

plan to move to Holland, Michigan, where, I am told, he will work for Haworth Inc.

I ask my colleagues to join me in offering Captain Victor J. Van Heest our deepest gratitude for his 27 years of service to our Nation and congratulations on his retirement.

HONORING MRS. ALICE FISKE

HON. TIMOTHY H. BISHOP

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 13, 2006

Mr. BISHOP of New York. Mr. Speaker, today I rise on behalf of New York's first congressional district to mourn and honor a beloved constituent and treasure of the Long Island community, Mrs. Alice Hench Fiske, who recently passed away at the age of 88.

Born in Youngstown, Ohio, Alice grew up an energetic and ambitious child. She graduated from Mount Holyoke College in 1939, at a time when very few women went to college. Alice was an exemplary student, blessed with intelligence and intellectual curiosity. In 1952, Alice married Mr. Andrew Fiske, the 13th-generation descendant of Nathaniel Sylvester, who had settled Shelter Island 3 centuries earlier.

Together, the 13th Lord of Sylvester and the Lady of the Manor, as Alice came to be known, raised two daughters. As an avid gardener and founder of the Andrew Fiske Memorial Center for Archeological Research at the University of Massachusetts, Alice quite literally dug deep into her role by restoring Sylvester Manor's vast and beautiful gardens to their former glory and by making one of the most significant archeological discoveries in the eastern United States—half a million artifacts dating back to the eighteenth century.

Alice was universally beloved on Shelter Island, and indeed all across Long Island. Her kindness and generosity were infectious, and she could make one smile even on the worst day. According to her lifelong friend and historian, Mac Griswold, "She'd take your hands in hers and then we'd raise them above our heads and take three deep breaths together . . . If she saw you were upset, she'd say, 'Is it time for three deep breaths?'"

Alice's tremendous goodwill and devotion to Shelter Island is why she is mourned now and her memory fondly cherished. She was always willing to lend a hand or contribute to a wide range of educational and environmental charities, such as Shelter Island's library, historical society, and of course, its garden club.

On behalf of a grateful community, Mr. Speaker, I thank Alice Fiske for her many enduring contributions to Long Island's East End, where she will always be celebrated and affectionately remembered as the Lady of the Manor.

SUPPORTING INTELLIGENCE AND
LAW ENFORCEMENT PROGRAMS
TO TRACK TERRORISTS AND
TERRORIST FINANCES

SPEECH OF

HON. TERRY EVERETT

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 29, 2006

Mr. EVERETT. Mr. Speaker. I was unable to vote on Rollcall Vote No. 357 H. Res. 895, a

resolution that expresses support for intelligence programs and condemns the unauthorized leaking of classified information. However, had I been present, I would have voted aye.

Mr. Speaker, leaking classified information is a serious matter. It can expose both our intelligence gathering capabilities and operations. Moreover, divulging sensitive information, regardless of intent, can have grave implications for not only our national security but also our men and women in uniform currently serving in harms way. It is not up to the New York Times or any other media outlet to decide when a highly classified program tied to our national security should be made public.

Mr. Speaker, we are at war. Unauthorized public disclosure of classified programs being used to win this global war on terror jeopardizes our national security. It is my hope that in the future, those in government with knowledge of classified programs and news media organizations treat sensitive information appropriately.

RUSSIA AND THE G-8

HON. DARRELL E. ISSA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 13, 2006

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Speaker, as the G-8 meets in St. Petersburg this weekend to discuss important international issues, we should be mindful that the host nation Russia hardly deserves to be included in this accomplished group. The seven other participating countries are mature democracies with proven market economies that use the rule of law as the basis for civil society and display mutual respect across borders.

Unfortunately, Russia has yet to subscribe to these same principles. Russian President Vladimir Putin has placed energy security at the top of the G-8 agenda. However, with Russia being the dominant supplier of gas to Europe, leaders throughout that continent feel anything but secure. And for good reason. Just this week, Rosneft, the Russian oil company, is seeking validation through a public offering to raise \$11 billion from mostly Western investors.

What makes this offering controversial is how Rosneft acquired its assets and that it is a state-owned entity. Rosneft's asset once belonged to the YUKOS Oil Company, a private company that prospered until the Kremlin directed attacks against its chairman, Mikhail Khodorkovsky. Using the pretext of past tax claims the Russian government put Mr. Khodorkovsky and other company of officers in prison and then arranged for the state takeover of the company. The case and subsequent actions were highly controversial and widely reported in the Western media at the time.

My Energy and Resources Subcommittee under the House Committee on Government Reform, recently conducted hearings on energy security and received credible testimony about the extra-legal, if not outright illegality, of the Russian government's actions regarding the YUKOS Company. We should remain concerned about how the Kremlin, which clearly controls almost all oil and gas exports to European and CIS countries, might use energy for political and foreign policy purposes.

My colleague, Mr. Lantos, shares my concerns and this week sent a letter to several U.S. financial institutions that may be contemplating participation in the Rosneft IPO, questioning whether investing in a state entity which has acquired its main assets under other than legitimate circumstances may be in violation of U.S. laws and the Sarbanes-Oxley Act.

For the benefit of my colleagues, I would like to ask that Mr. Lantos' letter be placed in the RECORD at this time.

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Washington, DC, July 10, 2006.

Mr. JAMES DIMON,

*Chairman and CEO, J.P. Morgan Chase,
New York, NY.*

DEAR MR. DIMON: I write regarding recent news accounts that J.P. Morgan Chase may serve as an investment advisor or otherwise participate in the initial public offering of Russia's state-owned oil company, OAO Rosneft Oil Company ("Rosneft"). I understand from these news reports that the offering, currently estimated to be \$8 billion to \$13 billion, is to take place in mid-July 2006.

I am concerned that such transactions may violate federal anti-money laundering laws and the Sarbanes-Oxley Act. According to published reports, the largest portion of Rosneft's assets was acquired in a transaction of questionable legality I question whether financial institutions that have access to the U.S. payments systems should be engaged in transactions involving assets acquired by a state entity under circumstances that are contrary to or in violation of U.S. laws and acceptable market practices.

Given the source of Rosneft's assets, there are questions about whether the proposed IPO would involve prohibited proceeds as specified under 18 U.S.C. 1956 ("laundering of monetary instruments"). Specifically, any financial institution involved in the IPO could be at potential risk of violating federal anti-money laundering laws aimed at preventing the proceeds of theft, corruption or other forms of unlawful activity from entering the payments system.

Rosneft's acquisition of assets from a publicly traded company, OAO NK Yukos Oil Company ("Yukos"), in which Americans had invested through American Depository Receipts traded on the New York Stock Exchange, violated basic principles and norms of free markets. Public accounts of the transaction strongly suggest that Rosneft's senior officers and directors, some of whom are senior officials of the Russian government, personally profited from the theft of these assets through their involvement in a sham transaction. In that transaction, a front-company of unknown ownership acquired the assets at billions of dollars below their market value in a forced auction arranged by these very officials, who in turn secured the prompt transfer of these assets from the front-company to Rosneft—a sequence of events that have raised serious questions of corruption.

Significant financial institutions and analysts have raised ethical and legal concerns about the planned IPO due to the history of the Rosneft assets. As you may know, F&C Asset Management ("F&C"), based in London, on April 27, 2006 publicly announced that the Rosneft IPO raised serious questions of governance and legal risk, which made it impossible for F&C to be a participating investor. According to F&C, the Rosneft IPO is burdened by its lack of transparency and no "credible assurances that it has identified, and made adequate provisions for any liabilities stemming from the acquisition of its Yuganskneftegaz asset [the assets taken from Yukos]."

Independently, George Soros, an experienced investor in Russia, has also found serious ethical issues pertaining to the Rosneft IPO. As Soros wrote in *The Financial Times* on April 26, 2006, Rosneft acquired its Yukos assets through non-transparent sale by a front-company that “won” a rigged auction of Yukos assets engineered by Russian authorities under circumstances that made it impossible to determine who profited 0 the transaction. As Soros wrote, the assets were “not acquired directly. The auction was won by unknown Russian company that sold itself within days to Rosneft.” According to Mr. Soros, “[t]he unknown owners made an unknown amount of money on the transaction. The question is: ‘Should an IPO be allowed to go forward without disclosing the pertinent information?’”

In amending the Bank Secrecy Act in 201 with the USA-PATRIOT Act, the Congress emphasized the policy of ensuring that every financial institution determine the beneficial ownership of the assets involved in a transaction in order to ensure that they are not illicit proceeds. We established a risk-based system for due diligence in which we asked federal regulators to ensure that financial institutions exercise greater due diligence in high risk cases, such as when assets are controlled by political figures, or those close to them, sometimes known as “politically exposed persons,” in order to guard against the risk that the financial institution could be used to handle the proceeds of corruption.

I recognize that Bank Secrecy Act and Sarbanes-Oxley compliance has become a continuing focus of all publicly traded U.S. financial institutions and that your institution has policies and procedures in place designed to protect the institution from the risk of handling illicit funds. In recent years, however, federal regulators have repeatedly found cases in which major U.S.-regulated financial institutions failed to undertake risk-based assessments across every area of their business, with the result that some significant risks had not been recognized in a timely fashion.

There is no information publicly available to enable Congress to assess the kind of due diligence that participating U.S. financial institutions have done regarding the underlying assets involved in the Rosneft IPO. We cannot assess how such institutions have determined that neither corruption nor theft have been involved in Rosneft’s acquisition of this property. I recognize the Rosneft IPO is only weeks away, but I urge you to take into account the concerns outlined above, particularly as they relate to the Bank Secrecy Act and Sarbanes-Oxley concerning any transactions you contemplate in this regard.

Sincerely,

TOM LANTOS,
Member of Congress.

TRIBUTE TO GERALD C. BRAUN,
ED. D.

HON. JOHN BOOZMAN

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 13, 2006

Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to the late Gerald “Jerry” Braun who passed away on July 7, 2006, at his home in Maryland.

Over the last 3 years Dr. Braun has served with distinction as the Deputy Director for Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment at the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. He was

a consummate professional with unquestioned integrity, who consistently met or exceeded the goals of the vocational rehabilitation and employment program.

I first had the privilege of meeting Dr. Braun when he testified before the Subcommittee on Economic Opportunity at the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs, which I Chair. I always found him to be an honest, sincere witness who possessed a great knowledge of veterans programs and always exhibited the utmost concern for the veterans enrolled in vocational rehabilitation and employment. He was the VA’s institutional memory on the Vocational Rehabilitation Program and his contributions will truly be missed.

Dr. Braun began serving our Nation’s veterans in 1972 as a vocational rehabilitation specialist for the blind and visually impaired in St. Paul, MN. He later worked for VA facilities in Chicago and Reno as a counseling psychologist and in Indianapolis as the vocational rehabilitation and employment officer, before finally coming to Washington to serve in the Department’s Central Office. In addition to his service as a VA counselor, Dr. Braun was a member of the American Legion and the National Rehabilitation Association. He earned Certificates of Appreciation from Vice President Gore, from the Greater Sierra Chapter of the National Multiple Sclerosis Society for Lifetime Contribution, and from the State of Nevada Governor for his contributions to the Governor’s Committee of Employment of People with Disabilities.

Dr. Braun was born in Red Wing, MN and graduated from St. Cloud Minnesota State University in 1968 with a degree in Sociology. Upon graduation, he joined the Army and served his country from October 1968 to May 1970. His service included a thirteen month tour of duty in Vietnam. Upon returning, Dr. Braun earned both a master’s degree in rehabilitation counseling and a doctorate of education in counseling and guidance.

Dr. Braun is survived by his wife, Debora and his four children, Eric, Kirsten, Rebecca, and Joanna. His family and friends will remember him for his intelligence, wisdom, sense of humor, and generous heart. To his wife and children, we are thankful for his 35 years of service to the Nation, especially to its veterans and to each of them for the support they gave him during what was a rewarding life.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JULIA CARSON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 13, 2006

Ms. CARSON. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to record my rollcall votes 370–374.

Had I been present I would have voted “no” on votes: roll No. 370, roll No. 371, roll No. 372, roll No. 373.

Had I been present I would have voted “yes” on roll No. 374.

TRIBUTE TO MR. DICK CHAMPION OF INDEPENDENCE, MO, PRESIDENT OF THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF CLEAN WATER AGENCIES

HON. EMANUEL CLEAVER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 13, 2006

Mr. CLEAVER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate and pay tribute to Mr. Dick Champion, director of the Independence, MO, Water Pollution Control Department.

True to his name, Mr. Champion is exactly that—a “champion” for clean water. He is an exceptional leader and public steward dedicated to the improvement of Missouri’s and the Nation’s environment and public health. It is my pleasure to congratulate Mr. Champion on becoming the new president of the National Association of Clean Water Agencies, NACWA, formerly the Association of Metropolitan Sewerage Agencies, AMSA. Mr. Champion is ideally suited for this national leadership position.

Mr. Champion began his career in water pollution control in 1969. He has been with the city of Independence, MO, Water Pollution Control Department for the past 27 years and has been director of the department since 1983. The Department is responsible for the Sanitary Sewer Utility, the Storm Water Management Program, the Household Hazardous Waste Management Program, and related environmental compliance.

In 2001, he was appointed by the Jackson County executive and legislature to the newly created Jackson County Stormwater Commission, to coordinate regional stormwater policy and planning. Mr. Champion has been serving as vice-chair of the commission throughout his tenure.

Dick has been an active member of NACWA since 1992, was elected to the Board of Directors in 1999, and now serves as NACWA’s vice president and chair of the Strategic Planning Committee. Mr. Champion will become NACWA’s president later this month—an impressive accomplishment and one that will no doubt help further NACWA’s role as the leading advocate for sound water quality policies.

Mr. Champion earned a bachelor of science degree in political science with an emphasis in local government and public administration from Central Missouri State University in 1973. As a student and throughout his career Mr. Champion has demonstrated an unwavering commitment to public service and the improvement of water quality in Missouri. The fish and fishermen of Missouri owe a great deal to his tireless work to guarantee clean water.

With Mr. Champion as President, NACWA will no doubt build on its reputation as the leading advocate for responsible national policies that advance clean water and a healthy environment. Simply stated, when I hear the term “environmentalist”, I think of public servants like Dick Champion.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues of the 109th Congress to please join me today in congratulating Mr. Dick Champion on becoming president of NACWA and for his tireless commitment to Independence, the Fifth District, and our country. I am certain the association will continue to flourish under his able leadership.