

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

CONGRATULATING DR. GENE BOLLES ON RECEIVING THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF NEUROLOGICAL SURGEONS' 2006 HUMANITARIAN AWARD

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 16, 2006

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Dr. Gene Bolles on receiving the American Association of Neurological Surgeons' 2006 Humanitarian Award. The award recognizes "members who have done extraordinary work in neurosurgery, going way beyond their normal practice and bringing their skills to areas around the world that desperately need them." I can think of no better recipient for this honor than Dr. Bolles.

Dr. Bolles practiced neurosurgery in Boulder for 32 years before serving as chief of neurosurgery at the Landstuhl Regional Medical Center in Germany. There he repaired the shattered bodies of our U.S. soldiers who had been wounded in Afghanistan and Iraq. Now Dr. Bolles is in Kurdistan helping Iraqi physicians better care for civilians wounded in the war.

Gene Bolles has been using his skills and talent for humanitarian good for over twenty-five years. He was the first person to establish a neurosurgery program in Belize City. He has traveled to Indonesia several times with the purpose of providing medication to and performing surgery on the indigenous people there. Each year, he makes a trip to Albania to educate neurosurgeons and to keep them abreast of the latest technologies. In recent years, Dr. Bolles has used his first-hand experience to draw attention to the living casualties from the United States' actions in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Dr. Gene Bolles is a remarkable man. I greatly admire his energy, commitment and humanity. I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Dr. Bolles for his incredible work for people around the world and in particular for his work on behalf of our soldiers abroad. He is a great Coloradan and a great American. I wish him continued health and happiness in the future.

TRIBUTE TO DR. ALVIN D. GREENBERG AS HE RECEIVES THE 2006 TORCH OF LIBERTY AWARD

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 16, 2006

Ms. DeLAURO. Mr. Speaker, in my hometown of New Haven, Connecticut, friends, family and colleagues will gather to pay tribute to one of our community's most outstanding citizens and a dear friend of mine. I am proud to stand today and join the Connecticut Anti-Def-

amation League as they honor Dr. Alvin D. Greenberg with the 2006 Greater New Haven Torch of Liberty Award.

Our communities would not be the same without the efforts of individuals whose work truly benefits our families and neighborhoods. Each year, the Connecticut Anti-Defamation League presents the prestigious Torch of Liberty Award to an outstanding leader in the community, recognizing their unique commitment and dedication. Alvin is a remarkable reflection of the true spirit of community service. With extraordinary compassion and generosity, he has touched the lives of thousands of families throughout Greater New Haven through both his professional career and volunteer efforts.

Currently serving as the President of Temple Medical Center, Administrator of Yale-New Haven Ambulatory Services Corporation, Director of the Neuro-Rehabilitation Center and as a consultant in neurosurgery at Yale-New Haven Hospital, Dr. Greenberg continues to remain an active member of our medical community. His commitment and dedication to his patients and all of those who receive services at these various facilities is unparalleled. Throughout his distinguished career, Dr. Greenberg's integrity, collegiality, and expertise have earned him the respect not only of his colleagues, but of members of the medical field across the state. In addition to his professional contributions, Dr. Greenberg has dedicated countless hours to a variety of local organizations. The Union Trust Bank, the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation of Greater New Haven, and the Shubert Performing Arts Theater are just a few of those across the region who have benefited from his work.

It is not often that you find individuals who so willingly devote both their professional and personal time and energies to improving the quality of life for others. In his lifetime of good work and compassionate service, Dr. Greenberg has done just that. I am honored to rise today and join his wife, Barbara; his three children, family, friends, and colleagues to pay tribute to my good friend Dr. Alvin Greenberg for the many contributions he has made to Greater New Haven. I cannot think of a more appropriate honor than the Torch of Liberty Award to recognize the generosity and commitment Alvin has shown to our community. He has truly made a difference.

IN SUPPORT OF CHARTER SCHOOLS

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 16, 2006

Ms. McCOLLUM of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise in support of the seventh annual National Charter Schools Week, and to congratulate charter schools and their students, parents, teachers, and administrators for their commitment to innovation in public education.

I am proud to represent the district that is home to the first charter school in the United States, City Academy, which opened in St. Paul, Minnesota in 1992. Minnesota was the first state to pass charter school legislation in 1991. Today there are more than 120 charter schools in Minnesota that enroll more than 20,000 students.

Charter schools fulfill an important role in our nation's public education system. They encourage new ways of learning and require strong partnerships with the community. Charter schools often provide children who struggle in a traditional classroom the opportunity to thrive and grow.

In St. Paul and surrounding community there are more than two dozen charter schools. Each one provides a unique learning environment for its students—from the Academia Cesar Chavez Charter School which integrates Latino cultural values in its learning environment to the Community of Peace Academy that provides a violence-free environment for inner city children. Each of the charter schools in my district have focused their missions around a core set of values in order to provide a quality educational experience for their students.

It is with appreciation that I rise today to commend the teachers and students of charter schools, and the communities that support them, for their contributions and achievements.

TRIBUTE TO STUDENTS FROM MUNSTER HIGH SCHOOL

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 16, 2006

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to pay tribute to the outstanding achievements of an exceptional group of students from Munster High School, located in Indiana's First Congressional District. From April 29 to May 1, 2006, these students competed in the National Finals of the We the People: The Citizen and the Constitution program held in Washington, DC. For their knowledge and understanding of the American government, these extraordinary young people were awarded the Central Region Award at this year's competition.

The We the People program, administered by the Center for Civic Education, is a program that reaches over 28 million elementary, middle, and high school students. The goal of the program is to provide students with an understanding of the fundamentals of the Constitution and the Bill of Rights. The program helps students to understand their rights under the American governmental system.

The people of Munster, as well as the entire Northwest Indiana community, can be proud of the following members of this truly remarkable class of students: Sara Brown, Emily Clark, Andrea Coulis, Kim Dooley, Reem (Sara)

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

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

Farooq, Scott Goodwin, Lauren Hudak, Hannah Huebner, Casey Jedrzejczak, Alexis Jeter, Joseph Kasenga, Emily Lyness, Thomas Paliga, Shobba Pai, Samantha Skrobot, Tamiko Toyama, Lindsay Weiss, and Matt Westerlund. The teacher for this award winning team was Michael Gordon.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to once again extend my most heartfelt congratulations to the members of Munster High School's We the People program for their commitment to excellence, as well as to the faculty members who have instilled in their students the desire to succeed. The values exhibited by these young people and their interest in the history and fundamentals of our great Nation serve to inspire us all. I am proud to represent these fine individuals in Congress, and I am proud to have been given this opportunity to recognize these future leaders. I look forward to their future achievements as they continue to rise to the top.

TRIBUTE TO THE PFIZER PLANT
RESEARCH LABORATORY AT THE
NEW YORK BOTANICAL GARDEN

HON. JOSÉ E. SERRANO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 16, 2006

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to honor The New York Botanical Garden as it celebrates the grand opening of the Pfizer Plant Research Laboratory on May 16, 2006. The opening marks the completion of the Garden's science campus, and is the only one of its kind at any botanical garden in the country.

Founded in 1891, The New York Botanical Garden is one of the world's great collections of plants, the region's leading educational center for gardening and horticulture, and an international center for plant research.

The Botanical Garden's presence in the Bronx adds to the borough's diversity and provides a temporary oasis from the ubiquitous presence of concrete and steel in the city.

Realizing the integral role it must play in the quest to unlock the secrets of plants in order to cure diseases and protect the earth, the Garden has created the Pfizer Plant Research Laboratory at The New York Botanical Garden with leadership support from Pfizer Inc. and The Pfizer Foundation.

The Pfizer Plant Research Laboratory marks a new era of scientific research at The New York Botanical Garden's International Plant Science Center. The laboratory is the latest addition in The Botanical Garden's comprehensive 15-year renaissance and will further its urgent mission to discover, decipher, document, and defend Earth's vast biodiversity.

The two-story, 28,000-square-foot laboratory provides highly advanced scientific research facilities, including robotic workstations and a high-throughput DNA sequencer. It forms a center for collaborative research in molecular systematics and plant genomics, serving scientists and graduate students not just from The Botanical Garden, but also from the region and indeed the whole world. The Pfizer Laboratory is the largest and finest laboratory research facility in any botanical garden in the United States, enabling scientists to recon-

struct the genealogy of plants and fungi and to probe the mysteries of genes and genomes.

Mr. Speaker, it is only fitting for a structure that will house such important and groundbreaking work to be an architectural gem. Indeed, the Lab designed by Susan T. Rodriguez and Polshek Partnership Architects is nothing short of breathtaking. The free-standing building is located on a site across from the Steere Herbarium and overlooks the scenic Twin Lakes. The building's integration into its natural setting reinforces the vital importance of the natural world in the scientists' research. The exterior of the laboratory complements the design and materials of the adjacent Steere Herbarium and Library Building. Large windows in the labs and graduate study suites look out on the built and natural landscapes, and an inviting courtyard provides space for all types of gatherings.

I salute The New York Botanical Garden for its continued efforts not only to provide a beautiful museum of plants but also an environment for important research and development. I also salute Pfizer, a product of our sister borough, for its commitment to further mankind's understanding of the plant world. It is their shared hope, and indeed, mine, that one day this research will yield beneficial knowledge to curtail human suffering.

Mr. Speaker, may the collaboration of these two respected institutions provide fascinating and useful discoveries for generations to come.

11TH ANNUAL EXCELLENCE IN
BUSINESS AWARDS

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 16, 2006

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 11th Annual Excellence in Business Award honorees for making outstanding contributions to the central San Joaquin Valley.

The recipients of the 11th Annual Excellence in Business Award are as follows:

Agriculture—Kevin and Diane Herman, The Specialty Crop Co.

Charitable/Nonprofit—Peter Carey, Self-Help Enterprises.

Financial/Banking/Insurance—County Bank.

Health Care—Family Health Care Network.

Manufacturing—ADCO Manufacturing.

Professional Services—Diane Anderson, Agricultural & Priority Pollutants Laboratory Inc.

Real Estate/Construction—Dirk Poeschel, Dirk Poeschel Land Development Services.

Retail/Wholesale—The Charles McMurray Company.

Small Business—Nelson's ACE Hardware.

Hall of Fame—Jack Stone, Stone Land Co.

Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate each of the Excellence in Business Award honorees for their leadership and numerous contributions to the community. I urge my colleagues to join me in wishing each recipient many more years of continued success.

PATARA: THE ORIGINS OF AMERICAN DEMOCRACY, 1800 YEARS AND 7,000 MILES AWAY

HON. CLIFF STEARNS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 16, 2006

Mr. STEARNS. Mr. Speaker, the city of Patara in Turkey sports a fantastic beach that sprawls for more than 11 miles. It recently rated number one on the London Sunday Times' list of the world's best beaches. But Patara is worth our attention for more than sand and surf. An archeological team led by Akdeniz University Professors Fahri Isik and Havva Iskan Isik recently unearthed an ancient parliament building in Patara—the meeting place of the first federal republic in recorded human history. The building, called the Bouleuterion, housed at least twenty-three city-states of the Lycian League, which existed along the Mediterranean coast of Turkey from about 167 BC until 400 AD.

The Lycian League's republican governing system, utilizing proportional representation, was unparalleled in the ancient world, and fascinated the pioneering philosophers of the Enlightenment, particularly Montesquieu. Depending on the size of the member cities, each elected one, two or three representatives to the Lycian parliament. When cities were too small, two or three banded together to share one representative vote. The six largest cities in the League had the right to three votes. The parliament elected a president, called the "Lyciarch," which at various times served as the League's religious, military, and political leader. Although it is contested, there is evidence to suggest that women could be, and in fact were, Lyciarch.

In Book IX of Montesquieu's Spirit of the Laws, after charting the highs and lows of the earliest republics, he stresses the utility of a confederacy. He cites the Lycian League as an example: "It is unlikely that states that associate will be of the same size and have equal power. . . . If one had to propose a model of a fine federal republic, I would choose the republic of Lycia."

Montesquieu's interest in the Lycian way of government would prove central to our founding. Thanks to his writings, in the debates about our own Constitution, Alexander Hamilton and James Madison cited the Lycian League as a model for our own system of government.

As well, in literal linkage, the semi-circular configuration of seats in this House of Representatives is exactly the same seating arrangement as in the Bouleuterion in Patara. The Bouleuterion's throne-like perch, where the elected Lyciarch sat, is much the same as the seat of the Speaker of the House of Representatives.

On June 30, 1787, at the Constitutional Convention in Philadelphia, James Madison appealed to the delegates' understanding of the Lycian League. The Convention had just rejected the "New Jersey Plan", which called for a rather modest revision of our Nation's first constitutional framework, the failed Articles of Confederation. The delegates resolved to come up with a new constitution, but had few notions in common of how it should proceed.

A delegate from Connecticut, Oliver Ellsworth, had just finished arguing for the Articles

of Confederation's principle that every State should be equal in the national arena. He specifically asked, "Where is or was a confederation ever formed, where equality of voices was not a fundamental principle?"

James Madison replied that the Lycian League was different, according representation in reflection of actual size. His Virginia plan provided for a bicameral legislature, with both houses' representation based on States' population. He eventually had to accept a compromise, with a people's house of proportional representation, our House of Representatives, in tandem with a Senate of equal State representation.

Hamilton and Madison also cited the Lycian League in defense of representative democracy. While direct rule usually resulted in either tyranny or anarchy, the two founders felt that delegation of authority to elected representatives would allow the government to function properly.

The ideas and debates of our founding fathers may seem archaic to our modern times, but we face questions of federalism every day in this Congress. A federalist system of government divides power between a central authority (the Federal Government) and constituent political units (the States and localities). The delineation of that power comes into question particularly often on the Energy & Commerce Committee, of which I am a Subcommittee Chairman, whether we are debating the proper authority over electricity transmission across State lines, the regulation of hazardous waste, or the transmission of information through our telecommunications infrastructure.

Meanwhile, whether we are helping Iraq and other Middle Eastern countries develop representative democratic systems, or providing advice to the burgeoning democracies of post-Soviet Eastern Europe, we effectively reenact the Constitutional Convention's debates about the Lycian League and the nature of democracy around the world. We are doing what we can to help spread freedom and democracy, in our own image. Unfortunately, while it is relatively easy to conceive of the best model of government—as our founding fathers did, and Montesquieu did before them—the diversity of the real world, in geography, ethnicity, religion, and history, makes applying that best model quite difficult in practice.

The British archeologist George Bean highlighted some of the unique features of the Lycian League—features not dissimilar to our own country's: "Among the various races of Anatolia, the Lycians always held a distinctive place. Locked away in their mountainous country, they had a fierce love of freedom and independence, and resisted strongly all attempts at outside domination; they were the last in Asia Minor to be incorporated as a province into the Roman Empire."

Our experience so far in guiding the nascent democracy in Iraq should certainly illustrate that representative democracy may not be perfectly replicable, at least overnight.

Fifteen years ago, all a visitor to Patara would have noticed were the tops of a few old stones. Today, the excavations at Patara have unearthed the remains of an entire city. The archeological team has rescued numerous buildings and items from the sand and scrub brush, besides the Bouleuterion parliament building, including: a large necropolis; a Roman bath; a sizeable semicircular theater; a

sprawling main avenue leading to the market square; a Byzantine basilica (one of 22 churches once packed into Patara); one of the world's oldest lighthouses; and a fortified wall.

I would encourage everyone to visit Patara, for its beauty and for its archeological significance. The excavation site is 10–15 minutes from the glorious beach, and will be opened to the public in 2007. While we wait, one of Turkey's largest museums, the Antalya Archaeological Museum, displays many of the finds from Patara and the surrounding area.

We owe a great debt to Turkey's Ministry of Culture and the Akdeniz University in Antalya for their dedication of time and money to bringing the ancient ruins of Patara out of the dust and back into our lives.

In closing, I would like to thank: Dr. Gul Isin, Associate Professor of Archeology at Akdeniz Antalya in Turkey, who has been diligently working with Dr. Fahri Isik and Dr. Havva Iskan Isik to uncover the mysteries of the Patara site; Professor James W. Muller of the University of Alaska, Anchorage, who dissected how the Lycian League affected the founding fathers; and the American Friends of Turkey, the Friends of Patara, and former Representatives Stephen Solarz and Robert Livingston, who graciously introduced me to the archeological findings at Patara, and the important work of Professors Isin and Muller.

BAY AREA RIDGE TRAIL TRIBUTE

HON. GEORGE MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 16, 2006

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to invite my colleagues to join me in recognizing the completion of the 300th mile of the San Francisco Bay Area Ridge Trail on June 3, 2006.

The Bay Area Ridge Trail was the vision of William Penn Mott Jr., who served as the head of the East Bay Regional Park District, California State Parks and as the Director of the National Park Service.

Through a lifetime of service, Mr. Mott saw the importance of preserving ridge top lands for scenic, watershed, and habitat values. A key strategy for gaining public support for a significant program of land conservation, in his view, was to create responsible, appropriate and managed ways for the public to access and enjoy these lands through trails.

A "Bay Area ridge trail," in the grand tradition of the Appalachian and Pacific Crest trails, could connect people to places around them and build support for land preservation and protection.

To bring this vision into reality, a group of public land managing agencies, nonprofit organizations, and local trails and community advocates began meeting in 1987 to plan the route of a ridgeline trail to connect protected land areas and promote additional land preservation. These initial meetings were led by the National Park Service and the People for Open Space (now, the Greenbelt Alliance).

In 1988, this planning process led to the birthing of a new nonprofit organization known as the Bay Area Ridge Trail Council to coordinate the efforts of these public and private partners and promote the concept of the trail to the public.

I am proud to have played a role in the success of the trail by helping to win congressional support for it.

The first trail was dedicated on May 13, 1989, in San Mateo County in the Wunderlich and Huddart County Parks and Purissima Creek Redwoods Open Space Preserve. Since 1989, a series of trails have been dedicated as part of the growing Ridge Trail system.

On June 3, 2006, the 300th mile will be dedicated in my district at the Crockett Hills Regional Park, in Contra Costa County. The total trail is expected to be over 500 miles in length; therefore this dedication brings the trail to more than halfway toward its completion.

The Council today is an independent nonprofit organization with a staff of six, a board of directors of 32, seven active County Committees organizing efforts locally, volunteers numbering in the hundreds, and over 3,500 members working together to complete the trail. As an organization, the Council has many strengths: a diverse and active Board of Directors; a skilled and committed staff; strong public name recognition; a compelling vision and clear mission; numerous strong partnerships with public agencies; strong political support from federal, state, county, and local governments; and committed local volunteer support.

No other organization in the Bay Area fills the important niche of providing public access to a regional network of ridgeline trails and open spaces and connecting local trails and communities to one another.

Beyond the Council, many public partners and nonprofit organizations work to make the Ridge Trail a reality. Our public agency partners also bring many strengths. The Bay Area enjoys a multitude of public agencies, local governments, and special districts committed to the preservation and protection of land and to providing public recreational access. These organizations have extremely capable and committed boards, directors, and staffs. Many of these organizations also enjoy dedicated public funding from parcel tax assessments, sales tax or general fund support that allows them to pursue a capital program of land acquisition and trail development.

As many of these partners helped to give birth to the Bay Area Ridge Trail Council, they have remained committed to helping complete the vision. The region also enjoys some of the most respected, skilled and well-funded land trusts in the nation that partner with the Council where our land acquisition needs overlap.

Collectively, these public and private agencies have already acquired much of the land needed for the next 100 miles of the Ridge Trail.

Some of the partners involved in the Bay Area Ridge Trail include The Golden Gate National Recreation Area, the John Muir National Historic Site, the Presidio Trust, the California Coastal Conservancy, California State Parks, the California Department of Fish and Game, the East Bay Regional Park District, the Mid Peninsula Regional Open Space District, Santa Clara County Parks Department, Santa Clara County Open Space Authority, San Mateo County Parks, the City of San Francisco, Marin County Open Space District, Sonoma County Agricultural Preservation and Open Space District, Sonoma County Regional Parks, Napa County, Solano County, the Sonoma Land Trust, Solano Land Trust,

the Land Trust of Napa County, East Bay Municipal Utility District, San Francisco Water Department, Marin Municipal Water District.

The Bay Area Ridge Trail creates many public benefits from helping to preserve uplands habitat and watershed lands, protecting scenic vistas valued by communities and providing the public with access to these vista points. By preserving a corridor of green land, the trail also helps define the edges of urban development, while creating managed ways for the urban public to enjoy these open areas.

Through their involvement in building, maintaining and enjoying the Ridge Trail, trail users, community members, and private landowners can be given an opportunity to give back to their community and steward the land. The trail also helps with environmental restoration as it can be sited in a way to reduce environmental damage while providing access to the outdoors. The trail provides a recreational outlet in an increasingly dense metropolitan region; and increasing the health and well being of all who use the trail, a critical component in addressing the public health concern of obesity. And, in some cases, it can provide an alternative to using a private auto to travel from one's home to school or place of business.

I commend the Bay Area Ridge Trail Council and its partners on completing the 300th mile of the Bay Area Ridge Trail on June 3, 2006, in conjunction with National Trails Day and wish the Council and all its partners continued success with this important effort.

IN HONOR OF DR. EILENE
GALLOWAY'S 100TH BIRTHDAY

HON. BART GORDON

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 16, 2006

Mr. GORDON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a distinguished American, Dr. Eilene Marie Galloway, on her 100th birthday. Dr. Galloway has lived a life of distinguished service to this Nation and to her profession, and it is fitting that we pause to recognize her accomplishments and to wish her well as she attains this significant milestone.

Dr. Galloway was born Eilene Marie Slack in Kansas City, Missouri on May 4, 1906—less than three years after the Wright Brothers achieved the first airplane flight. She married George Galloway in 1924. They had two sons, David and Jonathon, who have given her six grandchildren and five great-grandchildren. Dr. Galloway graduated from Swarthmore College in 1928 and holds honorary doctorates from Swarthmore and Lake Forest College. She is a proud member of Kappa Alpha Theta sorority.

Throughout her professional career, Dr. Galloway has been an influential force in the development and analysis of domestic and international space policy and law. When Sputnik was launched on October 4, 1957, she was working as a Senior Specialist in International Relations for the Legislative Reference Service (the forerunner of today's Congressional Research Service) at the Library of Congress.

She was immediately asked to work with Senate Majority Leader Lyndon B. Johnson and Senate Armed Services Committee Chairman Richard Russell to develop America's response to the Soviet Union's space initiative. In that capacity, she helped to draft the National Aeronautics and Space Act of 1958, which established NASA and has remained an enduring framework for U.S. civil space policy.

From that time forward, Dr. Galloway has worked tirelessly with the U.S. Congress and as a consultant to NASA, the Federal Communications Commission, and the State Department to assess alternatives and develop approaches for U.S. and international space policy and law regarding the exploration and utilization of outer space. The international aspects of space activities have been a major recurring theme of Dr. Galloway's work. For example, she served as a consultant to Majority Leader Johnson in 1958 when he addressed the United Nations and recommended the creation of a Committee on Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (COPUOS). She has worked with COPUOS for decades, whether serving as part of the U.S. delegation or as liaison to COPUOS for the International Astronautical Federation (IAF). During that time, she helped draft the U.N. treaties that govern exploration of outer space, the Moon, and other celestial bodies. She also was instrumental in creating the International Institute of Space Law (IISL) in 1958, which has served as the forum for legal scholars and others from around the world to debate the myriad legal issues associated with space exploration and utilization.

Dr. Galloway has continued to be an active participant in space policy and space law debates for almost five decades, as well as serving as a resource to researchers and the media on historical and current space policy issues and mentoring new members of the space policy and space law communities. Her contributions to her profession have led to her selection as an Honorary Fellow of the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics—the highest rank possible in the Institute, election as a Fellow of the American Astronautical Society, receipt of the Lifetime Achievement Award from the International Institute of Space Law, receipt of the Theodore Von Karman Award from the International Academy of Astronautics, receipt of the Lifetime Achievement Award from Women in Aerospace and numerous other awards and citations.

Mr. Speaker, Dr. Eilene Marie Galloway has served her profession and this country with distinction for many years. She is a worthy role model for young women and men everywhere, and she is an inspiration to all of us. I know my colleagues in the U.S. Congress join me in wishing Dr. Galloway a very happy 100th birthday.

TRIBUTE TO HOWARD ROITMAN

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 16, 2006

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Mr. Howard Roitman. On May 12, 2006, Mr. Roitman is leaving the

Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment to assume the position of Deputy Executive Director of the Association of State and Territorial Solid Waste Management Officials (ASTSWMO) here in Washington.

Howard Roitman has worked on important environmental issues and programs for the State of Colorado for nearly 20 years. He joined the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment in 1987 to serve as manager of the Uranium Mill Tailings Remedial Action Program. He later served as director of the department's combined remedial action and Superfund oversight programs before becoming director of the Hazardous Materials and Waste Management Division. Since January 2003 he has been the department's director of environmental programs.

His service has resulted in a safer, higher quality of life for all Coloradans. He was personally involved or oversaw efforts to cleanup radioactive waste piles, superfund sites, waste disposal facilities and pollution control and materials management at many industries and businesses across the State.

In addition to his service at the Department of Public Health and Environment, he was past president the Association of State and Territorial Solid Waste Management Officials, an organization that supports the environmental agencies of the states and trust territories. He also served as the chair of the Environmental Council of the States compliance committee and as chair of the Council's subcommittee on Long Term Stewardship. In his work on the subcommittee, he was responsible for successful negotiation of a memorandum of understanding with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the U.S. Departments of Energy, Defense, and Interior. He also is recognized as a national spokesman for states on federal facilities issues. He also is on the faculty of the University of Denver's University College Environmental Policy and Management Program.

Prior to his work with the State of Colorado, he worked for the Solicitor's Office and the Office of Surface Mining for the U.S. Department of Interior's Denver regional office and private consulting work in government regulation, natural resources and environmental protection.

Howard Roitman is now moving on to a nationwide organization where he can share his expertise on environmental protection with other States and the Nation. ASTSWMO focuses on the needs of state hazardous waste programs; non hazardous municipal solid waste and industrial waste programs; recycling, waste minimization and reduction programs; Superfund and State hazardous waste cleanup programs; waste management and cleanup activities at federal facilities, and underground storage tank and leaking underground storage tank programs.

Howard Roitman has also spoken eloquently about the need for State-based programs and actions to address climate change. He is one of a growing number of State-based regulators who understand this environmental challenge.

Colorado has benefited from Howard Roitman's strong public service commitment and environmental ethic. I ask my colleagues to thank him for this service and to wish him much success at his new post.

TRIBUTE TO CHIEF FRANCISCO
ORTIZ AS HE RECEIVES THE 2006
DISTINGUISHED COMMUNITY
SERVICE AWARD

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 16, 2006

Ms. DeLAURO. Mr. Speaker, today, in my hometown of New Haven, Connecticut, friends, family and colleagues will gather to pay tribute to one of our community's most outstanding citizens and a dear friend of mine. I am proud to stand today and join the Connecticut Anti-Defamation League as they honor New Haven Police Chief Francisco Ortiz, Jr. with the 2006 Distinguished Community Service Award.

We owe a great debt of gratitude to those who dedicate themselves to public service, especially those who serve as law enforcement officials. These brave men and women face dangers and challenges that few of us can imagine. Over twenty-five years ago, Francisco (Cisco) Ortiz joined the New Haven Police Department and, over his career, worked his way through the ranks. In his time with the department he has been assigned to every major unit in the Department serving with both integrity and distinction. There were very few that were surprised when he was selected as Chief of the Department—a role in which he has served for the last several years.

Even more inspiring than his leadership in the Department has been the diversity of roles he has taken on in the community. Volunteer, board member, department liaison—Chief Ortiz has been a strong and vocal advocate for the families and residents of New Haven. Working with such organizations as the Community Consultation Center, Easter Seals/Goodwill Industries, and the New Haven Labor Day Road Race, Chief Ortiz has demonstrated a unique compassion and concern for our community and his efforts have touched the lives of many. Chief Ortiz is also a member of the Juvenile Justice Advisory Committee, the Connecticut Puerto Rican Parade Committee, and the Connecticut Special Olympics Law Enforcement Torch Run. He is also a Senior Fellow and one of the founders of the Yale Child Study Center's Development/Community Policing Program—a program which I have been proud to be a part of. His active participation in our community as a professional, volunteer, and advocate has made all the difference.

Each year, the Connecticut Anti-Defamation League presents the Distinguished Community Service Award to an outstanding leader in the community, recognizing their unique commitment and dedication. Chief Ortiz is a remarkable reflection of the true spirit of community service. I am proud to stand today to join his family, friends, and the many colleagues and community members who have gathered this evening to extend my heart-felt congratulations to my dear friend, Chief Francisco (Cisco) Ortiz, Jr. as he is honored with this very special award. It is a fitting tribute to his many years of service to our community and his continued dedication to improving the quality of life for others.

CONGRATULATING THE WASH-
INGTON HIGH SCHOOL SCIENCE
OLYMPIAD TEAM

HON. G.K. BUTTERFIELD

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 16, 2006

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. Mr. Speaker, today I am proud to rise to congratulate the students of the Washington High School Science Olympiad Team for winning the North Carolina State Science Olympiad. Competing against 250 teams from around the state, the young men and women from Washington defeated some of the premier science and math high schools in the State.

Washington High School is becoming known in North Carolina for its excellence in science education. This year's victory represents the second straight year Washington High School has been named North Carolina's top team and the third time in the last four years.

This week they will travel to Bloomington, Indiana, to compete in the National Science Olympiad against equally capable schools from around the Nation. I am confident that the students of Washington High School will demonstrate their expertise again in competing to the best of their abilities with some of the best funded specialty schools in the country.

The students and faculty of Washington High School continue to show they can achieve great things with what little they are given, and it is my hope that my colleagues will agree that with the proper means, these students can achieve anything. Again, I congratulate the students of Washington High School for their great achievements and wish them the best of luck on May 17. We are very proud of them.

“THE ENDANGERED LAND OF RENTER-WORLD”

HON. BARNEY FRANK

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 16, 2006

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, one of the most effective advocates for housing for people of moderate and low income to have served recently in our federal government is Nicolas P. Retsinas. Mr. Retsinas now directs the Joint Center for Housing Studies at Harvard University, and he recently published an extremely important and cogent article in the Boston Globe, on May 5. One of the great mistakes that is made by people who talk about housing policy is to talk as if we are concerned only with promoting homeownership. Homeownership is a very important thing, and increasing the number of people who enjoy it is a desirable goal. But it is also the case that tens of millions of Americans for a variety of reasons, primarily economic, are unlikely ever to be homeowners, and if we do not pay attention to the need for a good stock of affordable rental housing, we will be condemning large numbers of our fellow citizens to substandard lives in many ways. Under the current Administration, as Mr. Retsinas points out, Federal policy badly neglects the needs of those who must rent.

It is true that a bias in public policy against renters unfortunately predates the Bush Administration, but it is this Administration that has greatly exacerbated it by its assault on the various programs by which we provide rental housing at affordable levels for moderate and low-income people. Using his literary device of talking of “Owner-World,” and “Renter-World,” Mr. Retsinas notes that, “Today parts of Renter-World constitute a desperation sector of America. Poor people, crammed into too-small apartments, struggle to pay for food, rent, transportation, and medical care.”

Mr. Speaker, given Mr. Retsinas' experience in administering housing problems, his great scholarly expertise in this subject, and most of all his compassion and understanding of the needs for rental housing as part of a comprehensive national housing policy, I ask that his important article from the May 5 Boston Globe be printed here.

[From the BOSTON GLOBE, May 5, 2006]

THE ENDANGERED LAND OF RENTER-WORLD

(By Nicholas P. Retsinas)

Welcome to Renter-World, home to more than 34 million households. Renter-World denizens, aka tenants, comprise all ages. Eighty percent of all twentysomething households rent; so do 4 million senior households. Tenants come in all socioeconomic strata: Twenty percent of renters earn more than \$60,000 a year; another 20 percent earn less than \$10,000.

Yet a myopic Uncle Sam barely sees Renter-World.

Instead, Uncle Sam focuses on Owner-World. Owner-World captures the federal tax breaks: The homeownership tax deductions for mortgage interest and property taxes top \$100 billion a year and are rising rapidly.

Owner-World also captures the federal attention: For almost 100 years, starting with a 1918 Department of Labor campaign and continuing through Franklin Delano Roosevelt's New Deal, Bill Clinton's National Homeownership Partnership, and George Bush's Ownership Society, the federal government has been promoting homeownership. Today 69 percent of households own a home—an all-time high.

From Uncle Sam's vantage, that statistic marks success. Homeownership is the American “dream;” the crucial first step on a family's pathway to the middle class. A homeowner amasses equity, so that one day he can own a piece of America. That vested interest spurs involvement in schools, in neighborhoods, in political life. Just as important, the home gives the owner a financial cushion. Even if owners do not reap the windfall of a overheated market, the home can still be a hedge against inflation.

Indeed, we are a nation of immigrants who have marked the exodus with a series of papers: green cards, citizenship, and mortgages. The “American dream” may be a three-bedroom Cape on a tiny lot, but immigrants have come here for that dream.

So Uncle Sam's myopia is understandable. He expects renters to move on—to become owners. That is what they too expect.

Renter-World, however, is in trouble.

Even though we are building new rental units, we are not adding to the net “affordable” (a euphemism for cheap) units. That supply is shrinking. Between 1993 and 2003, we lost 2 million low-rent units from the rental inventory. At the same time, rents are rising, especially for newly constructed units.

Consider the plight of the lowest income renters: 70 percent pay more than half of their income for housing. The National Low Income Coalition could not find one county

in the United States where a minimum wage worker, paying 30 percent of his or her income for housing, could afford a one-bedroom apartment.

As for the government rent subsidies aimed at alleviating the hardship of low-income tenants, those too have shrunk.

The war on terror and the war in Iraq have pushed them off the agenda.

Today parts of Renter-World constitute a desperation sector of America. Poor people, crammed into too-small apartments, struggle to pay for food, rent, transportation, and medical care.

To paraphrase Linda Loman, lamenting the plight of her husband, Willy, in "Death of a Salesman": "Attention must be paid" to these renters.

The reason is pragmatic.

In the past, Renter-World has been a gateway to Owner-World. Low-income workers, renting for a few years, have saved up enough for the downpayment on a house, and, with scrimping, have kept up with mortgage payments. But today's renters cannot so easily make that leap. The Big Box shelver, married to the fast food waitress, may want the American dream. They may have left family thousands of miles away to seize the dream. But without some housing relief, they will never leave Renter-World.

And the promise of America, the dream for millions of Americans, is to leave Renter-World. That first mortgage—often the first mortgage for a family—constitutes step one in the economic mobility we value. High rents trap families, anchoring them on the bottom rung of the ladder that we want them to climb.

For the sake of the renters, and of the nation as a whole, Uncle Sam must pay attention to Renter-World.

TRIBUTE TO THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BURLINGTON BRISTOL BRIDGE

HON. JIM SAXTON

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 16, 2006

Mr. SAXTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Burlington Bristol Bridge as it turns 75 years old. The Burlington Bristol Bridge (1931–2006) is a vital transportation asset to the residents of South Jersey, connecting New Jersey to Pennsylvania.

The bridge replaced a ferry service which carried passengers across the Delaware River to Burlington, Bristol and the amusement park on Burlington Island. Bridge construction commenced on April 28, 1930, and was completed one year later, for a total cost of approximately \$1.5 million.

This landmark bridge stretches 2,301 feet from abutment to abutment, and is 20 feet in width, with one lane in each direction.

For many years after its construction, the bridge's lift span at 540 feet was the longest movable span ever built. It is a vertical "Lift" type of movable bridge, which raises regularly to allow large vessels to pass beneath.

Approximately 27,000 vehicles per day, or 9.9 million vehicles annually traverse it.

This man-made wonder has faithfully served the residents of South Jersey and Pennsylvania for three-quarters of a century, and will continue to do so for many more years. Its contributions to travelers and the citizens of South Jersey are hereby recognized.

INTRODUCTION OF THE "PROTECTING AMERICAN'S MINERS ACT"

HON. GEORGE MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 16, 2006

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Since the beginning of this year, we have witnessed numerous accidents in our Nation's underground mines. So far this year, 26 underground coal miners have died, more than the total for all of last year. Preliminary investigative reports and public hearings have made it clear that prompt action is necessary if we are to avoid a continued loss of life and disruptions to a vital American energy source.

For many months, I have been urging the Committee on Education and the Workforce to take action on this matter by marking up the legislation introduced by the West Virginia delegation. Sadly, that has not occurred. While the Senate is making progress on this matter in a bipartisan manner, the responsible leaders in this body have declined to treat this matter with the seriousness it deserves. The Administration, which helped create the problem by withdrawing regulatory initiatives that could have saved lives and moving enforcement resources into compliance assistance, is likewise lacking in purpose and direction in addressing this crisis.

Accordingly, today I rise to introduce new mine safety legislation, together with Congressman RAHALL of West Virginia, Congressman OWENS of New York, Congressman CHANDLER of Kentucky, Congressman HOLT of New Jersey, Congressman ARTUR DAVIS of Alabama, and Congressman MOLLOHAN of West Virginia. This legislation does not detract in any way from our continued pleas to this body to move forward with the West Virginia bill. It does, however, include refinements and new provisions based upon what we have learned since that bill was introduced. An identical bill is being introduced in the Senate by Senators KENNEDY, ROCKEFELLER, MURRAY and DURBIN, and we understand the refinements and new provisions reflected in this legislation are under active discussion in the responsible Senate committee. We hope that these new ideas will advance the discussion and lead to prompt action by this body. We will not let up on this, nor will we let complacency take root.

Following is a detailed section-by-section discussion of the new bill, entitled the "Protecting America's Miners Act." I encourage all of my colleagues to join me in support of this legislation, and in demanding action by this body before new tragedies strike.

SUMMARY OF PROTECTING AMERICA'S MINERAL ACT

(1) Short Title. "Protecting America's Miners Act".

(2) Sense of Congress. This legislation is necessary because of the failure by the current Administration to protect miners and properly prepare for the future.

(3) Definitions. Relevant definitions from the Mine Safety and Health Act of 1977 are incorporated into this free-standing legislation.

(4) Improved escape and refuge requirements to help protect miners in the event of an emergency.

This section would establish improved safety standards to help underground coal

miners survive an underground emergency. Highlights include—

Requiring atmospheric detection and warning systems to alert miners to dangerous levels of harmful and explosive gases;

Requiring two-way messaging systems to communicate between miners and the surface once they are available; in the interim, one-way messaging systems and backup telephone lines would be required;

Requiring caches of self-rescuers for escape, and, until such time as the mine has established underground refuges, also requiring special caches to support prolonged stays underground;

Requiring underground refuges, meeting criteria based on past experience in the U.S. and abroad, to protect miners unable to escape from a mine; and

Requiring miners to be equipped with tracking devices to facilitate rescue.

The bill authorizes MSHA to revise these standards by regulation in order to improve them over time. This is the approach taken in 1977 when the current Mine Act was established. Similarly, MSHA is authorized to issue modifications of these standards for individual mines as with any safety standard under the requirements of existing law. Additional research on related topics is required by section 11 of the bill.

Because of the nature of these requirements, the bill would make any violation of them an "imminent danger" so that MSHA can act promptly to ensure mines are in compliance.

SECTION 5—FACILITATING THE PROMPT INITIATION OF RESCUE AND MINE RECOVERY EFFORTS

The bill would set up an Emergency Call Center to be sure MSHA is ready to receive information on emergencies—so callers don't find themselves going from answering machine to answering machine. The Call Center would have to be supplied by the Secretary with home and emergency numbers for key agency personnel, local emergency services, mine rescue teams, and others.

The bill would require that operators notify MSHA within 15 minutes of any emergency or serious incident. The bill ensures MSHA gets prompt notice of close calls, not just situations in which there are deaths or serious injuries.

The bill would separate mines into two categories for purposes of what mine rescue team requirements are applicable:

Those mines with less than 36 employees can contract out for mine rescue services to the nearest mines which maintain such teams, provided that: (1) the mine must include some of its own employees in the rescue team; (2) all rescue team members must be able to reach the mine within 1 hour; and (3) the operator must hold at least two rescue drills a year to ensure the team becomes familiar with the mine.

Those mines with 36 or more employees must have their own mine rescue teams (although they could contract for additional teams). These mines must also hold at least two rescue drills a year.

The bill would also require the Secretary to promptly initiate an expedited rulemaking to revise existing mine rescue team requirements, and to consult broadly with existing mine rescue teams, other rescue organizations, local and State emergency authorities and others in this regard. The rules would cover training and qualifications for rescue team members, the equipment and technology used in rescue, the structure and organization of mine rescue teams, and other factors which have been identified by mine rescue team members at recent public hearings as posing problems during recent rescue efforts. Section 11 of the bill contains related research requirements.

SECTION 6—ENHANCING THE INVESTIGATION OF MINE ACCIDENTS

This section directs the Secretary of Labor to issue regulations on an expedited basis concerning the investigation of mine accidents. No such regulations currently exist, and so each investigation is ad hoc.

The Secretary is directed to consult widely in developing these regulations—including directly contacting family members who can be identified of any miner who perished in a mining accident of any type in the last 10 years. Miner families are authorized to be involved in all aspects of the investigation, and an advocate is to be appointed to facilitate their participation.

The regulations are to require public hearings be held in connection with any fatal accident or any accident which could have resulted in multiple fatalities.

This section would also authorize a majority of the families of any miners killed in an accident, or an authorized miner representative, to request that an additional investigation be conducted by the Chemical Safety Board or other appropriate federal agency. This would permit a more independent review of major accidents in which MSHA's own conduct may be an issue.

SECTION 7—ENHANCING OPERATOR AND OWNER INCENTIVES TO AVOID SERIOUS RISKS TO MINERS

The bill would direct the Secretary to revise the regulations which layout the process for citing operators who engage in a "pattern of violations." Such a penalty has never been assessed by MSHA despite the number of scoff-laws that have been identified. The changes required by the legislation would ensure that MSHA is required to make decisions on these situations in a timely way, and the Secretary is authorized to withdraw miners from the entire mine until a pattern of violations is corrected. The bill would also significantly increase the penalties for a "pattern of violations" up to \$1 million, and bar the Review Commission from reducing such penalties.

The bill also takes strong action to ensure operators pay their assessed penalties. The bill would forbid operators from contesting citations unless the assessed penalties are placed in escrow, and it would add criminal penalties for failure to pay.

The bill would also establish a minimum penalty of \$500 and a maximum penalty of \$250,000 for other violations. However, if the Secretary determines that the violation could have significantly and substantially contributed to a hazard, the bill would establish the minimum penalty as \$1000 and the maximum penalty as \$500,000. In addition, the bill establishes a penalty of between \$60,000 and \$100,000 for the failure to provide timely notification of accidents. The bill eliminates the requirement of current law that the size of the mine and the impact on an operator's ability to continue in business must be considered in assessing penalties.

SECTION 8—ENHANCING THE WILLINGNESS OF MINERS AND OTHERS TO REPORT SERIOUS PROBLEMS BEFORE ACCIDENTS OCCUR

This would establish a Miner Ombudsman in the Office of the Inspector General in DOL to take safety and health complaints from miners. The purpose of this provision is to help assure miners that their identities will not be compromised if they report mine safety and health problems to the Department.

SECTION 9—ENHANCING SPECIFIC PROTECTIONS FOR UNDERGROUND COAL MINES

This section would require the Secretary to expeditiously revise three existing standards to enhance the protection of underground coal miners.

(a) Conveyor belts and ventilation ("belt-air" rule). The belts that carry coal out of a

mine can ignite a fire or explosion due to friction. The legislation requires MSHA to expeditiously revise its regulations to adopt long-standing recommendations of the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health that conveyor belts be designed to minimize flammability. Until the revised rules go into effect, the legislation suspends rules adopted in 2004 that generally permitted increased airflow over these conveyor belts. During this time, MSHA would, however, be permitted to return to its pre-2004 practice of permitting such additional airflow on a mine by mine basis following a public hearing on a request for such a modification.

(b) Seals. Seals are walls constructed in underground coal mines to enclose abandoned areas that they do not want to ventilate. Sealed areas can become highly explosive due to methane gas, and hence the seals have to meet prescribed standards. The bill would require MSHA to expeditiously adopt more protective standards. In addition to requiring seals to withstand more pressure than under the current rules, the Secretary is directed to consider whether it should inspect all seals during construction to be sure they are built according to plan. In addition to requiring an improved standard, the bill would require the Secretary to promptly conduct a special inspection of all current seals in underground coal mines composed on non-traditional materials to ensure they are properly constructed.

(c) Respirable (coal) dust. Black lung continues to be diagnosed among younger coal miners. To eliminate this disease forever, the bill requires the Secretary to expeditiously revise the current standard to reduce the allowable level of respirable dust to that recommended by the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health. Consistent with other findings by NIOSH, the bill would eliminate the current requirement that several samples be averaged before a citation can be issued, and requires compliance samples to be taken by the Secretary or by placing personal dust monitors on at least 3 miners per shift.

SECTION 10—TRANSITION TO A NEW GENERATION OF INSPECTORS

It takes 18 months to train a new inspector; and government personnel ceilings and retirement rules mean there may be a critical gap in mine safety and health inspectors over the next few years even if there is money appropriated in sufficient quantities to take on new staff. The bill provides that for a 5-year period, MSHA inspector staffing is exempted from personnel ceilings (only funding governs) and from certain pension reductions that make it difficult to use retired inspectors as necessary to fill the gap.

An additional problem for MSHA is to simultaneously provide both enforcement and compliance assistance, particularly for small mine operators. The bill would provide that for a 5-year period, government resources be used exclusively for enforcement, while compliance assistance to the industry be funded exclusively through a user fee. The user fee would be \$100 for every penalty assessed on any mine operator. This money would be used exclusively to provide the industry with technical support and advice, and priority would be given to requests for small mines (those with less than 20 miners).

Because of the unusual nature of these provisions, special monitoring by the Congress is appropriate, and an annual report would be required each of the five years that these requirements would be in effect.

SECTION 11—TECHNOLOGY RESEARCH PRIORITIES

The legislation requires that in implementing its research activities in the next five years, the National Institute for Occupa-

tional Safety and Health give due consideration to new technologies, and existing technologies that could be adopted for use in underground mines, which could facilitate the survival of miners in an emergency.

The bill notes that such technologies include, but are not limited to:

- Longer lasting self-rescuers;
- Two-way communication devices;
- Improved battery capacity and specifications to handle multiple devices;
- Improved technology to determine underground conditions during an emergency situation; and
- Improved technology for mine rescue crews.

RECOGNIZING PAUL REDMAN

HON. PATRICK J. TIBERI

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 16, 2006

Mr. TIBERI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and pay tribute to Paul Redman, an individual who has contributed his time and effort to the central Ohio community for over a decade. Paul's talent has made the Franklin Park Conservatory one of the signature cultural sites in Columbus.

The Franklin Park Conservatory provides an important service to Ohioans. It provides not only a showcase for the beauty of nature but serves as a vital educational source on botanical and ecological matters. The extensive facilities allow thousands of individuals throughout the region to participate in the study and appreciation of nature and various nature-based art.

Paul's professionalism has drawn the premier artists of our day to display their work at the conservatory. His tireless efforts to provide the best exhibits and value for the community have served to enhance central Ohio's reputation for quality people and superior work. His contributions to the civic and cultural landscape of central Ohio will continue to impact generations to come. His exemplary leadership and service have added to central Ohio's growing fame as one of the most vibrant areas in America.

I am pleased to recognize Paul's commitment to central Ohio and his outstanding tenure as Executive Director of the Franklin Park Conservatory. I'm proud to echo the sentiments expressed by so many prestigious voices across the country, and I wish him all the best in his future endeavors.

TRIBUTE TO CHRISTINE BURROUGHS

HON. ZOE LOFGREN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 16, 2006

Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise in gratitude to recognize the continued extraordinary achievements, community leadership and contributions of Christine Burroughs, Director of InnVision the Way Home. InnVision is a leading provider of services for homeless and low-income individuals and families in Santa Clara County.

Ms. Burroughs has successfully led InnVision the Way Home since 1991. During

her tenure, she has grown the organization from a small, grass-roots agency into a leading provider of housing and support services to over 16,000 homeless individuals and families in Santa Clara and San Mateo Counties. She managed a staff of 115 at 20 sites with an annual operating budget of \$10 million and \$17 million in assets. She spearheaded the development of many community partnerships and at least 12 capital projects including the building and/or rehabilitation of various shelters, transitional housing facilities, permanent affordable apartments and multi-service centers. Program development included: mental health services, alcohol/drug rehabilitation, job training and children's activities for all ages.

In 1997, Ms. Burroughs was honored as a "Woman of Achievement" by the San Jose Mercury News (Women's Fund) and received commendations from City and County officials, as well as the Management Center in San Francisco. In 2004 and 2005, San Jose Magazine heralded her as one of Silicon Valley's Power 100. Currently, as a member of the San Jose Rotary Club, she serves on 2 committees whose focus is youth development. She is also a long-time member of First Presbyterian Church of San Jose and has served in leadership roles on various local coalitions and boards advocating for the homeless. Christine is a new board member of the Children's Musical Theatre in San Jose.

Ms. Burroughs paved "the way home" for countless people in need of assistance so as to improve their struggle for independence, freedom and dignity. Hope is the mainstay of achieving success, and Ms. Burroughs provided that element of strength for so many individuals and families.

Ms. Burroughs portrayed a pillar of strength, solidarity and integrity, by which all who met her (service providers or beneficiaries of services) became transformed to reach a better plan in life. She has been a tireless advocate for those persons unable to share their voice for themselves or their families. I hereby honor Christine Burroughs, on this special day of her retirement and wish her all the best in the years to come.

CONGRATULATING RECIPIENTS OF
THE NINTH ANNUAL WIRTH
CHAIR AWARDS

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 16, 2006

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker I rise today to congratulate four recipients of the Ninth Annual Wirth Chair Awards. The Wirth Chair was started by my good friend and predecessor, former Senator Tim Wirth. The Wirth Chair is committed to helping governments, businesses and non-profit groups and community organizations form sustainable development partnerships that carefully balance economic, environmental and expanded social welfare objectives and strategies. Their tremendous work is widely respected throughout the country. This year's recipients are very deserving of this prestigious honor.

Good Dirt Radio received the award for electronic media. The program is broadcast from Durango, Colorado. Good Dirt airs radio stories aimed at inspiring listeners to take eco-

logical action in their own communities. Good Dirt is an all volunteer effort. Word is catching on about their good work, and I am confident that they will continue to grow and be successful.

Harumi Kato of the Yamagata Broadcasting Company was honored for her short film entitled "Little Steps in Colorado for Sustainable Living." The program was also broadcast in Japan in October of last year. She plans to have more viewings in Japan in the future because she wants people there to know "that despite not signing the Kyoto Protocols, some Americans are really concerned about taking action in many ways to protect our environment by practicing sustainable living."

Rick Gilliam of Western Resource Advocates was the primary author of Amendment 37. This was the first time that a renewable energy standard was put to a popular vote. The successful initiative required that 10 percent of Colorado's electricity be derived from renewable sources by 2015. I campaigned vigorously for this initiative and saw firsthand how hard the people associated with this effort worked on the campaign. It was because of their commitment that the initiative was passed despite being out spent ten-to-one by the opposition. Morey Wolfson, Robin Hubbard, Ron Larson, Matt Baker, Ron Lehr, Ken Regelson and Stephanie Bonin were all instrumental getting Amendment 37 passed.

Finally, the City of Denver was recognized for its historic sustainability initiative, "Greenprint Denver." The initiative advances and supports the integration of environmental impacts into the city's programs and policies, along with economic and social considerations. The comprehensive set of strategies includes: measurably reducing greenhouse gas emissions city wide, developing and implementing a municipal green building policy, increasing residential recycling, and increasing urban forest cover for air and water quality and aesthetic benefits.

I am inspired by all of these laudable efforts. I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating these Wirth Chair Award recipients for their tremendously important good work.

IN RECOGNITION OF PAUL MILLER,
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF
KIDANGO

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 16, 2006

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Paul Miller, Executive Director of Kidango, a private, nonprofit agency providing a variety of services to children and families in Alameda, Santa Clara and San Francisco Counties. Paul Miller has successfully led Kidango to become a leader in providing quality childcare and child development services to children and support services to their families.

Mr. Miller joined Kidango in 1979 and has helped the organization grow from serving just 90 children at one Fremont, California center throughout the San Francisco Bay Counties. Kidango has over 350 employees. Miller points with pride to his dedicated and committed regional and center directors, teaching staff, maintenance, food service and adminis-

trative staff, all who have an integral role in making sure the families and children Kidango serve receive the best quality programs possible.

Recent evidence of Paul Miller's ability to seize new opportunities and offer quality programs for children is readily apparent in Union City, California, where Kidango operates a preschool program on every New Haven Unified School District campus. Building on a 20-year relationship, the school district and Kidango launched a Preschool for All program in 2001. By the following year, Union City has the distinction of being the first district in the State of California to offer Preschool for All. The flagship New Haven-Kidango Preschool for All program has caught the attention of educators and policymakers throughout the State of California.

Mr. Miller continues to work hard to introduce Universal Preschool to other Bay Area school districts and the California Superintendent of Public Instruction has appointed him to the Universal Preschool Task Force.

In addition to his exemplary administrative leadership at Kidango, Paul Miller is a major force throughout the State of California advocating for public policy that promotes quality childcare and early education. He is actively involved in the Child Development Policy Institute, the leader in the childcare and development field on fiscal and public policy matters, and the principal advocate for children and families in California's legislative budget process.

Paul Miller's 30 plus years of advocacy for children and their families are beyond measure. He is committed and dedicated to excellence as demonstrated by the growth and success of Kidango. He works tirelessly with a single focus of inspiring all children and their families by promoting their potential and diversity through quality education and nurturing relationships.

Paul will be recognized at a well-deserved Kidango Staff Appreciation Dinner on May 20, 2006. I join them in appreciating him for his good work.

IN HONOR AND MEMORY OF
STAFF SERGEANT ROBERT HER-
NANDEZ

HON. C.A. DUTCH RUPPERSBERGER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 16, 2006

Mr. RUPPERSBERGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise before you today to honor the life of a fallen Maryland soldier, Staff Sergeant Robert Hernandez, a veteran reservist of 24 years who died on the 28th day of March 2006.

Sergeant Hernandez was a member of the 3rd Battalion, 318th Regiment Military Police, 80th Division, U.S. Army Reserve, Fort Meade. He was killed when a makeshift bomb detonated near his military vehicle during combat operations in Al Taquaddum, Iraq.

The 47-year-old soldier was a former member of the Baltimore and Washington Police Departments. He was praised by colleagues for his hard work and jovial personality. He easily earned respect from those who knew him and worked with him daily.

As a member of the Prince George's County force, Sergeant Hernandez offered his expertise in a division that lacked Spanish-speaking

officers. He served as a field training officer assisting officers who graduated from the police academy. He also served as a mentor at a local elementary school. Sergeant Hernandez is remembered for his leadership skills and ability to help others.

Sergeant Hernandez is survived by his fiancée and three children of Silver Spring. He is also survived by his parents in Puerto Rico. He will forever be remembered as a dependable, trustworthy and captivating person with a passion for life, children, family, and country.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you join with me today in honoring the life and memory of a Maryland hero. Staff Sergeant Robert Hernandez was loyal to the citizens of the United States and deserves our recognition and appreciation.

BLUMENAUER AMENDMENT TO
THE AGRICULTURE APPROPRIATIONS
BILL FY 2007

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 16, 2006

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, tomorrow I will be offering an amendment, cosponsored by Congressman JEFF FLAKE, to the Agriculture Appropriations bill. The amendment will prevent any funds in the appropriations bill to go towards salaries or expenses of personnel who make loans in excess of 17 cents per pound for raw sugar cane or 21.6 per pound for refined beet sugar. This is, in effect, a 6 percent cut to the Sugar Loan Program.

TRIBUTE TO MSGR. CIPPEL OF ST.
FRANCES CABRINI PARISH

HON. GINNY BROWN-WAITE

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 16, 2006

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a devout servant of the Catholic faith, Msgr. John A. Cippel of the St. Frances Cabrini Parish in Spring Hill, FL. Monsignor Cippel is retiring after more than 46 years as an ordained priest in the Catholic Church, the last 6 serving as monsignor at St. Frances Cabrini.

Msgr. John A. Cippel is the second pastor of St. Frances Cabrini Parish. Appointed in January 1996 by Bishop Robert Lynch to succeed the founding pastor, Father David Banks, Monsignor Cippel has served the parish with distinction for more than 10 years.

Ordained a priest on January 28, 1960, Father Cippel is an alumnus of St. Vincent Seminary, Latrobe, PA, and St. Louis seminary, Carthage, Tunisia. His first years of priesthood were spent as a missionary in Tanzania, East Africa.

Returning to the United States in 1973 to continue his studies at Andover Newton Theological School in Boston, Monsignor Cippel received the Degree of doctor of ministry from that institution in 1975.

Following his graduation, Monsignor Cippel moved to Florida to begin his ministry as a priest in the Diocese of St. Petersburg. His first assignments were associate pastor at St.

Martha's Parish, Sarasota, St. Charles' Parish, Port Charlotte, and St. Mary's Parish, St. Petersburg. In addition to serving as pastor of St. Cecelia Parish, Clearwater from 1981 to 1990, Monsignor Cippel was also chosen as the spiritual director of St. Vincent de Paul Seminary, Boynton Beach, FL. He came to St. Frances Cabrini after completing a 5-year span at this seminary.

Mr. Speaker, over the years I have had the opportunity to see Monsignor Cippel interact on a personal and spiritual basis with his parishioners at St. Frances Cabrini. Most Thanksgivings I have been at the church working with the congregation and Monsignor Cippel to help prepare the Thanksgiving feast for those parishioners and all residents without family on the holiday.

Working alongside Monsignor Cippel I saw the compassion in his eyes and the dedication in his heart to serving those in need. For many years he has been a voice of reason in the Hernando County area and someone to whom the entire Catholic community looked up to for wisdom and clarity of thought.

Mr. Speaker, on the occasion of Monsignor Cippel's retirement, I would like to commend him for his decades of work on behalf of the thousands of men and women whose lives he has touched and influenced. Monsignor Cippel has given so much to the men and women of Catholic faith and it is time that we say thank you to him as he leaves the St. Frances Parish.

IN RECOGNITION OF NORWAY'S
CONSTITUTION DAY

HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 16, 2006

Ms. MCCOLLUM of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the people of the Kingdom of Norway and extend my congratulations to King Harald V, and to Prime Minister Jens Stoltenberg, as Norway celebrates its national day of recognition of the adoption of its constitution on May 17, 2006.

It was on May 17, 1814, that Norway adopted its constitution, making the country free and independent. The United States and Norway have long had a strong relationship, founded on cooperation on important bilateral and regional issues, as well as on shared values. Our countries are engaged on every level, including on economic, security and cultural matters, in a relationship that reflects a shared commitment to further strengthening our relationship. The strength of our friendship allows our two nations to openly engage on issues for which we might not share a common perspective, and work together to build common ground on issues of great importance to our citizens.

Norway holds a strategic position within the European community, and through its membership in NATO and the European Union, Norway is a voice of reason in security matters that impact both its region and the world. In addition, Norway is a global leader in providing humanitarian aid to crises around the world, in aiding refugees, and in promoting human rights around the globe. I commend the Norwegian government for the important and life-saving work it is engaged in around the world.

As a Minnesotan, I and many of my constituents feel a particular bond to Norway, as so many ancestors of Minnesotans come from that great country. The strong links that have formed between Minnesota and Norway extend to business partnerships and social connections. Minnesotans also share with Norwegians the strong desire in helping to alleviate the suffering that is a daily struggle for so many around the world. Both Minnesotans and Norwegians feel compelled to act in the name of peace and democracy around the world, and I am proud there is such a strong Norwegian influence in Minnesota.

Mr. Speaker, we should extend warm regards and congratulations to the people of Norway, the Norwegian Government, King Harald V and Queen Sonja, and Prime Minister Stoltenberg as they celebrate the adoption of their constitution. They have consistently been warm friends of the United States, and I look forward to working with the Norwegian people on every level in the future, to ensure that our two countries maintain a strong relationship.

LIBRARY OF CONGRESS
EMPLOYEE TRANSITION ASSISTANCE
ACT OF 2006

HON. JUANITA MILLENDER-McDONALD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 16, 2006

Ms. MILLENDER-McDONALD. Mr. Speaker, I rise to draw our colleagues' attention to legislation I have introduced (H.R. 5328) to make it easier for talented, experienced employees of the Congressional Research Service (CRS) facing loss of their jobs later this year to find positions elsewhere in the Federal government.

The need for this legislation is both apparent and pressing. In September 2005, the CRS, a unit of the Library of Congress, announced to 59 support employees that their positions will be eliminated not later than September 30, 2006, by a reduction-in-force (RIF) if necessary. The CRS Director, Daniel Mulhollan, argues that the 59 positions have become unnecessary due to technological advances that have changed the way CRS fulfills its mission, which is to serve Congress.

Several of our colleagues and I share serious concerns about this decision and question the CRS management practices which led to it. Since the announcement, I have personally met with affected employees and others, many of whom suggested, among other things, that CRS has placed insufficient emphasis on training and professional development offering opportunities for advancement. Moreover, given the Library's history in matters involving racial discrimination, many people inside and outside the organization are troubled by the fact that a large majority of the affected employees are women, African-Americans and other minorities.

Without debating the merits or demerits of Director Mulhollan's decision, clearly Congress should do everything reasonably possible to help these dedicated CRS employees to continue their careers elsewhere in the Federal government. It is certainly the compassionate and equitable thing to do; most if not all of the employees have never received an unsatisfactory performance review, and many are sole

breadwinners who have devoted their entire careers to public service. It is also the smart thing to do, from the standpoint of the taxpayer, who has invested in these employees over the years, and who would lose the value of that investment if the employees were to take positions elsewhere. As a former personnel director, I certainly recognize that for any organization, including the Federal government, to maximize its effectiveness, it needs to attract the most talented people it can, invest in those people, and retain them. It makes sense to enable talented employees to transfer their skills to other agencies, if they wish to remain in Federal service and cannot find suitable positions in the Library or CRS.

The legislation which I have introduced would accomplish two things toward that end. First, it would give Library employees who have successfully completed a probationary period in a non-temporary position "competitive status" when seeking vacant positions in Executive departments and agencies for which the employees have the required qualifications. Currently, service in the Library, a Legislative-branch agency, does not confer competitive status, leaving Library employees at a disadvantage when competing for vacancies in Executive agencies requiring competitive status. The provision would become effective immediately, and is designed to assist current CRS employees who may wish to apply for positions throughout the government, as well as other CRS or Library employees seeking positions in the future.

Second, the legislation would render Library employees (including the Congressional Research Service) eligible for a program, administered by the Office of Personnel Management for displaced employees in the Executive branch, which provides "special selection priority" for employees facing a reduction-in-force. Thus, Library employees, including the CRS personnel facing loss of their jobs later this year, would qualify for priority selection to positions across the Executive branch.

Mr. Speaker, in 1990 Congress enacted similar legislation granting competitive status to employees of the Judicial branch. It made sense then for employees of the Federal courts, and it makes sense for the employees of the Library of Congress today.

Mr. Speaker, my legislation has the support of the Librarian of Congress, Dr. James Billington, and Director Mulholland, who have assured me that they will do everything possible to identify suitable positions in the Library for the affected employees. I take them at their word and hope their efforts succeed for every employee who wants to continue contributing to the agency's success.

This Congress could not discharge its responsibilities without the support of the employees of the Congressional Research Service and the Library of Congress, who provide unbiased, non-partisan, timely, reliable information to its Members every day. As Ranking Member of the Committee on House Administration, which oversees the Library and CRS, I am eager to see this precious asset preserved, and I trust that Library management will do everything within its power to avoid a RIF in 2006 or any other year. In the meantime, H.R. 5328 will make it easier for the CRS employees now facing loss of their jobs to transfer their skills and expertise to other Federal agencies and continue their careers in public service. I urge all Members to join in supporting this urgent legislation.

IN REMEMBRANCE OF G.V.
"SONNY" MONTGOMERY

HON. NICK J. RAHALL, II

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 16, 2006

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remember the life of a man that I am proud to have called a colleague and a friend, Gillespie V. "Sonny" Montgomery. Sonny had already been serving the people of Mississippi for 10 years by the time I had been elected to Congress, but his drive and tenacity for the men and women of his District and of the armed services: rivaled that of any of my freshman class of 1977.

The epitome of one man making a difference, Sonny helped expand the G.I. Bill to Guardsmen and Reservists and helped make possible the dream of a higher education to countless Americans. His efforts to elevate the Veterans Administration into the 14th Cabinet level department truly ensured, in his words, that "veterans will no longer have to go through the back door to the White House."

Few men leave the kind of lasting legacy that Sonny leaves. When I am back home in West Virginia, I see him in the faces of the West Virginia National Guard. The time before his accomplishments seem to stand in stark contrast to the current realities of serving our great Nation, and it reminds us all of how justice always needs an advocate.

I see how one man can better the lives of so many, and it reminds and reaffirms in me what it means to be a public servant.

This coming Memorial Day, we will remember and pay tribute to those who have served our country, in doing so we also remember and pay tribute to Sonny.

As the Lord welcomes him back home into the Kingdom of Heaven, may we all honor his legacy by picking up the torch that he so skillfully carried.

HONORING G.V. "SONNY"
MONTGOMERY

HON. JIM GIBBONS

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 16, 2006

Mr. GIBBONS. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the state of Nevada, I would like to recognize the late Gillespie V. "Sonny" Montgomery for all of his lifetime achievements. Sonny passed away on May 12 of this year. His 30 years in Congress and 13 years as Chairman of the House Veterans' Affairs Committee do not even begin to reveal all that he has done for this country.

As a strong Veterans' advocate, he was the man responsible for rallying Congress to pass The Montgomery G.I. Bill, which offered education benefits to National Guard and Reserve personnel for the first time. Mr. Montgomery also served on the House Armed Services Committee, where he made progress in the quality of life for both the National Guard and reserve units. As a veteran himself, he seemed to establish a stubbornness about him that pressed for improved treatment of veterans on Capitol Hill, where he gained the nickname "Mr. Veteran."

After returning home from World War II, he returned to active duty during the Korean War as part of the National Guard. Shortly thereafter, Sonny began his political career in 1956 when he was elected to the Mississippi State Senate, where he served for ten years before joining the United States House of Representatives in 1967. He remained in the National Guard and retired in 1980 with the rank of major general.

In 2005, he received the highest form of civilian honor when President Bush awarded him with the Presidential Medal of Freedom. Sonny Montgomery was the embodiment of freedom and worked every day of his professional life to strengthen our national defense and to ensure that this nation honors the soldiers who protect our freedom.

Not only has this country lost a dedicated serviceman and former Member of Congress, but we have also lost a great friend.

CONGRATULATING AMTRAK ON
ITS 35TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. JAMES L. OBERSTAR

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 16, 2006

Mr. OBERSTAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the National Railroad Passenger Corporation, known more commonly as Amtrak, and its workers for achieving 35 years of operation as America's passenger rail service provider.

Prior to the creation of Amtrak, passenger rail service had fallen on hard times. Freight railroads had a common carrier obligation to provide passenger train service, but virtually all of them were losing money and wanted to be rid of it. Regrettably, it was the policy of many of the freight railroads to simply allow the service to deteriorate to the point where ridership was so sparse that the Interstate Commerce Commission would grant the carriers permission to discontinue their passenger train operations. Some of the railroads went beyond benign neglect and actively downgraded the service to discourage people from riding the trains.

Indeed, passenger rail service had been in decline since 1920. Americans' preferences shifted to air and auto to meet their intercity transportation needs. In 1920, passenger rail was the dominant mode of intercity transportation; by 1970 passenger rail service had declined to relative insignificance. Many thought that the day of the passenger train was over, and that, outside of a few densely populated corridors, passenger trains were destined to join the stagecoach and the flatboat as relics of America's transportation history.

Fortunately, that was not the case. Congress understood the long-term value of and public need for intercity passenger rail service and passed the Rail Passenger Service Act of 1970 to create Amtrak.

On May 1, 1971, Amtrak assumed responsibility of the nation's passenger trains from the freight railroads and began service when Clocker No. 235 departed New York Penn Station at 12:05 a.m. bound for Philadelphia. It was clear from the outset that Amtrak would have to face a number of challenges. Years of freight railroad neglect of passenger operations meant that stations and terminals were

often old and run down, that passenger cars offered dated amenities, and the equipment was prone to failure. The nation's railroad infrastructure was in a serious state of disrepair. Trains, even some passenger trains, crept along at 10–15 miles-per-hour in some places and derailments were becoming distressingly commonplace. By the time Amtrak commenced operations in 1971, the number of daily intercity passenger trains had been reduced from 11,000 in 1964 to fewer than 300 in 1970.

Today, despite chronic under-investment, Amtrak has managed to replace and upgrade many car and locomotive fleets, rehabilitate once dilapidated train stations, and introduce a variety of new services in an effort to keep people riding the rails. Ridership has grown from 4.4 million on 184 trains operated in 1971 to more than 24 million on 100,000 trains operated in 2005, a record level for Amtrak. And just last month, despite increasing freight congestion on the nation's railways, Amtrak's on-time performance on the Northeast Corridor reached 90 percent.

In other words, Amtrak survived—survived the inadequate equipment and facilities; survived the budget cutters, and survived the competition from low-cost airlines. And now, as we see gas prices soaring to more than \$3 a gallon, we see the wisdom of keeping intercity passenger rail service in place in the United States.

This month, Congress will begin its annual debate on funding for Amtrak. The Administration and a minority in Congress will once again argue for inadequate or no funding for Amtrak. In the past 35 years combined, Amtrak has received less federal funding than we will spend on highways in just this fiscal year. The Federal Government has also established robust funding mechanisms for aviation and public transit, and Congress has always properly supported Federal investment in these modes. But not for Amtrak: Amtrak is forced to beg for federal funding year after year, and rarely gets what it needs because of false expectations that it should be profitable.

Railroads throughout the world receive some government support to supplement the revenues paid by passengers. China invests \$16 to \$20 billion annually in passenger rail. Japan and Germany devote 20 percent of their total annual transportation budget to passenger rail, totaling \$3 to \$4 billion each. A host of other nations also invest heavily in passenger rail—France, for example. When I was a graduate student at the College of Europe in Belgium, part of our work was to travel to various parts of Europe and see different economic systems. I traveled from Paris to Lyon, almost 300 miles. It was a 4½ hour trip. I went back in 1989, as chair of the Aviation Subcommittee. We were following the trail of Pam Am 103. I just wanted to experience the TGV (Train à Grande Vitesse). The same trip took 2:01 hours. At a certain point, the train passed a small airfield where a twin-engine aircraft had taken off, and the train passed the plane at 180 mph.

We can do the same here in the United States. The Federal Government just needs to step up and take charge with a strong program to support passenger rail.

Congratulations again to Amtrak and its workers for 35 years of public service. Not only are you a vital link to our nation's past, you are indispensable to our Nation's transportation future.

ENERGY LEGISLATION (H.R. 5253
AND H.R. 5254)

HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 16, 2006

Ms. MCCOLLUM of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the Federal Energy Price Protection Act (H.R. 5253). By protecting consumers at the gas pump, this legislation takes an important step towards a more responsible federal energy policy.

H.R. 5253 bans price gouging in the sale of fuels, permits states to bring price gouging lawsuits against wholesalers or retailers and sets meaningful penalties for those convicted. After nearly a year of opposing these consumer protections, Republicans have finally realized this is a necessary and appropriate action to addressing rising gas prices. However, this is only a first step—it is what we do next that really matters.

We should not expect our energy situation to change until Congress gets serious about tackling our oil dependence. With the booming economies of China and India squeezing global oil supply, and political instability among key oil producing countries like Iran, Venezuela, Nigeria and Iraq, it is likely that world oil prices will remain volatile and could continue rising for some time to come. Unfortunately, the Republicans are proposing to meet this serious challenge with an ill-conceived policy of distraction.

The Refinery Permit Process Schedule Act (H.R. 5254) is a cynical attempt to relieve public pressure for new energy policies and divert attention away from meaningful solutions. It empowers the Secretary of Defense to evade state environmental laws and overrule the wishes of local communities by "streamlining" siting and permitting of new refineries on closed military bases. I strongly oppose this bill, which blames state environmental regulations for rising gas prices and would undermine local control in a misguided attempt to ease them. H.R. 5254 is another attempt by the Republican majority to sell Americans the false promise of easy answers.

With families burdened with gas at \$3 per gallon, it is time for real leadership, vision and commitment from Washington to make the smart investments that will protect our Nation's economic security and our planet's future. A clean energy future that addresses oil dependence and environmental concerns such as climate change is achievable. It starts by rescinding the billion of dollars in subsidies for oil and gas companies and with investments in research and extending incentives for alternative energy sources such as wind, biomass and biofuels that keep energy costs down, create jobs and make us more competitive in the global economy. As Robert Samuelson stated in today's Washington Post, the United States has the energy policy it deserves but not the one it needs. It's time for real solutions.

[From the Washington Post, May 3, 2006]

HOW WE GOT TO \$3 A GALLON

(By Robert J. Samuelson)

The United States has the energy policy it deserves, although not the one it needs. Having been told for years that their addiction to cheap gasoline was on a collision course with increasingly insecure supplies of for-

eign oil, Americans are horrified to discover that this is actually the case. But for all the public outcry and political hysteria, high gasoline prices haven't significantly hurt the economy—and may not do so. Since 2003 the economy has grown about 3.6 percent annually. It's still advancing briskly. That may be the real news.

But first, how did we get to \$3 a gallon? The basic story is simple enough. Oil was cheap in the 1990s. From 1993 to 1999, crude prices averaged about \$17 a barrel. Low prices discouraged exploration and encouraged consumption. China emerged as a big user. In 1995 global demand was about 70 million barrels daily; now it's almost 84 million barrels daily.

Spare production capacity slowly vanished, meaning that now any supply interruption—or rumor of interruption—sends prices up sharply. An Iraqi pipeline is attacked; prices jump. Nigerian rebels menace oil fields; prices jump.

These pressures get transmitted quickly to the pump, because there are few fixed-price contracts in the oil business. At each stage of distribution—from producers to refiners, from refiners to retailers—prices are adjusted quickly. They're often tied to prices on major commodities exchanges, where oil and other raw materials are traded.

"A gas station will get a delivery every four to eight days at a different price," says Mary Novak of Global Insight. Even between deliveries, station owners may push prices up because they know that "for my next tankload, I'll have to pay the market price."

Of course, profits have exploded. Production and refining costs haven't risen in tandem with prices. To the extent that oil companies have their own crude reserves—as opposed to buying from producing nations—they've reaped a bonanza. From 2002 to 2005, profits for most U.S. oil companies more than quadrupled, to almost \$140 billion a year, the American Petroleum Institute reports. But the really big winners are the oil-producing countries. In 2005 their oil revenue exceeded \$750 billion, up from \$300 billion in 2002. (Crude oil and taxes represent about three-quarters of the retail price of gasoline; refining, distribution and marketing account for the rest.)

It's conventional wisdom that big increases in oil prices usually trigger a recession—or at least a sharp slowdown. Why haven't they? One oft-cited reason is that the economy has become more energy-efficient. True. Compared with 1973, Americans use 57 percent less oil and natural gas per dollar of output; compared with 1990, the decline is 24 percent. Cars and trucks have gotten more efficient, though not much more so since 1990. New industries (software programming, health clubs) use less energy than the old (steelmaking, farming). But there's a larger reason: The conventional wisdom is wrong.

Big oil price increases in the past (1973–74, 1979–80 and 1990–91) did not cause recessions, though recessions occurred at roughly the same time. The connection has been repeated so often that most people probably accept it as gospel. But much economic research has concluded that it's a myth. These recessions resulted mainly from rising inflation—inflation that preceded higher oil prices—and the Federal Reserve's efforts to suppress it. Higher oil prices merely made matters slightly worse. In 1980, for example, consumer prices rose 12.5 percent; excluding energy prices, they increased 11.7 percent.

This may explain the economy's resilience. One hopeful sign: most nonenergy companies aren't yet passing along higher energy costs to their customers. "Businesses have had wide profit margins," says Mark Zandi of

Moody's Economy.com. "They may be willing to eat the higher costs." In 2006, he expects the economy to grow 3.5 percent, with average unemployment of 4.7 percent.

Indeed, he thinks oil prices may retreat to about \$50 a barrel, from today's levels of about \$70, later this year. Higher prices will slightly dampen demand, and added supplies will create some spare production capacity. Naturally, he could be wrong. Energy economist Philip K. Verleger Jr. thinks oil could

be headed for \$100 a barrel, with inflation going to 5 percent and inducing a recession. Continuing strong oil demand will collide with rigid supply (both production and refining). The conventional wisdom—wrong in the past—could be right in the future.

Whatever happens, the larger question is how Americans build on this episode. It may feel good to vilify the major oil companies and the oil cartel. But that won't help. We now import 60 percent of our oil; large im-

ports will continue indefinitely. So far, we've escaped a true calamity. We may not be so lucky in the future. We could minimize our vulnerabilities to supply interruptions and price increases. We could open up more acreage (including Alaska) to drilling. We could orchestrate—through tougher fuel economy standards and a gradually rising energy tax—a big shift toward more-efficient vehicles. Once again, we've been warned. Will we continue to ignore it?