

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

RECOGNIZING NATHAN RICHARD DUDA FOR ACHIEVING THE RANK OF EAGLE SCOUT

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 28, 2006

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Nathan Richard Duda, a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 98, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Nathan has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Nathan has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Nathan Richard Duda for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

HONORING THE LIFE OF CORPORAL ANDY D. ANDERSON

HON. TOM DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 28, 2006

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Corporal Andy D. Anderson one of the true heroes of the conflict in Iraq, and to recognize his service to our Nation.

Corporal Anderson, a longtime resident of Falls Church, VA, graduated from J.E.B. Stuart High School in 2001. While at Stuart, he enjoyed a prolific athletic career. He was a leader of the football team and was among the leading scorers in the county in basketball. After a year of college, he followed in his father's footsteps and enlisted in the Army, in which he was assigned to the Army's B Company, 46th Engineer Battalion at Fort Rucker, AL.

Just a few weeks ago, Cpl. Anderson had been home to visit his family in Vienna, VA. He proposed to his high school sweetheart and impressed friends and relatives with his self-assurance.

Corporal Anderson was ambitious and selfless, hoping to make the Army a career. Tragically, on June 6, 2006, Cpl. Anderson gave his last full measure for our Nation, when he was killed by mortar fire in Ar Ramadi, Iraq.

Corporal Anderson is survived by his father, Harold Anderson, mother Xiomara Mena, and his brothers Rafael and Randall.

Words cannot express the gratitude we feel toward those who have made the ultimate sacrifice for our country. This is a debt that can never be repaid. I hope the family of Cpl.

Anderson, who are suffering in the wake of the loss, will take some solace in knowing that we will never forget Cpl. Anderson's sacrifice or the sacrifices made by other patriots like him in the defense of our Nation.

Mr. Speaker, I call upon my colleagues to remember in our minds and in our hearts the bravery and sacrifice of Cpl. Andy D. Anderson, as well as that of all the men and women of the armed services who honorably protect the American people.

INTRODUCTION OF THE NO CHILD LEFT BEHIND IMPROVEMENTS ACT OF 2006

HON. DON YOUNG

OF ALASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 28, 2006

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased today to introduce the No Child Left Behind Improvements Act of 2006. This legislation will improve accountability for the academic performance of children enrolled in the nation's public schools. My bill builds on the major reforms of the No Child Left Behind (NCLB) Act of 2001 signed into law on January 8, 2002 and offers improvements that address many of the unintended consequences of the federal legislation while holding states and school districts accountable.

As a former teacher, I am committed to providing our nation's children with the best possible education. I firmly believe in the original goals of NCLB but I understand that a "one size fits all" approach to student achievement is not possible. Alaska is more than two times the size the state of Texas, yet only has a population of 660,000 compared to the 22.9 million residents of Texas. As you can see, providing education services in Alaska can be difficult as 190,000 Alaskan students are literally scattered over 572,000 square miles.

Alaska has approximately 500 public schools and they are organized into 53 school districts. These include 34 city and borough school districts and 19 Regional Educational Attendance Areas which serve students living in towns and villages in politically unorganized areas of rural Alaska.

Alaska schools vary greatly in size. High schools in Anchorage, the state's largest city, may serve more than 2,000 students. Schools in other urban areas such as Juneau, Fairbanks, the Kenai Peninsula, or the Matanuska-Susitna Valley may serve hundreds and are similar to schools in small cities in the rest of the United States. However, many schools in rural areas are small, some with 20 or fewer students at a variety of grade levels. They may be many miles from population centers and services, and accessible only by aircraft or boat. In remote villages, schools often serve as centers of community activity.

In addition to the geographic barriers, Alaska, like many other states is faced with cul-

tural obstacles. There are 20 different Alaska Native languages spoken in the state and during the 2004–2005 school year, students in the Anchorage School District spoke 95 different languages. Roughly 42 percent of students are from ethnic minority groups including Native Alaskan, Asian and Pacific Islander, Hispanic, and African American.

Alaska is not alone in having to face unique challenges as it struggles to educate its children. Each state in this country one has geographic, economic or cultural barriers that impede its schools from reaching a level of success as mandated by NCLB. My bill will establish an improved framework for accountability that fairly and accurately assesses student, school, and school district performance. As a result, states and local school districts will be able to more strategically use their resources to bring about meaningful and measurable results.

This legislation contains more than 40 provisions that focus on five areas: Assessments, Measuring Adequate Yearly Progress, Sanctions, State Flexibility by the U.S. Department of Education and Non-Public Schools. Specifically the bill provides the following:

Assessments. The bill offers greater flexibility to states in the use of alternate assessments for students with disabilities based on the individual education program (IEP) and authorizes states and school districts to count the scores in the calculation of AYP. The bill also offers states the flexibility to use alternate assessments for students who are not proficient in English. In both categories of students the assessment instruments must be valid and reliable in measuring the performance based on the specific needs of the student. The bill would also grant states the flexibility to assess students more than once within the full academic year, and to use the higher scores in calculating the performance of subgroups.

Measuring Adequate Yearly Progress. The bill would authorize states to expand their AYP measurement systems to include gain score approaches like value-added and give partial credit for meeting basic proficient targets. Additionally, states would be permitted greater flexibility in using alternate methods of measuring AYP as long as the ultimate goals of NCLB are achieved. Use of these specific flexibilities would require approval by the U.S. Department of Education. Further, the bill would authorize school districts and schools with diverse student populations to calculate AYP in a way that more accurately reflects subgroup and school performance.

Sanctions: Public School Choice and Supplemental Services. The bill would strengthen the use of sanctions by applying such sanctions only when AYP is not met by the "same group" for two or more consecutive years in the same subject on the same indicator rather than applying sanctions when different groups or different indicators are involved from year to year in that subject. Additionally, the bill offers greater flexibility to states and school districts in the sequence of offering supplemental services and public school choice. Finally, the bill

● 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.

requires more effective use of local funds by limiting the options of public school choice and supplemental services only to those students within the subgroup that failed to meet their AYP targets in the same subject for two or more years—not all the students in the school.

The bill would also remove restrictions from the current law that prohibit local school districts from providing supplemental services solely because the school district did not make AYP or is in improvement, corrective action, or restructuring status. However, the state would have to grant such authority to local school districts.

Restructuring. With respect to requiring schools or school districts to implement certain broad restructuring provisions, the total number of students not scoring proficient or above would have to exceed 35% of the enrollment, and Congress would be required to appropriate an increase for Title I of at least \$2.5 billion over the previous year, and appropriate at the authorized levels contained in the Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act of 2004.

State Flexibility. The bill would grant authority to the Secretary of Education to (1) approve state accountability plans that vary from the federal framework to align with effective state accountability systems, (2) grant statutory and regulatory waivers that are unnecessarily burdensome or duplicative of state requirements, and (3) make public any approved amendments to state accountability plans. Further, the bill would require that any waivers of the state's plan approved by the Secretary would be available to any state on a case-by-case determination provided the state or agency meets any requirements issued by the Secretary applicable to such waivers.

Non-Public Schools. The bill authorizes students enrolled in non-public schools who receive Title I services to be given the same assessments as public school students; and gives states the option to withhold Title I support to the non-public schools if their Title I students do not make AYP and perform at lower levels than their counterparts in the area's public schools for three years or more.

I am pleased to be working with the National School Boards Association and am looking forward to pushing this important legislation through the House and Senate. Accordingly, I urge my colleagues to support the No Child Left Behind Improvements Act of 2006.

SENIOR INDEPENDENCE ACT OF
2006

SPEECH OF

HON. NYDIA M. VELÁZQUEZ

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 21, 2006

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 5293, the "Senior Independence Act of 2006," reauthorizing the Older Americans Act. This is an important measure for our Nation's seniors in delivering nutrition services, supportive services, and caregiver services. I am particularly appreciative of the bipartisan manner in which this measure was crafted by Chairman TIBERI and Ranking Member HINOJOSA, and thank them specifically for improvements in the law which would help to target individuals with limited English proficiency.

Though the bill offers valuable resources for our Nation's seniors, one area where I believe we can continue to make strides is in capitalizing on the experience older Americans can share with their communities. I have introduced legislation to establish a "Silver Scholarship" program—H.R. 5275—based on President Bush's 2001 proposal to reward seniors for their volunteer service. The Silver Scholarship program would provide an educational award to any senior, age 55 and older, who dedicates a set number of hours each year to volunteering in their communities. The educational award, or "Silver Scholarship," would be fully transferable to a family member or any other deserving individual to help them pursue postsecondary education.

The first of the 77 million baby boomers turn 60 this year. This new "senior" population is the largest, healthiest, best educated population of older Americans in our history. Baby boomers are pioneers in a new stage spanning the decades between middle and late life, and represent an extraordinary pool of social and human capital. This initiative would foster senior service and invest in the education of the next generation of America's workforce.

While I understand this provision was not included in the reported version of H.R. 5293, I look forward to working with my colleagues as the process moves forward in the hopes that this worthy bipartisan initiative be promoted through our efforts.

RECOGNIZING JUSTIN SMITH FOR
ACHIEVING THE RANK OF EAGLE
SCOUT

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 28, 2006

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Justin Smith, a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 98, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Justin has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Justin has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Justin Smith for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

CONGRATULATIONS TO RYAN
MILLER

HON. JAMES P. MORAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 28, 2006

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Mr. Ryan Miller of Arlington, Virginia, on being awarded the Air Force Association's DW Steele Chapter "Teacher of the Year Award."

Mr. Miller teaches Astronomy and International Baccalaureate-level Environmental

Science at Washington-Lee High School in Arlington. Mr. Miller opens up the often demanding field of math and the sciences through his challenging, but innovative, lab experiments and lessons. Furthermore, his expertise and exuberance for science has significantly contributed to an improved curriculum for Earth and Space Sciences, as well as the enrollment of more students into his science classes. Also as part of his responsibilities, Mr. Miller assists students in science fair competitions at Washington-Lee and in regional competitions.

Ryan's selfless dedication to public service plays a significant role in shaping our future economy. The United States is facing increasing competition in the workplace from foreign nations that are investing heavily in math and science studies. Science and technology related jobs are among the fastest growing fields in our economy, and studies have indicated that our Nation is falling behind compared to the investment of foreign nations. Mr. Miller's use of the latest technology available to students, his interesting and motivating experiences, and his passion for science have genuinely assisted in helping our Nation narrow this gap.

When he is not dedicating his time to improving the minds of his students, Mr. Miller is spending his spare time on his own education. He is currently enrolled at George Washington University, taking classes for his doctorate in Curriculum and Instruction.

Mr. Miller is truly an asset to the students he inspires and the lives he shapes in the 8th District of Virginia. I congratulate him on being awarded this great honor.

TRIBUTE TO REV. THOMAS BYRON
COLLINS

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 28, 2006

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Rev. Thomas Byron Collins, who recently passed away on June 17, 2006. He was an instrumental part of Georgetown University, and was involved in a number of projects that helped raise the fundraising prowess of the university in securing funds for campus projects.

Father Byron Collins was born in the town of Bradford in the State of Pennsylvania on August 16, 1920. He attended Holy Cross College in Worcester, Massachusetts, until the death of his father in 1938. He then returned back to Bradford where he entered the Society of Jesus at the Novitiate of St. Isaac Jogues in Wernersville, Pennsylvania. This was the start of a lifetime service as a Jesuit priest. Father Collins was appointed to Georgetown University in 1954, and in his first five years, he was the plant administrator, which included responsibility for construction on three campuses of the university. His ability in securing funds for these important projects and seeing them through was legendary. He was then appointed vice-president for business management in 1959. Georgetown University in the next 15 years saw an unprecedented rise in various campus construction projects than it had in the previous years. Georgetown became a pioneer among institutions of high

education in securing federal legislation shaped to meet its needs due to the tireless efforts of Father Collins.

Father Collins also was well-regarded in the Georgetown University community for his deep respect for all religions. He used to say that all major religions had "a beauty and a truth." He never wanted religion to be a source of conflict but as a means of bringing people together. He has left behind a remarkable legacy, and without that legacy, Georgetown University would not have had the infrastructure needed to make it into one of the Nation's most prestigious centers of higher education.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to have had this time to recognize the legacy of Father Thomas Byron Collins at Georgetown University.

FLOOD INSURANCE REFORM AND MODERNIZATION ACT OF 2006

SPEECH OF

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 27, 2006

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Chairman, I rise to express my concerns about the Flood Insurance Reform Modernization Act that the House passed today.

I support the goals of this legislation, which are to provide the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) with the resources it needs to pay its claims to the victims of Hurricane Katrina, and to reform the NFIP to place it on sustainable long-term footing, but I believe that goal cannot be done at the expense of communities and homeowners who should not be in the flood maps. Several provisions of the bill will have such a negative impact on the Western New York communities that I represent, that I am unable to lend my support to the bill.

I would have welcomed the opportunity to vote solely on the provision to increase the funding that the Federal Emergency Management Agency can borrow in order to ensure that Katrina victims receive the funds they are owed. Indeed, I have supported several efforts since Katrina to increase FEMA's borrowing authority for this purpose. I have also supported tremendous increases in community development funding for Katrina-impacted areas, and I fought hard against the Administration's ill-conceived proposal to deny workers in the reconstruction effort the benefit of federal wage protection law.

Yet Mr. Chairman for all that was right in this bill, it fails to address some of the most pressing and problematic aspects of the NFIP, such as the extent to which some areas served by the program which seldom flood and seldom receive benefits must subsidize other areas which more frequently flood and more frequently receive benefits. Additionally, I am concerned that this does nothing to cushion the blow of mandatory flood insurance premiums to low income senior citizens or other, similarly situated persons. Additionally, when floods very often hit areas which had not been designated as having significant flood hazards, and while areas which have the 100-year flood designation have never been inundated, I have serious concerns about the accuracy of current flood mapping processes and procedures. While this bill would increase funding to

increase the quantity of flood mapping, it would not sufficiently improve the science to increase the quality of flood mapping.

Specific to the Buffalo-area communities in my district, I am strongly opposed to the provision directing the Comptroller General to study a mandatory purchase requirement for the natural 100-year floodplain. In the City of Buffalo, in the neighborhoods of South Buffalo and Kaisertown, an area has been designated as a 100-year floodplain by FEMA. This area is now protected by a number of man-made improvements designed expressly to protect against 100-year floods, so I am working toward the goal of having FEMA remove the 100-year floodplain designation from these areas, and with it, the concomitant burden of mandatory flood insurance premiums. In fact, in 1972 the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers said "the area would be protected from a flood stage having a recurrence interval of 100 years," yet this bill would not only keep the area under 100-year designation, but would also allow the cost to no-risk homeowners to rise. For me to vote to advance legislation including the area in the 100-year floodplain designation would be inconsistent with my efforts to have the designation removed in light of the flood prevention work that has been done there.

I am further concerned with provisions in this bill which would raise the maximum amount of coverage. This provision would cause insured homeowners in low-cost housing markets, such as Buffalo, to subsidize homeowners in high-cost housing markets. This provision is regressive and contrary to the interests of my constituency.

Mr. Chairman I agree that the NFIP needs to be reformed so that those truly at risk bear the cost of flood insurance. However, by including communities that are at no or little risk of flooding, the bill has the unintended consequence of forcing struggling communities, like the one I represent, to subsidize the cost of flood insurance across the country. That is not a just outcome, and it is one I will continue to oppose until NFIP flood maps represent what really goes on in a community and until low risk communities are not forced to subsidize high risk communities.

RECOGNIZING STEVEN GLASBRENNER FOR ACHIEVING THE RANK OF EAGLE SCOUT

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 28, 2006

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Steven Glasbrenner a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 98, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Steven has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Steven has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Steven Glasbrenner for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of Amer-

ica and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

IN HONOR OF DENICE DEE
DENTON

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 28, 2006

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of myself and my colleagues, Representatives MICHAEL HONDA and ANNA ESHOO, I rise today to note, sadly, the tragic passing of Denice Dee Denton, Chancellor of the University of California, Santa Cruz, UCSC. We have lost a colleague of immeasurable creativity and intellect. Our hearts go out to her family and loved ones in this incomprehensible time. In her memory, we stand today to pay homage to her commitment and sacrifice and pledge to further her legacy of equity, diversity and academic excellence.

Chancellor Denton dedicated her professional and personal energy to increasing the presence of women and minorities in typically male-dominated academic fields. While pursuing four advanced degrees from Massachusetts Institute of Technology, including a Ph.D., she often encountered and fought against prevailing attitudes that were quietly or openly hostile to women in science. Remarkably, her academic career was just beginning to blossom. She held academic appointments at the University of Massachusetts, the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology in Zurich, and the University of Wisconsin-Madison, where she worked from 1987, leaving as professor in the Departments of Electrical and Computer Engineering and Chemistry. Beginning in 1996, Chancellor Denton was appointed Dean of the College of Engineering and Professor of Electrical Engineering at the University of Washington, the first woman to hold the position at a National Research Council-designated Research One university.

On December 14, 2004, Denice Denton was appointed by the University of California Regents as the ninth Chancellor of UCSC. While Chancellor, Denice incorporated the philosophy of achieving excellence through diversity in her agenda. She championed causes on an international level to engage the academic community in a dialogue pursuing equity and advancement in science, math and engineering. Also, as the university's first openly gay Chancellor, Denice embraced her identity and empowered young people and professionals across many disciplines to do the same. Mr. Speaker, it is with great regret that we speak in memory of a life so full of promise and future achievement. But we do so secure in the knowledge of a life already lived so full of accomplishment. Denice Denton was just 46 years old at the time of her death. But in that short time she paved the way for so many to follow.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. SOLOMON P. ORTIZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 28, 2006

Mr. ORTIZ. Mr. Speaker, due to the memorial service for PFC. Kristian Menchaca in my

district, I was unable to vote during the following rollcall votes. Had I been present, I would have voted as indicated below.

Rollcall No. 319: "no"; Rollcall No. 320: "yes"; Rollcall No. 321: "yes"; Rollcall No. 322: "no"; Rollcall No. 323: "no"; Rollcall No. 324: "no"; Rollcall No. 325: "yes"; Rollcall No. 326: "yes"; Rollcall No. 327: "yes"; Rollcall No. 328: "yes"; Rollcall No. 329: "no"; Rollcall No. 330: "yes."

FLOOD INSURANCE REFORM AND MODERNIZATION ACT OF 2006

SPEECH OF

HON. LORETTA SANCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 27, 2006

Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California. Mr. Chairman, when you think of Southern California, you think of palm trees and sunshine, right? Most people do, and I'm glad they do. But today I want to remind you that in California, when it rains it pours. And my community of Orange County has a long history of destructive floods. I am particularly pleased that the House is choosing to pass the Flood Insurance Reform and Modernization Act currently before Congress.

This bipartisan bill would increase maximum flood premium rates, giving property owners the choice to pay more to receive greater coverage, including living expenses or profit loss beyond what is now covered in the flood insurance program.

The bill also makes it clear that the Federal Emergency Management Agency should listen to local communities whenever updating national flood maps.

Currently, FEMA estimates 70 percent of its flood maps are more than a decade out of date. I agree with FEMA's recent call for a speedy update of these important data sets, but haste should not take priority over accuracy.

Our local communities need time to report the most up-to-date data for inclusion in these national maps.

In California counties where FEMA has set a September 30 deadline to receive preliminary maps, FEMA should clearly grant an extension, rather than continue the flood control planning process without that critical local input.

The Army Corps of Engineers is studying flood control issues in a 90-square-mile watershed in Orange County, including Garden Grove and Santa Ana. The Corps' important work there should be taken into account as FEMA looks to draw new maps.

I applaud the bipartisan sponsors of this legislation and the bipartisan work of the Rules Committee for allowing debate on several important amendments to this bill. I urge my colleagues to cast a "yes" vote today.

RECOGNIZING BRIAN COMISKEY FOR ACHIEVING THE RANK OF EAGLE SCOUT

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 28, 2006

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Brian Comiskey, a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 98, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Brian has been very active with his troop, participating in many Scout activities. Over the many years Brian has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Brian Comiskey for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. CAROLYN MCCARTHY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 28, 2006

Mrs. MCCARTHY. Mr. Speaker, because of the storms in the Northeast and numerous flight delays over the past two days, I was not present for Rollcall No. 319, to prohibit consideration of the minimum wage increase, No. 320, the Coast Guard and Maritime Authorization Act, and No. 321, the Veterans COLA bill. Rollcall no. 319, "nay"; rollcall No. 320, "yea"; rollcall No. 321, "yea."

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JULIA CARSON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 28, 2006

Ms. CARSON. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained in my home district due to inclement weather and unable to record my rollcall votes. Had I been present I would have voted "yes" on votes: Rollcall vote No. 320; rollcall vote No. 321; rollcall vote No. 325; rollcall vote No. 326; rollcall vote No. 327; rollcall vote No. 328.

Had I been present I would have voted "no" on votes: Rollcall No. 319; rollcall vote No. 322; rollcall vote No. 323; rollcall vote No. 324; rollcall vote No. 329; rollcall vote No. 330.

RECOGNIZING DARRYL BELL, JR. FOR ACHIEVING THE RANK OF EAGLE SCOUT

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 28, 2006

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Darryl Bell, Jr., a very special

young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 98, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Darryl has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Darryl has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Darryl Bell, Jr. for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

TRIBUTE TO CRAIG SNOW

HON. RAÚL M. GRIJALVA

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 28, 2006

Mr. GRIJALVA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend Mr. Craig Snow. Mr. Snow was an extraordinary advocate for all people in need in his community. He was a coach and trainer of those who work in the non-profit sector, a man who led by example as well as by instruction, and a man who inspired others to acts of philanthropy. It would be difficult to imagine Tucson today without the tireless efforts of this remarkable individual.

Craig came to Tucson in 1977, as a visiting Lecturer at the University of Arizona. He stayed on to serve as associate director of composition and then as the founding director of the Composition Board of the University. However, at the beginning of the AIDS epidemic, Craig realized that immediate action was essential, and he organized brainstorming sessions which resulted in the formation of Tucson AIDS Project. He became the director of the project and led it for 12 years on a path which provided sustenance, direction and education to the sufferers of AIDS and the community at large. He promoted understanding and compassion in a time where few had the courage to face the issues the AIDS epidemic underscored. As a result of Mr. Snow's actions and foresight, Tucson developed one of the most forward thinking AIDS support organizations in the world. As the crowning achievement of his tenure with the Tucson AIDS Project, he was instrumental in bringing several Tucson AIDS support organizations together to form the Southern Arizona AIDS Foundation.

Craig's activism went above and beyond. He also created a consulting firm, which specialized in working with non-profit, care giving organizations. His constant theme was to help the helpers of humanity to do their work better. He assisted groups as diverse as the Brewster Center for Battered Women, the Primavera Foundation for the Homeless, Child and Family Resources, the Center for Adolescent Parents, and KARE, a group that helps grandparents raising grandchildren. His vision and work helped these organizations, and many others, improve their outreach, organizational structure, and constituent services. Craig also served as a priceless facilitator among government bodies, non-profit organizations and the people they served. Craig had a wonderful manner of using every social occasion and interaction to encourage and enlighten every person he met. Then, when they

were ready, he would enlist their help in working for a cause which suited them and where they could be the most effective. No friend or acquaintance of Craig Snow's was left untouched.

Mr. Snow lost his long battle with bladder cancer this year. As a community we must celebrate Craig's life and embrace his take on life; to live fully and at every level. He will be sorely missed and as a community we must honor him by committing ourselves to providing service to those in our surrounding community.

TRIBUTE TO MRS. LOU HANDY

HON. HAROLD ROGERS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 28, 2006

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Mrs. Lou Handy, an exceptional lady and all around great Kentuckian. Mrs. Handy recently celebrated her 90th birthday. She has enjoyed a remarkable life and her wealth of knowledge and wisdom makes her a most treasured individual.

On behalf of myself and my colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives, I want to honor Mrs. Lou Handy and wish her and her family the very best. I ask that an article that ran in the London Sentinel-Echo on Monday April 10, 2006, appear in the RECORD.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY LOU HANDY

Lou Handy celebrated her 90th birthday this past weekend. "Mrs. Handy" taught me English at what was then Laurel County High School. She was my favorite high school teacher. It was in her class that I first read Hemingway, Fitzgerald and Faulkner and was encouraged to write creatively. I have loved books for as long as I can remember but it was Mrs. Handy that encouraged me and gave me the confidence to believe in my ability as a writer.

When I graduated from high school and headed off to college it was because of Mrs. Handy I felt I could succeed when I first set foot on the campus at the University of Kentucky. I earned Phi Beta Kappa there, and Mrs. Handy was part of the reason for the grades that led to the honor. I finished college in three years and Mrs. Handy was part of that as well. I finished law school early and passed the bar at the age of 23, and Mrs. Handy was a contributor to that achievement.

In the years that have followed, I have tried many cases across the state and still had the time to write and publish stories and articles across the world and I thank Mrs. Handy for giving me the confidence to believe I could do those things. I'm in seminary now and every time I sit down to write another paper I think of Mrs. Handy and the encouragement she gave me to help me along the way. It has been 31 years since Mrs. Handy was my teacher yet she is still there influencing and affecting my life and the lives of others through me.

I am not a unique example of the impact Lou Handy has had on people. From my 1975 graduating class alone there are three lawyers, two doctors, two PhD's, three engineers, one record producer in Nashville, many teachers and countless successful business people and most of us had Mrs. Handy for a teacher. When you look at the years Mrs. Handy taught you realize the profound impact she has had on this community and the state as a whole. I think Mrs. Handy is

proud of what her students have accomplished although I doubt she would ever take credit for what any of us have done but she deserves her share of the credit anyway.

Good teachers are a treasure for their communities and should be acknowledged as such. We are quick to point out the politics and disagreements of our public school system, and if we are not careful we can lose sight of the wonderful things that go on every day in our classrooms. Lives are being changed, young people are being awakened to the potential that lies before them and good teachers are making it happen.

A functioning school system is the bedrock of any community. When industry looks at a community to consider locating a factory or office there the quality of the school system is one of the first things the company wants to know about. A school system that is in turmoil or is underperforming or underfunded drives business away. No one wants to move their business to a community that fails to adequately educate the workforce. That is why we must stay involved with, and concerned about, our public schools. They are the great melting pot of London. Rich kids, poor kids, white, black, Asian and Hispanic kids are all there together. We learn to live together in public school so we can work together the rest of our lives. Public school can be trying at times as it struggles to meet the needs of the various constituencies that it serves but our school system cannot be allowed to fail. If we are unable to fashion a school that succeeds for our children then our community will never succeed.

When students learn to believe in themselves then the possibilities are limitless. Mrs. Handy knew that and I think that is why she was such a positive, affirming educator. Those of us who learned from her were blessed indeed.

So, if there is a teacher who made a difference in your life, who helped you get to where you are, tell them thanks. Support our public schools as they carry on the effort to educate and inspire Laurel County's children.

Thank you Mrs. Handy. Happy birthday! Brian C. House is an attorney in London. His column appears every other Monday in The Sentinel-Echo.

RECOGNIZING RONJA WOLF

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 28, 2006

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Ronja Wolf. Ronja is a student from Merzig, Germany and she came to the United States as a part of the German Parliamentary Sponsorship Program. As a committed student, Ronja chose to come to America to diversify her education and cultural experience.

Ronja left Germany on August 2, 2005 to come to Missouri. During her time in my district, Ronja has taken advantage of the many opportunities that are available to her. Sponsored by the Thurman family, Ronja quickly improved her language skills and became an accomplished student. Among her many extracurricular activities, she participated in the Academic Bowl, math competitions, Student Council, the basketball team, and is currently on the track team.

Her experiences outside of the classroom have also been exciting. With the support of her family back in Germany and her hosts, the

Thurman family, Ronja was able to experience the varied American culture. She has been taken to see the historic landmarks in St. Louis, Kansas City, and the Missouri State Capitol in Jefferson City. The Thurman family was gracious enough to take in Ronja's brother and sister for 2 weeks over Easter and will take Ronja to Florida with them on their family vacation.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in recognizing Ronja Wolf. Her time in America was an enriching experience for her and the people that she has met in her short time here. I wish her a safe journey back home and wish to see her back in Missouri once again. Ronja Wolf is an outstanding young woman with many bright years ahead of her and I ask this Congress to wish her luck in her future endeavors.

TRIBUTE TO CALABOOSE AFRICAN-AMERICAN MUSEUM

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 28, 2006

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Calaboose African-American Museum in San Marcos, Texas, for its role in representing the many historical achievements and contributions of African-Americans to the State of Texas in the past century.

The Calaboose African-American Museum is located in a small, modest building that was the first jail in Hays County. The Calaboose was built in 1973 during the Reconstruction period after the Civil War as a jail, and its function changed over the years to a United Service Organization office for African-American men in the World War II period. It was designated as a museum by the San Marcos City Council through a petition drive started by Johnnie Armstead, one of the San Marcos community leaders, in 1997. The museum was established to focus on the local African-American history in San Marcos.

The museum contains several exhibits, including one on the Buffalo Soldiers, who helped settle the Texas Frontier after the Civil War. It also profiles well-known citizens of San Marcos such as Eddie Durham, who was one of the preeminent musicians in the jazz era. Mr. Durham was born in San Marcos in 1906, and grew up in San Marcos, and then spent the rest of his life traveling through the United States and Europe until his death in New York City in 1987. He was also the inventor of the amplified guitar. His instruments can be seen in his exhibit at the Calaboose African-American Museum in San Marcos.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to have had this time to honor the Calaboose African-American Museum for its role in recording the history of the African-American community in the City of San Marcos in the great State of Texas.

TRIBUTE TO THE DENVILLE FIRE DEPARTMENT

HON. RODNEY P. FRELINGHUYSEN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 28, 2006

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Denville Fire Department,

in the Township of Denville, Morris County, New Jersey, a patriotic community that I am proud to represent. On June 27, 2006, the good citizens of Denville will begin commemorating the 80th anniversary of their esteemed fire company with the Fire Department's Annual 5 day Carnival.

In 1926, members of the Denville Athletic Club convened to discuss the growing need for fire-protection service for the town's 1200 residents. On June 26, 1926, the Denville Fire Department's first division—the Main Street Company—was officially born, led by inaugural chief Benjamin Kinsey. The Department began with more than 20 men, starting an all-volunteer tradition that continues to this day. Among the fledgling department's first purchases was a gleaming 1926 American La France pumping engine, which today remains one of the department's most treasured heirlooms.

The Denville Fire Department responded to its first distress call on August 11, 1926, and capably extinguished a dangerous roof fire. That successful operation signaled the beginning of a long history of dependable fire protection.

Since that time, the Denville Fire Department has consistently demonstrated its commitment to protecting Denville's citizens, as well as providing mutual aid to surrounding municipalities. Currently, the department is comprised of three separate divisions—the Main Street Company, the Union Hill Company, and the Valley View Company, all of which are overseen by Chief John Egbert. Today, the Denville Fire Department boasts a membership of 70 volunteers who proudly ensure the safety of local residents.

Mr. Speaker, I urge you and my colleagues to join me in congratulating the volunteers of the Denville Fire Department on the celebration of 80 years of a rich history protecting one of New Jersey's finest municipalities!

RECOGNIZING DIXON NEAL
ETHINGTON FOR ACHIEVING THE
RANK OF EAGLE SCOUT

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 28, 2006

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Dixon Neal Ethington, a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 98, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Dixon has been very active with his troop, participating in many Scout activities. Over the many years Dixon has been involved with Scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Dixon Neal Ethington for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

TRIBUTE TO PATRICK W. MOTT

HON. C.L. "BUTCH" OTTER

OF IDAHO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 28, 2006

Mr. OTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to the courageous actions of Mr. Patrick W. Mott of Rathdrum, Idaho.

On February 27, 2005, Henry W. Scheller was ice fishing on North Idaho's Lower Twin Lake approximately 700 feet from the closest bank. Mr. Scheller did not realize he was on weak ice, and he fell through, plunging into the frigid lake. Unable to pull himself from the water, he began calling out for help. His calls were heard by Patrick Mott, a 65-year-old retired logger, who was working outside his lakeside home.

As his wife called for help, Mr. Mott quickly gathered a metal dinghy and rope and set out on the ice to rescue the struggling Scheller. About 10 feet from Scheller the ice around Mott collapsed and he too fell into the water. Mott's attempts to pull himself out were unsuccessful, but firefighters arrived on the scene shortly after and were able to rescue Mott, then Scheller from the water.

Mr. Mott returned to the bank unaided, and was uninjured. Scheller received medical attention after being safely taken to shore. Although Mr. Mott did not successfully rescue Scheller, his selfless actions are a lesson to us all. Without hesitation, Mr. Mott put himself in harm's way to come to the aid of a perfect stranger.

For his heroic actions, Patrick Mott was awarded the Carnegie Medal, given to those who risk their lives while saving or attempting to save the lives of others.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join me in recognizing the actions of Patrick Mott. May his selflessness be an example we can follow in our own lives.

HONORING THE CAREER OF POST-
MASTER LARRY JACOBS OF
BLOOMINGTON, IN

HON. MICHAEL E. SODREL

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 28, 2006

Mr. SODREL. Mr. Speaker, on June 28th, 2006, The Bloomington Post Office will lose a long-time servant to my district and in fact all of Indiana. Mr. Jacobs will retire after a 36 year long career with the United States Postal Service.

Mr. Jacobs was born and raised in Bloomington, IN where he participated in a variety of local sports. In his adult years, his community involvement only increased. He is a 17 year member of the Bloomington Kiwanis, an organization where he served as President. Additionally, he is a member of the Elks as well as the Bloomington Chamber of Commerce where he has been a member for 15 years. As an avid skier, Larry is currently serving as President of the Alpine Valley Ski Club.

On November 15, 1969, Mr. Jacobs began his career with the USPS as a clerk. Today he is retiring as the Postmaster for Bloomington, IN—a position he has held for 17 years.

Mr. Jacobs took over as Postmaster on May 20, 1989, 20 years after he began his postal service career. He rose through the ranks from clerk to supervisor of mail processing before becoming superintendent of window services. He then went on to become a labor relations representative prior to serving as Manager of Compensation and Staffing for the Greater Indiana District. Mr. Jacobs was then appointed to a detail assignment as Area Manager, Station and Branches, for the Indianapolis district before being promoted to Manager, Fleet Operation, for the Greater Indiana District. This was his final stop before becoming the Postmaster in Bloomington.

In 17 years as Postmaster, Mr. Jacobs has hosted over 20 postal customer council seminars in addition to a number of stamp ceremonies. He has served as past President for the Indiana state chapter of the National Association of Postmasters of the United States and past National Vice President of the same organization. He currently serves the organization as National Postmaster Representative.

Mr. Jacobs has been married to his wife, Nancy, for 36 years. They have two sons, Eric and Ryan.

Mr. Speaker, it is my honor and pleasure to celebrate the career of Mr. Jacobs. He has served our district and state honorably. After 36 years, I wish Mr. Jacobs the best in his much-deserved retirement.

RECOGNIZING DAN BRYAN

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 28, 2006

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Dan Bryan of Chillicothe, Missouri. Dan is retiring after 34 years of service to the Rural Electric Program. As the CEO of the Farmers' Electric Cooperative in Chillicothe, Dan has managed a region that includes over 12,000 meters and nearly 3,800 miles of electric power lines.

Dan began his career in the Rural Electric Program in 1972 as the Director of Member Services for Mountain View Electric in Limon, Colorado. Then after a short time as the general manager of Wells Rural Electric in Wells, Nevada, Dan became the general manager at the Farmers' Electric Cooperative in 1982. During that time he has served on the boards of the Northwest Electric Power Cooperative, the Association of Missouri Electric Cooperatives, the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, and the National Food and Energy Council.

As a member the community of Chillicothe, Dan is very active. He is a member of the Chillicothe United Methodist Church, Fellowship of Christian Athletes, and the Chillicothe Rotary Club. In addition, he has been instrumental in various economic and community development projects, most notably as a member of the CITYMARK and "Let's Park It" committees.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in recognizing Dan Bryan. He has performed with excellence in his many years of service to meeting the critical energy needs of the Farmers' Electric Cooperative. I commend his record of service to the Rural Electric Program and the community of Chillicothe over the

years and I am honored to represent him in the United States Congress.

RECOGNIZING THE OREGON STATE UNIVERSITY BEAVERS AS 2006 NCAA MEN'S COLLEGE WORLD SERIES CHAMPIONS

HON. DARLENE HOOLEY

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 28, 2006

Ms. HOOLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the baseball team of my alma mater, the Beavers of Oregon State University, for their victory over the storied Tar Heels of the University of North Carolina in a best-of-three series at the NCAA College World Series in Omaha, Nebraska.

The Beavers, with their 3–2 win over UNC, capped a storybook season with 50 wins to only 16 losses and became only the second team in any sport in OSU history to win a national title. It was a title for the College World Series record books as well, as the Beavers became the first team in tournament history to win six elimination games at the College World Series.

In the title game, just like during the regular season, great pitching combined with stellar defense, timely hitting and just a bit of luck carried the day for OSU. Five pitchers, including stalwarts Jonah Nickerson, Dallas Buck, and Kevin Gunderson, combined to allow only two unearned runs and just eight hits in the championship game.

Mr. Speaker, never in my life have I witnessed a team with more heart, grit, and guts than our OSU Beaver baseball team. The team showed outstanding dedication, resilience, character and sportsmanship throughout the season in achieving the highest honor in collegiate baseball.

The Beavers have brought pride to the Oregon State University, the Corvallis community, the State of Oregon and Beaver Nation. I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating both teams on a hard-fought exciting series and the Beavers of Oregon State University on being the 2006 NCAA College World Series champions.

TRIBUTE TO THE COMMUNITY OF MCFARLAND, WISCONSIN

HON. TAMMY BALDWIN

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 28, 2006

Ms. BALDWIN. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to announce that on July 2, 2006, the community of McFarland, Wisconsin, will celebrate its 150th anniversary. Since its founding in 1856, this lakeside community has seen tremendous growth, but has maintained the beauty and hospitality characterized by the village founders.

Located just a few minutes southeast of Madison, the Village of McFarland boasts a thriving business community and commerce park, numerous service clubs and organizations, and excellent recreational facilities. The sizable volunteer fire and EMS departments and the outstanding new library demonstrate

the residents' dedication to service and development of their community.

This community bond stretches from generation to generation. McFarland High School has a tradition of excellence and the community regularly comes together to cheer for the McFarland Spartans.

Lake Waubesa, McFarland's most famous natural landmark, serves as a center to many outdoor activities. As the symbolic heart of the village, shops and restaurants surround it, providing a picturesque backdrop of McFarland daily life since the time of its founder, William McFarland.

In genuine McFarland fashion, the residents will be celebrating the community's sesquicentennial on Sunday, July 2 with a festival featuring an array of local foods, train rides, and the singing of the village anthem, "On, McFarland!" A ceremonial cutting of the village birthday cake to honor William McFarland and his descendants and to celebrate the community's 150-year milestone will also mark this landmark achievement in McFarland's history.

It is with great pride that I serve and represent the people of McFarland, Wisconsin, and I extend my deepest congratulations to them.

CONGRATULATING REVEREND KARL EASTLACK FOR CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE WESTERN NEW YORK COMMUNITY

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 28, 2006

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in high praise of Reverend Karl Eastlack. Reverend Eastlack is the Senior Pastor of Eastern Hills Wesleyan Church in Williamsville, New York. Today, the Reverend graciously delivered the opening prayer invocation on the House of Representatives floor.

Reverend Eastlack has played an important role as a promoter of spirituality and healthy living in the Western New York community. For nearly twenty years, the Reverend has worked tirelessly to expand and enrich Eastern Hills Wesleyan Church. He first began in 1987 with a congregation of nineteen and a small worship center. Today, thousands of devout parishioners gather in a modern, technologically advanced sanctuary campus for weekly worship.

Under Reverend Eastlack's leadership, the Eastern Hills Wesleyan Church has become an epicenter of spiritual growth in my district. The Church features special programs for youth aimed at promoting religion and spirituality from an early age. Pre-school children attend Sunday morning care programs designed to teach them basic tenets of their faith. Middle and high school students enjoy summer youth camps that simultaneously entertain and educate. Plenty of quality programming serves adults as well. Parishioners attend workshops addressing a handful of topics, ranging from Biblical knowledge to personal financial management.

Reverend Eastlack is perhaps most widely known for "Today's Encouraging Word," a daily radio spot broadcast throughout Western New York on WBEN News Radio 930 AM.

Monday through Friday, the Reverend uses his many years of experience as a leader and religious counselor to give listeners insight into life, relationships and God.

Speaking on behalf of myself and those in my district, I would like to thank Reverend Eastlack for his selfless service to the Western New York community. We were all truly privileged this morning to be in the company of such a noble individual.

THE CHEMICAL FACILITY ANTI-TERRORISM ACT OF 2006

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 28, 2006

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, a terrorist attack takes three components: a weapon, a target, and a terrorist. Usually these three items are separate, as we saw in the 9/11 attack, the terrorist bombings in London, Madrid, Saudi Arabia, Iraq, Israel, and countless other places around the world faced with terrorist attacks. In special cases, however, the weapon and the target are combined. Such is the case with a facility that produces or maintains large amounts of toxic or otherwise dangerous chemicals. If such chemicals can be released and cause harm, the target itself becomes a weapon.

While the protection of all national critical infrastructure is important, chemical plants represent a special subset of those assets which should be given the highest priority in protecting. As a country, we recognized such a danger when it came to nuclear power plants. The Department of Energy made the connection and put in place rigorous security measures. The same has not been true for chemical plants, even though they are much more vulnerable, and can have much higher consequences if successfully attacked.

Recently, however, this problem has been given the attention it deserves. Successful improvements in securing chemical facilities will take the cooperation of the administration, the Congress, and the facility owner-operators. We find ourselves in a unique situation where all three of these parties are in agreement that there is a security gap that needs to be closed, and that it will require regulation to do it.

Since the formation of the Department of Homeland Security, one of its missions has been the protection of critical infrastructure. Some 85 percent of the critical infrastructure in the country is privately owned. Neither the private sector nor the government was eager to promulgate security regulations. The hope was that in a post-9/11 world, private industry would voluntarily make necessary security improvements, aided by guidance from the Department in the form of recommendations and publication of "best practices."

This worked to some degree. Many members of the chemical industry stepped up their security practices voluntarily. However, many did not, and the economic disadvantage suffered by those who made investments in security practices prompted them to ask Congress and the Administration for some regulatory mechanism that would level the economic playing field by requiring all members of the chemical sector to ensure that their facilities are secure.

The Department of Homeland Security also noticed that there was a big disparity in the level of participation and cooperation to increase security across the chemical sector. Both Secretary Michael Chertoff and former Secretary Tom Ridge recognized this problem. In October 2002, then-DHS Secretary Ridge and then-EPA administrator Christie Whitman declared in a joint statement: "Voluntary efforts alone are not sufficient to provide the level of assurance Americans deserve."

Two and a half years later, during his appearance before the House Committee on Homeland Security in April 2005, Secretary Chertoff stated, "In the area of chemical plants, the President has indicated that if we could not get what we need in terms of security using these various kinds of market-based incentives and best practices, that we would look to the possibility of some kind of regulation." He reiterated this stance in March during a forum on chemical plant security that "free riders," meaning smaller plants that have not implemented voluntary security standards, need to be brought under a regulatory scheme to ensure security.

Finally, Congress, in both houses and in both parties, is ready to act. Recently, bipartisan legislation introduced by Senators COLLINS and LIEBERMAN has been marked up in the Senate. Mr. LUNGREN, myself and (whoever else) will soon mark up a bill which is quite similar and I am proud to be a part of this effort.

The Chemical Facility Anti-Terrorism Act of 2006 will make our country more secure by giving the authority to the Secretary of Homeland Security to regulate security practices at chemical plants. However, the bill does not take a heavy-handed, overly proscriptive approach. The bill directs the Secretary to place the country's chemical plants into tiers based on risk, and to set security performance standards which increase in rigor for higher risk tiers. By setting performance standards rather than proscribing specific actions, the scheme would seek to form a partnership between the Department of Homeland Security and the chemical plants to come up with their own creative ideas to reach the desired level of security.

The tiered structure will also provide incentives to chemical manufacturers to make their plants inherently safer and therefore lower their risk tier. By lowering the inherent risk of the plant, they would not be required to have as high a level of security if the plant moves from high risk to low risk. Obviously, a plant that makes extremely toxic chemicals needs tighter security than one that makes less dangerous ones. I believe that acquiring the use of inherently safer technology where feasible would be more effective, but I am hopeful that the incentive approach will be successful. We also ensure that chemical plant workers will be our partners in securing their facilities, by directing the Secretary to set up a method that will allow workers to report security gaps that they find to the Department, and ensuring that such workers are not retaliated against.

The time for action is now. We have an opportunity to ensure this vital industry, and the population that lives around these facilities, are safe and secure. We must seize the opportunity to work together to secure our infrastructure, our economy and the lives of our citizens.

RECOGNIZING THE COMMUNITY OF BARNES, KANSAS

HON. JERRY MORAN

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 28, 2006

Mr. MORAN of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the citizens of Barnes, KS, for continuing efforts to sustain and revitalize their community.

Deb Kruse, local bank manager and active civic volunteer, wants to see her hometown raise another generation of Kansans. "We are very fortunate and blessed to have a community that pulls together to support our businesses and projects that need volunteer or financial assistance," Kruse said. "We have a lot to offer—not always a large salary—but caring friends and neighbors."

Despite its small size—144 people—Barnes is bustling with activity.

More than a year ago, the city council started a successful initiative to rehabilitate and demolish old houses. To date, eight homes have been rehabilitated and five old structures have been demolished.

The volunteer fire department is made up of 20 dedicated members. With the assistance of local and Federal funding, the department has successfully upgraded its pumper truck, safety equipment, information system and continuing education requirements.

More than 20 years ago, the Barnes Community Development Corporation was formed to help sponsor important community services and events. In 1995, the corporation purchased and still operates the Hometown Cafe. The corporation is also working to preserve the Barnes Gym which hosts Bingo every Thursday night and is utilized for wedding receptions, programs, plays and other community events. Through the years, the corporation has organized many community activities and celebrations: Barnes Old Home Days, Water Garden Tours, Washington County Junior Miss Scholarship Program and the Annual Barnes Lighted Horse Parade.

Close to four years ago, residents came together to open a faith-based youth center called The Refuge. Thanks to generous personal donations of time and money, The Refuge is currently located in a renovated one room school house. Adult mentors, otherwise known as "Servants of the Refuge," provide area youth opportunities to gather and grow through meaningful community service projects.

Rehabilitation of the Barnes I.O.O.F. Park was initiated by Ms. Marilyn Laflin, a Master Gardener, who donated her time and expertise to the project. Community members have donated lamps, benches and various other items to the park in memory of loved ones. The local Lion's Club has been instrumental in maintaining the beauty of all community parks. In addition, the club provides assistance to the Hometown Cafe, makes improvements to the local ball field and band shell, and erected the town's welcome signs.

Our Daily Bread Family Bake Shoppe and Bistro is a family owned business that started out of a two car garage in December of 2002. Since October of 2003, people have come from all over to dine on delicious homemade meals in a beautiful, historic 100-year-old downtown building. The success of Our Daily

Bread is testament to what is possible, with creativity and hard work, in rural America.

The newest community entity is the Barnes Trust for Historic Preservation. The trust is in the formation stage and is charged with preserving and restoring the historical identity of the community. The trust's first priority will be to help restore the Barnes State Bank.

The city maintains an extensive Web site that includes a list of 26 entities on its business and organization directory. That list includes three antique shops, three churches, two bed and breakfasts, two automobile repair shops, two building contractors and a plumber.

Gloria Moore, city treasurer, knows it is no accident that so much is taking place in such a small town. "The individuals that have started businesses in Barnes have invested their money and talents to keep our community alive," Moore said. "We could live anywhere in the world but choose to live in a small community, because we're sold on rural Kansas."

For rural communities to survive and prosper into the future, citizens must be willing to create their own opportunities for success. Ongoing efforts to revitalize Barnes are an example of how hard work, vision and community support can create just such an opportunity.

Citizens throughout Kansas are working together to enhance the quality of life in their communities. Barnes is a success story that demonstrates how teamwork and creative thinking can make a positive difference in rural America.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. SCOTT GARRETT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 28, 2006

Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, due to unforeseen circumstances, I was unavoidably delayed and unable to vote on final passage of H.R. 4973, the Flood Insurance Reform and Modernization Act. I fully support this bill, which makes significant reforms to the National Flood Insurance Program, further updating flood maps and increasing the phase-in of actuarial rates on vacation homes, second homes, and nonresidential properties that have been subsidized by the program since its inception. This bill also includes an amendment that I offered that would require purchasers of primary residential homes to pay actuarially-based flood insurance prices through the same phase-in structure used in the bill for nonresidential properties and non-primary homes. I look forward to seeing this act signed into law and seeing the many improvements contained in this bill enacted. Had I been able, I would have voted "yes" for this bill.

MAKING SAFE BLOOD AVAILABLE IN AFRICA

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 28, 2006

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, yesterday I chaired a hearing to examine the important issue of the availability of safe blood

within the medical systems of sub-Saharan Africa.

My extensive travels to Africa have included visits to HIV/AIDS clinics and other health care facilities, and I have long been concerned about global health issues including HIV/AIDS, malaria, and maternal health. It is disturbing, to say the least, to visit district hospitals in remote areas of Africa that have only one or two pints of blood in their refrigerator and to see rooms filled with expectant mothers and emaciated children experiencing an emergency.

One also has to experience a long drive on the narrow sub-Saharan two-lane highways to appreciate the significant danger of serious road accidents and the resulting need for blood to save the injured. One dodges past overloaded trucks broken down in the middle of the road and passes within feet of adults and children walking on the road's edge, intermingled with goats and other livestock. The increased dangers and health crises in Africa call for increased means to address them, including adequate and safe supplies of blood.

A medical benefit related to safe blood that I have long promoted is umbilical cord-blood stem cells. On December 20, 2005, the Stem Cell Therapeutic and Research Act of 2005, which I sponsored, was signed into law. This law provides \$265 million for life saving stem cell therapy, cord blood and bone marrow transplant. Today, in America, umbilical cord blood stem cells and adult stem cells are curing people of a myriad of terrible conditions and diseases.

One of my greatest hopes is that these current-day miracles will become common medical practice and available to tens of thousands of I patients, including one day to the peoples of sub-Saharan Africa. This hope is inspired by people who have overcome incredible odds thanks to cord blood stem cells transplants, like Keone Penn who was born with severe sickle cell anemia. Sickle cell anemia afflicts more than 70,000 Americans and a disproportionate number of African-Americans. It is also a serious problem in Africa. According to a WHO report on sickle cell anemia, over 200,000 infants are born each year with sickle cell disease in Africa.

After years of suffering, when no other treatments worked, Keone's doctors decided as a measure of last resort to perform a transplant with cord blood from an unrelated donor. This was the first time such a transplant had been tried for sickle cell disease, and it proved successful. One year after the transplant, Keone's doctors pronounced him cured.

Cord blood stem cells hold enormous promise, and have already been used to treat thousands of patients of more than 67 diseases. This potential should not be limited to the developed world, but should also be explored for the benefit of the peoples in Africa and around the world.

My good friend and colleague Congressman CHAKAH FATTAH knows of my interest in health issues in Africa, and shares my related interest in cord blood stem cell research and medical treatments. Therefore, I was happy to take up his suggestion that the Sub-committee on Africa, Global Human Rights and International Operations conduct a hearing on the availability of safe blood transfusions in Africa.

In its recent report for FY 2007, the House Appropriations Committee expressed its continued concern about the existence of unsafe blood as a source of HIV infection in the de-

veloping world. The report notes that contaminated blood is of particular concern for women who require a blood transfusion to address complications from pregnancy and childbirth and for children whose lives are threatened by anemia.

Based on these concerns, the Committee requested that the Office of the Global AIDS Coordinator, together with the Agency for International Development, the Department of Health and Human Services and other relevant parties, develop a comprehensive multi-year strategy for the PEPFAR focus countries. The strategy should aim at achieving a sufficient supply of blood for each country's needs, the recruitment of voluntary, non-remunerated blood donors, universal testing of donated blood for infectious diseases, and the reduction of unnecessary transfusions. A separate strategy is requested for non-focus countries that would provide for the standardized operation and control of blood collection, adequate training, documentation and assessment measures.

The hearing provided the opportunity to examine the extent of the current need in sub-Saharan Africa for an adequate and safe supply of blood. We heard from our distinguished witnesses about the challenges as well as the opportunities that this region faces in providing this essential medical service. We also learned about what we need to do to overcome the difficulties and the best means to accomplish our common goal: a safe and adequate supply of blood to meet the needs of the people of Africa.

NATIONAL SURVIVORS DAY,
JUNE 28, 2006

HON. CORRINE BROWN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 28, 2006

Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise to discuss the roundtable discussion held today that brought together representatives of Veterans' Widows International Network, Gold Star Wives, National Association of Uniformed Services, Military Officers Association of America, Vietnam Veterans of America and other veteran survivor organizations.

I made this statement to them today:

I want to thank Edmee Hills, Ron Armstead and the entire VWIN for organizing this 2nd Annual Conference on widow, survivors and family members.

I believe that June 28 should be made into a National Day of Recognition, for all Veterans Survivors.

As you say in your proposed proclamation—since the days more than 200 years ago, servicemen's spouses have followed their husbands from place to place within the United States as well as overseas. These women, who during their husbands' active duty career, unselfishly made great sacrifices to insure the support and welfare of our armed forces on the local and national levels.

These women, and today, the men who are here on the homefront, are the mental lifeline today's soldiers need to stay grounded in an insane situation: WAR.

Gone are the days, or they should be, when a soldier's usefulness ended when his service

ended. The families are great resources and should be treated as such.

I am a cosponsor of two bills regarding the Survivors Benefit Plan.

H.R. 808, the Military Surviving Spouses Equity Act, which repeals provisions to require the offset of amounts paid in dependency and indemnity compensation from Survivor Benefit Plan annuities for the surviving spouses of former military personnel who are entitled to military pay or retired pay.

H.R. 968, to change the effective date for paid-up coverage under the military Survivor Benefit Plan from October 1, 2008. It should be covered now. Survivors should not have to deal with the bureaucracy and their grief.

In addition, I am a cosponsor of H.R. 1573, a bill to provide that the increase of \$250 per month in the rate of monthly dependency and indemnity compensation (DIC) payable to a surviving spouse of a member of the Armed Forces who dies on active duty or as a result of a service-connected disability shall be paid for so long as there are minor children, rather than only for two years.

I am glad you are all here to discuss the many issues of concern to survivors and I am willing to listen to your suggestions.

In addition, I would like to acknowledge the participants in this year's roundtable discussion:

Ron Armstead, Anthony Hawkins, Edmee Hills, Sharon Hayes, Kathleen Moakley, Deedre Parke Hollowman, Joyce Karas, Eva Golleher, Dorothy Eng, Rose Lee, Marianne Nugent, Patricia Sharp, Regina Matson, Etta McAfee, Eunice Luke, Patricia Kreigel, Cynthia Dawkins, Leslie Tjarks, Elsie Ryan and Suzanne Melin.

CELEBRATING THE 133RD ANNIVERSARY OF THE VILLAGE OF BROOKLYN, ILLINOIS

HON. JERRY F. COSTELLO

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 28, 2006

Mr. COSTELLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the 133rd anniversary of the incorporation of the Village of Brooklyn, Illinois, the first and oldest African-American town in the United States.

Around the year, 1829, a group of 11 African-American families, some free, some fugitive slaves, crossed the Mississippi River from Missouri and settled in the area that would become Brooklyn, Illinois. The community continued to grow as it attracted both escaped slaves and free African-Americans from the St. Louis area and neighboring states. The thriving settlement was platted and named, Brooklyn, in 1837.

During Brooklyn's early years, before the Civil War, African-Americans had no ability to vote or petition for the incorporation of their community. With the ratification of the Thirteenth Amendment to the Constitution in 1865, the Fourteenth Amendment in 1868 and the Fifteenth Amendment in 1870, African-Americans gained the legal rights of citizenship. Shortly after these events, on July 8, 1873, the citizens of Brooklyn petitioned to incorporate. An election was called and, by unanimous vote, Brooklyn was incorporated as a village in St. Clair County, Illinois.

The history of Brooklyn has roughly paralleled that of neighboring municipalities in the industrial area along the Mississippi River, across from St. Louis. Many of its residents readily found work in the stockyards and factories that flourished into the middle of the last century. As those industries left, so did the jobs that allowed the citizens of Brooklyn to provide for their families.

Despite recent hard times, the same spirit that led those first courageous settlers to establish this community still lives on. The village motto is, "Founded by Chance, Sustained by Courage," and those words inspire the current generation to seek new opportunities for their community. The "North Star" Corridor Economic Alliance Project is one example of a new implementation of the community's founding values.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating the 133rd anniversary of the Village of Brooklyn, Illinois and to wish them the best as they move forward in the years to come.

KIMBERLY FLYNN ON 9/11 ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 28, 2006

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to read the statement of Kimberly Flynn, a member of 9/11 Environmental Action, a community group in New York City focused on environmental and health impacts of the terrorist attacks of 9/11. Ms. Flynn gave this statement at a rally in New York City that I attended to bring attention to the health problems that continue to exist from 9/11.

Good afternoon. I'm Kimberly Flynn and I represent 9/11 Environmental Action. We're community activists. For nearly 5 years, we've been fighting for the comprehensive EPA cleanup that never happened. And we're also fighting for the health needs of all those harmed by 9/11 pollution to be met.

In the days after 9/11, like many people, my mother in New Orleans was glued to CNN. Now, my mother has no expertise in occupational health and safety, but she called me with concern in her voice: Kim, why are some people digging through all that rubble wearing respirators, but most people are not? Isn't that going to cause serious problems down the line?

How is it that our government, whose job it is to protect human health from the unprecedented and obvious hazards never asked that question?

After 9/11, when two of the tallest buildings in the world were reduced to rubble, and the air was thick with dust and smoke . . . when toxic dust penetrated into buildings throughout the area, they told all of us it was safe.

At a time when your heroism and patriotism were the admiration of the entire world, they told the people of Lower Manhattan it was their patriotic duty to go about their business.

Well, I have a question for President Bush and Governor Pataki: It has been nearly 5 years, when are you going to do your patriotic duty?

To Governor Pataki: Your Ground Zero legacy is at stake. You must act to fix the unconscionable workers comp fiasco . . . NOW.

To President Bush: We will not let you leave office without acknowledging to the American people that so many of those workers, volunteers and cleanup workers who came to the rescue on and after 9/11 are sick . . . as are many others who live, work and go to school in Lower Manhattan. And that they need and deserve our government's help . . . NOW.

We will not let you leave office without making a full commitment to provide for the long-term 9/11 health needs of everyone harmed by these obvious and unprecedented hazards.

These are days of desperation for many of you, and our hearts go out to you and all those suffering from their Ground Zero exposures. But more than that, we are with you! We are yours in the struggle for justice, for the duration.

IN HONOR OF ELAINE CASS

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 28, 2006

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Elaine Cass, whose law career represents success, accomplishment, and community service. Throughout an illustrious career spanning both the professional and academic realms of law, Elaine's tireless dedication has provided inspiration for friends and colleagues alike. As City Attorney, Elaine represented citizens and their elected representatives on behalf of the cities of Hollister and Seaside.

Elaine was born and raised in Toronto, Canada, graduating from William Lyon Mackenzie High School in 1968. She attended the University of California, Berkeley where she received her Bachelor of the Arts degree in English literature. In 1975 she received her law degree from Santa Clara University and was admitted to the California State Bar the following year. Wasting no time, Elaine immediately embarked upon her law career working for the next six years with Legal Aid Society of Monterey County. Elaine returned to academia in 1978, becoming a law lecturer at both Santa Clara University and Monterey College of Law. While she continued to practice law throughout her university lecturing years, Elaine's educational contributions did nothing to diminish her professional ambition. If anything, lecturing on the ethical nature of law seemed to enhance her already impressive career trajectory.

Elaine served as the City Attorney for Seaside for 11 years. She also served in the same capacity for the City of Hollister, where she initiated the first code enforcement program with an emphasis on substandard housing. It was later expanded to include a relocation program which requires landlords to compensate tenants displaced by such housing. Always mindful of community interests and individual concerns, Elaine successfully blended responsibility and conscientiousness to be an attorney who is both respected by her colleagues and admired by the people she represents.

Elaine is married to Robert Zweben, and has two children, with her first grandchild on the way. Masterfully balancing family, career, and the desire to give back to society, Elaine's many achievements cannot be overstated.

Mr. Speaker, throughout her career, Elaine has made significant contributions, both professionally and academically, to the study of law. On behalf of the United States Congress, I would like to congratulate the accomplishments of Elaine Cass and express my sincere gratitude for her commitment to her community.

“COMFORT WOMEN”

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 28, 2006

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, United States and Japan have, since the end of hostilities in 1945, enjoyed a strong friendship, an economic partnership, and a diplomatic alliance.

Because our countries have such a durable relationship, it is possible for us, when circumstances demand, to offer criticism to each other in regard to issues of grave concern.

The occasion of Japanese Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi's visit to the United States, in which he will be meeting with President Bush and other prominent Americans, provides a special opportunity for gentle but pointed criticism of one of our ally's shortcomings.

Mr. Speaker, our colleagues, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. Smith) and the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. Evans) have introduced H. Res. 759, legislation that calls on Japan to acknowledge and accept responsibility for forcing women and girls into sexual slavery during the World War II era. In Korea, China, the Philippines, and other countries in the Pacific region, the Japanese use of women and little girls as sex slaves known as "comfort women" was among the most horrific degradations imaginable.

Sadly, despite decades of democratic rule and engagement with the United States and other countries that have condemned human trafficking of the past and of today, the Japanese government refuses to apologize to the world for its role in this atrocity. In fact, it will not even acknowledge Japan's responsibility for the suffering of so many women and girls forced into prostitution.

"Comfort women" were recruited in countries throughout Asia and the Pacific as Japanese troops advanced through conquest in the 1930s and 1940s. The suffering and humiliation of these girls and women ended only with the peace that came with the end of the war.

H. Res. 759 sends a strong signal to Japan, a friend and ally of the United States, that American leaders are not satisfied with the silence of the Japanese government on this human rights issue. I urge my colleagues to become cosponsors of this resolution and to bring this issue close to their hearts.

Mr. Speaker, on this issue, I commend to the House an article that appeared in the Philadelphia Inquirer on Sunday, June 18, written by international health consultant Cesar Chelala and entitled "Japan Must Atone for Acts of Savagery."

[From the Philadelphia Inquirer,
June 18, 2006]

JAPAN MUST ATONE FOR ACTS OF SAVAGERY
(By Cesar Chelala)

Japan's continuing refusal to reach an agreement with the former "comfort

women"—women from conquered countries who were forced into sexual slavery to serve Japanese troops—has been sharply criticized by Amnesty International, which has called on the Japanese government to accept full responsibility.

Of the estimated 80,000 to 200,000 comfort women, 80 to 90 percent were from Korea. Girls as young as 11 were forced to serve between five and 40 soldiers a day, and almost 100 soldiers daily on weekends. Those who resisted were beaten, burned or wounded with the soldiers' swords. During the Japanese retreat, many were left to starve or were executed to eliminate any trace of the atrocities.

For many years after the Second World War, Japan insisted that the comfort stations had been private brothels. Only in 1993 did Japan admit any military responsibility. Although many of the comfort women have died, and many are now quite old, Japan must make restitution. The principle is not so much war as the human dignity of women, and as long as Japan does nothing, it implies that it does not care.

The first South Korean woman to tell her story was Bae Bong Ki in 1980. Kim Hak Soon, who died in 1997, related in 1991 how Japanese soldiers had abducted her when she was 17 and forced to carry ammunition by day and serve as a prostitute by night. Her testimony sparked several others. Evidence of comfort stations has already been found in Korea, China, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, Indonesia, Thailand, Burma, New Guinea and Okinawa.

Chung Seo Woon, interviewed by Dai Sil Kim-Gibson in the book *Making More Waves*, was the only child of a wealthy landowner in South Korea. Her father was sent to prison and badly tortured. When she was 16, she was allowed to visit him. She was told that if she agreed to work in Japan for 2 years, her father would be released. Despite strong objections from her mother, she agreed.

Chung Seo Woon was placed on a ship with many other girls and women. Her group went from Japan to Indonesia, where they were sterilized and sent to Semarang, a coastal town, where they were forced to serve dozens of soldiers and officers daily. In the process, she was forced to become an opium addict. When Chung Seo Woon attempted to commit suicide by swallowing malaria pills, she was revived, and, she remarks, "It was then that I made up my mind to survive and tell my story, what Japan did to us." When war ended and she returned home, she found her house deserted. Her father had died in prison, and her mother, humiliated by a rape attempt by Japanese soldiers, had committed suicide.

Chung Seo Woon kicked her opium addiction after 8 hard months of struggle and worked hard to regain her dignity. She was never able to attain a normal sex life, but found companionship and care from a physician who had had a nervous breakdown after serving in the Japanese army.

In November 1994, an international commission of jurists stated that "it is indisputable that these women were forced, deceived, coerced and abducted to provide sexual services to the Japanese military" and that Japan "violated customary norms of international law concerning war crimes, crimes against humanity, slavery and the trafficking in women and children. . . . Japan should take full responsibility now, and make suitable restitution to the victims and their families."

Still forthcoming is a formal, clear and unambiguous apology to the victims of sexual abuse by Japanese soldiers, adequate monetary compensation, and punishment of those involved.

In 1995, the Japanese government introduced the Asian Women's Fund as a response

to international criticism. But the fund is widely perceived by survivors as a way for the Japanese government not to fulfill its legal responsibilities. As Purna Sen, director of Amnesty International's Asia-Pacific Program, has stated: "The Japanese government must finally right the wrongs of over 60 years by providing full reparations to the survivors of this horrific system of sexual slavery."

The money is more than money; it carries with it an important symbolism. During her testimony at the Fourth World Conference on Women held in Beijing in 1995, Chung Seo Woon declared, "I might be poor, but not that poor. I demand the compensation that is rightly due to me, even if I would burn the money after it is in my hand. It is not a matter of money but of principle. The Japanese have defiled my body but not my spirit. My spirit is strong, rich and proud."

Contact César Chelala at cchelala@aol.com.

PRESIDENT SASSOU-NGUESSO'S MEETING WITH PRESIDENT BUSH

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 28, 2006

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, on June 6 of this year, the President of the Republic of Congo, Mr. Denis Sassou-Nguesso, met at the White House with President Bush.

Not a mere photo opportunity, this meeting was substantive and included discussions of the situation in Darfur (Sudan), terrorism in Somalia and other parts of Africa, combating HIV/AIDS, and debt relief.

These discussions were important because, in addition to being leader of his own country, President Sassou-Nguesso serves as chairman of the African Union. Congo is also currently a member of the United Nations Security Council.

The two presidents exchanged views on issues of importance to the entire African continent, in particular the crisis of Darfur (Sudan), the electoral process in Congo's neighbor, the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), and the situation in the Ivory Coast.

President Bush welcomed President Sassou-Nguesso's assertion that Africa should take the lead in the search for solutions to Africa's problems. In regard to the crisis of Darfur, the two heads of state agreed on the sending of U.N. forces to replace those of the African Union. There is a delegation of the U.N. Security Council currently carrying out a mission in the Central African Republic, and they agreed that this mission should remain in place to supervise operations in Darfur, the DRC, and Chad. President Sassou-Nguesso thanked President Bush for the U.S. leadership in the fight against the HIV pandemic in Africa.

They also discussed ecological management of the Congo Basin and the Gulf of Guinea as well as bilateral co-operation between the Republic of Congo and the United States. Congo is one of the countries eligible to participate in trade and investment opportunities under the terms of the African Growth and Opportunity Act of 2000.

After the meeting, President Bush stated: "We had a very constructive discussion about a variety of issues. We talked about our common commitment to help end the genocide in

Darfur. I appreciate the President's leadership in helping negotiate a peace agreement, and I appreciate his leadership in working with the United Nations so we can get the AU forces blue-helmeted as quickly as possible.

"And one of my interests, of course, is to join with African nations in combating HIV/AIDS, and I want to congratulate the President for the low infection rate in Congo."

For his part, President Sassou-Nguesso said: "President Bush is absolutely right, we discussed a lot of issues that we're all interested in: peace, security, and not just in Africa, but beyond Africa, in the world. We talked about terrorism, we talked about the Iranian nuclear issue, we talked about the dialogue that's about to open up, I hope, and that will bring good results to that problem.

"And on behalf of all of Africa, I thank President Bush for his commitment in fighting AIDS, the commitment of the United States in the fight against HIV/AIDS. As you know, we had a special meeting on AIDS at the United Nations General Assembly, and as you know also, Africa is the continent that suffers the most from this scourge.

"And we also talked about African development issues. We talked about the situation in the Gulf of Guinea, and the Congo Basin, the NEPAD, Project for African Development in Africa. And I was happy to see President Bush give his entire support to the development of Africa."

Mr. Speaker, the emergence of the Republic of Congo as a leader in African diplomacy and economic issues is worth noting. Only a few years ago, this small country was suffering from the aftermath of protracted civil conflict. President Sassou-Nguesso has diligently embarked on a program of political reform, social reconciliation, and economic modernization that can serve as a model for other parts of Africa.

I hope that the talks at the White House result in concrete measures for addressing the many issues President Bush and President Sassou-Nguesso discussed.

SCIENCE, STATE, JUSTICE, COMMERCE, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. STEVE KING

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 27, 2006

Mr. KING of Iowa. Mr. Chairman, the Fiscal Year 2007 Science, State, Justice and Commerce Appropriations bill would fund the JAG-Byrne program at \$367 million, which leaves a gap beyond what many States and local law enforcement agencies can fill without cutting multi-jurisdictional task forces which are critical in fighting the war against drugs.

At a time when meth and other drug crime enforcement has already stretched funding resources thin, this funding reduction will certainly have a negative impact. Most of Iowa's meth is in the purer form of "Ice." It is coming into my State from a foreign nation, Mexico. Our cocaine seizures are almost all of Mexican origin.

Recent marijuana seizures in Iowa are of Mexican origin. States, like Iowa, can use Federal assistance in dealing with this now

national and international drug problem. State resources are being stretched thin to combat meth trafficking from Mexico and to work drug conspiracies that have their roots in Mexico and beyond. I continue to support increased funding for Byrne grants. State and local agencies take the brunt of meth investigations without Federal assistance. More than 90% of drug arrests nationwide are made by State and local law enforcement. Tom Constantine, former head of the Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA) testified that the majority of DEA cases begin as referrals from local and multi-jurisdictional drug investigations. He was unaware of any major DEA case during his tenure that did not originate from information gathered at the State and local level.

Byrne-JAG is an effective Federal partnership with State and local law enforcement. The key is local control and information sharing across local, State and Federal jurisdictions. Last year, Byrne task forces seized 5,600 meth labs, 55,000 weapons, and massive quantities of narcotics, including 2.7 million grams of meth. These results demonstrate the power of using Federal dollars to leverage State and local partnerships.

The National Drug Threat Assessment 2006, authored by the Department of Justice, found that Mexican criminal groups control most wholesale distribution of powder and ice methamphetamine. According to DEA and HIDTA reporting, Mexican criminal groups are the predominant wholesale methamphetamine traffickers in the country—even in the Northeast and Florida/Caribbean Regions—supplying various midlevel drug dealers.

Mexican control over wholesale and midlevel methamphetamine distribution is likely to increase as a greater proportion of wholesale methamphetamine production occurs in Mexico-based laboratories. Unfortunately, declines in domestic methamphetamine production, particularly by independent producers, will strengthen the position of Mexican criminal groups as midlevel and retail distributors.

Iowa has made great strides. Iowa is a model for how to address domestic sources of meth lab production with its tough precursor laws. Unfortunately, to meet the demand, more meth is coming in from Mexico. A coordinated multi-jurisdictional response involving local, State and Federal agencies is crucial. Local law enforcement needs to have the funds in this amendment to fight drug crimes.

ON THE ETHICS OF WAR: NON-COMBATANT INVOLVEMENT

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 28, 2006

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce an article by Alex Vernon, a professor of American Studies in Hendrix College and a former member of the U.S. Armed Forces. The article titled *The Road From My Lai*, published in the op-ed section of the June 23, 2006 edition of the *New York Times*, drew parallels between the massacre at My Lai during Vietnam and the alleged atrocities at Haditha and Hamdania.

A veteran of the first Gulf War, Mr. Vernon has firsthand experience of the atrocities the soldiers can be driven to commit in times of

war. He is not making excuses for our forces in Iraq and neither do I. My Lai was a terrible tragedy and the Army's attempt of cover-up, abetted by the Nixon administration, was foiled by the efforts of Ronald Ridenhour, Congressman Morris Udall and journalist Seymour Hersh. We do not want to see a repeat of the My Lai cover-up again.

Sitting here on the Capitol, while we are deciding to continue the occupation in Iraq, our National Guard and Reserve troops are being forced to serve their third or even fourth tour of duty. The heightened tension of war and frustration at the efforts of certain groups of Iraqis to resist American occupation may have driven our troops to commit atrocities that they would never have otherwise committed. As Mr. Vernon stated in the article, the dull and boring hour-long instructions on ethics does nothing to change the situation. "Who needs to be told not to run a bayonet through a baby?"

Unfortunately regardless of the results of official enquiries and court-martial into the incidents of Haditha and Hamdania, the damage has been done. The verdict is already in; and it is not in the U.S.'s favor. While General Peter Pace, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, assures us that 99.9 percent of our servicemen and women are behaving humanely, the majority of the Iraqis confess no surprise at learning about the war crimes of the U.S. soldiers.

Mr. Speaker, our armed forces should remember novelist William Eastlake's remarks on My Lai. You cannot transfer the blame on your superior officer; use your own judgment.

And we, the legislators of the nation should keep in mind that in prolonging this needless war, we are amplifying the physical and psychological strains on our soldiers, thereby making room for more Hadithas and Hamdanias.

THE ROAD FROM MY LAI

(By Alex Vernon)

When I went to war as a junior officer in Iraq 15 years ago, we faced a far different enemy for far less time than today's troops are dealing with—four days back then, into our fourth year now. Yet in those first weeks in the desert before Desert Storm, back when we fully expected Iraq's several armored divisions to drive into Saudi Arabia and crush the two divisions we had on the ground, two soldiers under my command digging a fighting position lost their heads. One pulled a knife on the other. Fortunately, other soldiers pulled them apart.

It's impossible to imagine the frustration and stress on American soldiers in Iraq today—impossible, or maybe it's simply not something we willingly work to imagine. Then the news breaks. My first thought on hearing about the alleged atrocities at Haditha—and of the announcement this week that murder charges are being brought against eight American servicemen for killing an Iraqi civilian at Hamdania in April—was "Duh." If we didn't know this day was coming, we were fools.

I would like to ask those troops accused of war crimes in Iraq what they know about My Lai 4, the site of the most famous American atrocity in Vietnam. In the late 1990's, I did a brief stint in the Army Reserve commanding a company whose job was supporting active-duty basic training units. I recall no mention of My Lai in our classroom instruction.

These days, when I teach a college course on American war literature, My Lai inevitably comes up. Inevitably, a fair number of

students raise their hands to be reminded, possibly even introduced, to that dark day in 1968. These young men and women attend a prestigious liberal arts college and probably won't find themselves in places like Haditha or Hamdania. But they should be reasonably expected to know more about American history than their peers whom we do send with guns to Haditha and Hamdania.

I am slightly encouraged by our military's new commitment, announced in the wake of the Haditha reports, to ensure that coalition forces in Iraq receive training in ethics and values. But the cynic in me groans. Not another dull, forgettable one-hour block of instruction on ethics like I endured in my years of officer training. Who needs to be told not to run a bayonet through a baby?

According to Gen. Peter Pace, the chairman of the Joint Chiefs, such training "should provide comfort to those looking to see if we are a nation that stands on the values we hold dear." With all due respect to the general, does he really think that such training will appease those who believe the Americans at Haditha and Hamdania, and our soldiers and agents elsewhere, are guilty of atrocities? Regardless of the results of official inquiries and courts-martial, the damage has been done. In the Muslim (and much of the non-Muslim) court of opinion, the verdict is already in.

Of course, learning about My Lai is hardly assurance against similarly criminal behavior; no more than graphic images of car accidents prevents reckless driving. And focusing on it today can create other problems. One is that we allow it to become representative, and to prejudice our perceptions of all American soldiers' behavior in Vietnam. The other is that we treat it as singular—an aberration for that war or for any American wars.

We already feel similar tensions regarding the reports out of Iraq. While General Pace assures us that "99.9 percent of the servicemen and servicewomen" are behaving properly and humanely, too many Iraqis report registering no surprise in learning about the alleged atrocities.

So are we saviors or monsters? The truth, as it always does, lives somewhere between. Our military is as thoroughly professional as scrappy guerrilla forces usually are not. But to pretend our soldiers never mistreat others would be a gross lie. After an article in the *New York Times Magazine* last year about American soldiers accused of drowning an innocent Iraqi and their battalion commander's cover-up, I got an e-mail message from one veteran of the current war that the treatment of that Iraqi differed from the treatment of others only in degree and result, not in kind.

Apologists for My Lai—and presumably future apologists for Iraq atrocities—are quick to lecture: That's war, buddy. You should see what the other guy does. I object to this argument because it smells like rationalization. It permits us to accept the unacceptable. It resists aspiring to a better way. The very idea of "wartime atrocity" is a 20th-century development, the most progressive and hopeful legacy of the world's bloodiest century.

There is hope. I can't imagine a Haditha or Hamdania version of "The Battle Hymn of Lieutenant Calley," a tribute to the officer responsible at My Lai that cracked the *Billboard* Top 40 in 1971. Its lyrics ran: "Sir, I followed all my orders and I did the best I could. / It's hard to judge the enemy and hard to tell the good. / Yet there's not a man among us who would not have understood."

Despite the calls to prosecute up the chain of command (indeed, up to President Bush himself) for the alleged crimes in Iraq, I sense more collective sympathy with the

novelist William Eastlake's remarks to West Point cadets about My Lai, as quoted in the Encyclopedia of American War Literature: "You cannot say after wiping out a village, 'My superior told me to do it.' You're big boys now. Behave yourselves. Don't blame all your sins on General Westmoreland."

Last fall, around the time the Haditha events occurred, another veteran of the current war, a National Guard second lieutenant, confessed to me his war crime. His platoon was searching a home where an Iraqi man was sobbing uncontrollably for the loss of his brother. "Would somebody shut him up?" the lieutenant shouted, throwing in an expletive for good measure.

THE PATRIOT CORPORATIONS OF AMERICA ACT: INVESTING IN AMERICA

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 28, 2006

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, as we approach the 4th of July and the 230th birthday of our great Nation, I am today introducing the Patriot Corporations of America Act which encourages corporations to invest in the American people and the American economy. It is time to rekindle the spirit of patriotism and create a new patriotic corporate ethic in America—one that unites workers and their employers in the mutual goal of building a stronger, more prosperous, more democratic business sector that can vigorously and proudly compete in the twenty-first-century global economy.

Since the adoption of the Declaration of Independence, we have benefited from the great work and contributions of countless American patriots and Congress has always undertaken efforts to honor those men and women. The Patriot Corporations of America Act continues that tradition by rewarding companies that commit to America and American workers.

If you want to make Americans of all stripes mad, tell them about the billions of dollars in subsidies and tax breaks our government gives to companies that outsource jobs and relocate to avoid giving back to the our great country. A recent poll in Foreign Affairs magazine reported that nearly 90 percent of Americans worry about losing their jobs to corporate outsourcing. And, it is estimated that between \$30 and \$70 billion is hidden away in tax havens like Bermuda by corporate ex-patriots.

To end this race to the bottom, to end the offshoring of jobs and research, Bill Edley, a former State Representative in Illinois, and political scientist Robin Johnson of Monmouth College, introduced a new idea of turning the tables around with the Patriot Corporations of America Act. It would reward companies, like New Maryland Clothing and Tama Manufacturing, that care about our Nation, our communities, and American workers. I am honored to be introducing this commonsense concept in the form of legislation in the U.S. House of Representatives.

In exchange for preferential treatment in government contracting and a 5 percent tax rate reduction, Patriot Corporations would be asked to pledge their allegiance to our country by producing at least 90 percent of their goods and doing at least 50 percent of their research

and development in the United States. They would limit top managements' compensation to no greater than 100 times that of their lowest-compensated full-time workers. They would show their commitment to their workers by contributing at least 5 percent of payroll to portable pension funds and by paying for at least 70 percent of the cost of health insurance plans. Finally, Patriot Corporations would simply be required to comply with existing federal regulations regarding the environment, workplace safety, consumer protections and labor relations, including maintaining neutrality in employee organizing drives.

Mr. Speaker, the Patriot Corporations for America Act would be revenue neutral. It would be paid for by closing corporate offshoring loopholes that that have been exploited and, if necessary, reining in some of the new tax breaks for millionaires.

Patriot Corporations would create a new class of companies committed to uphold the dignity and prosperity of American workers as well as to selling their goods on the American market and around the world.

Patriot Corporations are an expression of the American spirit of our fore fathers and mothers when they took that brave step of declaring our independence and creating the United States of America.

I am honored to be introducing this bill today and I encourage my colleagues to join me in saluting American businesses and workers.

INTRODUCTION OF THE STUDENT FINANCIAL READINGS ACT OF 2006

HON. JOE KNOLLENBERG

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 28, 2006

Mr. KNOLLENBERG. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing a very important piece of legislation that will provide additional relief for families as they plan for the financial cost of their children's education.

Over the past ten years, tuition at public and private four-year institutions of higher learning has increased by 38 percent. Furthermore, over the past twenty-two years the cost of a four-year degree at a public college has increased by more than 202 percent. The expense is staggering, but the financial burden of college should not prevent individuals from seeking and receiving an advanced education.

That is why I am introducing the Student Financial Readiness Act of 2006, which will increase the amount of the annual tax-free contribution a family or individual may contribute to a student's elementary, secondary, or college expenses.

Coverdell Education Savings Accounts allow families to make a yearly tax-free contribution of \$2,000 per child to assist with educational costs. The money can be spent on both K-12 education, and college. By allowing families to make tax-free contributions to education savings accounts, we promote ownership of education and help ease the financial burden of education expenses.

However, the current \$2,000 annual limit currently in place on Coverdell accounts needs to be adjusted to keep pace with increasing tuition rates. My bill, the Student Financial Readiness Act of 2006, would permit

a contribution level of \$5,000 annually and index the contribution amount by the cost-of-living adjustment.

We must give families the option of providing the very best education possible for their children. Our nation's future depends on the next generation. They must be given every opportunity to receive the highest education and the ability to be competitive in our changing job market.

Mr. Speaker, thank you for the time to speak on behalf of my bill, the Student Financial Readiness Act of 2006. I respectfully request the support of my colleagues for this important piece of legislation to help ensure the future success of our nation's children and the financial stability of American families.

THE IMMIGRANT STORY OF AMERICA

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 28, 2006

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remind my fellow colleagues about the contributions of immigrants to America. In an article in the New York Daily News, published June 16, 2006, Mr. Errol Louis told us about the opportunities that America has given immigrants to leap from "humble, grinding work to middle-class prosperity."

Idrisul Alam, whose father has been a cook at the Waldorf-Astoria for the past 9 years, is one of the many who was given the chance to make something of herself. She graduated first in her class at the High School of Telecommunication Arts and Technology in Brooklyn, speaks four languages, was an editor of her school newspaper, was a student government officer, and raised money for earthquake victims in Pakistan. She is planning on studying engineering at Columbia University this coming fall.

Idrisul is only one of the 35 high school seniors whose achievements were celebrated in a ceremony at the Sheraton New York last week. Michelle Quach who is heading to University of Pennsylvania, Reuben Rafaelov who is going to St. John's University, Jessica Acosta who is starting classes at Harvard are all shining examples of the triumph of the immigrant experience.

Coming from parents who have had no choice but to perform low rung jobs like bellhops, busboys and housekeepers, because of their lack of language skills, these children symbolize the success of the dreams and wishes of their parents. In light of the controversial national debate on immigration and all the immigrant bashing, we need to remind ourselves what immigrants bring to our society. I congratulate the New York Daily News and Mr. Louis for bringing attention to these heartwarming stories about the immigrant experience and reminding us about the positive aspects of immigration.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to enter the article titled From humble roots, they blossom by Mr. Errol Louis into the RECORD.

FROM HUMBLE ROOTS, THEY BLOSSOM

(By Errol Louis)

Far away from the speeches and slogans of the national debate over immigration, a simple, inspiring ceremony at the Sheraton New

York this week spoke louder than all the posturing and threats coming from immigrant-bashing politicians these days.

The point of the ceremony was to give plaques, congratulations—and \$8,000 scholarships for college—to 35 graduating high school seniors whose parents are members of Local 6 of the New York Hotel Trades Council. Local 6 represents the invisible New York army that prepares meals, cleans rooms and hails cabs for tourists, diplomats, politicians, movie stars and business titans.

A great many of these bellhops, busboys and housekeepers are immigrants. “You don’t have to know how to speak English to wash dishes, scrub floors, polish silver or clean 14 suites a day, and so hotel jobs have always attracted immigrants.” is how Local 6 spokesman John Turchiano puts it.

Hotels attract men like Idris Alam, who traded in his apron for a jacket and tie and made his way to the Sheraton to see his daughter, Idrisul, collect her award. Alam, who has been a cook at the Waldorf-Astoria for the last nine years, was quiet, dignified and understated, like the other parents.

Even on this joyous day, they carried themselves the way they do on the job: with humility and class. There was none of the silly parental whooping and screaming you normally hear at graduation ceremonies.

But there was plenty to be happy about. The ceremony showed, in stunning fashion, how New York creates Americans, giving immigrants the chance to leap from humble, grinding work to middle-class prosperity in a single generation.

Reading thumbnail sketches of the extraordinary achievements of the 35 award winners, it was hard to remember that they are teenagers, barely out of childhood.

Alam’s daughter Idrisul, for instance, finished first in her class at the High School of Telecommunication Arts and Technology in Brooklyn. She speaks four languages, helped edit the school newspaper, was a student government officer and raised money for earthquake victims in Pakistan. She plans to study engineering at Columbia University.

Michelle Quach, whose father works at the New York Athletic Club, is the valedictorian of DeWitt Clinton High School in the Bronx, captain of the varsity swim team and a volunteer at the New York Chinese School. She’s heading to the University of Pennsylvania. Reuben Rafaelov, the valedictorian of Thomas Edison Technical High School in Queens, will be off to St. John’s University in the fall.

Jessica Acosta, whose mother works at the St. Regis, studied flamenco guitar in Spain and is going to Harvard. Innis Baah, who hails from Ghana, plans to study business at Hobart and William Smith College. Nanaba Wallace is on her way to Yale to study politics.

The national debate on immigration will take a turn in a few years, when these kids are running Congress, the courts and whatever else they set their minds to. And make no mistake about it—these kids will be running the show.

The festivities ended with a ballroom luncheon for the awardees and their parents—giving the cooks and cleaners a chance to relax and be served for a change.

On the way out, I asked Alam, the Waldorf cook, how the food tasted.

“Fantastic,” he said. “Fantastic.”

FAMILIES USA STUDY EXPOSES THE WEAKNESSES OF PRIVATE PRESCRIPTION DRUG PLANS

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 28, 2006

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in order to bring to the attention of my colleagues a study released by Families USA on the new Plan D prescription drug plan, Big Dollars Little Sense: Rising Medicare Prescription Drug Prices. This report, which was released earlier this month, describes how private prescription drug plans have failed to secure cheaper drug prices for Medicare enrollees and have done nothing to stem the tide of rising drug prices.

By comparing the prices under private Part D plans to the prices available to veterans through the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) health system, the Families USA report shows that the private insurers are failing to provide needed cost savings to their customers. Between November 2005 and April 2006, private Part D insurers raised the prices on seventeen of the top twenty most frequently prescribed drugs to seniors significantly, while the same drugs under the VA plan experienced little or no increase at all. The median difference in price between the Part D and VA plans was 46 percent. In other words, seniors enrolled in Part D private plan are paying an average 46 percent more for those drugs than they would have if they had been able to receive VA-negotiated prices.

As the study details:

For each of the top twenty drugs prescribed to seniors, the lowest price charged by Part D plan was higher than the lowest price secured by the VA. For Zocor (20 mg), a drug used to prevent coronary heart disease, the lowest VA price for a year’s treatment was \$127.44, while the lowest Part D plan price was \$1,275.36, a difference of \$1,147.92 or 901 percent. For Zocor (40 mg), the lowest VA price for a year’s treatment was \$190.72, while the lowest Part D plan price was \$1,275.36, a difference of \$1,084.60 or 569 percent.

This difference is staggering, and it shows the difference between a publicly accountable plan that is committed to helping its beneficiaries and private plans that are committed to helping their profit margins. Big Dollars Little Sense debunks the myth that the price differences between the VA and private Part D plans has to do with the number of drugs covered. As the study states, the VA plan covers just as many drugs as the plans in Part D but is able to obtain “large discounts simply by using the government’s negotiating power.” The VA utilizes the significant leverage it has in order to get cheaper drugs for its beneficiaries—an authority Medicare is explicitly prohibited from using under the Medicare law.

Another discovery that the report made was that the private insurers have done almost nothing to protect seniors from rising drug prices. Over a six-month period between November 2005 to April 2006, drug prices for the top twenty drugs prescribed to seniors rose 3.8 percent. That increase was mirrored by the private drug plans, which raised their prices to their customers 3.7 percent. (Again, prices under the VA system either did not increase or increased at a far lesser rate.) The

drug prices continue to rise and the private insurers simply pass that increase on to the seniors enrolled in their plan, making little effort to negotiate fairer prices.

The Families USA report not only draws attention to the ineffectiveness of the private insurers but highlights the fact that there is no way to hold them accountable. Part D states that these plans are required to pass the discounts they receive on to Medicare beneficiaries but does not specify the proportion of the discount that must be passed on. The insurers could actually be getting huge discounts from the drug manufacturers and just keeping the difference, but we have no way of knowing. There is no disclosure and no accountability for the private providers who supply an essential benefit to the elderly in this country. This is a serious problem for seniors. Prices are higher than necessary, can increase over the course of the year, and can vary among plans. It is also a serious problem for taxpayers, who pay 75 percent of the cost of Part D premiums. Big Dollars Little Sense reports, too, that the median difference between the highest and lowest prices that Part D plans charged for the same drug was 36 percent. This is not just a question of picking the right plan during the enrollment period—since plans can change prices throughout the year but seniors are locked in, even a smart shopper can end up paying much more for their drugs than enrollees in other plans.

This report concludes that seniors in this country would get a far better deal if they were able to benefit from Medicare price negotiation:

Price data from the Part D plans from November 2005 and April 2006 show that these plans are failing to deliver on the promise that competition would bring prices down. The use of “market power,” lauded by Medicare officials and the Administration, has not resulted in drug prices that are comparable to the low prices negotiated by the Department of Veterans Affairs. Not only are Part D plan prices high, but these prices are increasing far more often than they are decreasing, and the plans are not containing drug price inflation. These disturbing price trends do not bode well for either Medicare consumers or taxpayers. The “market power” of the plans has not delivered the low prices promised to Medicare consumers.

The law that established the Medicare prescription drug benefit, in prohibiting Medicare from using the negotiating clout of 43 million seniors and others in Medicare to obtain low drug prices, has given seniors and taxpayers a benefit that costs more than it should. When negotiations are divided among a multitude of plans, none seems to do as well as a single negotiator might. When it comes to reducing and containing drug prices, the Medicare drug program is an opportunity that has been badly squandered.

A Medicare-administered plan with Medicare price negotiation would lower prices since the drug companies would be more likely to provide a good deal to an entity representing 43 million of their best customers. That is why I urge my colleagues to read this important report and to support H.R. 752, the Medicare Prescription Drug Savings and Choice Act, which would give seniors and persons with disabilities the ability to enroll in a Medicare-operated plan with lower prices.

PRISONERS AND PUBLIC AT
HEALTH RISK

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 28, 2006

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to draw attention to an article from the June 8, 2006, Washington Times newspaper entitled "Prisoners, Public at health risk" reporting on the findings of the 21-member Commission on Safety and Abuse in America's prisons.

The article discusses the high rates of disease and illnesses among the inmates in the Nation's jails and prison and the subsequent threat this problem poses to communities outside of the prison's scope as inmates are released back into the communities.

Based on data gathered and reported by the Commission on Safety and Abuse in America's Prison, more than 1.5 million people are released from jails and prisons nationwide carrying life-threatening contagious diseases, and another 350,000 inmates have serious mental illnesses.

While this article and the report explores the prisons' inability to treat physical and mental illnesses it also examines prison overcrowding, violence and abuse. It addresses the impact of reduced funding for programming, a reduction which directly leads to inactivity and unproductiveness in our prisons. The report reveals that most correctional systems are set up to fail because they are charged with protecting public health and public safety, and reducing human suffering as they strive to care for the sick on a shoestring budget with very little support from the community health care providers and public health authorities.

Mr. Speaker: I enter this article into the RECORD to send a message that it is imperative that health officials and lawmakers realize that the issue of inadequate health care in our Nations' prisons has to be addressed and rectified sooner rather than later.

[From the Washington Times, June 8, 2006]

PRISONERS, PUBLIC AT HEALTH RISK

(By Jerry Seper)

High rates of disease and illness among inmates in the Nation's jails and prisons, coupled with inadequate funding for correctional health care, has put the Nation's 2.2 million prisoners at risk, along with corrections officers and the public, a report said yesterday.

Every year, according to a report by the 21-member Commission on Safety and Abuse in America's Prisons, more than 1.5 million people are released from jails and prisons nationwide carrying life-threatening contagious diseases, and another 350,000 inmates have serious mental illnesses.

"Protecting public health and public safety, reducing human suffering and limiting the financial cost of untreated illness depends on adequately funded, good quality correctional health care," the report said. "Unfortunately, most correctional systems are set up to fail.

"They have to care for a sick population on shoestring budgets and with little support from community health-care providers and public health authorities," it said.

The commission, co-chaired by former Attorney General Nicholas de B. Katzenbach, is based on a lengthy investigation and hearings, which included testimony from corrections professionals, prison monitors and litigators, former prisoners, scholars and oth-

ers. The inquiry focused on the "crucial role of oversight and accountability" in creating safe conditions in U.S. prisons and jails, and on the nature and prevalence of gang violence.

"The questions 'who's watching' and 'who's responsible' are at the beginning and end of dealing with all of the problems we've examined," Mr. Katzenbach said.

The report also concluded:

Violence remains a serious problem in the Nation's prisons and jails, with "disturbing evidence" of assaults and patterns of violence in some U.S. correctional facilities. It said corrections officers reported a near-constant fear of being assaulted, and prisoners recounted gang violence, rapes and beatings.

Violence and abuse are not inevitable, but the majority of prisons and many jails nationwide hold more people than they can accommodate safely and effectively, creating a degree of disorder and tension almost certain to erupt into violence.

Because lawmakers have reduced funding for programming in the country's prisons and jails, inmates are largely inactive and unproductive.

The increasing use of high-security segregation is counterproductive, often causing violence inside facilities and contributing to recidivism after release. People who pose no threat and those who are mentally ill are "languishing for months or years" in high-security units and supermax prisons.

Better safety inside prisons and jails depends on changing the institutional culture, which cannot be accomplished without enhancing the corrections professional at all levels. Because the exercise of power is a defining characteristic of correctional facilities, there is a constant potential for abuse.

The report will be presented today at a hearing of the Senate Judiciary subcommittee on crime, corrections and victims' rights.

EVIDENCE OF SUCCESS IN A
SMALL HARLEM COMMUNITY
HOSPITAL

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 28, 2006

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to praise the successful financial restructuring of the North General Hospital, a small community hospital located in Harlem that caters to the neighborhood's vast majority of poor and elderly members. North General Hospital was founded in 1979 and since then, because of the uninsured population it serves who use the hospital for its primary care needs, it had been suffering from severe losses that threatened the hospital's success. However, last year, Dr. Samuel Daniel, North General's Chief Executive and his team launched a plan for a complete transformation that has since proved to be an absolute success.

I would like to enter into the RECORD an article by Rafael Gerena-Morales from the June 22nd, 2006 edition of the Wall Street Journal entitled, How a Harlem Hospital Healed Itself. This article tracks the success of North General Hospital as well as the positive outlook for the future of this promising health care center. According to Gerena-Morales, the strategy pursued by the hospital's Chief Executive and his team has been so successful that the hospital went from a nearly \$20 million dollar loss in 2003 to a \$2.6 million dollar surplus in 2005.

These achievements are even more appreciated when taking into account the challenges that the hospital has faced since its establishment. North General has always struggled with low government reimbursement rates and it treats a community with a high percentage of uninsured patients who cannot pay their medical bills. Furthermore, the hospital historically provided mainly low-margin routine checkups and physical exams, since it did not possess the resources to pay for high-priced medical specialists.

All this changed when North General began to focus more on treating diseases that afflicted Harlem residents in high rates such as cardiovascular problems, hypertension, obesity, diabetes and infant mortality. By offering surgical procedures to treat these illnesses, North General was able to attract more patients and expand its revenue. Additionally, it began to promote its services at community health fairs, further inviting patients to the small hospital. North General Hospital appealed to the need for emergency care by adding ambulances that brought more Harlem residents to its emergency room.

Another key to success was in the partnership established with Mount Sinai Medical Center located only one mile away from North General Hospital. Mount Sinai is one of New York's most prominent teaching hospitals, and with its alliance, North General has been able to expand the services it offers on campus by gaining access to 16 Mount Sinai specialist doctors who perform vascular surgery, lung biopsies, urology, radiology, and pediatric psychiatry.

All in all, this small community hospital embodies the example of a successful health care institution that truly cares for its own. Surely, the health of Harlem residents will benefit greatly from the achievements of North General Hospital, and this hospital remains a source of hope for other small hospitals hoping to make a difference in their own communities.

[From The Wall Street Journal, June 22, 2006]

HOW A HARLEM HOSPITAL HEALED ITSELF

(By Rafael Gerena-Morales)

Since its founding in 1979, North General Hospital, a small community hospital in Harlem that caters to the poor and elderly, had always lost money—until last year.

That's when the hospital's 2-year-old turnaround plan started to pay off. The strategy was so successful that the hospital's bottom line swung to a \$2.6 million surplus in 2005 from a nearly \$20 million loss in 2003. The hospital anticipates another \$2 million surplus this year.

How North General, a 200-bed hospital located in a predominately black and Latino neighborhood, fixed its finances "sounds like a business-school case study," says Liz Sweeney, who covers the New York state hospital industry for Standard & Poor's, the credit-ratings service.

Struggling with low government reimbursement rates and mainly providing low-margin routine checkups and physical exams, Samuel Daniel, North General's chief executive since 2001, says he and his management team plotted a strategy to tackle a tough question: "How do we turn the hospital around?"

Among the answers: North General focused more on treating ailments that afflicted Harlem residents in high rates, including cardiovascular problems, hypertension, obesity, diabetes and infant mortality. It offered additional surgical procedures that brought in

additional revenue. It promoted its services at neighborhood fairs and community centers. It struck an alliance with a nearby prominent medical center that gave North General patients access to more specialty care.

Running an inner-city hospital has long been financially draining. Such hospitals lack the money and cutting-edge equipment to compete against larger hospitals. They lose top recruits to prominent teaching hospitals. Low-income communities tend to have a higher percentage of uninsured patients who can't pay their medical bills or are covered by government health plans that typically pay less for medical services than private insurers. And low-income patients frequently bolt to hospitals in affluent areas when they need specialty care.

North General faces these obstacles, yet its plan is working. From 2002 to 2005, the number of patient discharges jumped 40 percent to nearly 9,000, and is expected to climb to 9,225 this year, according to the hospital. Outpatient volume between 2002 and 2005 rose 32 percent to 95,746 visits, and 103,520 visits are expected this year.

During the 3-year period to 2005, North General's revenue rose 45 percent, boosted by higher patient visits, including surgical procedure volumes that jumped nearly 20 percent. This year, North General estimates revenue will rise 2.7 percent to \$152 million from \$148 million last year. North General is paid in large part by government health plans, such as Medicare and Medicaid, and to a lesser extent by private insurers.

But before offering any new services, North General had to confront a major problem: attracting higher-skilled surgeons. "We needed the technical know-how," Dr. Daniel says.

The hospital couldn't afford to hire these surgeons, so Dr. Daniel tried another route: He forged an alliance with the Mount Sinai Medical Center, one of New York's most prominent teaching hospitals located just a mile away from North General. (In addition to his North General duties, Dr. Daniel is an associate clinical professor of medicine at Mount Sinai's medical school.)

He approached Mount Sinai's president and CEO, Kenneth L. Davis, and the two men agreed that both hospitals could benefit from a collaboration. Within 90 days, the hospitals reached an agreement that took effect in January of 2004.

North General pays Mount Sinai an annual \$2.7 million and in return gains access to 16 Mount Sinai doctors who perform vascular surgery, lung biopsies, and other highly specialized services on North General's campus. Mount Sinai also provides specialists in urology, rheumatology, radiology, and pediatric psychiatry. North General receives the revenue from these services. In a separate agreement, North General and Mount Sinai have teamed up to provide free preventive care to Harlem residents with chronic illnesses in exchange for higher Medicaid reimbursement rates at its outpatient clinic. (The arrangement has benefited both Mount Sinai and New York state.)

Contracting these specialists costs less than if the hospital hired the doctors on its own, says Michael Greene, North General's chief operating officer. The contract also gives North General staffing flexibility because it can ask Mount Sinai to send specialists for extra hours as more patients come in for these specialty services. This helps North General control labor costs by linking a doctor's work hours to patient volumes.

For Mount Sinai, the deal boosts the hospital's revenue and brings in patients. Last year, North General transferred roughly 375 patients to Mount Sinai for cardiology, neurosurgery and obstetrics services. As a teaching hospital handling complex cases,

Mount Sinai "needs community hospitals as referral sources," Dr. Davis says.

In 2004, North General began offering bariatric, or weight-loss, surgery, in which a surgeon staples off a section of a patient's stomach, leaving a tiny pouch that absorbs less food. Last year, North General performed 109 such surgeries and it expects to perform 125 this year. Medicare and Medicaid typically pay North General \$10,000 to \$12,000 per bariatric surgery, though a complicated procedure can bring in as much as \$20,000. Last year, the bariatric surgery program generated \$725,000 in revenue and a \$25,000 profit, according to Frank Hagan, North General's chief financial officer.

Since many emergency-room patients were being sent to hospitals in other neighborhoods, North General added ambulances in 2002 and 2004 that brought more Harlem residents through its emergency room—thus boosting revenue. Emergency-room visits jumped 16% to nearly 34,450 in 2005 compared with 2002. North General estimates that roughly eight out of 10 patients who are admitted to the hospital stem from emergency-room visits.

North General recognized that infant mortality is a health problem that looms large in the Harlem community. In August 2004, the hospital opened the Women's Health Center in a separate building that handled nearly 4,000 visits last year. The center offers a prenatal program with services that include ultrasound, nutritional counseling and social work. While the center isn't yet profitable, North General says female patients who are treated at the center are more likely to bring family members to North General for other medical care.

Last year, the hospital expanded its AIDS center and opened a new cardiac-catheterization laboratory that checks patients for clogged arteries, a precursor to heart trouble. The profitable AIDS center, which is promoted in Harlem through brochures, open-house events and free HIV testing at local health fairs, handled more than 6,400 visits in 2005 and projects roughly 7,250 visits this year.

Since opening in December, the catheterization laboratory has handled 152 visits, and projects 300 cases for 2006. North General markets the lab's services to primary-care physicians and cardiologists.

Henock Saint-Jacques, a North General cardiologist, says he used to refer patients to other hospitals for exams, but he estimates as many as 30 percent of patients wouldn't make the trip. "Those problems started to fade away" once North General opened its cardiac lab, he says. "This has improved the quality of care."

IN SUPPORT OF THE UNITED NATIONS

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 28, 2006

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of Mr. Mark Malloch Brown, the Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations. In a recent speech on "Power and Super-Power: Global Leadership in the Twenty-First Century" at the Century Foundation and Center for American Progress in New York, on the 6th of June, Mr. Brown criticized the U.S. government for its lack of support given to the United Nations. In his speech he claims that the U.S. in the eyes of the rest of the world has ignored our commitment to the U.N., al-

lowing divisive issues such as the Iraq War to break up a partnership which since the founding of the U.N. has mutually benefited the U.S. and the U.N.

Historically, the U.N. was designed through U.S. leadership and other nations who emerged from World War II with the realization that there must be a vehicle to encourage the promotion of peace and provide collective security to all nations with the goal of promoting global values such as human rights and democracy. Today, the U.N. fields 18 peace-keeping operations around the world, from the Congo to Haiti, Sudan to Sierra Leone, Southern Lebanon to Liberia. Unfortunately, the U.N.'s ability to respond to the world's challenges is being weakened without U.S. leadership.

The speech identifies several key issues that have exacerbated the tension between the U.S. and the U.N. First, The U.N. is currently renovating the dilapidated U.N. Headquarters in New York. Ironically, the government not fully supporting this project is the U.S. Also, the U.N. is undergoing specific reform. This reform comes in many forms from the creation of a new Ethics Office and a whistle-blower policy, to the establishment of a new Peacebuilding Commission and Human Rights Council. Although the U.S. championed such reform, our endorsement has provoked more suspicion than support.

The U.N. will play a larger role in maintaining security around the world. No country can afford to neglect the global institutions needed to manage it. As such, the U.S. needs to be more supportive of the U.N. as a vehicle around which an international consensus can be formed to promote peace, social and economic development. America's leaders must again recognize that the U.N. matters. Ultimately, as America continues to address concerns in countries like Sudan, Iraq and Afghanistan, it should recognize that it needs the U.N. to provide an effective multilateral response that will have international legitimacy and support.

Mr. Speaker, I call upon my colleagues in the House to encourage more open collaboration and engagement between the U.S. and the U.N.

SPEECH BY U.N. DEPUTY SECRETARY-GENERAL
MARK MALLOCH BROWN

Thank you for allowing me to speak to you today on Power and Global Leadership. I often get asked to talk about leadership, but rarely about power. I wonder why.

With that thought as my starting point, I am going to give what might be regarded as a rather un-U.N. speech. Some of the themes—that the United Nations is misunderstood and does much more than its critics allow—are probably not surprising. But my underlying message, which is a warning about the serious consequences of a decades-long tendency by U.S. Administrations of both parties to engage only fitfully with the U.N., is not one a sitting United Nations official would normally make to an audience like this.

But I feel it is a message that urgently needs to be aired. And as someone who has spent most of his adult life in this country, only a part of it at the U.N., I hope you will take it in the spirit in which it is meant: as a sincere and constructive critique of U.S. policy towards the U.N. by a friend and admirer. Because the fact is that the prevailing practice of seeking to use the U.N. almost by stealth as a diplomatic tool while failing to stand up for it against its domestic critics is

simply not sustainable. You will lose the U.N. one way or another.

FOUNDERS' VISION

Multilateral compromise has always been difficult to justify in the American political debate: too many speeches, too many constraints, too few results. Yet it was not meant to be so. The all-moral-idealism-no-power institution was the League of Nations. The U.N. was explicitly designed through U.S. leadership and the ultimate coalition of the willing, its World War II allies, as a very different creature, an antidote to the League's failure. At the U.N.'s core was to be an enforceable concept of collective security protected by the victors of that war, combined with much more practical efforts to promote global values such as human rights and democracy. Underpinning this new approach was a judgement that no President since Truman has felt able to repeat: that for the world's one super-Power—arguably more super in 1946 than 2006—managing global security and development issues through the network of a United Nations was worth the effort. Yes it meant the give and take of multilateral bargaining, but any dilution of American positions was more than made up for by the added clout of action that enjoyed global support.

Today, we are coming to the end of the 10-year term of arguably the U.N.'s best-ever Secretary-General, Kofi Annan. But some of his very successes—promoting human rights and a responsibility to protect people from abuse by their own Governments; creating a new status for civil society and business at the U.N.—are either not recognized or have come under steady attacks from anti-U.N. groups. To take just one example, 10 years ago U.N. peacekeeping seemed almost moribund in the aftermath of tragic mistakes in Rwanda, Somalia and Yugoslavia. Today, the U.N. fields 18 peacekeeping operations around the world, from the Congo to Haiti, Sudan to Sierra Leone, Southern Lebanon to Liberia, with an annual cost that is at a bargain bin price compared to other U.S.-led operations. And the U.S. pays roughly one quarter of those U.N. peacekeeping costs—just over \$1 billion this year. That figure should be seen in the context of estimates by both the GAO and RAND Corporation that U.N. peacekeeping, while lacking heavy armament enforcement capacity, helps to maintain peace—when there is a peace to keep—more effectively for a lot less than comparable U.S. operations. Multilateral peacekeeping is effective cost-sharing on a much lower cost business model and it works. That is as it should be and is true for many other areas the U.N. system works in, too, from humanitarian relief to health to education. Yet for many policymakers and opinion leaders in Washington, let alone the general public, the roles I have described are hardly believed or, where they are, remain discreetly underplayed. To acknowledge an America reliant on international institutions is not perceived to be good politics at home.

However, inevitably a moment of truth is coming. Because even as the world's challenges are growing, the U.N.'s ability to respond is being weakened without U.S. leadership. Take the issue of human rights. When Eleanor Roosevelt took the podium at the U.N. to argue passionately for the elaboration of a Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the world responded. Today, when the human rights machinery was renewed with the formation of a Human Rights Council to replace the discredited Commission on Human Rights, and the U.S. chose to stay on the sidelines, the loss was everybody's. I hope and believe the new Council will prove itself to be a stronger and more effective

body than its predecessor. But there is no question that the U.S. decision to call for a vote in order to oppose it in the General Assembly, and then to not run for a seat after it was approved by 170 votes to 4, makes the challenge more difficult.

More broadly, Americans complain about the U.N.'s bureaucracy, weak decision-making, the lack of accountable modern management structures and the political divisions of the General Assembly here in New York. And my response is, "guilty on all counts". But why? In significant part because the U.S. has not stuck with its project—its professed wish to have a strong, effective United Nations—in a systematic way. Secretary Albright and others here today have played extraordinary leadership roles in U.S.-U.N. relations, for which I salute them. But in the eyes of the rest of the world, U.S. commitment tends to ebb much more than it flows. And in recent years, the enormously divisive issue of Iraq and the big stick of financial withholding have come to define an unhappy marriage.

As someone who deals with Washington almost daily, I know this is unfair to the very real effort all three Secretaries of State I have worked with—Secretary Albright, Secretary Powell and Secretary Rice—put into U.N. issues. And today, on a very wide number of areas, from Lebanon and Afghanistan to Syria, Iran and the Palestinian issue, the U.S. is constructively engaged with the U.N. But that is not well known or understood, in part because much of the public discourse that reaches the U.S. heartland has been largely abandoned to its loudest detractors such as Rush Limbaugh and Fox News. That is what I mean by "stealth" diplomacy: the U.N.'s role is in effect a secret in Middle America even as it is highlighted in the Middle East and other parts of the world. Exacerbating matters is the widely held perception, even among many U.S. allies, that the U.S. tends to hold on to maximalist positions when it could be finding middle ground.

We can see this even on apparently non-controversial issues such as renovating the dilapidated U.N. Headquarters in New York. While an architectural landmark, the building falls dangerously short of city codes, lacks sprinklers, is filled with asbestos and is in most respects the most hazardous workplace in town. But the only Government not fully supporting the project is the U.S. Too much unchecked U.N.-bashing and stereotyping over too many years—manifest in a fear by politicians to be seen to be supporting better premises for overpaid, corrupt U.N. bureaucrats—makes even refurbishing a building a political hot potato.

MAKING REFORM WORK

One consequence is that, like the building itself, the vital renewal of the Organization, the updating of its mission, its governance and its management tools, is addressed only intermittently. And when the U.S. does champion the right issues like management reform, as it is currently doing, it provokes more suspicion than support. Last December, for example, largely at U.S. insistence, instead of a normal two-year budget, Member States approved only six months' worth of expenditure—a period which ends on June 30. Developing and developed countries, the latter with the U.S. at the fore, are now at loggerheads over whether sufficient reform has taken place to lift that cap, or indeed whether there should be any links between reform and the budget. Without agreement, we could face a fiscal crisis very soon.

There has been a significant amount of reform over the last 18 months, from the creation of a new Ethics Office and whistleblower policy, to the establishment of a new Peacebuilding Commission and Human Rights Council. But not enough. The unin-

ished management reform agenda, which the U.S. sensibly supports, is in many ways a statement of the obvious. It argues that systems and processes designed 60 years ago for an organization largely devoted to running conferences and writing reports simply don't work for today's operational U.N., which conducts multibillion-dollar peacekeeping missions, humanitarian relief operations and other complex operations all over the world. The report sets out concrete proposals for how this can be fixed while also seeking to address the broader management, oversight and accountability weaknesses highlighted by the "oil-for-food" programme.

One day soon we must address the massive gap between the scale of world issues and the limits of the institutions we have built to address them. However, today even relatively modest proposals that in any other organization would be seen as uncontroversial, such as providing more authority and flexibility for the Secretary-General to shift posts and resources to organizational priorities without having to get direct approval from Member States, have been fiercely resisted by the G-77, the main group of developing countries, on the grounds that this weakens accountability. Hence the current deadlock.

What lies behind this? It is not because most developing countries don't want reform. To be sure, a few spoilers do seem to be opposed to reform for its own sake, and there is no question that some countries are seeking to manipulate the process for their own ends with very damaging consequences. But in practice, the vast majority is fully supportive of the principle of a better run, more effective U.N.; indeed they know they would be the primary beneficiaries, through more peace, and more development. So why has it not so far been possible to isolate the radicals and build a strong alliance of reform-minded nations to push through this agenda? I would argue that the answer lies in questions about motives and power. Motives, in that, very unfortunately, there is currently a perception among many otherwise quite moderate countries that anything the U.S. supports must have a secret agenda aimed at either subordinating multilateral processes to Washington's ends or weakening the institutions, and therefore, put crudely, should be opposed without any real discussion of whether they make sense or not.

And power, that in two different ways revolves around perceptions of the role and representativeness of the Security Council. First, in that there has been a real, understandable hostility by the wider membership to the perception that the Security Council, in particular the five permanent members, is seeking a role in areas not formally within its remit, such as management issues or human rights. Second, an equally understandable conviction that those five, veto-wielding permanent members who happen to be the victors in a war fought 60 years ago, cannot be seen as representative of today's world—even when looking through the lens of financial contributions. Indeed, the so-called G-4 of Security Council aspirants—Japan, India, Brazil and Germany—contribute twice as much as the P-4, the four permanent members excluding the U.S.

Prime Minister Tony Blair acknowledged exactly this point on his trip to Washington last month, and it is something which does need to be addressed. More broadly, the very reasonable concerns of the full U.N. membership that the fundamental multilateral principle that each Member State's vote counts equally in the wider work of the U.N. needs to be acknowledged and accommodated within a broader framework of reform. If the multilateral system is to work effectively, all States need to feel they have a real stake.

NEW GLOBAL CHALLENGES

But a stake in what system? The U.S.—like every nation, strong and weak alike—is today beset by problems that defy national, inside-the-border solutions: climate change, terrorism, nuclear proliferation, migration, the management of the global economy, the internationalization of drugs and crime, the spread of diseases such as HIV and avian flu. Today's new national security challenges basically thumb their noses at old notions of national sovereignty. Security has gone global, and no country can afford to neglect the global institutions needed to manage it. Kofi Annan has proposed a restructuring of the U.N. to respond to these new challenges with three legs: development, security and human rights supported, like any good chair, by a fourth leg, reformed management. That is the U.N. we want to place our bet on. But for it to work, we need the U.S. to support this agenda—and support it not just in a whisper but in a coast to coast shout that pushes back the critics domestically and wins over the sceptics internationally. America's leaders must again say the U.N. matters.

When you talk better national education scores, you don't start with "I support the Department of Education". Similarly for the U.N. it starts with politicians who will assert the U.S. is going to engage with the world to tackle climate change, poverty, immigration and terrorism. Stand up for that agenda consistently and allow the U.N. to ride on its coat-tails as a vital means of getting it done. It also means a sustained inside-the-tent diplomacy at the U.N. No more "take it or leave it", red-line demands thrown in without debate and engagement.

Let me close with a few words on Darfur to make my point. A few weeks ago, my kids were on the Mall in Washington, demanding President Bush do more to end the genocide in Darfur and President Bush wants to do more. I'd bet some of your kids were there as well. Perhaps you were, too. And yet what can the U.S. do alone in the heart of Africa, in a region the size of France? A place where the Government in Khartoum is convinced the U.S. wants to extend the hegemony it is thought to have asserted in Iraq and Afghanistan. In essence, the U.S. is stymied before it even passes "Go". It needs the U.N. as a multilateral means to address Sudan's concerns. It needs the U.N. to secure a wide multicultural array of troop and humanitarian partners. It needs the U.N. to provide the international legitimacy that Iraq has again proved is an indispensable component to success on the ground. Yet, the U.N. needs its first parent, the U.S., every bit as much if it is to deploy credibly in one of the world's nastiest neighbourhoods.

Back in Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt's day, building a strong, effective U.N. that could play this kind of role was a bipartisan enterprise, with the likes of Arthur Vandenberg and John Foster Dulles joining Democrats to support the new body. Who are their successors in American politics? Who will campaign in 2008 for a new multilateral national security?

A REVIVAL OF HARLEM'S
ELEGANCE

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 28, 2006

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to enter into the RECORD, an article by Ruth La Ferla, titled *Downtown Comes to Harlem*. The

article published on June 22, 2006, in the Thursday Styles section of the New York Times, talks about the retail potential of Harlem. Most inner city communities, such as Harlem, possess tremendous undiscovered potential, and provide manifold opportunities for success by large scale business. It is a region of the city that has a greater competitive advantage, according to Michael E. Porter, a professor of Harvard Business School and a leading authority on business strategy. Compared to the suburbs and areas in the other boroughs of the city, the Harlem community is under-served and under-retailed. Although the average household income is low, the dense population of the Harlem community represents a buying power that is comparable to that of other parts of the city. Because of its historical and cultural heritage, entrepreneurs in Harlem have an added marketing advantage. As Ms. La Ferla remarks, N, the new fashion emporium in Harlem, "is the latest in a growing number of retailers to invoke Harlem's multilayered heritage to put their wares on the fashion map."

Offering a mix of local labels and African American designers like Byron Lars and Tracy Reese with more established, upscale brands, these rarified stores are visible symbols of the rapid gentrification of Harlem. Springing up along and just off Seventh and Lenox Avenues, from about 114th St. to 135th St. stores like Pieces of Harlem, Montgomery, Denim Library, B. Oyama, Harlema are realizing urban sociologists' prediction of the "branding" of Harlem using niche marketing. Meanwhile some longtime residents are fretting that the goods might not be relevant to the local population. The store owners are countering that their inventories were specifically conceived to cater to the locals, simultaneously drawing attention of the tourists.

I want to commend these business owners who are finally utilizing the competitive advantage of Harlem to revive the community. By infusing the legacy of Harlem's glory days with Cab Calloway, Dorothy Dandridge, and Nat King Cole with the modern street-inflected sensibility, these entrepreneurs are marketing Harlem's diversity and culture to revive the elegance of Harlem.

[From the New York Times, June 22, 2006]

DOWNTOWN COMES TO HARLEM

(By Ruth La Ferla)

Talking up N, his new fashion emporium in Harlem, Larry Ortiz posed a question: "If we had to put Harlem in a bottle, what would the scent be?" He then answered with no prompting. "It would obviously be a little retro, a little 1930's." An infusion, in short, evocative of Harlem's glory years, an era of artistic ferment that spawned Cab Calloway, Dorothy Dandridge and Nat King Cole, fused with a modern street-inflected sensibility.

For Mr. Ortiz, one of N's three partners, capturing the essence of the neighborhood is not just rhetoric. To succeed as a merchant, he maintained, he will need to distill Harlem, not just in a fragrance but in all of the upscale fashions, home accessories and cosmetic lines sold at his gracious two-level store in a town house on 116th Street between Seventh and Lenox Avenues.

His objective in showcasing brands like Nicole Miller, Hugo Boss, Marimekko and Jonathan Adler to the increasingly affluent enclave north of Central Park is partly to cater to a fashionably hip local population that has until now traveled downtown in search of popular fashion labels. He is also the lat-

est in a growing number of retailers to invoke Harlem's multilayered heritage to put their wares on the fashion map.

"One of the things that is compelling to us is the idea of branding Harlem," Mr. Ortiz said. It is an idea he hopes to render concrete by offering a mix of local labels and African-American designers like Byron Lars and Tracy Reese with more established, upscale brands. "It's very important to push a lot of black designers who wouldn't get the same attention elsewhere," he said.

"This store is not about hip-hop," he added emphatically.

At 4,000 square feet, N, which opened in April in Mount Morris Park, is the largest upscale retailer to descend on the area. Like N, other newcomers are pointedly distancing themselves from the brash hip-hop aesthetic and offering fashion that deliberately summons Harlem's fabled past, along with current fashion trends being interpreted by downtown outposts like Scoop, Intermix and Big Drop and also by a clutch of stylish men's stores.

As well they might. They have arrived in a rapidly gentrifying neighborhood. Mount Morris Park, a 16-block area from 118th Street to 124th Street between Fifth and Seventh Avenues, has the highest concentration of Harlem households with incomes exceeding \$100,000, said Nikoa Evans, a partner in the store and a former vice president for finance for the Upper Manhattan Empowerment Zone, a federal economic development initiative. Affluent residents pay about \$750,000 for a one-bedroom condominium and \$2 million for the traditional brownstones that are in high demand.

But Mount Morris Park, and much of Harlem, remains a relative bargain for boutique owners, who pay rents varying from \$75 a square foot to as much as \$150 on 125th Street, compared with \$700 on prime blocks along Madison Avenue.

Flaunting an aura of exclusivity, the new shops offer a high-style—and pricey—alternative to the wares on 125th Street. That crowded, populist thoroughfare is now home to, among others, a MAC cosmetics store; Atmos, a Japanese-owned store specializing in hard-to-find sneakers, with a flagship in the Harajuku district of Tokyo; Old Navy and H & M.

"Harlem is so much more than just 125th Street," said Faith Hope Consolo, the chairwoman of the retail leasing and sales division at Prudential Douglas Elliman. "There is so much retail potential there," said Ms. Consolo, who is scouting sites for several clients. "The challenge is to choose the right location."

Springing up along and just off Seventh and Lenox Avenues, from about 114th Street to 135th Street, are stores like Pieces of Harlem, on West 135th Street, a boutique that sells denim skirts and jackets with Victorian-inspired ruffles and pearl buttons designed by the owners, Latisha and Colin Darling. It also carries draped jersey dresses (\$354) by Rachel Roy, who is married to the rap entrepreneur Damon Dash, and ribbon-trimmed T-shirts (\$185) by Gwen Stefani.

Montgomery, on Seventh Avenue, sells handbags, T-shirts and lingerie emblazoned with the image of Jolinda, a head-wrapped rag doll that recalls the Southern roots of its designer, Montgomery Harris, who moved her store from SoHo to Harlem about three years ago. Ms. Harris is also known for her whimsically hand-embroidered, one-of-a-kind skirts and dresses, many in a vintage mood (\$400 to \$500).

Another new store is Denim Library, on Seventh Avenue, a repository for premium jeans like People's Liberation, Citizens for Humanity and Ciano Farmer, all of which are displayed folded with rear pockets on

view in a series of library shelves, and sell for \$130 to \$750. Hats by Bunn, on Seventh Avenue, sells waxed-straw chapeaus and flat-top felt hats by Bunn, the Trinidad-born milliner.

Bernard Oyama, the owner of B. Oyama, an elegant old-world style haberdashery on Seventh Avenue, sells his own designs of suits, shirts and neckwear, which are displayed amid a collection of black-and-white photographs of dapper greats like Miles Davis and Duke Ellington, each a reminder that the Harlem of the 30's through the 60's was a thriving style capital.

"The idea was to bring back the sense of quality to Harlem," said Mr. Oyama, a native of Gabon who studied fashion design in Paris. His store draws locals and, he said, even greater numbers of clients from the Bronx, Brooklyn and New Jersey, who drop in from time to time to be fitted for custom-tailored suits (\$800 to \$2,200), and to pick up bow ties, cravats and kaleidoscopically colorful gingham and paisley pocket squares.

Not every store is so rarefied. Harlemaide, which has been at 116th Street for six years, is stocked with books and photographs offering glimpses of the historic area and its architecture. It also sells handbags, dolls and an assortment of T-shirts bearing Harlem logos.

"I was the first to brand Harlem," insisted Murphy Heyliger, an owner. "Since then I've seen other companies realize you can get cool by putting your neighborhood on a shirt."

Mr. Heyliger is typical of the merchants catering to both residents and visitors drawn to a Harlem that is increasingly perceived as romantic and vibrant enough to draw several thousand tourists on weekends, many of whom place boutique-hopping high on an itinerary that might also include dining at Emperor's Roe or Settepani, and touring the Studio Museum, which exhibits the work of contemporary African-American artists.

Despite those attractions, some skeptical local merchants and residents wonder if importing fancy wares to Harlem is not premature. The new boutiques are interspersed with bodegas, hairdressers and discount stores, and not all of the retail landscape looks promising. Stores like N "may be too early," said Minya Quirk, the owner of Brand Pimps, a fashion consulting company, and a Harlem resident.

Ms. Quirk also frets that the goods may not be relevant to a local population. "Harlem residents have a deeply ingrained sense of personal style," she said. "They know what they want, and I think a lot of retailers might underestimate that."

Not Mr. Ortiz, who argues that his inventory was conceived expressly to appeal to style-driven locals. N offers fashion at prices that vary from \$165 for a cotton shirt with grosgrain detailing to \$1,000 for a leather coat. Sizes range from 0 to 16.

"We have a market here that has certain needs when it comes to sizing," he said. "We're offering larger sizes mixed in with smaller ones in a very unapologetic way. And we're always making sure we'll accommodate a variety of body types."

The fashions are often more boldly patterned than those at shops in other neighborhoods. "They reflect the way our uptown customers would like to wear clothes, and an understanding that this market is more heavily into color," Mr. Ortiz said.

Harlem shoppers also are serious fragrance consumers, which is evident from the proliferation of shops displaying ever-widening selections of designer scents. That infatuation attracted Laurice Rahmé, the entrepreneur behind Bond No. 9, with scents named after New York neighborhoods. Ms. Rahmé, who was prescient in branding the

area with New Haarlem, a scent introduced in 2004, plans to open a store in Harlem this year. Her flagship is on Bond Street in Lower Manhattan. "But what happened to retailing and tourism downtown is going to happen uptown," she predicted.

Bud Konheim, the chief executive of Nicole Miller, a line with hothouse colors and animated prints that are popular at N, is confident that a presence in the neighborhood is healthy for the bottom line. The collection at N is expected to generate \$300,000 to \$500,000 in its first year, he said.

"Harlem is an undiscovered secret for now, but that won't last," Mr. Konheim went on. "Things are moving too fast."

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DORIS O. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 28, 2006

Ms. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, I was attending the funeral of a former colleague on Wednesday morning, June 28, 2006, and missed two procedural votes. Had I been present, I would have voted as noted: rollcall vote 331 "yea"; rollcall vote 332 "yea."

A RESPONSIBLE APPROACH TO EXPANDING AMERICA'S FRIENDSHIP WITH INDIA

HON. DAVID E. PRICE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 28, 2006

Mr. PRICE of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to affirm the critical importance of our Nation's friendship with India and to add my name as a cosponsor to H.R. 5682, legislation implementing the U.S.-India Civilian Nuclear Agreement concluded earlier this year.

Our friendship with India is among the most important bilateral relationships for our Nation's security and prosperity. The world's largest democracy, India is a vital partner in many different arenas: fighting the war on terrorism, expanding and advancing both the U.S. and Indian economies, modeling responsible democratic government to other regions of the world, addressing climate change and other key environmental challenges, and crafting a productive relationship with an emerging China, to name a few.

It is also a nation with which we share many common characteristics, making it a natural friend and ally. Both nations emerged from British rule to become flourishing democracies, each giving political voice and representation to hundreds of millions of citizens and each serving as a beacon of democratic values and human rights to the rest of the world. Both nations share a tremendous diversity of ethnicity and religion, and despite periodic setbacks, both have found sustainable and just models for drawing strength from this diversity. The United States and India have, in the last decade, forged increasingly intimate linkages economically, as India has emerged as one of the fastest growing free markets in the world. And, of course, our Nation has welcomed a large and vibrant community of Indian-Americans to our shores, a community that has immeasurably enriched the fabric of American life.

Unfortunately, our friendship with India over the last three decades has not been as strong as it should be. It is the only democracy with which our Nation had poor relations through most of the cold war. In 2000, President Clinton ushered in a new era in our bilateral relationship, becoming the first President to visit India since President Carter. But that positive momentum stalled in the early years of the Bush administration, as the aftermath of the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks unsettled South Asian relationships and India-Pakistan tensions increased.

The primary obstacle to a stronger relationship remains India's nuclear program. In 1974, India defied the world by conducting a nuclear weapons test, demonstrating that it had developed nuclear weapons capability outside the bounds of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty. From that day forward, India has remained outside nuclear nonproliferation regimes and has faced international sanctions and lack of access to civilian nuclear materials and technology.

The price of its defiance—thirty-two years of sanctions and prohibitions—has not forced India to give up its nuclear weapons program or to make any discernible policy changes. The reality is, despite the best efforts of the international community to limit nuclear proliferation, India is and will continue to be a nuclear weapons state. Moreover, it is a stable, responsible nuclear weapons state that poses no threat to our national security. It is both unfair and unwise to continue to treat India as an international pariah. The time has come to recognize reality and adjust our outdated policies toward one of our most important allies.

The U.S.-India Civilian Nuclear Agreement, as a first step toward recalibrating our policies toward India, holds great promise for bringing our two nations closer together. Characteristically, President Bush has negotiated without adequately engaging Congress and the international community. But he has correctly recognized the need for this landmark policy shift.

The agreement itself is a greatly-needed improvement over current policies, yet the details of the agreement pose some questions and challenges for our national security. The agreement has both negative and positive features, and the American people need to be aware of the full array of consequences as we proceed.

The most critical entry on the positive side of the ledger must be the agreement's impact on our relationship with India. This improved relationship will strengthen our national security in a variety of ways, particularly by enhancing our partnership in the global war on terrorism and in our efforts to forge a productive relationship with an emerging China. Our role as a world leader in confronting several global moral crises—like poverty, hunger, and HIV/AIDS—will also be enhanced, as the improved relationship will allow the United States to bring greater attention to efforts to improve the lot of India's 600 million poor people. Indeed, the accelerated economic development anticipated as a result of expanded civilian nuclear energy production will hopefully lift millions of people out of poverty and into prosperity.

The agreement also has the potential to enhance our efforts to prevent nuclear proliferation around the world. Currently, India's large nuclear program is subject to only limited safeguards. Therefore, bringing any additional part

of its nuclear program under the International Atomic Energy Agency's safeguards and inspections regime will be positive. Perhaps more importantly, we can reasonably hope that, upon entering the community of responsible nuclear-weapons states, India will set aside its historic resistance to nonproliferation regimes and join us in fighting nuclear proliferation around the world.

The agreement likewise could have some adverse consequences. Let us examine the facts:

Eight of India's nuclear power reactors and 9,000 kilograms of spent nuclear fuel—enough to produce more than 1,000 nuclear weapons—will not be placed under any type of international safeguards or inspections regime. India will also have the flexibility to designate any reactors built in the future as part of its military program, keeping them out of international inspections regimes.

Civilian nuclear cooperation could free India to devote more resources to its nuclear weapons program; by purchasing fissile material from the U.S. and other suppliers for its civilian reactors, India could choose to use more of its native uranium stocks for its weapons program.

The agreement could send a dangerously mixed message to other non-nuclear weapons states, namely, that they are expected not to develop a nuclear weapons program but, if they do, they could be rewarded with a Nuclear Cooperation Agreement. This mixed signal is especially harmful at a time when we are confronting reckless proliferation by Iran and North Korea.

These are serious concerns that have the potential to harm our national security. They are concerns that must be addressed in some fashion before we move forward.

Examining both sides of the ledger, I come to three conclusions:

First, the American people should not be under any illusions: this agreement is a strategic trade-off involving a significant element of risk. It states that we are willing to sacrifice some progress on the nonproliferation front in order to achieve broader benefits to our national security as a result of an enhanced U.S.-India friendship and cooperation.

Second, Congress must enact this agreement because a rejection of it would set back U.S.-India relations immeasurably. For the precise reasons I have cited in stating that a strong U.S.-India relationship is critical, a weakened relationship would be disastrous.

Finally, Congress must find a way to navigate between these two realities. We must minimize the risks associated with the gamble the agreement represents while maximizing its potential for strengthening U.S.-Indian cooperation. In other words, Congress's active engagement in refining and strengthening the agreement is essential.

I rise today to cosponsor the implementing legislation accompanying the agreement because I have gained assurances that Congress will play such an active role. I am particularly encouraged by two recent developments.

First, the Bush administration and House leaders have agreed to a two-stage process in ratifying the agreement. Congress will first vote on H.R. 5682, the legislation I am cosponsoring, which will provide the President the authority to waive provisions of the Atomic Energy Act of 1954 to allow civilian nuclear

cooperation with India. Later, after agreements have been reached with the Nuclear Suppliers Group and the International Atomic Energy Agency, Congress will vote on a specific U.S.-India bilateral Nuclear Cooperation Agreement. If our concerns are not sufficiently addressed in these three additional agreements, the second stage will allow Congress to put on the brakes.

Secondly, I am encouraged by the significant steps the House International Relations Committee and the Senate Foreign Relations Committee have taken to refine the legislation and fill in important details. Both Committees have signaled that they will not simply rubber-stamp the President's proposal, but that they will conduct due diligence and ensure that the legislation implementing the agreement guarantees our national security. This commitment is embodied in H.R. 5682, which represents a tremendous improvement and refinement of the draft legislation originally submitted by the President.

Mr. Speaker, I am cosponsoring this legislation to signal my belief in its importance and to aid in its forward movement. But I also want to underscore the importance of the next steps to be taken by this body. I rise today to urge my colleagues to focus upon several key considerations as we continue our consideration of the bill.

First, the final legislation must challenge India to take its commitment against nuclear testing seriously. India has refused to sign the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty and has only pledged to withhold nuclear testing in the absence of a provocation from another nation. As the 2002 showdown between India and Pakistan demonstrated, any nuclear tests by India will have a destabilizing effect on the region and could damage our national security. The current draft allows the President to terminate the agreement if India conducts a nuclear test, and it is essential that this provision remain in the final legislation.

Second, the agreement must provide for some reasonable transparency over the use of India's native fissile material and spent nuclear fuel. As India begins to import nuclear material for use in civilian reactors, its native material stocks will become fungible, free for use in producing nuclear weapons. Its spent nuclear fuel stocks, not subject to international monitoring under the agreement, will also be available for use in nuclear weapons. Clearly, our civilian nuclear cooperation should not be used as a means for India to accelerate its nuclear weapons development. The current legislation contains a provision that will alert us if India is taking advantage of the nuclear cooperation agreement to fuel a nuclear arms race. Of course, we will depend heavily on our intelligence community to assess India's production of nuclear weapons, and we must ensure that they have the personnel and resources they require.

Third, we must strongly urge India to cease the production of fissile material explicitly for use in nuclear weapons. For over a decade, the international community has been working toward the negotiation of a Fissile Material Cutoff Treaty that would ban the production of new fissile material for use in nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices. India's endorsement of such a treaty would significantly allay the concerns about the agreement's impact on nuclear nonproliferation efforts. Our nation should also be urging India's

nuclear neighbors, Pakistan and China, to sign such a treaty in order to provide India the assurances that it can do so without endangering its national security.

Fourth, the deal must be conditioned on the conclusion of an acceptable agreement between India and the International Atomic Energy Agency. The negotiations between these parties are ongoing. An acceptable outcome would have to include an acceptance by India of a permanent safeguards regime that requires the same transparency, the same access, and the same type of inspections that other countries admit under the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty. The legislation contains some helpful provisions in this regard; however, we must remain engaged after the passage of this legislation to ensure that the negotiations meet our standards.

Finally, Congress and the Bush administration can strengthen the U.S.-India Nuclear Cooperation Agreement by working together to enhance and expand nuclear nonproliferation efforts in other regions of the world. Our national security depends greatly on keeping the worst weapons, nuclear weapons of mass destruction, out of the worst hands, those of fundamentalist terrorists who target our nation. Ensuring adequate protections against proliferation in the U.S.-India agreement is a key component of this priority, but it does not end there.

As we work to bring India in line with international standards for nuclear responsibility, we should also be accelerating programs that increase nuclear security elsewhere. One of the most critical programs is the Nunn-Lugar Cooperative Threat Reduction program that secures loose nuclear material and technology in the former Soviet Union, where enough nuclear material to produce thousands of nuclear weapons remains unsecured. As the 9-11 Commission's Final Report rightly noted, "the government should weigh the value of this investment against the catastrophic cost America would face should such weapons find their way to the terrorists who are so anxious to acquire them."

Of equal importance, the administration and Congress must strengthen our dimly ineffective efforts to confront Iran and North Korea as those nations defy the world. One of this Administration's single most dangerous failures has been to allow North Korea to proliferate freely for five years without crafting any viable strategy for confronting the world's worst proliferator. And the Administration's strategy to rein in Iran has been scarcely better, allowing the situation to continue unresolved for far too long. As long as these two rogue nations freely seek nuclear weapons, weapons they could easily sell or transfer to terrorists, our nation cannot be secure.

The U.S.-India Nuclear Cooperation Agreement is a dramatic departure from the past. We must not enter into it with any illusions that it is without risk; however, I believe it holds the potential to make our nation and the world safer and more secure. We have the opportunity to build a strong and lasting friendship with the world's largest democracy, one of the world's fastest growing markets, and a nation from which we have remained estranged for far too long. We should not let such a tremendous opportunity pass by. At the same time, we must proceed responsibly, ensuring that we minimize the risks inherent in the agreement. I believe Congress is taking

seriously its responsibility to do so, and I look forward to working with my colleagues to craft legislation that makes our Nation stronger and forges a new era in U.S.-Indian relations.

CORRECTING THE ENROLLMENT
OF H.R. 889

SPEECH OF

HON. JAMES R. LANGEVIN

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 26, 2006

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased that, on Monday, the House passed S. Con. Res. 103, though I am disappointed by the events that necessitated its consideration. Last September, when the House considered H.R. 889, the Coast Guard Authorization Act, I expressed my concern about a provision that would have altered the existing evaluation and approval process for the Cape Wind project, a 420 megawatt offshore wind farm proposed for Horseshoe Shoal off the coast of Massachusetts. That project is currently undergoing a thorough review process that is working with numerous federal and state agencies, as well as interested parties, to assess potential impacts to the environment, navigation and other areas of concern. When the House and Senate went to conference, I wrote to the head House conferees, explaining the strong support in Rhode Island for the project and cautioning about the potential negative ramifications of the provision on the growing wind en-

ergy industry, which will help diversify our Nation's energy supply by providing a clean and renewable source to millions of Americans.

Much to my dismay, during conference negotiations, a much broader restriction on the project was inserted—language that had not been considered by either the House or Senate—that would essentially circumvent the existing project by giving the Governor of Massachusetts veto power over this particular project. At a time when our Nation's economy is endangered by our dependence on foreign oil, we should be encouraging clean and renewable energy development, not blocking it. To protest this last-minute back-room conference deal, I joined the gentleman from New Hampshire, Mr. BASS, in leading an effort to ask the House leadership to prevent the consideration of any final agreement on the Coast Guard bill that contained language endangering the Cape Wind project in Massachusetts. I am pleased that widespread public opposition to the language forced it to be removed from the bill, and I will continue my efforts to promote the responsible development of clean and renewable energy in Congress.

TRIBUTE TO MEL BROOKS

HON. TIMOTHY H. BISHOP

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 28, 2006

Mr. BISHOP of New York. Mr. Speaker, if you've ever seen *Blazing Saddles*, *Young*

Frankenstein, or *History of the World: Part I*, then you've probably laughed out loud at one or all of these comedies and rank them among your all-time favorite movies. For those laughs, you can thank Mel Brooks, who I'm proud to represent and recognize today—in wishing him a happy 80th birthday.

Mr. Speaker, many people don't know that before he made movies, Mel Brooks served in the U.S. Army during World War II. One of Corporal Brooks' duties as a combat engineer was defusing landmines in areas around North Africa before the infantry moved in.

With his wife, the late Anne Bancroft, who passed away just over 1 year ago, Mel became a tremendous source of pride on Long Island. Known for his infectious sense of humor and for often breaking into a routine at the delight of surprised patrons of restaurants all around the East End, Long Islanders know Mel is just as extroverted, witty, and entertaining when you come across him in person as he appears on screen. Combined with his warmth and kindness, he has indeed earned a place among the East End's favorite sons.

Mr. Speaker, we can all be very proud of Americans like Mel Brooks who use their humor and celebrity to bring joy to the lives of so many people and to help those less fortunate than ourselves. Today, let's wish Mel Brooks a happy 80th and many happy returns as he keeps making us laugh with his movies and through his unique, very funny outlook on life.

SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate on February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules Committee—of the time, place, and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled, and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Thursday, June 29, 2006 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

JULY 11

2:15 p.m.

Judiciary

To hold hearings to examine judicial nominations.

SD-226

JULY 12

10 a.m.

Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry

To hold hearings to examine USDA dairy programs.

SR-328A

JULY 13

2 p.m.

Appropriations

Business meeting to markup proposed legislation making appropriations for the Departments of Commerce and Justice, Science, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2007, and proposed legislation making appropriations for the District of Columbia for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2007.

SD-106

2:30 p.m.

Commerce, Science, and Transportation

To hold hearings to examine unmanned aerial systems in Alaska.

SD-562

JULY 19

10 a.m.

Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs

To hold hearings to examine the semi-annual Monetary Policy Report to Congress.

SD-538

Commerce, Science, and Transportation
Technology, Innovation, and Competitive-
ness Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine high performance computing.

SD-562

2:30 p.m.

Energy and Natural Resources

Public Lands and Forests Subcommittee

To hold an oversight hearing on the implementation of Public Law 108-148 The Healthy Forests Restoration Act.

SD-366

JULY 20

2 p.m.

Appropriations

Business meeting to markup H.R. 5631, making appropriations for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2007, proposed legislation making appropriations for the Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2007, H.R. 5385, making appropriations for the military quality of life functions of the Department of Defense, military construction, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2007, and H.R. 5576, making appropriations for the Departments of Transportation, Treasury, and Housing and Urban Development, the Judiciary, District of Columbia, and independent agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2007.

SD-106