

and testimony before several congressional committees. Also, we have witnessed the sacrifice these firefighters are willing to make to keep communities and their property safe.

Current wildland firefighter classification standards are far outdated and simply do not accurately reflect the all-risk duties performed by these brave men and women all year round. This legislation is the least we can do for these Federal wildland firefighters who lost their lives and those who continue to rehab from serious scarring and life-altering burns.

I urge all Members to join me today in supporting this important legislation.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I might consume.

Madam Speaker, last August, the Federal Workforce and Agency Organization Subcommittee held a hearing in Las Vegas on Federal firefighter compensation. In addition to pay, one of the concerns raised at the hearing by the Federal Wildland Fire Service Association was the classification of Federal wildland firefighters.

Federal wildland firefighters are classified as either general schedule or wage-grade employees of the Federal Government. However, many of them are placed in the occupational series called forestry technicians, range technicians, and biological science technicians that do not reference their firefighting duties. These current classifications do not accurately represent the work performed by these wildland firefighters. H.R. 5697 would correct that by redesignating forest and range technicians as Federal wildland firefighters. This bill changes the name but not the pay of those currently called wildland firefighters or technicians. H.R. 5697 is supported by the FWFS, and I urge my colleagues to do the same.

Madam Speaker, I strongly support this bill, and yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. SOUDER. I have no further speakers, and I also yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. SOUDER) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 5697, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds of those voting having responded in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

Accordingly (at 4 o'clock and 25 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

□ 2225

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Ms. FOXX) at 10 o'clock and 25 minutes p.m.

FURTHER MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A further message from the Senate by Ms. Curtis, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate has passed without amendment bills and a concurrent resolution of the House of the following titles:

H.R. 394. An act to direct the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a boundary study to evaluate the significance of the Colonel James Barrett Farm in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and the suitability and feasibility of its inclusion in the National Park System as part of the Minute Man National Historical Park, and for other purposes.

H.R. 4416. An act to reauthorize permanently the use of penalty and franked mail in efforts relating to the location and recovery of missing children.

H.R. 5076. An act to amend title 49, United States Code, to authorize appropriations for fiscal years 2007 and 2008, and for other purposes.

H.R. 5132. An act to direct the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a special resource study to determine the suitability and feasibility of including in the National Park System certain sites in Monroe County, Michigan, relating to the Battles of the River Raisin during the War of 1812.

H.R. 5466. An act to amend the National Trails System Act to designate the Captain John Smith Chesapeake National Historic Trail.

H.R. 5646. An act to study and promote the use of energy efficient computer servers in the United States.

H.R. 5782. An act to amend title 49, United States Code, to provide for enhanced safety and environmental protection in pipeline transportation, to provide for enhanced reliability in the transportation of the Nation's energy products by pipeline, and for other purposes.

H.R. 6342. An act to amend title 38, United States Code, to extend certain expiring provisions of law administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, to expand eligibility for the Survivors' and Dependents' Educational Assistance program, and for other purposes.

H. Con. Res. 497. Concurrent resolution to honor the memory of Arnold "Red" Auerbach.

The message also announced that the Senate has passed with amendments in which the concurrence of the House is requested, bills of the House of the following titles:

H.R. 5946. An act to amend the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act to authorize activities to promote improved monitoring and compliance for high seas fisheries, or fisheries governed by international fishery management agreements, and for other purposes.

H.R. 6111. An act to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide that the Tax Court may review claims for equitable innocent spouse relief and to suspend the running

on the period of limitations while such claims are pending.

The message also announced that the Senate has passed bills of the following titles in which the concurrence of the House is requested:

S. 1876. An act to provide that attorneys employed by the Department of Justice shall be eligible for compensatory time off for travel under section 5550b of title 5, United States Code.

S. 4091. An act to provide authority for restoration of the Social Security Trust Funds from the effects of a clerical error, and for other purposes.

S. 4042. An act to amend title 18, United States Code, to prohibit disruptions of funerals of members or former members of the Armed Forces.

The message also announced that the Senate agreed to the amendment of the House to the bill (S. 843) "An Act to amend the Public Health Service Act to combat autism through research, screening, intervention and education".

HOOR OF MEETING ON TOMORROW

Mr. REGULA. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that when the House adjourns today, it adjourn to meet at 9:30 a.m. tomorrow.

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

There was no objection.

COMMUNICATION FROM HON. NANCY PELOSI, DEMOCRATIC LEADER

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Honorable NANCY PELOSI, Democratic Leader:

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, December 7, 2006.

Hon. J. DENNIS HASTERT,
Speaker, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to section 1238(b)(3) of the Floyd D. Spence National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2001 (22 U.S.C. 7002), amended by Division P of the Consolidated Appropriations Resolution, 2003 (22 U.S.C. 6901), I hereby reappoint Mr. Michael Wessel of Falls Church, Virginia, to the United States-China Economic and Security Review Commission for a term expiring December 31, 2008. His current term expires December 31, 2006.

In addition, I hereby appoint to that Commission Mr. Jeffrey L. Fiedler of Great Falls, Virginia, to fill the remainder of the term of Mr. George Becker, who is resigning effective December 31, 2006. The current term on which Mr. Fiedler succeeds Mr. Becker expires December 31, 2007.

Sincerely,

NANCY PELOSI,
House Democratic Leader.

COMMUNICATION FROM DEMOCRATIC LEADERS OF UNITED STATES HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES AND SENATE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Honorable NANCY

PELOSI, Democratic Leader, U.S. House of Representatives, and the Honorable HARRY REID, Democratic Leader, U.S. Senate:

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,
Washington, DC, December 7, 2006.

Hon. J. DENNIS HASTERT,
Speaker, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to the provisions of Public Law 109-236, we hereby appoint the following individual to serve as a member of the MINER Act Technical Study Panel: Dr. James L. Weeks of Maryland.

Sincerely,

NANCY PELOSI,
Democratic Leader,
House of Representatives

HARRY REID,
Democratic Leader,
U.S. Senate.

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 4, 2005, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

□ 2230

FAREWELL STATEMENT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Madam Speaker, 14 years ago I began my fight for social and economic justice in the House of Representatives on behalf of middle-class families in my State of Ohio. During those years, this Chamber saw at times heated, even acrimonious debate that often divided this room. At other times, the Nation, through C-SPAN, bore witness to bipartisan teamwork on behalf of families across our country. I treasure every moment as I prepare to leave the House and join the Senate.

I will be forever grateful to my House colleagues of both parties with whom I worked side by side on issues of great importance to middle-class families, to working families, on health care and trade and education. You are all too many in number to name, but so many played a significant role in making my time here in the House one of which I will be exceptionally proud.

I thank you all for that.

It was an arduous year for the country and an inspiring one. It served as a reminder that those of us blessed with the privilege of serving in this great institution do so always at the pleasure of the people in our great country.

This year showed something equally important: The time has come to put the fight for social and economic justice and progressive values into action on behalf of middle-class families and working families. It is time for Democrats and Republicans to work together to deliver upon promises made during stump speeches. It is time for the House and Senate to work together to

raise the minimum wage, to build an alternative energy industry, to expand access to affordable health care, to lower the cost of tuition, to revamp our trade policy so we again create good-paying jobs in our communities.

It is time to unabashedly take up the fight for social and economic justice at every level of government and at every corner of our free market system. We are the world's leading superpower, and with that comes the responsibility to lead by example. It is time for Congress to lead by example and fight for justice for all Americans.

In a few short weeks, I will take that fight to the United States Senate. I will take with me the values that served me well during these past 14 years, values shared by so many of my colleagues in Washington, by families across Ohio, and by one very special friend.

It is often at the hardest times that the greatest truths are confirmed. Such was the case this week for my family and me.

We lost a dear friend, my best friend of 30 years, John Kleshinski, last Wednesday. He was only 55. John was not just a champion of social and economic justice, he was a hero to so many. A successful businessman, John was also a man of great faith, who felt his formidable professional accomplishments bestowed upon him a responsibility to give back to his community, to fight for justice for the weakest among us. A man who took up piano in his late forties, he had his first recital at 50 and became the board chairman of the local community organization and established scholarships for underprivileged children. He gave back in more ways than I can mention in 5 minutes.

But more important than the generosity of his time and money was his generosity of spirit. He was a man who found joy in the triumph of others, and in doing so he led by example showing us all the best we can be when we commit ourselves, neighbor to neighbor, Democrat to Republican. John left a legacy that will now be emulated by the thousands of lives he touched. We will all, in effect, pay it forward. Thank you, John, for that.

We are the legacy we create, each of us as husbands and fathers, as wives and mothers, as employees and workers, and, yes, as elected officials. It is the mission of the 110th Congress to create a legacy in which families thrive and our Nation is strengthened, social and economic justice, fair trade, affordable health care for all, quality education. They sound like campaign slogans, and for the last year across this country they were, but they are now our tasks at hand.

We have much work to do, the House and the Senate, Democrats and Republicans. It is our time to lead by example to chart a path that establishes a legacy of unparalleled productivity on behalf of middle-class families. It is time that social and economic justice takes its rightful place in the halls of Congress. It is time to get to work.

I wish the families of Ohio and this country a safe holiday season and a blessed 2007. I especially thank my family, my mother Emily, who has led the fight and education in our family for social and economic justice; my brother, Bob, and his wife, Catherine Scalon; and my brother Charlie, and his wife Anne Swanson; my daughter Emily and her husband Mike; my daughter Elizabeth; my daughter Caitlin; my son Andy and his fiancée, Stina; and, more than anybody, my dear wife, Connie Schultz, who has stood and led and done so much to make the lives of our family so much better and the lives of people around my State better.

God bless you, John. We will all miss you.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Ms. FOXX). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. POE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. POE addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. REGULA. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to submit statements for the RECORD on the retirement of MICHAEL G. OXLEY, a Member from Ohio.

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

There was no objection.

TRIBUTE TO THE HONORABLE MICHAEL G. OXLEY UPON HIS RETIREMENT FROM THE U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. REGULA) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. REGULA. Madam Speaker, it is my pleasure to rise today to pay tribute to my friend and colleague of the Ohio delegation, MIKE OXLEY, as he concludes 25 years of service to the constituents of Ohio's Fourth Congressional District, this House and the people of this Nation. Many of MIKE's colleagues will be submitting statements today or tomorrow to pay tribute to MIKE, or during the week. So I will limit my remarks in order to allow each of them the opportunity to speak if they should so desire.

MIKE has been a member of our Ohio delegation in this House since 1981. He has served with distinction for these past 25 years. He has put in the hard work required to learn the issues that have come before him within the committee jurisdictions of both the House Energy and Commerce Committee and, most recently, the House Financial Services Committee. As chairman of the Financial Services Committee, he is the author of the Sarbanes-Oxley