also a safeguard for the future. The abyss reached in the Nazi death camps started with hatred, prejudice and anti-Semitism. Recalling these origins can remind us to be ever on the lookout for warning signs.

As the Holocaust recedes in time, and as the number of survivors dwindles, it falls to us—the current generation—to carry the torch of remembrance and uphold the cause of human dignity.

The United Nations was founded as a reaction to the horrors of the Second World War. Even so, the international community has too often failed to stand up to mass atrocities.

In recent years we have taken important steps to improve on that record, such as establishing the International Criminal Court and agreeing on the collective responsibility to protect.

On this International Day of Commemoration, the theme of our observance is "remembrance and beyond". In that spirit, let us pledge ourselves to even greater efforts to prevent genocide and crimes against humanity.

MESSAGE BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY, H.E. MR. JAN ELIASSON, ON THE OCCASION OF THE INTERNATIONAL DAY OF COMMEMORATION IN MEMORY OF THE VICTIMS OF THE HOLOCAUST

Today we observe for the first time the International Day of Commemoration in memory of the victims of the Holocaust. This event will take place every year on 27 January. This follows the adoption without a vote of General Assembly resolution 60/7 on "Holocaust remembrance", on 1 November, 2005.

This year's commemoration is of special significance. It takes place only one year after the General Assembly's Special Session on 24 January 2005, which marked the sixtieth anniversary of the liberation of the Nazi concentration camps.

The liberation of the Nazi death camps revealed to the world one of the most horrendous crimes against humanity. Auschwitz-Birkenau, Dachau, Sobibor, and Treblinka are among the sites where the lives of millions of people were extinguished on political, religious or ethnic grounds.

Remembering this low point in human history is a solemn duty for all of us. We must continue to exorcise the evil of the past. In resolution 60/7, the General Assembly unequivocally "rejects any denial of the Holocaust as an historic event, either in full or in part."

We must also commit ourselves to preventing the reoccurrence of genocide in the future, whenever and wherever it might occur. We must remain vigilant. The forces of hatred, bigotry and racism are still at work in the world.

It is a tragedy that the international community has not been able to stop new horrors in the years since the Holocaust. This makes it all the more important that we remember the lessons of the Holocaust. It must be a unifying cause around which we all can rally.

On this International Day of Commemoration let us pay tribute to all the victims of the Holocaust. Let us also honour the survivors. And in looking back at this sombre page of history and other atrocities and crimes of genocide following it, let us join forces and recommit ourselves to building mutual respect and dignity for all. Holocaust remembrance will strengthen us in this resolve.

INTERNATIONAL DAY OF COMMEMORATION IN MEMORY OF THE VICTIMS OF THE HOLOCAUST, STATEMENT BY H.E. AMBASSADOR DAN GILLERMAN, PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE

I, Danny Gillerman, born in Israel to parents who fled the Nazis, but whose grandparents and family perished, stand before you today, as an Israeli, a Jew, and a citizen of the world—moved and filled with pride as the world embarks on a journey beyond remembrance.

I stand here as a representative of the Jewish State that arose out of the ashes of the Holocaust. A Jewish State whose cabinet yesterday convened a Special Session at the Holocaust Memorial Museum in Jerusalem, Yad Vashem. A Jewish State that has become, against all odds, a beacon of beauty, excellence, creativity, and justice for the whole world.

And today, on this solemn occasion, I urge you to imagine. Indeed many of you in this hall don't need to imagine because you were there, but I urge the rest of the world to imagine—imagine the shattering of skulls, the burning of flesh, the cries of anguish. Look at one child, and multiply it by a million and a half. Look at one member of your family and multiply him by six million. Imagine!

But imagine too what a world this would be if they, and their children, were still with us. How much more beauty, more excellence, more art and culture, more cures and innovations there would be. Imagine. Imagine how much better the world would be.

So today, as we look to the past, embrace the present, and look to the future, we must all pray. We must remember, salute, sound an alarm, and vow. We remember the sacrifice of the victims, we salute the courage of the survivors, many of them in this hall, whose numbers dwindle as the Holocaust turns from being memory to becoming history. And we sound an alarm, a call to arms, and a wake up call to the world.

A world in which a Member State of this organization calls for wiping Israel off the face of the map. A world in which an extreme and evil regime denies the Holocaust while preparing the next one.

A world that stood still 65 years ago and has since witnessed Cambodia and Rwanda.

A world that must act today to atone for yesterday and preserve our tomorrow.

On this day, I want to also express to you in this hall and around the world, my deep regret. I deeply, very deeply regret, and I believe the rest of the world should too, that the State of Israel did not exist in 1938 or 1943. Because if it did, this horrible event would never have happened.

And today, from this podium, in this hall, on this solemn day, I vow to you. I vow to you that as long as there is an Israel, no Jew will again be made to wear a yellow star or be tattooed with a number. And I vow to you that there will forever be an Israel, so these horrors will never be witnessed again—Never Again!

Ladies and Gentlemen, as we gather here today, night is descending on Jerusalem, and the Jewish Sabbath is enfolding Israel. So it is from here, from this world stage, that I say this Eve of Shabbat prayer:

''May God Give His People Strength. May God Bless His People With Peace.''

Shabbat Shalom.

## TRIBUTE TO CLYDE P. SELIG

### HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 31, 2006*

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Clyde P. Selig, president and CEO of Commercial Metals Steel Group, CMSG. CMSG ships around 2.4 million tons of steel a year, employs over 6,700 people and grosses close to $1.3 billion a year in sales.

Mr. Speaker, Clyde Selig attended Clarkson College of Technology and graduated from the University of Maryland. He also served in the U.S. Army in various command and staff positions in Europe.

Mr. Selig has served in many capacities with SMI-Texas including manager of maintenance and engineering, manager of steelmaking, works manager, vice president of operations and general manager before becoming executive vice president of CMC Steel Group Mills. He was appointed President and COO in February of 1997 and CEO in May of 2002.

A strong believer in community support and involvement, Mr. Selig was one of the founders of the Seguin Boys' Club, and is a former president of the Seguin Chamber of Commerce. He also served as vice president of the City/County Hospital Board, including the Citizens Advisory Juvenile Board. Currently, he serves with the Rotarians.

Mr. Speaker, the 28th district of Texas is proud to have such an outstanding civic leader living in San Antonio.

## CONGRATULATING MS. CHRISTIANE E. BUUCK

### HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 31, 2006*

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Ms. Christiane E. Buuck of Bedford, TX, for receiving the prestigious Fulbright award to study abroad in France during the 2005–2006 academic year. Ms. Buuck was honored with this award for her studies in creative writing at the University of Arizona.

The Fulbright program is sponsored by the Department of State Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs. The program was established in 1946 with the purpose of building mutual understanding between the people of the United States and the rest of the world by allowing recipients to study, lecture or conduct research in an international exchange program.

Christiane was selected on the basis of academic achievement, as well as demonstrated leadership potential in her field.

I extend my sincere congratulations to Ms. Christiane Buuck on receiving this award and commend her dedication and desire to help her community and country.

## CONGRATULATING NATALIE SOLFANELLI AS SHE IS HONORED BY THE LACKAWANNA RIVER CORRIDOR ASSOCIATION

### HON. PAUL E. KANJORSKI

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 31, 2006*

Mr. KANJORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask you and my esteemed colleagues in the House of Representatives to pay tribute to Natalie Solfanelli, executive director of the Lackawanna Heritage Valley Authority in Lackawanna County, PA. Mrs. Solfanelli has been honored by the Lackawanna River Corridor Association for her exceptional performance in creating partnerships to preserve and develop the Lackawanna Valley's historic, cultural, natural and economic resources through preservation, education and promotion of the regional heritage.

The Lackawanna River Corridor Association is a nonprofit community organization created in 1987 to promote the restoration and protection of the Lackawanna River and its watershed resources. A major goal of the LRCA is to foster the development of a 40-mile long network of parks and trails along the Lackawanna River.

The Lackawanna Heritage Valley Authority and the Lackawanna River Corridor Association have been collaborating to get the 40-mile trail and greenway system built. Known as the Lackawanna River Heritage Trail, several sections were developed in the past few years. Other sections are in final engineering phases and will be under construction soon.

Mrs. Solfanelli's leadership and vision have contributed to making the Lackawanna River Heritage Trail project a strategic link in the work of the authority and its partners to promote the economic and environmental revitalization of communities along the river.

After being named LHVA executive director, Mrs. Solfanelli began to enhance the scope of the Downtown Riverfront Trail Project and position the trail as an economic development generator. She is leading a riverfront partnership effort to look ahead at the next steps that will enable private developers and local public agencies to further develop the riverfront area as a complement to the revitalization of downtown Scranton.

Mrs. Solfanelli has an impressive background in financial services, having served with Alpha Benefits Group, Consulting Group, Inc. and Omni Health Plan. She is an NASD licensed registered representative with MidSouth Capital, Inc. and has been president of Harbor Group, Inc., an insurance and investment planning firm since 1989. Mrs. Solfanelli is also a certified life underwriter and a long term care professional.

Mrs. Solfanelli serves on the board of Scranton Tomorrow, the Jewish Federation of

Northeastern Pennsylvania, the St. Francis of Assisi Kitchen, Temple Hesed, Presidents Advisory Council of Keystone College and the Economic Development Council of Lackawanna County.

Married to Attorney Joseph R. Solfanelli, the couple has three adult children.

On a personal note, let me express my appreciation to Natalie for welcoming me into the Greater Scranton community. Her boundless energy and enthusiasm are infectious; everyone who deals with Natalie is inspired to work even harder to make Lackawanna County a better place to live.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in congratulating Natalie Solfanelli on the occasion of this honor. Mrs. Solfanelli epitomizes the finest level of selfless community service and the quality of life in the greater Scranton area is better because of her efforts.

## TRIBUTE TO CENTENARIAN DORA KAUFFMAN OF HERNANDO COUNTY, FLORIDA

### HON. GINNY BROWN-WAITE

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 31, 2006*

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Dora Kauffman of Hernando County, Florida. Dora has done something that all of us strives for, but that very few of us will ever accomplish, celebrate her 100th birthday.

Born January 19, 1906 in New York, DORA says that some of her fondest memories of her childhood were times spent playing games. She remembers seeing a dog for the first time as one of the happiest events in her life. She says she loved playing with the dog everyday.

Dora married and was blessed with two children, four grandchildren and several great grandchildren. She says she is happy with her life and would not change a thing if she had her life to live over.

Today, Dora gets the most pleasure from visiting with her resident friends and sitting down to a good hot meal. The one thing she likes most about Hernando County is the people, in addition to the good weather. Her favorite flower is the rose and her favorite color is blue. Her advice to the young people is to, ''work hard and be good and kind to people.''

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you join me in honoring Dora Kauffman for reaching her 100th birthday. I hope we all have the good fortune to live as long as she has.

## INTRODUCTION OF LEGISLATION DESIGNATING THE GOVERNOR JOHN ANDERSON, JR. POST OFFICE BUILDING

### HON. DENNIS MOORE

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 31, 2006*

Mr. MOORE of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, joined today by my Kansas colleagues Todd Tiahrt, Jim Ryun and Jerry Moran, I am introducing legislation that would designate the United States post office located at 110 North Chestnut Street in Olathe as the ''Governor John Anderson, Jr. Post Office Building.''

Governor Anderson was born near Olathe in 1917 and educated at Kansas State University and the University of Kansas, where he received a law degree in 1944. After serving on the staff of U.S. District Court Judge Walter Huxman for two years, John Anderson won election as Johnson County Attorney in 1947, where he served for six years. He was a member of the Kansas State Senate from 1953–1956, and was appointed Kansas Attorney General, serving from 1956–1961. Elected Governor of Kansas in 1960 and 1962, he defeated incumbent Governor George Docking, served as Governor during Kansas' centennial celebration, and appointed James B. Pearson to the United States Senate upon the death of Senator Andrew Schoeppel.

John Anderson's tenure as Kansas Governor was marked by numerous achievements, including:

Revision of the state's pardon and parole systems;

Creation of a combined state medical and psychiatric hospital;

Restructuring of the state's public school system into unified districts;

Increasing of the state's per-pupil expenditure allowance;

Addition of the University of Wichita to the state board of regents system;

Sanctioning of fair employment practices standards;

Approval of an advanced public employee retirement system;

Advancements in highway construction;

Expansion of vocational-technical schools;

Authorization of a state library consultant;

Improvements in the public welfare system; and

Reorganization of state agencies, commissions and boards.

Mr. Speaker, this legislation honoring an important Kansas leader is long overdue, and I know that my delegation colleagues look forward with me to its speedy enactment.

## IN MEMORY OF FRANCIS L. BRANNIGAN, FIRE SERVICE CONSTRUCTION EDUCATOR WITH A LEGACY OF PUBLIC SERVICE AS A GROUNDBREAKING LEADER IN PROVIDING FOR FIREFIGHTER SAFETY

### HON. CURT WELDON

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 31, 2006*

Mr. WELDON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with great sadness and tremendous gratitude to honor the life of Francis L. Brannigan, who over the years has helped firefighters be more astute to the importance of knowing building construction to promote firefighter safety. As a groundbreaking leader in providing for firefighter safety, Frank was one of the first to realize that the biggest threat to firefighters were the buildings they were working in. Throughout his career, Frank provided constant focus on the issues associated with building construction and the fire environment. The safety of firefighters was always the focus of his message and as a result, generations of firefighters will be safer because of his message. The knowledge that he possessed, and generously shared, was second to none.

Frank Brannigan devoted more than half of his 63-year career to the safety of firefighters in building fires. He was well known as the author of ''Building Construction for the Fire Service,'' and for his lectures and videotapes. The first edition of his ''Building Construction for the Fire Service'' was an instant success in 1971. Since then, it has sold more than 130,000 copies in three editions, the most recent of which was published in 1992. Designated by Fire Chief as one of the 20 people who most influenced the fire service in the 20th century, Frank Brannigan was truly one of the giants of the fire service.

Frank Brannigan was not a fire chief or an engineer, but he became one of the most important influences in the fire service in the last quarter of the 20th century. I am proud to say I knew Frank Brannigan.

Mr. Speaker, the Fire Service has lost an exceptional leader and guardian of firefighters everywhere. I wish Frank Brannigan's wife Maurine and family my heartfelt condolences and may they find comfort in knowing that the many people he impacted deeply value his dedication and generosity and the example of his life and work. Frank Brannigan exemplified the spirit of service that has made this country great. As long as firefighters fight fires, the fire service will be the beneficiary of Frank's writing, scholarship, zeal and life-saving message.

## TRIBUTE TO MARIA DE LOS ANGELES OBREGON

### HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 31, 2006*

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the 100th birthday of Maria de los Angeles Obregon Peña who was born on the 23rd of December, 1905, in San Luis Potosi, Mexico.

Maria de los Angeles Obregon Peña moved to Laredo, TX in 1910 with her two brothers and widowed mother. Her father, Gumaro Obregon, was the youngest brother of President Alvaro Obregon and was assassinated for political reasons. While in Laredo, Maria has memories of sitting on the rooftops in Laredo and listening to gun fire just across the border in Nuevo Laredo during the 1910 Revolution.

Maria attended public school until the eighth grade when she was forced to leave to help the family make enough money to sustain itself. Later, on July 10th, 1933, she married Ramiro Santos Peña in Laredo. Together, they had three children, Pauline P. Baclesse of Mexico, MO, Ramiro A. Peña of Holland, TX, and Carlos D. Peña of Clear Lake, TX.

Maria and Ramiro were both active members of the Primera Iglesia Bautista where their children were baptized. Maria credits her outlook on life and her faith in God for her longevity. Laredo is proud to have Maria as a citizen, and is pleased to celebrate her 100th birthday.

Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the chance to honor a fine citizen of Texas.

## CONGRATULATING DR. TIMOTHY LYNN JACKSON

### HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 31, 2006*

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Dr. Timothy Lynn Jackson of Highland Village, TX, for receiving the prestigious Fulbright award to teach abroad in South Korea during the 2005–2006 academic year. Dr. Jackson was honored with this award for his talents in the field of music at the University of North Texas.

The Fulbright program is sponsored by the Department of State Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs. The program was established in 1946 with the purpose of building mutual understanding between the people of the United States and the rest of the world by allowing recipients to study, lecture or conduct research in an international exchange program.

Timothy was selected on the basis of his professional achievement, as well as demonstrated leadership potential in his field.

I extend my sincere congratulations to Dr. Timothy Lynn Jackson on receiving this award and praise his dedication and desire to help his community and country.

## CONGRATULATING JOHN COSGROVE AS HE IS HONORED BY THE LACKAWANNA RIVER CORRIDOR ASSOCIATION

### HON. PAUL E. KANJORSKI

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 31, 2006*

Mr. KANJORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask you and my esteemed colleagues in the House of Representatives to pay tribute to John Cosgrove, former executive director of the Lackawanna Heritage Valley Authority in Lackawanna County, Pennsylvania. Mr. Cosgrove has been honored by the Lackawanna River Corridor Association for his leadership in creating partnerships to preserve and develop the Lackawanna Valley's historic, cultural, natural and economic resources through preservation, education and promotion of the regional heritage.

The Lackawanna River Corridor Association is a non-profit community organization created in 1987 to promote the restoration and protection of the Lackawanna River and its watershed resources. A major goal of the LRCA is to foster the development of a 40 mile long network of parks and trails along the Lackawanna River.

The Lackawanna Heritage Valley Authority and the Lackawanna River Corridor Association have been collaborating to get the 40 mile trail and greenway system built. Known as the Lackawanna River Heritage Trail, several sections were developed in the past few years. Other sections are in final engineering phases and will be under construction soon.

Begun under Mr. Cosgrove's tenure, the Lackawanna River Heritage Trail project is a strategic link in the work of the authority and its partners to promote the economic and environmental revitalization of communities along the river.

Mr. Cosgrove was named to be the first executive director of the newly formed Association of National Heritage Areas in 2004. Prior to his 6 years with the LHVA, he served as executive director of Neighborhood Housing of Scranton and held several positions in the administration of the late Governor Robert P. Casey. He also chaired several initiatives for Scranton Tomorrow including City Pride and First Night Scranton.

Mr. Cosgrove resides in Scranton with his wife, the former Eileen Egan Cosgrove and their three daughters.

On a personal note, I wanted to mention how much I enjoy working with John and look forward to continuing to work with him on his expanded portfolio serving heritage areas around the country. John is yet another example of a talented Northeastern Pennsylvanian who is now sharing his skills to serve the entire Nation.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in congratulating John Cosgrove on the occasion of this honor. Mr. Cosgrove's leadership, dedication and commitment has enhanced the quality of life in the Greater Scranton region and all its citizens are better because of it.

## TRIBUTE TO CENTENARIAN ANNA PORIZO OF HERNANDO COUNTY, FLORIDA

### HON. GINNY BROWN-WAITE

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 31, 2006*

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Anna Porizo of Hernando County, Florida. Anna has done something that all of us strives for, but that very few of us will ever accomplish, celebrate her 100th birthday.

Born September 20, 1905 in Jersey City, New Jersey, Anna attended school through the 10th grade and then went to work at the Box Company. She has fond memories of cooking with her mother during her childhood years.

Anna married John Porizo and was blessed with a child, a grandchild and 2 great grandchildren. The happiest moment in her life was the birth of her daughter. Anna says that the proudest and most meaningful moments in her life were watching her daughter and grandson grow up.

Anna moved to Hernando County with her daughter and says the weather is what she likes most about the county. Today, she gets the most pleasure from relaxing and enjoying a bowl of cold ice cream. Her favorite flower is the rose and her favorite color is pink. Her advice for the young people is to, "spend more time with family and do more family things."

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you join me in honoring Anna Porizo for reaching her 100th birthday. I Hope we all have the good fortune to live as long as she has.

## TRIBUTE TO MAX FALKENSTIEN

### HON. DENNIS MOORE

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 31, 2006*

Mr. MOORE of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Max Falkenstien, the "Voice of the Kansas Jayhawks", who will be retiring at the conclusion of the 2005—2006 men's basketball season at the University of Kansas.

The conclusion of the current season will mark Max Falkenstien's 60th season of broadcasting Kansas University sporting events. At age 81, he has been inducted into the Naisimith Basketball Hall of Fame, the College Football Hall of Fame, the Kansas Sports Hall of Fame, and the KU Athletic Hall of Fame. He was the first inductee of the Lawrence High School Hall of Honor. Additionally, he has been awarded an honorary "K" by the Kansas Lettermen's Club. The Sporting News in 2001 named Falkenstien "the best college radio personality in the country" and ESPN's Dick Vitale included KU's Bob Davis and Falkenstien in his "Sweet 16" of the best announcer teams in the United States.

A true legend, Max Falkenstien has been synonymous with KU athletics for 6 decades. As KU basketball coach Bill Self recently said in the Lawrence Journal-World, "Max has performed at the highest level over an extended period of time like very few in his profession." Falkenstien broadcast his first basketball game—an NCAA tournament game in Kansas City between KU and Oklahoma A&M—on March 18, 1946. His next broadcast was KU versus TCU in football on September 21, 1946. He was play-by-play voice of the Jayhawks for 39 years and then switched to a commentator's role in September 1984 when Bob Davis assumed play-by-play duties. Falkenstien provided play-by-play for the Big Eight Conference basketball game of the week between 1968 and 1971, and for more than 3 decades hosted football and basketball coaches' TV programs, including those for Don Fambrough, Pepper Rogers, Mike Gottfried, Ted Owens, Larry Brown and Roy Williams.

Mr. Speaker, I include with this statement a recent article from the Lawrence Journal-World summarizing Max Falkenstien's outstanding career and I join with all KU fans in wishing him well in his long overdue, richly deserved retirement as "Voice of the Kansas Jayhawks."

## HONORING JOSEPH J. MANERCHIA UPON HIS RETIREMENT AS CHIEF OF THE MARCUS HOOK FIRE DEPARTMENT

### HON. CURT WELDON

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 31, 2006*

Mr. WELDON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to pay tribute to Chief Joseph J. Manerchia upon his retirement as Fire Chief of the Marcus Hook Fire Department after more than 30 years of distinguished and dedicated service to the Department.

Joseph J. Manerchia joined the Marcus Hook Fire Company No. 1 at the age of 15 in

1975. In the years that followed, he held every administrative and Fire Line office within the company. In 1995, he became company chief and is credited with initiating many positive changes in the operation of the company, especially in areas of firefighter/fire officer training, firefighter safety, development of fire officer qualifications and training programs for apparatus drivers. He also wrote the first Standard Operating Guideline Manual adopted by the fire company and developed a "Fire Department/Police Department Interface Program" to promote better cooperation between the two agencies. Chief Manerchia led his company to 4 consecutive Pennsylvania State Championships as the "Best Appearing Marching Unit" in the Pennsylvania State Firemen's Convention Parade.

In 1999, Joe rose to the rank of Borough Fire Chief, a position he would hold through 2005 which made him the longest serving Borough Fire Chief in the history of the department. At that time, the Marcus Hook Fire Department was comprised of the Marcus Hook Fire Company No. 1 and the Viscose Fire Company No. 2. As Borough Fire Chief he provided the leadership that would eventually consolidate the two local fire companies into one organization. In the year 2000, he was instrumental in developing a plan that led to the replacement of the fire department's aging aerial ladder truck with a new 75 Foot Quint. Again under his chairmanship, the State spotlight was cast on Marcus Hook as the Fire Department hosted the Pennsylvania State Firemen's Convention in September 2003, a first for the fire department and the borough.

The Chief has attended local, State and nationally accredited fire, hazardous materials and command training classes. He is the graduate of several National Fire Academy on campus programs as well as programs at the University of Texas A&M and the University of Nevada at Reno. Joe holds Pro-Board Certification as a Fire Instructor and as an Industrial Firefighter and is a Pennsylvania certified Emergency Medical Technician and Vehicle Rescue Technician. He is a member of the International Association of Fire Chiefs, International Association of Fire Service Instructors and is on the board of directors of the local chapter of the American Red Cross.

Currently Chief Manerchia is working on a degree in Emergency Management and accreditation as a "Chief Fire Officer Designate" through the International Association of Fire Chiefs. He continues to lecture locally and regionally on fire company consolidations and chairs a committee charged with consolidating three fire companies in two municipalities. Joe is still active with the Marcus Hook Fire Department and is a member of the Emergency Management Committee of the Borough of Marcus Hook.

On January 21, 2006, Chief Joseph M. Manerchia was recognized for his 7 years as Borough Fire Chief as well as his 30 years of service to the community and the Fire Department at a banquet held in his honor hosted by the Marcus Hook Fire Department and the Borough of Marcus Hook. During his 30 years of service, he certainly has earned this recognition, and I call upon all of my colleagues to join me in applauding his leadership in both his Department and community. While his service will not soon be forgotten and his boots will not soon be filled, the high standards he has set for his department will strengthen fire service for many years to come.

## TRIBUTE TO ROY STURGES

### HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 31, 2006*

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Roy Alonzo Sturges, a deputy in La Salle County which is in the 28th district of Texas, who served bravely in Southern Texas as a Chief Jailor

Mr. Speaker, La Salle County commissioners voted unanimously in November to support the naming of the county detention center in Cotulla, Texas, the Roy Alonzo Sturges Law Enforcement Center, for his efforts to foil an attempted escape by a prisoner.

On April 27, 1973, Mr. Sturges thwarted the attempt by a county prisoner but was injured in the process. Records indicate that Mr. Sturges was struck by the inmate with a wooden board, but the jailor was still able to get a door locked to stop the escape. After Mr. Sturges and his wife, who came to his aid after hearing the scuffle, secured the jail, they drove to the local sheriff's office. On the way, he reportedly suffered a fatal heart attack.

Roy Alonzo Sturges was memorialized in Texas in 1994 as a fallen law enforcement officer. La Salle County is honored to have had such an outstanding gentleman serve the people of the 28th district.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to pay tribute to Roy Alonzo Sturges.

## IN MEMORY OF LEO C. STUVER

### HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 31, 2006*

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to give tribute to Mr. Leo C. Stuver from the 26th Congressional District of Texas, for his lifelong contributions to his community and to his fellow citizens.

Born in Maricopa County, Arizona on July 8, 1917, Mr. Stuver attended Mexia High School and later spent 2 years at Westminster College in Tehuacana and later attended Sam Houston State University on a football scholarship where he received his bachelor's and master's degrees.

Mr. Stuver started his 41-year career in education in the Dodge School District serving as superintendent. He served several school districts as a principal, and was a superintendent and Teague and Hillsboro school districts before settling down in the Lewisville Independent School District, LISD, in July 1969.

Mr. Stuver was a critical aide in the expansion of the LISD. Not only did he serve his community through basic administrative duties, but he also predicted the needs of the district and was proactive in finding solutions to issues facing the school district. His leadership is admired, and the local auditorium was named in his honor as a small token of appreciation compared to his contributions.

It was my honor to know Mr. Leo Stuver. I extend my sympathies to his family and friends. I hope the dedication and success of this man may serve as inspiration to all who seek their dreams to serve their communities and fellow man.

## CONGRATULATING PITTSTON MAYOR MICHAEL LOMBARDO ON THE OCCASION OF HIS TESTIMONIAL DINNER AND ROAST

### HON. PAUL E. KANJORSKI

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 31, 2006*

Mr. KANJORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask you and my esteemed colleagues in the House of Representatives to pay tribute to Michael Lombardo, mayor of the city of Pittston, in Luzerne County, PA, and senior vice president and chief operating officer of the Greater Wilkes-Barre Chamber of Business and Industry as he is honored by his friends and colleagues at a testimonial dinner.

Mayor Lombardo is widely respected for epitomizing what an elected official should be: committed, decisive, dedicated, and visionary.

Under Mayor Lombardo's leadership, the city of Pittston has been improved in many ways to enhance the quality of life for its residents and visitors alike.

As a senior member of the management team at the Greater Wilkes-Barre Chamber of Business and Industry, Mayor Lombardo has been able to apply the skills learned as a mayor of a single city in ways that touch the lives of citizens from many towns in a positive manner.

Mayor Lombardo is a former educator in the Pittston Area School District. In that capacity he encouraged many young men and women to aspire to great things and to always search for ways to contribute to the greater community.

Mayor Lombardo has been actively involved in the community for many years. He is a board member at the Northeast Regional Cancer Institute, the Greater Pittston Chamber of Commerce, the Greater Pittston YMCA and at College Misericordia's Insalaco Center. He is a member of the Council of Delegates at the NEPA Alliance, the Pennsylvania League of Cities Policy Council, the Knights of Columbus and the Wyoming Valley Watershed Coalition Steering Committee for the Riverfest Project.

He is co-chairperson of the American Cancer Society Relay for Life in the Pittston area and the Pittston Tomato Festival. He is also vice president of the Pittston City Festival Association.

Mayor Lombardo has received awards for his community service from the Pennsylvania Library Association and the Greater Wilkes-Barre Chamber of Commerce Community Partnership. He was named Greater Pittston Person of the Year in 2000.

On a personal note, I would like to say that I have greatly enjoyed the opportunity to work with Mike over the years. Whenever I helped him obtain Federal money for the city of Pittston, I knew that it would be spent wisely and for the long-term benefit of the people of Pittston. I look forward to continuing to work with him as he serves in his new capacity.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in congratulating Mayor Michael Lombardo for setting a fine example for others to emulate.

## HONORING THE LIFE AND SACRIFICE OF ARMY SGT. DENNIS J. FLANAGAN OF INVERNESS, FL

### HON. GINNY BROWN-WAITE

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 31, 2006*

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the life and sacrifice of Army SGT Dennis J. Flanagan of Inverness, Florida. Sergeant Flanagan was killed by terrorist insurgents while on patrol in Hawijah, Iraq. In times when children and families need role models to look up to and emulate, Sergeant Flanagan was a true American hero.

A 2001 graduate of Lecanto High School, Sergeant Flanagan was an active member of the Junior ROTC, achieving the rank of First Lieutenant his junior year. Within a week following the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, Sergeant Flanagan enlisted in the U.S. Army. Serving with the 101st Airborne Division, 327th Infantry Regiment, 1st Brigade Combat Team, Sergeant Flanagan was part of the air assault infantry that invaded Iraq in 2003.

Following his first tour of duty, Sergeant Flanagan re-enlisted this past September for a second tour in Iraq. He was killed January 20th, along with three other U.S. soldiers when an improvised explosive device blew up his Humvee. Only the driver of the Humvee survived the blast.

Sergeant Flanagan was a soldier who firmly believed in the mission in Iraq and in advancing the cause of freedom. As a young boy, Sergeant Flanagan knew that he wanted to be a soldier in the U.S. Armed Forces. A soldier who felt we must defend America and fight for freedom, Sergeant Flanagan received glowing recommendations from his superior officers and fellow soldiers. One of the principle reasons that he re-enlisted was to act as a mentor to the newly enlisted soldiers and to help train the Iraqi army recruits.

Speaking of his future as a soldier and a patriot, Sergeant Flanagan once wrote a poem that included the words, ''And now, my son, I pray to thee. Never ever forget me; that I died a soldier's death, to keep you free with my last breath.'' The speaker then passes a torch and says, ''Keep it high for liberty.'' These prophetic words show that Sergeant Flanagan knew the risks associated with serving as a soldier and that he was willing to accept that risk fighting for America and for liberty and freedom.

Mr. Speaker, as a mother and a grandmother, I know the pain that comes when a child leaves home for the first time. What Sergeant Flanagan's family must cope with today, however, is the knowledge that their child will not return home. I can offer this pledge, however; that this Congress will never forget the sacrifice Sergeant Flanagan made serving his country.

## TRIBUTE TO RAUL RODRIGUEZ

### HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 31, 2006*

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the achievements of Raul Rodriguez who served as Managing Director of the North American Development Bank (NADBank) since October of 2000.

Mr. Speaker, the NADBank, a U.S.-Mexico international institution created under NAFTA and headquartered in San Antonio, works to finance and develop needed environmental infrastructure projects in the border region such as water and wastewater treatment plants.

Under the leadership of Mr. Rodriquez, the North American Development Bank has seen dramatic growth in its portfolio, and in its ability to help communities in the U.S.-Mexico border region improve their quality of life.

Since Mr. Rodriguez took the reigns in 2000, the NADBank has increased the diversity of its programs in order to reach more communities, not only financing water and wastewater projects, but also developing projects in other environmental areas such as water conservation.

Mr. Rodriguez has been instrumental in facilitating a higher level of coordination between the U.S. and Mexico on environmental issues of mutual concern. He is a true friend to the United States and a true advocate of the U.S.-Mexico border region.

Mr. Speaker, San Antonio is proud to have dedicated service from Raul Rodriguez.

## CONGRATULATING DR. ERIKA MARTINA NELSON

### HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 31, 2006*

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Dr. Erika M. Nelson of Providence Village, Texas for receiving the prestigious Fulbright award to study abroad in Austria during the 2005–2006 academic year. Dr. Nelson was honored with this award for her talents in teaching Language and Literature at the University of North Texas.

The Fulbright Program is sponsored by the Department of State Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs. The program was established in 1946 with the purpose of building mutual understanding between the people of the United States and the rest of the world by allowing recipients to study, lecture or conduct research in an international exchange program.

Erika was selected on the basis of professional and academic achievement, as well as demonstrated leadership potential in her field.

I extend my sincere congratulations to Dr. Erika Martina Nelson on receiving this award and commend her dedication and desire to help her school, community and country.

## CONGRATULATING ANDREW J. BENYO JR. UPON HIS RETIREMENT AS SUPERVISOR IN HAZLE TOWNSHIP, PENNSYLVANIA

### HON. PAUL E. KANJORSKI

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 31, 2006*

Mr. KANJORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask you and my esteemed colleagues in the House of Representatives to pay tribute to Andrew J. Benyo Jr., a supervisor in Hazle Township, Luzerne County, Pennsylvania, who has retired after completing 18 years of dedicated public service.

Mr. Benyo was educated at St. Gabriel's Elementary and High School in the city of Hazleton, Pennsylvania and at St. Bernard's College in Cullman, Alabama, where he earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in education and English.

He is a veteran of the United States Air Force, having served during the Vietnam War at DaNang Air Base in the field of combat support.

During his years of service as an elected official in Hazle Township, Mr. Benyo held fast to a campaign promise to avoid raising property taxes. He was successful in accomplishing numerous construction projects, including Humboldt Fire Station No. 2, Community Park Soccer Fields, Babe Ruth Field, North Park Road and the Municipal Office Complex and Commons Building.

An environmental activist, Mr. Benyo also served on the Council of Governments.

Well known for his compassion and responsiveness to his constituents, he was a driving force in securing a resolution to water problems in the Beaver Brook area of the township.

He was also instrumental in bringing about the connector road between Route 93 and Route 309 in the area of 28th Street in the township.

Mr. Benyo never failed to make himself available, especially during winter months, and, in particular, during the severe winter storms of 1993, 1996 and the ice storm of 2005.

Mr. Benyo enjoys spending time with his wife, Judy, and their children, Karin and Sgt. Andrew J. Benyo 3d, who is serving with the U. S. Army Rangers, and his wife, Christine. He also intends to make time for salmon and deep sea fishing and his other hobbies that include boating, woodworking and cooking.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in congratulating Mr. Benyo for 18 years of devoted service and commitment to his community.

Because of individuals like Mr. Benyo, the quality of life in communities like West Hazleton is enhanced. And, for that, we can all be grateful.

## TRIBUTE TO EDWARD ''TONY'' LYONS OF CITRUS COUNTY, FL

### HON. GINNY BROWN-WAITE

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 31, 2006*

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Edward ''Tony'' Lyons of Citrus County, Florida. Tony was recently named the 2005 Florida Army National Guard Soldier of the Year.

Born in Nicaragua, Tony moved to Floral City, Florida at the age of two. He currently lives with his aunt, who is also his adopted mother, serves in the Florida Army National Guard and works construction in Citrus Hills to help support his family.

As an outstanding student athlete at Citrus High School, Tony led the cross country team, finishing sixth at the state meet and earning multiple awards for his athletic prowess.

Tony signed up as a member of the Florida Army National Guard in late 2004, and immediately dedicated himself to the rigors of training. Assigned to the Hernando County-based 856th Quartermaster Battalion, Tony earned the Soldier of the Year award by finishing first among the Army Guard soldiers who completed a rigorous testing regimen conducted at Camp Blanding in North Florida.

Mr. Speaker, Tony's recognition shows that hard work and dedication in pursuit of a goal can indeed bring success. I congratulate him on being named the 2005 Florida Army National Guard Soldier of the Year, and wish him good luck in the upcoming first Army Southern Region National Guard Soldier of the Year competition.

## TRIBUTE TO TUX AND BOOTS BALL

### HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 31, 2006*

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the sesquicentennial of Atascosa County, which is a county in the 28th district of Texas and was founded in 1856. This year marks the 150th anniversary of Atascosa's beginnings and we will kick off a year long celebration at the annual Tux and Boots Ball on Saturday, January 28th in Pleasanton, TX.

Mr. Speaker, Atascosa County is south of San Antonio on the Rio Grande Plain region of south central Texas. The first census taken in Atascosa County was in 1860 and counted 1,578 people. Today, Atascosa County's population is at more than 43,000 residents.

The earliest schools in Atascosa County were organized around the time of the Civil War. By 1914, there were thirty-seven schools in the county. By the 1940s the school districts had begun to consolidate. The total number of persons over the age of twenty-five who had completed four years of high school rose from 1,300 in 1950 to 2,083 in 1960. In addition, the number of residents with some college rose from 395 in 1950 to 473 in 1960. By the year 2000, when the census counted 38,628 people living in Atascosa County, over 65 percent of residents age twenty-five and older had four years of high school. Agriculture, government services, and some light manufacturing are key elements of the area's economy. The largest communities in the County are Jourdanton, the county seat, and Pleasanton the county's largest town. Other communities include Poteet, Lytle, Charlotte, Christine, Leming, McCoy, and Peggy. Some of the County's wonderful attractions include the Poteet Strawberry Festival, the Jourdanton Days Celebration, and the Cowboy Homecoming and Rodeo in Pleasanton. As we look back on the last 150 years with pride, we also look forward to a promising future for Atascosa.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to honor Atascosa County on their 150th anniversary and all of their accomplishments.

## CONGRATULATING MR. ERIC R. JONES

### HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 31, 2006*

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Mr. Eric R. Jones of Denton, Texas for receiving the prestigious Fulbright award to study abroad in Bolivia during the 2005–2006 academic year. Mr. Jones was honored with this award for his studies in Ethnomusicology at the University of North Texas.

The Fulbright Program is sponsored by the Department of State Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs. The program was established in 1946 with the purpose of building mutual understanding between the people of the United States and the rest of the world by allowing recipients to study, lecture or conduct research in an international exchange program.

Eric was selected on the basis of academic achievement, as well as demonstrated leadership potential in his field.

I extend my sincere congratulations to Mr. Eric Jones on receiving this award and commend his dedication and desire to help his school, community and country.

## ON REMOVAL OF NAME AS COSPONSOR OF HOUSE RESOLUTIONS 635, 636, AND 637

### HON. ZOE LOFGREN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 31, 2006*

Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California. Mr. Speaker, during the December recess I was surprised to read in a newspaper article that I was listed as a cosponsor of House Resolutions 635, 636 and 637 since I had not cosponsored any of these measures. I discovered that due to administrative errors, my name was mistakenly added to these bills by the Judiciary Committee staff. I never was a cosponsor of any of them but the only way to correct the committee's error under the rules of the House is to ask unanimous consent to have my name removed as a cosponsor even though I never asked to be added to these pieces of legislation. I could not correct these errors until the House reconvened, which is why I am taking this action today.

I have been involved in two impeachment proceedings against American Presidents. The first was in 1974, during the impeachment inquiry related to President Nixon when I served on the staff of a member of the House Judiciary Committee, Congressman Don Edwards. The second was in 1998, as a Member of the Judiciary Committee during the impeachment of President Clinton.

Impeachment of a President is provided for in the Constitution only in cases of bribery, treason or "high crimes and misdemeanors." The latter phrase had a very specific meaning to the drafters of our Constitution and was meant to include misbehavior by a President that threatened the very nature of our government. President Nixon resigned before the Congress could vote on his impeachment, but the impeachment articles adopted by a bipartisan majority of the Judiciary Committee included behavior that was so lawless that it could threaten the very nature of the American government.

The partisan 1998 impeachment was based on personal misbehavior by the President and was, in my judgment, a misuse of the impeachment provisions in the Constitution. Use of impeachment for any reason that does not meet the standard set in the Constitution must be avoided by the Congress.

Serious questions have been raised about President Bush's actions in approving warrantless wiretaps by the NSA, as well as questions about both the Vice President's and the President's information that was provided to the Congress as the basis for the decision to initiate war in Iraq. These important questions need to be answered, and Congress should then consider the answers in a careful, deliberate and thoughtful manner. It is important that this process be done in a dispassionate way that avoids partisanship. This thorough analysis should, in my judgment, be undertaken before anything such as these resolutions are considered.

## TRIBUTE TO FALLBROOK PEOPLE TO PEOPLE SERVICES

### HON. DARRELL E. ISSA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 31, 2006*

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor Fallbrook People to People Services on the occasion of 24 years of outstanding services to the North County San Diego community.

On January 29, 2006, Fallbrook People to People Services celebrated 24 years of providing nonprofit, volunteer run, free employment and counseling resources to under served members of North San Diego County. The volunteers have served the community by matching citizens with needs with individuals whom can assist. As a result, over 11,300 jobs have been identified and filled.

Mr. Speaker, with the dedication of Fallbrook People to People Service volunteers, many elderly or incapacitated clients are able to find affordable home health care, housekeeping, and home maintenance assistance that they would otherwise be unable to locate. Many local businesses also take advantage of this resource to staff sales, service, office and maintenance positions. Young mothers, first time workers, and middle-aged women are given assistance to support their families and find meaningful employment in order to become self-sufficient citizens.

On the occasion of Fallbrook People to People Service's 24th anniversary, I would like to personally recognize the work of those who have served as volunteers, staff and board members of this exceptional, nonprofit organization.

## TRIBUTE TO CHRIS JONES

### HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 31, 2006*

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the accomplishment of Chris Jones, a

Texas State University senior who was recently sworn in as the newest member of the San Marcos, Texas City Council.

Mr. Speaker, Chris Jones is the first student to be elected to the San Marcos City Council in 33 years. He won the election because of his values, determination and hard work.

Chris Jones was raised in the small West Texas town of Seminole between Lubbock and Midland. He is a graduate of Seminole High School and has completed undergraduate studies in Public Administration at Texas State University.

Councilman Jones ran his campaign on the idea of a better future for San Marcos, one that includes bringing jobs into the city. His service to his community is extensive considering his age. He served as Student Body Vice President at Texas State and currently serves on the Chancellor's Advisory Board. He is an ambassador to the President of the University from the Student Foundation. He also served as President of Black Student Alliance and currently chairs the Student Chapter of the Texas State Alumni Association. On top of all of this, he has interned for Texas Lt. Governor Bill Ratliff and State Representative Patrick Rose. These achievements represent only a portion of his service, contributions that earned him an honor by the Dunbar Heritage Association in 2004 for his service to the community.

Mr. Speaker, Chris Jones is a valuable asset to San Marcos and I am proud to have him in the 28th district of Texas.

## TRIBUTE TO ROBERT RAWLINGS

### HON. JOHN T. SALAZAR

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 31, 2006*

Mr. SALAZAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Robert Rawlings on his induction into the Colorado Business Hall of Fame.

Bob Rawlings was born in Pueblo in 1924 and bravely defended his country during the Second World War, serving in the U.S. Navy from 1942 to 1946. With a degree from Colorado College, Bob then began a career as a reporter for the Pueblo Chieftain in 1947. His enthusiasm and passion for journalism propelled him to the position of Editor and then to President of Star-Journal Publishing Corporation in 1984.

His achievements in the field of Journalism prompted the University of Colorado to induct Bob as a ''Living Legend'' in 1997. The Colorado Press Association named him ''Colorado Newspaper Person of the Year'' in 1989 and the Pueblo Chamber of Commerce gave him the title of ''Outstanding Citizen of the Year'' in 1993.

While Bob is today being honored as a remarkable businessman, his name is equally synonymous with service. Always devoted to his hometown of Pueblo, over the years he has contributed generously of himself to the Colorado State University at Pueblo, and was honored in 2004 as ''Volunteer of the Year'' by the Council for the Advancement and Support of Education.

Even with all of this public activity, Bob is still a family man first and foremost. He and his wife Sandy have 4 children and 5 grandchildren.

Bob's story is the story of the American spirit. A spirit and life defined by a will to succeed and a desire to give back. It is also a life of service and generosity, of drive and achievement. Bob's persistence, patriotism, and devotion to business and community should serve as an example for us all.

I am honored to be a part of the induction of this great man into the Colorado Business Hall of Fame.

## CELEBRATING THE LUNAR NEW YEAR

### HON. HILDA L. SOLIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 31, 2006*

Ms. SOLIS. Mr. Speaker, today I join the Chinese community in ushering in the Lunar New Year and celebrating the Year of the Dog.

Since the earliest days of this country, people from all cultures have journeyed to our Nation seeking the promise of freedom, opportunity, and the American dream. As an integral part of our society, Chinese Americans are leaders in public service, government, science, law, education, athletics, and the arts. As business entrepreneurs, Chinese Americans are helping to strengthen our economy and our communities through their hard work and ingenuity. As patriots, Chinese Americans continue to risk their lives defending liberty.

I am pleased to help celebrate the Year of the Dog and commend those organizing events in its honor. These events promote greater understanding of the Chinese culture and society and honor not only the historical contributions of Chinese traditions, but also encourage greater awareness of the modern contributions of Chinese Americans.

As a member of the Congressional Asian Pacific Islander American Caucus, I am proud to pay tribute to the 120,000 individuals of Asian descent I represent in California's 32nd Congressional District. Residents of Rosemead, Monterey Park, Covina, West Covina, and other cities throughout my district know first hand the economic and cultural contributions of the Asian and Pacific Islander communities.

Gung Hay Fat Choy. Xin Nien Kuai Le.

## IN MEMORY OF DR. CHARLES HANSON SAUNDERS

### HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 31, 2006*

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remember Dr. Charles Hanson Saunders, a wonderful man and a friend to the community of Denton, Texas. Dr. Saunders passed away peacefully on Monday, December 26th, 2005 at his home at the age of 90.

Dr. Saunders was born on March 17, 1915 to Mr. and Mrs. Charles and Frances Saunders. Born and raised in Denton, he spent his life serving our country and committing his life to continuing education and working vigorously. He became involved in the Boy Scouts of America at an early age and eventually earned his Eagle award. He is responsible for starting the fIrst Cub Scout den in Denton and continued to support the Boy Scouts of America throughout his lifetime.

His formal education began at North Texas State Teachers College where he earned a Bachelor of Science in 1935. Later, Dr. Saunders attended Baylor University College of Dentistry and went on to receive his Doctor of Dental Surgery degree from the University of Michigan College of Dentistry in 1938.

After graduation, Dr. Charles Saunders returned to Denton and established his dental practice alongside his father. Later, he volunteered and entered the Army Air Force Dental Corps where he served his country while stationed in England during World War II with the 39200 Bomber Group. He returned and married Ms. Mabel Pearson, and they celebrated their 60th Anniversary in early 2005.

Dr. Saunders returned to his dental practice in Denton and then specialized in the practice of periodontics until his retirement in 1986.

A lifetime member of the Denton Kiwanis Club, Dr. Saunders served on the board of directors as well as on the board of directors for the Children's Clinic Trust. He received the Hixon Award from Kiwanis International for his outstanding service to the club. Additionally, he was extremely involved in the First Presbyterian Church of Denton. Over his lifetime membership, he served as a deacon and an elder. He was also a cofounder, board member and vice president of the Clear Creek Watershed Authority in Denton County. Dr. Saunders also served in leadership positions for the Flow Memorial Hospital for 10 years.

Dr. Saunders was a wonderful contributor to many local activities. His leadership and support created many opportunities for the members of his community. Today, I would like to recognize and celebrate the life of Dr. Charles H. Saunders. He was intelligent, giving and a true American. Charles leaves behind his lovely wife, Mrs. Mabel Pearson Saunders; his two children Charles P. Saunders and Gail P. Saunders; three grandchildren, Rachel Pryor, Kierstin Rusk and Nicholas Burgess; eight greatgrandchildren; and two nieces, Carolyn Thayer and Lois Hudman.

## INTRODUCTION OF THE FUEL SECURITY AND CONSUMER CHOICE ACT

### HON. EDWARD J. MARKEY

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 31, 2006*

Mr. MARKEY. Mr. Speaker, we have an opportunity to change fundamentally the relationship of the United States to energy in a way that helps the consumer, reduces pollution, reduces greenhouse gases, and reduces the need to use military force to protect oil fields in countries thousands of miles from our shores. Nearly 70 percent of all the oil we use is consumed by the transportation sector, so we must look for alternatives to imported oil for fueling our cars and trucks. Today, advances in the production of ethanol—the refining of starch, sugar and cellulose into auto fuel—have reached the point where we have an opportunity to make a huge difference in opening up the market for alternatives to gasoline. Now is the time to be bold.

The powerful promise of ethanol to dramatically reduce foreign oil imports has just been demonstrated by Brazil. As a result of its ethanol production and technological development, Brazil has cut its dependence on foreign oil from about 80 percent in the 1970's to nearly zero today—despite being the 10th largest energy consumer in the world. Ethanol now accounts for 20 percent of Brazil's transportation fuel—we should be able to do that here.

The ethanol that the U.S. currently produces—3.4 billion gallons in 2004, or the equivalent of 250,000 barrels of oil a day—is made from corn. Producing ethanol from corn has been tremendously successful in the Midwest and now we must look to replicate that success all across the country, even in places where corn doesn't grow. There is great potential in ethanol refined from sources of cellulose, which are abundant and widely available in every corner of America. Experts tell us that biomass as diverse as switchgrass, sawgrass, tree bark, or wastes such as sawdust, paper pulp or sugar cane waste could now be turned into ethanol. Cellulosic ethanol holds incredible potential—by many estimates, the ability to replace 1–2 million barrels of oil a day or nearly the amount of oil that we consume from the Middle East.

But cellulosic ethanol can be derived not just from new crops grown in the farm belt, but also the waste streams of every city and village in urban and suburban America. Right now this surplus cellulose is being trucked to a landfill at great cost. But this so-called "waste stream" is actually the potential backbone of an alternative auto fuel. Turning cellulosic waste into ethanol would also have the virtue of helping to relieve the immense pressure in urban areas on landfills while also producing a protein rich animal food.

We need to make ethanol a national program here as Brazil has done. Right now ethanol is a boutique fuel for the Midwest that is not widely used in the urban areas or our coasts because the costs of transporting it there make it uneconomic. We need to give every region of our country an ability to produce and use ethanol. We need to give every sector of industry a stake in developing ethanol from the byproducts produced at plants in urban areas.

Right now, there are nearly five million vehicles already on the road in the U.S. that are capable of running on E85, a fuel mix that is 85 percent ethanol and 15 percent gasoline. Recently, automakers such as Ford and GM have announced plans to ramp up production of flexfuel vehicles, planning to produce a combined 650,000 such vehicles in 2006. Making vehicles that are capable of running on 85 percent ethanol is also not significantly more expensive than making cars that run on gas only. Right now, vehicles that have flexfuel models retail for the same prices as their gas-only counterparts.

Today, I am introducing the "Fuel Security and Consumer Choice Act"—legislation mandating that within 10 years all cars, trucks and SUV's sold in the United States be flex-fuel vehicles, capable of running on gasoline, ethanol or a combination of both. This legislation would also gradually phase out the so-called "dual fuels loophole" over a 4 year period—expiring roughly around the year 2010, when the credit is currently set to expire under the Energy Bill passed last year. This phase out will ensure that as we move forward as a Nation towards using these new fuels, we do not inadvertently move backwards in overall fuel economy standards for our Nation's fleet of cars, trucks and SUVs.

Mandating that U.S. cars be capable of running on ethanol will spur the development of these new cellulosic ethanols and improve technology for producing ethanol from corn. We are a technological giant and we must develop fuels for the future for our transportation sector if we ever want to replace our dependence on oil, reduce greenhouse gas emissions and provide relief to American consumers from high gas and energy prices.

## TRIBUTE TO CLEAN OCEAN ACTION

### HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 31, 2006*

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the work of the volunteers for Clean Ocean Action, an organization that has made tremendous efforts to clean up the Jersey Shore over the past 22 years.

Clean Ocean Action, COA, was established in 1984 by individuals with a deep-rooted concern for the environment and a strong desire to help clean up our oceans and beaches. Today we can say with certainty that the waters of the New York/New Jersey Bight have benefited greatly from the efforts of COA, its volunteers, and the many citizens who have participated in COA activities.

In the late 1980s, medical waste and other trash washing up on the Jersey Shore closed our beaches for an entire summer. Off our coast, eight separate ocean dumpsites collected all kinds of foul waste. COA and its volunteers helped lead the charge, in conjunction with Federal and State efforts, to keep trash off our beaches and close the dumpsites, and we can see the results every day.

More than 30,000 Clean Ocean Action volunteers gather for biannual beach cleanups that have removed millions of pieces of trash and debris that typically wash up on our shores. COA compiles statistics on the trash collected during their sweeps, providing a very valuable tool to determine the leading source of debris pollution on our beaches and in our coastal waters.

Having spent much of my career in elected office working on policies to protect our oceans and our coastline, I am keenly aware of the contributions that this organization have made to the Jersey Shore. The efforts of groups like the COA, and their unpaid volunteers often pass with little notice, but we all benefit from their work and we should support their efforts.

Mr. Speaker, Clean Ocean Action is holding a brunch to thank its volunteers for their hard work. I urge my colleagues to join me in also thanking these volunteers as well as the hard-working staff that has done so much to clean up the Jersey Shore and protect the New York/New Jersey Bight.

## IN RECOGNITION OF MR. CHARLES S. WARREN ON THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT AS CHAIRMAN OF MANHATTAN COMMUNITY BOARD 8

### HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 31, 2006*

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to acknowledge the achievements of Mr. Charles S. Warren on the occasion of his retirement as chairman of New York, City's Community Board 8. A tireless and dedicated community activist and civic volunteer, Charles Warren is a consummate New Yorker who has distinguished himself throughout a remarkable career in the public and private sectors.

A highly regarded attorney in private practice, Charles S. Warren has also distinguished himself through his public and community service. After earning a bachelor of arts degree from the University of Florida, an L.L.B. from Columbia University Law School, and an advanced L.L.M. degree from the New York University School of Law, Mr. Warren launched a remarkable career in public service. He became the chief legislative assistant to the senior United States Senator from New York, the late Jacob K. Javits, serving as the top advisor to that eminent statesman. In this capacity, Charles Warren was the principal drafter of the 1973 War Powers Resolution and developed extensive expertise on issues ranging from housing and urban development to environmental protection and conservation.

Because of Mr. Warren's outstanding reputation, President Jimmy Carter reached across party lines to tap him to serve as director of the Office of Legislation of the United States Environmental Protection Agency. He was subsequently promoted to the position of EPA administrator for Region II with jurisdiction over New York, New Jersey, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands. As Region II administrator, Charles S. Warren supervised implementation and enforcement of critical environmental laws and oversaw the awarding of grants and contracts valued at more than $500 million for various environmental protection and related programs to states, communities, and other recipients.

Mr. Warren then went on to distinguish himself in the not-for-profit and private sectors. He served as the senior vice president for the Public Broadcasting Service's flagship public television station, WNET/Channel 13. He went on to be named a partner at the Manhattan law firm of Berle, Kass & Case. Since 1994, he has been a Partner at the highly regarded firm of Bryan Cave LLP, where he currently serves as the deputy director of the Environmental Client Group. Mr. Warren's practice includes regulatory, administrative, environmental review, permitting, and enforcement matters, and his clients have included banks, railroads, industrial and commercial corporations and local and regional authorities.

It is for his volunteer service as a member and chairman of Community Board 8 for which Mr. Warren is being honored by his fellow Board members and community residents on the evening of January 30, 2006. Community Board 8, which encompasses Manhattan's Upper East Side and Roosevelt Island, serves as the representative town meeting of the historic and nationally prominent neighborhoods

that lie within its boundaries. It thus provides a voice to community residents and their concerns running the gamut of issues from land use to traffic to sanitation and beyond. After joining the Board in 1985, Mr. Warren became a dedicated and energetic representative for his fellow citizens. His leadership abilities were recognized when he was elected chairman of Manhattan's Community Board 8 in January of 2003. He has just concluded 3 years as chairman. Community Board 8 residents are fortunate that Charles S. Warren will continue to serve their interests as a member of Community Board, where he currently serves as the co-chairman of its Transportation Committee. Throughout a career of professional and voluntary activity, Charles S. Warren has fought for and secured immeasurable improvements to the quality of life of his fellow New York County residents.

Mr. Speaker, in recognition of his tremendous contributions to civic and public life, I request that my colleagues join me in paying tribute to Mr. Charles S. Warren, a great New Yorker and a great American. Charles Warren's dedication to public and community serves as an inspiration to us all.

## RECOGNIZING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE PRINCE WILLIAM REGIONAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

### HON. TOM DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 31, 2006*

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today along with Representative FRANK WOLF and Representative JO ANN DAVIS of Virginia to recognize the achievements and contributions of the Prince William Regional Chamber of Commerce as they plan to commemorate their 50th anniversary.

The Prince William Regional Chamber's mission is to sustain the strong business climate and high quality of life that has made Prince William one of the best places to live in the Nation. It is an organization comprised of more than 1,000 businesses and community groups that work together to strengthen the community and promote the region's business development.

Prince William's business community has grown and diversified tremendously over the Chamber's 50 years of existence. In order to effectively represent the range of member industries, the chamber is comprised of various business councils to ensure all industry perspectives are represented as policies and programs are developed and implemented.

The Regional Chamber is integral to promoting businesses' profitability and effectiveness, but also serves as an important resource for startup and existing businesses. They provide valuable information for area businesses and hold informative seminars on everything from developing successful business plans to creating effective marketing strategies. In addition, the Chamber is active in enhancing the community's quality of life by providing scholarships for area high school students, promoting the efforts of area not-for-profit organizations and community help organizations, and each year honoring area regional public safety professionals who have preformed beyond the call of duty.

We have had the privilege to meet and work with the members of the Chamber on various occasions to discuss the issues that affect the Prince William community and the Nation. The Regional Chamber has maintained a relationship with policy makers at the Federal, State and local level, and they have worked tirelessly to ensure that area businesses grow and succeed.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, we call upon our colleagues to join us in congratulating the Prince William County Regional Chamber of Commerce on 50 years of success and wishing the Chamber success in the years to come.

## ARTICLE ON FOOD SAFETY

### HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 31, 2006*

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, I would like to call your attention to the following article on food safety, which I submit for the RECORD, written by my constituent, Richard Gilmore. Mr. Gilmore is the President and CEO of the GIC Group. Mr. Gilmore's article addresses the issue of food safety. While I may not agree with all of Mr. Gilmore's proposals, I recommend this article to every citizen interested in the integrity of the food supply chain and the safety of the food we consume every day.

[From Barron's Online, Nov. 7, 2005]

GET READY FOR HEALTH WARS

(By Rick Gilmore)

It's not easy to fight a war when the weapons could be candy bars or milk, and if the battlegrounds are in Halloween candy baskets or dairy farms. And if we ever do master these theaters of warfare, we'll have to prepare for other modes of transmission for pathogens, such as fruit and vegetable juices, canned foods, pastas and other grain-based foods, chicken and fish.

As bad as the chances of a pandemic disease may be, the possibilities for a deliberate attack on our food chain are endless. And worse: They are likely because the weapons are immediately accessible, require minimal training, are cheap to produce and offer high kill ratios of innocent citizenry.

Even before 9/11, our government had been thinking about these ugly scenarios. Multiple scientific studies model and quantify the human impact of the deliberate release of a toxin at a dairy farm or a pathogen in a major city. A theoretical study on milk said a terrorist needs to add only 10 grams of botulism toxin to a truck-full of milk to get 400,000 casualties. An aerosol-generated attack of anthrax sprayed with the prevailing wind could affect as much as 35% of the nearby population within three days, with a case fatality rate as high as 70%.

Governments and the private sector most certainly are attempting to build their own territorial defenses, sometimes more effectively than in others. The Australian method of dealing with candy bars allegedly contaminated with a pesticide was to recall all the affected Mars and Snickers bars, crush them, and dispose of them with a deep burial. The U.K. government detected a carcinogenic food coloring in a Worcestershire sauce ingredient, and it notified consumers and withdrew the product from the shelves. Unfortunately, it did not promptly notify other states in the European Union, violating Europe's Rapid Alert System for Food and Feed.

Such accidents are probably impossible to stop. We also cannot eradicate avian flu if it threatens us, but our combat strategy has many weaknesses. President Bush outlined a new plan to spend $7.1 billion to stockpile medications like Tamiflu and Relenza to combat an outbreak. The country expects to have four million doses on hand by Jan. 1, but the World Health Organization recommends stockpiling doses for at least 25% of the population—73 million Americans.

Whatever our country's plans, problems abound. Roche has made it clear that it is already back-ordered more than a year on Tamiflu, and researchers are concerned that there won't be enough antiviral medicine available to blunt the global onslaught of a possible pandemic. A pandemic triggered by a mutated H5N1 virus, moreover, may not be affected by antiviral drugs or any of the vaccines currently in development. Bush belatedly supported efforts to develop cell-based vaccines that can be produced much faster than today's vaccines, but discoveries don't come on timetables.

The BioShield Act of 2004 was passed to address just the kind of threat we face with avian flu. It sets out to accomplish three goals: speed the Food and Drug Administration's approval of drugs and vaccines to counter a bioterror attack; create incentives for companies to develop new products through government-guaranteed purchases of pharmaceuticals and biologics; and secure long-term stockpiles of such products in case of an outbreak. Despite the fanfare of the program, progress has been slow, primarily because of underfunding and uncertainties regarding liability insurance and intellectual property protection.

When it comes to our defense system against bioterrorism, the whole nation is still held hostage. Each leg of the stool—preparedness, surveillance and protection—is wobbly at the moment.

We're planning for an attack within our borders and have placed minimal attention on what occurs outside them, despite the internationalization of our food system. Food ingredients are imported from around the world and exported to consumers and corporate affiliates worldwide. Kansas and the Punjab are part of the same food chain.

Staple food items now travel a minimum of 1,400 miles from farm to table. And yet, we have a system in place under the FDA and the U.S. Department of Agriculture that focuses on U.S. registrations, port notifications and reporting for American-based food companies. Although we seek information on foreign food companies selling and distributing to U.S. companies, the data do not go back to the point of origin. Even here at home we exclude farms, including aquaculture, from any reporting requirements, though on-farm crops are the most likely targets to serve as carriers for the best-known pathogens—stem rust for cereals, Southern corn-leaf blight, rice blast, potato blight and citrus canker. The European Union takes a more thorough approach to traceability, including every link in the food chain from farm to table.

By adhering to a territorial defense strategy, we are leaving ourselves and our trading partners vulnerable when it comes to exports. Right now, a contaminated food item from the U.S. could be exported to another country without our knowledge and without warning to the foreign buyer. European export certification is compulsory unless specifically exempted by the importing country.

Another vulnerability: The pathogen itself. Studying likely pathogens that might be used in an attack is somewhat like finding a needle in a haystack. USDA is now funding

research centers to deal with plant diseases and zoonoses, which are pathogens transmitted from animals to humans. Still, the focus is on the usual suspects, and not enough on new pathogens, many of which can be developed cheaply by slightly altering the original virus strain.

We have learned the hard way that one terrorist cell can inflict more human and economic damage than we can protect at a given time. Congress and the Bush administration are addressing the issue, but haven't created a safer food environment. The system in place is a labyrinth of bureaucratic federal regulations that reflect yesterday's assumptions, not future possibilities. Federal funding for state activities has fallen short of their target, and state enforcement capabilities are not uniformly satisfactory. For industry, duplication of regulatory-agency requirements is costly and confounding, particularly for small and medium-size companies. Despite two years' worth of warnings of an avian-flu pandemic, drug companies still lack liability protection to launch and distribute new vaccines.

Closing the loopholes is not a matter of fine tuning because the holes are too wide to close. At home, we need to look to new genomic research that will determine how to develop crops that are resistant to a full range of pathogens. Internationally, there is an urgent need for greater coordination of research and information. No system can be failsafe when it comes to bioterrorism, but we can reshape the one we have today to be more effective.

## NEW REPORT SHOWS INDIA ENGULFED BY CORRUPTION

### HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 31, 2006*

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to inform my colleagues about a new report written by Indian writer M.S. Rahi, PhD, entitled "Corruption and Its Effect on Social Life." As you know, we have recently been having some problems with corruption here in Washington as well, so the paper particularly caught my eye at this time.

In it, Dr. Rahi exposes the massive corruption that has engulfed Indian government at all levels. Lately it has even begun to run through the judiciary, which had been the single semi-autonomous branch of government there and the single one that had shown even minimal concern for human rights. This is tragic for the people of India, as Dr. Rahi shows. He notes that India has been plagued with one corruption scandal after another, highlighting the Mundra, Bofors, Security Scam, Kargil Coffin Scam, Tehelka, and Recruitment Scam scandals by name. He notes that many of the lawyers practicing in Indian courts are the family members of the judges before whom they are practicing. He notes how Indian politics have been rigged to ensure dynastic succession, as the sons and daughters of Members of Parliament and of the Legislative Assemblies succeed them.

He does not discuss one of the major Indian corruption scandals of recent times, the selling of government jobs in Punjab by the Badal government (labeled "fee for service"), nor does he discuss the massive human-rights violations in India, except to make the very good and valid point that this kind of endemic corruption inevitably leads to human-rights violations. If the corruption can be cleaned, perhaps the human-rights violations will be reduced, something that we all desire.

The latest scandal is that Sikhs who bought land in the new state of Uttaranchal Pradesh have had their farms taken away and they have been expelled. Sikhs are not permitted to buy property in Rajasthan or in Himachal Pradesh. Yet anyone can buy land in Punjab, the predominantly Sikh state.

As you know, Mr. Speaker, over 250,000 Sikhs have been murdered in India. In addition, over 300,000 Christians in Nagaland, more than 90,000 Muslims in Kashmir, tens of thousands of Muslims and Christians elsewhere in the country, and tens of thousands of Assamese, Bodos, Dalit "untouchables," Manipuris, Tamils, and other minorities have been killed. Recently, the Bodos have threatened to end their truce with the Indian government.

Prime Minister Manmohan Singh made a good first step by apologizing for the Delhi massacre of Sikhs in November 1984, but he has made no move to compensate the families of the victims nor to apologize for any of the Indian government's other atrocities and compensate those victims.

Over 52,000 Sikhs are being held as political prisoners, along with tens of thousands of other minorities. The first step India must take is to release all political prisoners. And it must adopt stricter anti-corruption laws to ensure that corruption will be held to a minimum and when it does occur, it will be punished. As Dr. Rahi reminds us, the impunity of corrupt officials and the impunity of the officials who commit these atrocities go hand in hand. Until basic human rights, including the right to buy property, live free of the threat of violence, and be safe from government corruption, are allowed to be enjoyed by all Indians, we must cut off our aid and trade. And we must put Congress on record in support of a free and fair plebiscite on the subject of independence in Punjab, Khalistan, in Nagaland, in Kashmir (as promised to the United Nations in 1948), and wherever people are seeking their freedom. The essence of democracy is the right to self-determination and the people of these troubled regions will only escape the corruption and brutality when they are allowed to live in freedom.

## RECOGNIZING GRANT D. ASHLEY

### HON. JIM GIBBONS

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 31, 2006*

Mr. GIBBONS. Mr. Speaker, today, I would like to recognize the efforts of one outstanding law enforcement official who dedicated much of his life to fighting crime. After serving almost three decades in law enforcement, Grant D. Ashley will retire from the FBI today, January 31, 2006. Grant Ashley began his service with the FBI in 1976 in his hometown of Los Angeles, California. After being appointed as a Special Agent and following a period of training at Quantico, Virginia, Mr. Ashley investigated White Collar and Violent Crimes in the Los Angeles Division and served on the Los Angeles Division SWAT team.

Grant Ashley would later serve as a supervisor of Drug Investigation in the Criminal Investigative Division at FBI Headquarters in Washington, D.C. He would then supervise the Violent Crimes Task Force and a special squad on Organized Crime and Narcotics in Chicago. In the mid-1990s, Mr. Ashley gained responsibility over national security matters in the San Diego division of the FBI, and was then appointed Associate Special Agent in Charge of the San Francisco Division. In February 1999, Grant Ashley moved to Las Vegas, Nevada, to serve as designated Special Agent in Charge. Three years later he was appointed Assistant Director of the Criminal Investigative Division.

In 2004, FBI Director Robert Mueller appointed Grant Ashley to serve as Executive Assistant Director for Law Enforcement Services, where he had oversight over the FBI's broad efforts to support State and local law enforcement. When Director Mueller appointed Mr. Ashley he said, "Support for our partners in law enforcement is a priority for the FBI and is absolutely vital to our success in fighting terrorism and crime. Grant's background and experience as an investigator and manager make him ideally suited to oversee these efforts. He will bring to bear the same drive and innovation that he brought to criminal investigations to our efforts to improve the FBI's law enforcement services."

And indeed he did. Mr. Ashley served admirably as he worked to coordinate the efforts of the FBI, such as the laboratory division, forty-seven legal attaché offices, the Investigative Technologies Division, and the Criminal Justice Information Services Division, with the dedicated efforts of our State and local law enforcement. He understood the challenges facing our Nation's law enforcement officials, especially now in the 21st century as we fight terrorism at home and abroad. His dedication to improving law enforcement coordination across-the-board will continue to serve as a model for our Nation.

I am pleased to have had the opportunity to work with Grant Ashley and to have had the great honor to call him, friend. Today, I also call him a patriot. As he retires from close to three decades of service with the FBI, I would like to thank Grant Ashley for his outstanding service to law enforcement and to his Nation. Grant Ashley's commitment and dedication to fighting crime and law enforcement has made our country safer, and for that we should all thank him and congratulate him on an exceptional career with the FBI.

## TRIBUTE TO THE CORNER HEALTH CARE CENTER ON ITS 25TH ANNIVERSARY

### HON. JOHN D. DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 31, 2006*

Mr. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor The Corner Health Center on its 25th anniversary. Located in Ypsilanti, MI, The Corner Health Center offers medical care, health education, as well as support services for low income youth between the ages of 12 to 21. This vital assistance provides the necessary support to help these young people make healthy choices now and in the future.

As Michigan's first teen health center, The Corner Health Center educates at-risk teens

on the long-range implications of their health behaviors. In addition, The Corner Health Center also encourages these youths to develop responsible behaviors and take responsibility for their own health, using such innovative programs as: a theatre troupe, individualized baby booklets, as well as drug, alcohol and pregnancy prevention counseling.

Mr. Speaker, organizations such as The Corner Health Center serve our communities in invaluable ways. They provide key services supporting both the health of individuals as well as the health of their communities in which they live. I am proud to have The Corner Health Center in Michigan's 15th Congressional District and I would like to congratulate The Center on its 25th anniversary.

## IN RECOGNITION OF THE RETIREMENT OF BOSTON POLICE DEPARTMENT DETECTIVE JOHN F. GILLESPIE

### HON. STEPHEN F. LYNCH

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 31, 2006*

Mr. LYNCH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the dedication of Detective John F. Gillespie of the Boston Police Department. Upon his recent retirement, I wish to praise John for his thirty-five years of devoted service to the city of Boston.

John joined the Boston Police Department on October 7, 1970 and was first assigned to District Two in Roxbury. After more than two years of exemplary service, he was assigned to the Tactical Patrol Force (TPF), which patrolled the various neighborhoods of Boston.

John's next assignment was to District Eleven in Dorchester, where he received several letters of commendation during his tenure. One in particular was awarded to John for his courageous apprehension of a man wielding a shotgun.

In 1985, he moved to the position of Information Officer, which worked directly with the Boston Police Commissioners Office. After three years of service John was promoted to Detective and assigned to the Intelligence Unit, which is designated to dignitary protection. In this position he coordinated with Federal and State agencies in order to protect various heads of state as well as United States presidents.

John Gillespie is a remarkable gentleman with a long and illustrious career with the Boston Police Department. John's personal integrity, hard work and determination illustrate the best characteristics of those who work to protect and serve us all.

Mr. Speaker, it is my distinct honor to join with John's family, friends, and fellow officers on the Boston Police Department to thank him for his service. Additionally, I think we all would like to congratulate him on his much deserved retirement. I urge my colleagues to join me in celebrating John Gillespie's distinguished career and thank him for a job well done.

## TRIBUTE TO JAMES D. SCANLON

### HON. MAURICE D. HINCHEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 31, 2006*

Mr. HINCHEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor James D. Scanlon for a distinguished professional career that has spanned more than 39 years. As Jim prepares for his retirement as president of BAE Systems Platform Solutions, I would like to recognize and thank him for his tremendous leadership of one of our region's biggest and most stable employers, as well as his leadership in the Greater Binghamton business community.

After serving in the U.S. Army as a nuclear weapons officer, Jim began his career in the private sector with General Electric's Engineering Career Development Program, developing design and management systems for military aircraft. In 1992, he was named General Manager of GE's Control Systems business, retaining that position when the business was acquired by Martin Marietta and then merged with Lockheed. In 1995, as president of Lockheed Martin Control Systems, Jim led the acquisition of GE Aircraft Engines' engine control manufacturing operation. When Lockheed Martin Control Systems was combined with BAE Systems in 2000, Jim was named president of BAE Systems Controls. During the course of his career, he has overseen the development and production of mission-critical control systems used on all U.S. military aircraft and most of the global military aircraft, as well as every regional and large commercial aircraft worldwide.

In addition to his broad engineering and management experience, Jim has been an invaluable resource for our community, ensuring that BAE Systems and the previous owners of the Johnson City, New York, plant were involved and committed partners in the redevelopment of the Greater Binghamton region's economy. He has matched his professional commitment to our communities with a personal one, serving on the directorial boards of several local organizations, including the United Way and the SUNY Binghamton School of Management. He has justly received the many honors bestowed upon him by community organizations.

In addition to these numerous professional credentials, it must be noted that I, like so many others in Broome County, regard Jim as a friend. He inspires great loyalty in his employees and affection from the countless others with who he has worked over the years, in the defense industry, in the government, and in his home community of Vestal. He will be sorely missed by those of us who have had the pleasure of working with him.

Mr. Speaker, I am delighted to congratulate Jim Scanlon and his family on his retirement. I offer my very best wishes to him and his wife Dolores as they begin this new chapter in their lives, along with my deep appreciation for his innovation, dedication and hard work for the past 39 years.

## TRIBUTE TO CLAIR ORR, CHAIRMAN AND FOURTH DISTRICT REPRESENTATIVE OF COLORADO STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

### HON. MARILYN N. MUSGRAVE

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 31, 2006*

Mrs. MUSGRAVE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Clair Orr, a fellow Coloradan who has served with distinction on the State Board of Education. Since 1994, Clair has endeavored to provide students around the state with greater opportunity in life by obtaining high quality educations in our state's public schools. On this eight-member Board, Clair served as its Chairman and represented the 35,000-square-mile Fourth Congressional District.

Over the course of his tenure, Clair was instrumental in advancing initiatives because of his heart for service, dedication to helping students, and his ability to make tough stands for policies he knew would make a real difference.

It has been said that Clair measures his success by upholding the Colorado Revised Statutes, the U.S. Constitution, and the legal authority given to the Board. For these reasons, it is no wonder that Mr. Orr received the Distinguished Service Award by the National Association of States Board Educators (NASBE) after being nominated by his colleagues in his second term.

Shortly after beginning his service on the Board, Clair Orr successfully challenged Colorado Governor Roy Romer, standing up to his proposed constitutional amendment to change the Colorado Children's Trust Fund Board. Later, in 2000, he was appointed to this Trust by Governor Bill Owens.

Because of his leadership on the Board, however, Governor Romer appointed Clair to the Principle and Administrators Standards Board as well as the Colorado Achievement Task Force.

In the wake of the devastating Columbine shooting that shook our nation, Clair Orr organized an emergency Board meeting and led the bipartisan group to take unanimous action.

Among his other notable contributions over his 11 year term were the design and implementation of the Colorado Student Assessment Program, which is now the longest-standing standards-based assessment in the country. While serving on the Board, Clair oversaw the creation of an accreditation system where the state accredits local school districts using an 11 point system, which in-turn accredit local schools.

Clair Orr helped implement the School Accountability Reports program, which was considered the largest administrative task undertaken by the Colorado Department of Education. Additionally, he played a critical role in reviewing Colorado's plan to implement President Bush's No Child Left Behind.

In addition, Clair served on the Colorado Civics Task and helped secure a multi-million dollar grant for its projects. He was also selected by other Board members to serve for four years on the Nominations Committee for the NASBE.

Throughout Colorado, Clair Orr is revered by the education community and he has received high remarks from those who he has

served alongside. Here are some of the comments of his peers:

''Mr. Orr brought both grace and wisdom to his work for the children of Colorado. His experience, integrity and faith informed his positions and gave meaning to his comments. On behalf of my constituents, I thank him for his efforts to better the education of every child. On behalf of myself and my family, I thank him for being a stellar example of a true public servant.''—Rico Munn, 1st Congressional District, Colorado State Board of Education.

''Clair Orr is a kind and gentle man, one of great integrity and conviction. I will remember him most for these things: his insistence on abiding by the words of the Constitution, his deep-felt admiration for the soldiers who gave their lives for our country, his joy in reciting the Gettysburg Address, his stories about raising his three daughters, and his wonderful sense of humor. What I appreciated most about working with him was that even when he had a strong opinion about something, he was willing to listen to others' points of view, give them serious consideration, and compromise.''—Evie Hudak, 2nd Congressional District, Colorado State Board of Education.

''During Clair's tenure on the Colorado State Board of Education he never wavered in his oath of office to uphold the Constitution of the United States, he also referred to the Constitution quite frequently, keeping us on track. Always the Gentleman, he demonstrated quality leadership with strong convictions. His devotion and dedication to the academic achievement for all of Colorado's Children was without a doubt exemplary. The Citizens of Colorado are truly indebted to Clair for his service on our Colorado State Board of Education. I personally want to thank Clair for his mentorship, leadership and most of all friendship!''—Pamela Jo Suckla, Chairman 3rd Congressional District Colorado State Board of Education.

''Clair Orr is a unique education leader. His special attention to rural schools has opened doors of academic opportunity for hundreds of thousands of Colorado youngsters. Clair's commonsense approach to pressing issues and sweeping changes in public education has made him a true statesman among education leaders. Clair's example of hard work, boundless dedication and compassion will long be the template for how the State Board of Education operates in the future.''—Bob Schaffer, State Board of Education and Former U.S. Congressman, 4th Congressional District.

''CLAIR stands for: Concern for all children, not just a few; Leadership by moving boldly forward; A passion for service in his unwavering commitment to make Colorado schools move towards excellence; Integrity drove every decision he made during his eleven years on the board; Righteousness exudes from his very presence. There was never any question of Clair's motives.''—Peg Littleton, State Board of Education, 5th Congressional District

''I am honored to have served my first year on the Colorado State Board of Education with my colleague Clair Orr. As the newest member of the board, I found that his perspective, his respect for history and his vision for the State Board of Education was critical to our success as an elected board and a cohesive working group. Without his sense of history and where we had come, we would have—and now will—lacked a critical viewpoint in our deliberations. Clair Orr will be sorely missed and I wish him all the best in his next endeavors.''—Karen Middleton, State Board of Education, 7th Congressional District.

''Clair Orr has volunteered for the state of Colorado and its schoolchildren for eleven years on the State Board of Education. He has served as Chairman, and was also recently acknowledged by the National Association of State Boards of Education for his many years of distinguished service. The example that Mr. Orr has set raises the bar for all of us and serves to encourage others to give back to this great Democratic Republic. When I was first elected to the board, Mr. Orr helped get me caught up on the many issues we faced and always had time to help me out with questions. The state of Colorado owes Mr. Orr a debt of gratitude for his time and efforts.''—Jared Polis, Member-At-Large, Colorado State Board of Education.

For Clair, though, it is not about appointments, awards or public recognition, it was about keeping students front and center. For this reason, he often traveled the hundreds of miles needed in order to speak at town hall meetings, meet with parents, hear from school boards, and visit with educators around Northern and Southeastern Colorado. Mr. Orr utilized the media to get his message out. He had regularly scheduled radio appearances and frequently wrote editorials for the many small town papers throughout the district.

Clair Orr is also a dedicated family man and a successful business man. He has been married over 30 years to his wife Deb and has three grown daughters. Clair is a native Colorado resident and a fourth generation farmer. Mr. Orr is founder and is Chief Executive Officer of Agtown Technologies, which specializes in water accounting programs and web development for agro-businesses. One of his top clients is the renowned Western Stock Show. He also is a real estate broker who specializes in water rights sales as well as farms and ranches.

In 2004, Clair was nominated by the Northern Colorado Business Report as an Emerging Entrepreneur. In 2003, he was named Businessman of the Year by the National Republican Committee. In 2002, he was appointed to the Presidential Business Commission.

As a former member of the Board of Education in Morgan County, Colorado, I have seen Clair Orr work firsthand, and I have witnessed his drive to improve the quality of teaching in Colorado's classrooms. Mr. Speaker, I ask that this legislative body recognize the talents and successes of Mr. Clair Orr and join me in congratulating him on two successful and challenging terms as a State Education Board member.

## SAGO, ALMA NO. 1 MINE TRAGEDIES

### HON. NICK J. RAHALL II

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 31, 2006*

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, 2006 has not been kind to West Virginia's coal mining communities. First, we lost 12 miners in Sago. Then, just 17 days later, a fire broke out at the Alma No. 1 mine in Melville, trapping two men, untraceable beneath the Earth's surface. I was with the families of Ellery ''Elvis'' Hatfield and Don Bragg while we waited for news of the two men. We clung tightly to the hope that those men, dust-covered and weary, would emerge from the Alma mine to the hugs of grateful families. In the end, our worst fears were realized, and West Virginia lost two more brave souls.

These tragic events must be investigated by the appropriate officials. Meanwhile, with the Governor advancing new laws at the State level, I and the entire West Virginia Congressional delegation led by Senator BYRD, have already begun to respond by crafting legislative proposals at the federal level to make our mines safer places to work. The nation owes it to our coal miners to advance and enforce new and improved safety measures, and I am wholly dedicated to that endeavor.

I and the rest of the West Virginia Delegation, recently met with White House and other federal officials regarding our concern for mine safety laws and future improvements. I have also called on Congress to convene hearings on the Sago and Melville mine tragedies.

Too often in recent years, miners have expressed fears that the agency's safety mission has been diluted by concerns about costs and that the agency is, in fact, rolling back safety and health gains made since its creation. West Virginia miners toil every day to keep our Nation strong and so we are compelled to do all that we can to ensure their safety and well-being. No stone should be left unturned in the efforts to learn the causes of these tragedies. The Sago and Melville communities—and miners across the nation—deserve a full, fair and expeditious look into these critically important issues.

God bless the families who lost their loved ones in these tragedies, and God bless all who toil in our mines every day.

# *Daily Digest*

## HIGHLIGHTS

**Senate confirmed the nominations of Samuel A. Alito, Jr., to be an Associate Justice of the Supreme Court of the United States, and Ben S. Bernanke, to be Chairman of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System.**

**Senate and House of Representatives met in Joint Session to receive the President's State of the Union Message.**

# Senate

## *Chamber Action*

***Routine Proceedings, pages S333–S385***

**Measures Introduced:** Four bills and four resolutions were introduced, as follows: S. 2227–2230, and S. Res. 359–362. **Page S370**

**Measures Passed:**

***National School Counseling Week:*** Senate agreed to S. Res. 360, designating the Week of February 6 though February 10, 2006, as "National School Counseling Week". **Page S375**

***Honoring Professional Surveyors:*** Senate agreed to S. Res. 361, honoring professional surveyors and recognizing their contributions to society. **Pages S375–76**

***Honoring Coretta Scott King:*** Senate agreed to S. Res. 362, honoring the life of Coretta Scott King and expressing the condolences of the Senate on her passing. **Pages S376–81**

**Tax Reconciliation—Agreement:** A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that at 9:15 a.m., Senate begin consideration of H.R. 4297, to provide for reconciliation pursuant to section 201(b) of the concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal year 2006; and that the 60 minutes of morning business, following the remarks of the Majority Leader, be counted against the underlying statutory time limitation. **Page S381**

**Messages From the President:** Senate received the following message from the President of the United States:

Transmitting the report on the State of the Union delivered to a Joint Session of Congress on January 31, 2006; which was ordered to lie on the table. (PM–35) **Pages S366–79**

**Nominations Confirmed:** Senate confirmed the following nominations:

By 58 yeas 42 nays (Vote No. EX. 2), Samuel A. Alito, Jr., of New Jersey, to be an Associate Justice of the Supreme Court of the United States. **Pages S334–48, S385**

Ben S. Bernanke, of New Jersey, to be a Member of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System for a term of fourteen years from February 1, 2006.

Ben S. Bernanke, of New Jersey, to be Chairman of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System for a term of four years. **Pages S348–56, S385**

**Nominations Received:** Senate received the following nominations:

Edward P. Lazear, of California, to be a Member of the Council of Economic Advisers.

W. Ralph Basham, of Virginia, to be Commissioner of Customs, Department of Homeland Security.

Paul DeCamp, of Virginia, to be Administrator of the Wage and Hour Division, Department of Labor.

Jeffrey L. Sedgwick, of Massachusetts, to be Director of the Bureau of Justice Statistics.

Routine lists in the Air Force, Army, Marine Corps. **Pages S382–85**

**Messages From the House:** **Page S370**

**Additional Cosponsors:** **Pages S370–71**

**Statements on Introduced Bills/Resolutions:** **Pages S371–74**

**Additional Statements:** **Pages S363–66**

**Authorities for Committees to Meet:**

Pages S374–75

**Record Votes:** One record vote was taken today. (Total—2) Page S348

**Adjournment:** Senate convened at 9:45 a.m., and adjourned at 10:10 p.m., until 9:15 a.m., on Wednesday, February 1, 2006. (For Senate's program, see the remarks of the Majority Leader in today's Record on page S382.)

# *Committee Meetings*

*(Committees not listed did not meet)*

## PANDEMIC INFLUENZA PREPAREDNESS

*Committee on Appropriations:* Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies concluded a hearing to examine pandemic influenza preparedness at Federal, State and local levels, after receiving testimony from John Agwunobi, Assistant Secretary for Health, and Julie L. Gerberding, Director, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, both of the Department of Health and Human Services; Mary Mincer Hansen, Iowa Department of Public Health, Des Moines; Calvin B. Johnson, Pennsylvania Department of Health, Harrisburg; Bruce W. Dixon, Allegheny County Department of Public Health, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania; Joanne Godley, Philadelphia Department of Social Services, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania; Richard Webby, St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, Memphis, Tennessee; George B. Abercrombie, Hoffmann-La Roche, Inc., Branchburg, New Jersey; Daniel Soland, Chiron Corporation, Emeryville, California; Christopher Viehbacher, GlaxoSmithKline, Research Triangle Park, North Carolina; and John M. Barry, Tulane University Health Sciences Center, New Orleans, Louisiana.

## VIDEO CONTENT

*Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation:* Committee concluded a hearing to examine video content, focusing on video competition, program access, and local sports programming, after receiving testimony from Ben Pyne, Disney and ESPN Networks Affiliate Sales, New York, New York; Matt Polka, American Cable Association, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania; Robert G. Lee, WDBJ Television, Inc., Roanoke, Virginia; Joseph W. Waz, Jr., Comcast Corporation, Washington, D.C.; Daniel M. Fawcett, DIRECTV, Inc., El Segundo, California; and Doron Gorshein, The America Channel, Heathrow, Florida.

## NOMINATIONS

*Committee on Foreign Relations:* Committee concluded a hearing to examine the nominations of Kristie A. Kenney, of Virginia, to be Ambassador to the Republic of the Philippines, and Michael W. Michalak, of Michigan, for the rank of Ambassador during his tenure of service as United States Senior Official to the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation Forum, after the nominees testified and answered questions in their own behalf.

## HURRICANE KATRINA

*Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs:* Committee continued hearings to examine Hurricane Katrina response issues, focusing on the challenges during a catastrophe, including the evacuation of New Orleans in advance of Hurricane Katrina, receiving testimony from Johnny B. Bradberry, Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development, Joseph A. Donchess, Louisiana Nursing Home Association, and Jimmy Guidry, Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals, all of Baton Rouge; Terry J. Ebbert, City of New Orleans Office of Homeland Security and Public Safety, and Kevin U. Stephens, City of New Orleans Health Department, both of New Orleans, Louisiana; and Walter S. Maestri, Jefferson Parish Department of Emergency Management, Louisiana.

Committee will meet again on Wednesday, February 1.

## NOMINATIONS

*Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions:* Committee concluded a hearing to examine the nominations of Edwin G. Foulke, Jr., of South Carolina, to be an Assistant Secretary of Labor, and Richard Stickler, of West Virginia, to be Assistant Secretary of Labor for Mine Safety and Health, after the nominees testified and answered questions in their own behalf.

# House of Representatives

## Chamber Action

**Public Bills and Resolutions Introduced:** 26 public bills, H.R. 4654–4679; and 17 resolutions, H. Con. Res. 331; and H. Res. 646–652, 665–663 were introduced. **Pages H23–25**

**Additional Cosponsors:** **Pages H25–26**

**Reports Filed:** Reports were filed as follows today:

Bringing Communities into the 21st Century: A Report on Improving the Community Development Block Grant Program (H. Rept. 109–365);

H. Res. 653, relating to consideration of the bill (S. 1932) to provide for reconciliation pursuant to section 202(a) of the concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal year 2006 (H. Con. Res. 95) (H. Rept. 109–366);

H. Res. 654, to waive a requirement of clause 6(a) of rule XIII with respect to consideration of certain resolutions reported from the Committee on Rules (H. Rept. 109–367);

H.R. 3897, authorizing the Secretary of the Interior, acting through the Bureau of Reclamation to enter into a cooperative agreement with the Madera Irrigation District for purposes of supporting the Madera Water Supply and Groundwater Enhancement Project, with an amendment (H. Rept. 109–368); and

H. Res. 648, eliminating floor privileges and access to Member exercise facilities for registered lobbyists who are former Members or officers of the House (H. Rept. 109–369, Pt. 1). **Page H23**

**Resignation From Congress:** Read a letter from Representative Robert Menendez wherein he notified the Speaker of his resignation as Congressman for the 13th Congressional District of the State of New Jersey, effective close of business on Monday, January 16, 2006. **Page H3**

**Whole Number of the House:** The Chair announces to the House that, in light of the resignation of the gentleman from New Jersey, Mr. Menendez, the whole number of the House is adjusted to 433. **Page H3**

**Recess:** The House recessed at 12:05 p.m. and reconvened at 3:30 p.m. **Pages H3–4**

**Call of the House:** The Speaker called the House to order and ascertained the presence of a quorum (389 present, Roll No. 1). **Page H4**

**Committee to Notify the President That a Quorum of Each House Has Assembled:** The House agreed to H. Res. 649, authorizing the Speaker to appoint a committee to join with a committee on the part of the Senate to notify the President that a quorum of each House has assembled, and Congress is ready to receive any communication that he may be pleased to make. Subsequently, the Speaker appointed acting Majority Leader Blunt and Minority Leader Pelosi to the Committee. **Page H4**

**Notifying the Senate That a Quorum of the House Is Present:** The House agreed to H. Res. 650, to authorize the Clerk of the House to inform the Senate that a quorum of the House is present and that the House is ready to proceed with business. **Page H4**

**Meeting Hour:** The House agreed to H. Res. 651, establishing the hour of daily meeting of the House. **Pages H4–5**

**State of the Union Message:** The House agreed to S. Con. Res. 77, providing for a joint session of Congress to receive a message from the President on the state of the Union on Tuesday, January 31, 2006 at 9 p.m. **Page H5**

**Morning Hour Debate:** During the second session of the 109th Congress, agreed that on the legislative days of Monday and Tuesday before May 15, 2006, the House shall convene 90 minutes earlier than otherwise established for the purpose of morning-hour debate. Agreed that on the legislative day of Tuesday after May 15, 2006, the House shall convene for morning-hour debate one hour earlier than the time otherwise established. **Page H5**

**Extension of Remarks:** Agreed by unanimous consent to authority for Members to extend their remarks and include extraneous material in the Congressional Record. **Page H5**

**Calendar Wednesday:** Agreed by unanimous consent to dispense with the Calendar Wednesday business of Wednesday, February 1, 2006. **Page H5**

**Moment of Silence:** The Chair led the House in a moment of silence to respect the memory of Coretta Scott King. **Page H5**

**Honoring the life and accomplishments of Mrs. Coretta Scott King and her contributions as a leader in the struggle for civil rights, and expressing condolences to the King family on her passing—Order of Business:** The House agreed that it should be in order to immediately consider H. Res. 655, honoring the life and accomplishments of Mrs. Coretta Scott King and her contributions as a leader in the struggle for civil rights, and expressing condolences to the King family on her passing; that the resolution be considered as read; that the

previous question shall be considered as ordered on the resolution and the preamble to its adoption without intervening motion except one hour of debate equally divided and controlled by the chairman and ranking minority member of the Committee on the Judiciary; and notwithstanding the operation of the previous question, the Chair may postpone further consideration of the resolution to a time designated by the Speaker. Later, the Chair announced that further consideration will be postponed until Wednesday, February 2, 2006. **Pages H5–14**

**Social Security Advisory Board-appointment:** Read a letter from the Speaker wherein he announced his appointment of Mrs. Barbara Kennelly of Connecticut to the Social Security Advisory Board. **Page H14**

**Board of Trustees of the American Folklife Center in the Library of Congress-appointment:** Read a letter from the Speaker wherein he announced his reappointment of Ms. Kay Kaufman Shelemay of Cambridge, Massachusetts; and his appointment of Mr. Charlie Seeman of Spring Creek, Nevada to the Board of Trustees of the American Folklife Center in the Library of Congress. **Page H14**

**National Surface Transportation Policy and Revenue Study Commission-appointment:** Read a letter from the Speaker wherein he announced his appointments of Mr. Jack L. Schenendorf of Chevy Chase, Maryland and Mr. Matthew K. Rose of Westlake, Texas to the National Surface Transportation Policy and Revenue Study Commission. **Page H14**

**United States-China Economic and Security Review Commission:** Read a letter from the Speaker wherein he announced his appointments of Mr. Peter T. R. Brookes of Springfield, Virginia and Ms. Kerri Houston of Great Falls, Virginia. **Page H14**

**Recess:** The House recessed at 5:22 p.m. and reconvened at 8:43 p.m. **Page H14**

**State of the Union Address:** President George W. Bush delivered his State of the Union address to a joint session of Congress, pursuant to the provisions of S. Con. Res. 77. He was escorted into the House Chamber by a committee comprised of Representatives Blunt, Pryce of Ohio, Dreier, Pelosi, Hoyer, Clyburn and Senators Frist, McConnell, Santorum, Hutchison, Kyl, Dole, Specter, Reid, Durbin, Stabenow, Schumer, Obama, Salazar and Menendez. The President's message was referred to the Committee on the Whole House on the State of the Union and ordered printed (H. Doc. 109–80). **Pages H15–19**

**Senate Referrals:** S. Con. Res. 77 was held at the desk; and S. Con. Res. 78 was referred to the International Relations Committee. **Page H19**

**Quorum Calls—Votes:** One quorum call (Roll No. 1) developed during the proceedings of the House today and appears on page H4.

**Adjournment:** The House met at 12 noon and adjourned at 10:11 p.m.

# *Committee Meetings*

## DEFICIT REDUCTION ACT—RESOLUTION AGREEING TO THE SENATE AMENDMENT

*Committee on Rules:* Granted, by a vote of 7 to 4 with one Member voting present, a rule providing that the House hereby concurs in the Senate amendment to the House amendment to the bill (S. 1932) to provide for reconciliation pursuant to section 202(a) of the concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal year 2006 (H. Con. Res. 95). Testimony was heard from Representative LaTourette.

## SAME DAY CONSIDERATION OF CERTAIN RESOLUTIONS REPORTED BY THE RULES COMMITTEE—EXTEND AND MODIFY AUTHORITIES NEEDED TO COMBAT TERRORISM

*Committee on Rules:* Granted, by voice vote, a rule waiving clause 6(a) of rule XIII (requiring a two-thirds vote to consider a rule on the same day it is reported from the Rules Committee) against certain resolutions reported from the Rules Committee. The rule applies the waiver to any special rule reported on the legislative day of February 1, 2006, providing for consideration or disposition of a bill to extend and modify authorities needed to combat terrorism, and for other purposes.

## LIMITING ACCESS OF FORMER MEMBERS AND OFFICERS TO MEMBER AREAS

*Committee on Rules:* Ordered reported, by voice vote, H. Res. 648, To eliminate floor privileges and access to Member exercise facilities for registered lobbyists who are Former Members or Officers of the House. Testimony was heard from Representative Snyder.

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## COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 2006

*(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)*

### Senate

*Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation:* to hold hearings to examine promotion and advancement of women in sports, 10 a.m., SH–216.

*Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs:* to continue hearings to examine Hurricane Katrina response issues, focusing on managing the crisis and evacuating New Orleans, 10 a.m., SD–342.

*Committee on Indian Affairs:* to hold oversight hearings to examine off-reservation gaming issues, focusing on the process for considering gaming applications, 9:30 a.m., SD–106.

*Committee on the Judiciary:* to hold hearings to examine consolidation in the energy industry, 9:30 a.m., SD–226.

Subcommittee on Constitution, Civil Rights and Property Rights, to hold hearings to examine the death penalty in the United States, 2 p.m., SD–226.

## House

*Committee on Armed Services,* hearing on countering a nuclear Iran, 11 a.m., 2118 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Tactical Air and Land Forces and the Subcommittee on Readiness, joint hearing on Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom Ground Forces Vehicle and Personnel Protection and Rotary Wing Safety of Flight Update, 2 p.m., 2118 Rayburn.

*Committee on Energy and Commerce,* hearing entitled ''Phone Records For Sale: Why Aren't Phone Records Safe From Pretexting?'' 2 p.m., 2123 Rayburn.

*Committee on Government Reform,* to consider the following measures: H.R. 4054, To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 6110 East 51st Place in Tulsa, Oklahoma, as the ''Dewey F. Bartlett Post Office''; H.R. 4346, To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 122 South Bill Street in Francesville, Indiana, as the ''Malcolm Melville 'Mac' Lawrence Post Office''; H.R. 4456, To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 2404 Race Street in Jonesboro, Arkansas, as the ''Hattie Caraway Station''; H.R. 4509, To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1271 North King Street in Honolulu, Oahu, Hawaii, as the ''Hiram L. Fong Post Office Building''; H. Res. 629, Supporting the goals and ideals of a day of Hearts, Congenital Heart Defect Day in order to increase awareness about congenital heart defects; and S. 1989, To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 57 Rolfe Square in Cranston, Rhode Island, as the ''Holly A. Charette Post Office''; followed by a hearing entitled ''Restoring the Public Trust: 'A Review of the 'Federal Pension Forfeiture Act,' '' 10 a.m., 2154 Rayburn.

*Committee on Small Business,* Subcommittee on Tax, Finance and Exports and the Subcommittee on Rural Enterprises, Agriculture, and Technology, joint hearing entitled ''Transforming the Tax Code: An Examination of the President's Tax Reform Panel Recommendations,'' 3 p.m., 2360 Rayburn.

*Committee on Ways and Means,* to mark up H.R. 1631, Rail Infrastructure Development and Expansion Act for the 21st Century, 2:45 p.m., 1100 Longworth.

*Next Meeting of the* SENATE

9:15 a.m., Wednesday, February 1

Senate Chamber

**Program for Wednesday:** Senate will begin consideration of H.R. 4297, Tax Reconciliation, with a period of morning business not to extend beyond 60 minutes, which will be counted against the statutory time limitation.

*Next Meeting of the* HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

10 a.m., Wednesday, February 1

House Chamber

**Program for Wednesday:** Consideration of H. Res. 648—to eliminate floor privileges and access to Member exercise facilities for registered lobbyists who are former Members or officers of the House; and (2) H. Res. 653—agreeing to the Senate Amendment for S. 1932—Deficit Reduction Act of 2005.

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