though no federal agency accumulates such statistics comprehensively, an estimate by the American Association for the Advancement of Science put damage to the U.S. economy at $123 billion annually. We must do better to prevent the introduction of invasives into the Great Lakes environment.

One method by which these species enter the Great Lakes is through ballast water tanks. Current law requires ships carrying ballast water to undergo ballast water exchange to flush out invasive species before entering the Great Lakes from another port. However, 90 percent of all ships entering the Great Lakes have no ballast water on board. These NOBOBs are not subject to undergo ballast water exchange laws, even though they still have ballast tanks. Invasive species often survive in the sediment at the bottom of these tanks. When these ships operate in the Great Lakes, they may add and then pump out new ballast water before leaving. This mixes with residual ballast water and sediments, and provides an unregulated pathway for the introduction of new invasive species when the ballast water is released.

In other words, the contamination begins. We must not leave 90 percent of ships entering the Great Lakes untreated. This bipartisan legislation requires all ships with ballast tanks, including NOBOBs, to undergo ballast water exchange. In addition, the bill commissions a study of the effectiveness and environmental soundness of other ballast treatment options. The language fixes a current problem and works towards an even stronger solution for the future.

Mr. Speaker, this legislation, while small, has enormous consequences for the health and safety of one of our national treasures. I am proud to introduce this ballast water legislation to significantly reduce the infiltration of invasive species into the Great Lakes.

NATIONAL PHYSICAL EDUCATION AND SPORTS WEEK

HON. MARK UDALL
OF COLORADO
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, February 16, 2006

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, as obesity and the associated health risks continue to increase in America’s youth, it is important to encourage children to participate in physical activity.

To help spread this message, today I am introducing with Congressman ZACH WAMP of Tennessee, a resolution urging the declaration of a National Physical Education and Sports Week and National Physical Fitness and Sports Month.

This resolution notes the increase in childhood obesity along with the negative consequences of extremely overweight and obese people including a decrease in the average life span and rising health care costs stemming from obesity related illness. It also includes findings from the United States Surgeon General documenting that regular physical activity is associated with improved health-related quality of life. It resolves the sense of the House of Representatives regarding “National Physical Education and Sports Week” and “National Physical Fitness and Sports Month.”

Research shows that sound physical education programs can help students learn healthy habits for life. Through regular exercise and information on proper nutrition, children can develop habits for maintaining a healthy weight into adulthood. We must encourage our children to adopt healthier lifestyles because America’s children are experiencing obesity in growing numbers, and data continues to highlight the link between obesity and diabetes, heart disease and other life-threatening medical conditions.

“National Physical Education and Sports Week” and “National Physical Fitness and Sports Month” would remind citizens of the importance of maintaining a consistent exercise program and healthy lifestyle.

I urge the support of this resolution and look forward to its consideration.

TRIBUTE TO GEORGE DUNKLIN, SR.

HON. MARION BERRY
OF ARKANSAS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, February 16, 2006

Mr. BERRY. Mr. Speaker, I rise here today to pay tribute to one of my father’s great friends, Mr. George Dunklin, Sr., who is a true leader in Arkansas’ agriculture community. With more than 60 years of work in the cottonseed and fertilizer industries, George Dunklin, Sr. is one of the state’s most gifted businessmen.

As the former President of the most successful cottonseed oil mill in the country, Mr. George Dunklin, Sr., knows how to run a successful business. From the day his father bought the Planters Cotton Oil mill in 1935, to his days as President of the cooperative, George Dunklin Sr. has worked hard to transform the cottonseed industry. He spent 66 years building a profitable enterprise, and left a lasting mark on MidSouth agriculture.

Years of hard work earned George Dunklin Sr. distinguished positions as the President of the National Cottonseed Association in 1975, a member of the Cottonseed Committee to the Secretary of Agriculture, President of the Mississippi Valley Oilseed Processors Association, and recipient of the 1990 Harvey W. McGeorge Award for Distinguished Service to Agriculture. But George Dunklin, Sr.’s talents did not stop there. He was even elected to the Arkansas Sports Hall of Fame in 1991 for his accomplishments in tennis.

George Dunklin has been married to former Mary Elisabeth Black of DeWitt, Arkansas for 57 years and is the father of two children, Deborah Tipton of Memphis and George Dunklin, Jr. of DeWitt. He and his wife have five grandchildren, Megan Dunklin, Robert Tipton, Mary Tipton, Hillary Dunklin and Lauren Dunklin.

On February 21, 2006, our community will meet in Pine Bluff, Arkansas to honor George Dunklin, Sr. for his remarkable contributions to Arkansas agriculture. I ask my colleagues in Congress to join me in congratulating him on this occasion and thanking him for over half a century of dedicated service, as a great friend, and a great American.