

Madam Speaker, there are no taxpayer dollars involved. All of the money involved is by the fines paid. In addition, Madam Speaker, in an e-mail received by the Congressional Budget Office dated July 19, 2006, it states that "this would not affect direct spending; in other words, it has no cost."

Madam Speaker, I urge the quick passage of this bill as we move to the next phase of how we operate our motor vehicles all across this great country, and how we reduce our dependence on foreign oil.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Madam Speaker, even small efforts to improve the availability of E-85 fuel across the Nation is a step in the right direction for reducing our dependency on foreign oil. There are nearly 5 million vehicles on the road today capable of operating on E-85, a blend of 15 percent gasoline and 85 percent ethanol.

Yet there are currently only 600 gas stations with E-85 pumps available. That means less than 1 percent of gas stations offer consumers the opportunity to use this alternative fuel in their vehicles.

In 2004, CAFE penalties totaled nearly \$20 million. The legislation before us would divert these funds into a grant program for independent gas stations. These grants will be used to install pumps and other infrastructure necessary to dispense E-85.

Madam Speaker, while there is more work to be done on this matter, this legislation is a small step in the right direction. I urge its passage.

Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. ROGERS of Michigan. Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. ROGERS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 5534, as amended.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds of those present have voted in the affirmative.

Mr. HENSARLING. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

#### RECOGNIZING EMPLOYEES AT NASA'S MICHLOUD ASSEMBLY FACILITY

Mr. BOEHLERT. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 892) recognizing the dedication of the employees at the National Aeronautics and Space Ad-

ministration's Michoud Assembly Facility, the "Michoud Hurricane Ride-Out Team", who risked their lives during Hurricane Katrina's assault on southeast Louisiana, and kept the generators and pumps running to protect the facilities and flight hardware, and whose dedication kept the Michoud Assembly Facility an island of dry land, which made it possible to resume External Tank production less than 5 weeks after the storm passed, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. RES. 892

Whereas the Michoud Assembly Facility plays a vital role in the United States manned space flight program, including production of the Shuttle External Tank, a vital component of the Shuttle program;

Whereas the 38 members of the "Michoud Hurricane Ride-Out Team" who stayed behind during Hurricane Katrina risked their lives in dedication to the space program and faced down one of the greatest natural disasters in this Nation's history, at great personal risk; and

Whereas, if not for the dedication of this team, the Michoud facility would have suffered a great loss of National Aeronautics and Space Administration assets and technology, which would have severely limited the National Aeronautics and Space Administration's mission: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the House of Representatives commends the dedication of the 38 members of the "Michoud Hurricane Ride-Out Team" who stayed behind at the National Aeronautics and Space Administration's Michoud Assembly Facility and protected vital program assets, which enabled the facility to resume production of the Shuttle External Tank within 5 weeks of Hurricane Katrina's landfall, including Ronald L. Adams, Jr. of New Orleans, LA, Joseph Charles Barrett of Metairie, LA, Donald K. Bollich of Metairie, LA, Frederick H. Castle of Bay Saint Louis, MS, Daniel Alvine Doell of Terrytown, LA, John Lee Fisher of Slidell, LA, James E. Ford II of Madisonville, LA, Stephen Lynn Francis of New Orleans, LA, Monroe Lewis Frazier Jr. of Harvey, LA, Ernest Graham of Picayune, MS, William Carl Hale III of Slidell, LA, Willie Frederick Henderson III of New Orleans, LA, Simmie Paul Herrin of Slidell, LA, Royal Kenneth Holland of New Orleans, LA, Guy Mitchell Jackson of Chalmette, LA, Ivory Jordan, Jr. of Lacombe, LA, Joe E. Kennedy of Pearl River, LA, Donald P. Leon Jr. of New Orleans, LA, Michael Wilson Moore of Metairie, LA, Daryl Ordes of Pearlington, MS, Michael A. Parquet of Slidell, LA, John Melvin Pucheu of Waveland, MS, George Elson Rogers, Sr. of Kenner, LA, Steven L. Roshto Jr. of Slidell, LA, Alan J. Rovira of New Orleans, LA, Joan B. Savoy of Saint Bernard, LA, Vickie Ann Schmersahl of Slidell, LA, Patrick Shawn Shea of Mandeville, LA, Henry Peter Sissac Jr. of New Orleans, LA, Aline H. Sullwold of Picayune, MS, Steve Thompson of Huntsville, AL, Richard Leowen Treat of Picayune, MS, Stephen Avery Turner of Slidell, LA, Byran Dale Walker of Picayune, MS, Edward Perry Watts Jr. of Metairie, LA, Roland C. Williams of New Orleans, LA, Terry Michael Winchester of Slidell, LA, and Malcolm Wayne Wood of Picayune, MS.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New York (Mr. BOEHLERT) and the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. GORDON) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. BOEHLERT. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on H. Res. 892, as amended, the resolution now under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

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

Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res. 892, as amended, which recognizes the dedicated employees of NASA's Michoud Assembly Facility, the Michoud Hurricane Ride-Out Team. Knowing full well the potential for disaster and the impending danger they faced as Hurricane Katrina bore down on the gulf coast, 38 dedicated and heroic individuals put themselves in harm's way to save the Michoud Assembly Facility which is of vital importance to our Nation's civil space program.

Located just 15 miles from New Orleans' French Quarter, this facility is where NASA constructs the space shuttle's external tanks. Before the shuttle, this facility was where NASA manufactured the gargantuan tanks on the Saturn rocket that took us to the moon, and in the future, NASA plans to use the facility to construct the rockets that will return us to the moon.

These brave 38 individuals risked life and limb to protect this valuable facility that ensures our Nation's preeminence in space. Facing 178 mile-per-hour winds that ripped large chunks of surrounding buildings clean off, the intrepid ride-out team kept to its motto, "not on our watch."

By keeping generators and water pumps running throughout the storm, they managed to prevent the facility from flooding and preserved important flight hardware that has kept the space program on track. Because of the ride-out team's efforts, the facility was up and running only 5 weeks after the storm had passed. All of us watched the drama unfolding on television.

After just 3 months, nearly all of the 2,000 employees had returned to the facility despite the fact that 600 of them had lost their own homes.

By saving the facility and returning it to operation as quickly as they did, they were able to get to work right away on the external tank modifications necessary for the second return to flight mission that took place successfully, I might proudly boast, this month.

Many of these individuals have rightly earned NASA's exceptional bravery medal from NASA Administrator Michael Griffin, but they are also worthy of the House's commendation as well.

So it is with a great deal of pride in these dedicated Federal employees, who had so much on the line, not just in their careers, but in their personal

lives, that I rise in support of this much overdue resolution, because as Administrator Michael Griffin stated earlier this year, "not all of NASA's heroes fly in space."

Madam Speaker, these heroes have their feet rooted solidly on the ground and work so hard to do so much for so many. I proudly salute them.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. GORDON. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I might consume.

First, Madam Speaker, let me point out this resolution before us today is because of the hard work of Representative MELANCON from Louisiana. I thank our chairman for his help in bringing this before us today.

Madam Speaker, I want to speak in strong support of House Resolution 892, a resolution honoring the dedication of the employees of NASA's Michoud Assembly Facility who stayed at their post during Hurricane Katrina, and protected critical space program assets.

Madam Speaker, as you know, during late August of last year, Hurricane Katrina severely assaulted Southeast Louisiana and the Mississippi coast, resulting in massive damage and the evacuation of large numbers of citizens.

Yet, in the midst of the storm, there were countless examples of heroism. One example is the way in which 38 members of the Michoud Hurricane Ride-out Team stayed and protected the NASA Michoud Assembly Facility instead of fleeing the area.

These people deserve our thanks and praise for their dedication to preserving the Michoud Assembly Facility during the hurricane's passage through the region. By risking their own lives, they assured that Michoud was preserved as a vital facility in spite of the devastation wrought by Katrina.

During the hurricane, members of the ride-out team were able to keep the generators running, keep the pumps going, and protect the facilities and flight hardware that were entrusted to them. In addition, they were able to successfully ensure that the water from Hurricane Katrina did not overrun Michoud.

Madam Speaker, due to the team's skill, knowledge, and most importantly, their dedication, Michoud's external tank production for the space shuttle program was able to resume less than 5 weeks after the storm.

Madam Speaker, I think it is only fitting and proper that we honor these brave individuals for their heroic deeds, and I, once again, thank Representative MELANCON for bringing this before us. I strongly urge passage of House Resolution 892.

Mr. JEFFERSON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend the members of the "Michoud Hurricane Ride-Out Team" for their extraordinary efforts to protect NASA's Michoud Assembly Facility in the face of Hurricane Katrina. The employees of NASA, Lock-

heed Martin, and members of the New Orleans Fire Department who made up this team exhibited uncommon bravery and dedication. Cut off from the surrounding area due to roadway flooding, they remained on-site despite the lack of electricity and severely limited communications. These individuals willingly stayed on the facility in the face of the approaching storm and operated the pumps and generators that kept the facility dry.

As a result of the team's commitment, damage to the facility and the external tanks and hardware they produce was minimal. Within 5 weeks, the Michoud Assembly Facility was resuming production operations. I would like to thank the members of the team once again for their courage. The nation is grateful for the contributions they have made to the space program.

Mr. CALVERT. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of H. Res. 892, which recognizes the dedication of the employees at the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, NASA, Michoud Assembly Facility. The end of next month is the anniversary of Hurricane Katrina's landfall on our Gulf coast. Today we celebrate the bravery exhibited by the "Michoud Hurricane Ride-out Team," which saved not only the facility, but also our Nation's manned space program.

Last week, both Houses of Congress passed H. Con. Res. 448, which commended the men and women of NASA, the crew of the Space Shuttle Discovery, and NASA Administrator Mike Griffin for the successful conclusion of the second return to flight test mission—STS-121. This would not have been possible without the 38 brave members of the Michoud Ride-out Team. Many of the members of this team lost their homes and did not know the fate of their families until days after the Hurricane. They risked their lives manning generators and pumps at the Michoud Facility to protect the Shuttle's external tank program and, hence, the future of the manned space program.

Despite the facility's proximity to the center of the hurricane's destructive path, only one external tank was damaged when a concrete panel fell and bounced off the side of the tank. Despite the extensive damage to the 832-acre facility and the entire surrounding area, the Ride-out team exhibited the bravery and the pride for the importance of the space program not only to our Nation, but also to the area in Louisiana.

In September, as Chairman of the House Space and Aeronautics Subcommittee, I am planning to travel to both the Michoud Assembly Facility in Louisiana and the Stennis Space Center in Mississippi. I am looking forward to meeting some of these brave individuals, both at Michoud and at Stennis. Since I became the Chairman of this Subcommittee in 2005, I have visited 7 of NASA's 10 facilities around the country. I am looking forward to visiting and to learning even more of the importance of these NASA centers to our Nation's space program. Today, I want to extend thanks and gratitude from the American people for the outstanding work of these brave individuals at both the Michoud Assembly Facility and at the Stennis Space Center.

Mr. GORDON. Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. BOEHLERT. Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by

the gentleman from New York (Mr. BOEHLERT) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 892, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the resolution, as amended, was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

□ 1615

#### HONORING THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF STATE VETERANS HOMES

Mr. BRADLEY of New Hampshire. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 347) honoring the National Association of State Veterans Homes and the 119 State veterans homes providing long-term care to veterans that are represented by that association for their contributions to the health care of veterans and the health-care system of the Nation.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. CON. RES. 347

Whereas the National Association of State Veterans Homes was established in 1954 by a group of administrators of State veterans homes to represent the interests of those homes in a unified voice before Congress and the Executive Branch;

Whereas the National Association of State Veterans Homes functions on an all-volunteer basis and focuses on endeavors that improve the conditions of care furnished to veterans by State veterans homes, elevate and monitor the qualifications for managers of such homes, and provide continuing education standards for staff who provide care to veterans in State veterans homes;

Whereas the National Association of State Veterans Homes has been and continues to be in the forefront of developing and supporting new methods and models for providing long-term care services to elderly veterans, such as hospice care, respite care, Alzheimer's care, and adult day health care;

Whereas State veterans homes, which provide long-term care to thousands of veterans, were established initially in the States of Connecticut, Kansas, Ohio, and Maine in 1868 to house, feed, and care for thousands of homeless, wounded, and permanently scarred Union soldiers and thus have been in existence since before the establishment of the Department of Veterans Affairs, the earlier Veterans' Administration, and its predecessor agencies;

Whereas in 1888 Congress authorized the Federal payment of a daily allowance of 20¢ for the care of each former soldier or sailor in a State home-hospital, an allowance that continues today in the form of a per diem grant program administered by the Department of Veterans Affairs that is authorized to provide up to 50 percent of the average daily cost of care, but currently provides only approximately 30 percent;

Whereas the Department of Veterans Affairs further participates in the care of veterans in State homes with a matching grant program to support construction and major renovation projects to sustain those homes and build towards sufficient levels of available, high-quality health care;

Whereas the State veterans homes offer long-term services to eligible veterans in need of such services on certification of the