

1070, expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that Members of the House should actively engage with employers and the American public at large to encourage the hiring of members and former members of the Armed Forces who were wounded in service and are facing a transition to civilian life.

As a member of the House Armed Services Committee and a long-time champion of the military men and women who serve our Nation, I would have voted "aye."

IN TRIBUTE TO THE SERVICE OF
CONGRESSMAN LANE EVANS

SPEECH OF

HON. STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 7, 2006

Mrs. JONES of Ohio. Madam Speaker, I join the people of Illinois and the people of this country in celebrating the tremendous service of my dear colleague and friend Congressman LANE EVANS.

Congressman EVANS was a native of Rock Island, IL. Drawing on his first-hand experience a U.S. Marine Veteran in Vietnam, Congressman EVANS has fought hard to bring to light the experience for our veterans in the Persian Gulf War. His experience served him well on the Armed Services Committee. He worked to increase funding and to expand and build new veteran clinics across America. Before coming to Congress, Evans fought as a lawyer for working families and the poor in Rock Island. In Congress, in addition to fighting for veterans he also fought for the Environment. In fact, he was named an "Environmental Hero" by the League of Conservation Voters and he was awarded the Conservationist of the Year in 1995 by the Illinois Sierra Club.

My most fond memories of Rep. EVANS were when LANE invited me to participate in the Homecourt Basketball Tournament. Homecourt Charity Basketball Game features members of Congress playing against the Georgetown Law School Faculty to raise money for the Homeless Legal Center. In 2000, Mervyn L. Jones II, my son, age 16, began playing on our team. He has played in every game since 2000. Mervyn and LANE have gotten to know each other well and he and I will miss our annual games under the leadership of LANE EVANS. LANE was the manager and former Rep. Carrie Meek and I were the coaches. Upon Rep. Meek's retirement I took on the coaching responsibilities. I am committed to keeping the LANE EVANS Homecourt Basketball tradition alive.

I will truly miss my friend and colleague, LANE EVANS' presence on the hill and on the Basketball Court. I pray that God will continue to bless LANE EVANS and his family.

TRIBUTE TO 109TH CONGRESS

HON. VIRGINIA FOXX

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 8, 2006

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge the accomplishments of the 109th

Congress and the forward progress America is experiencing. Much has been accomplished during these past two years and I believe that we must recognize the work that has been done.

We have tackled immigration and found solutions to border security to help stop the flow of illegal aliens into this country. We have taken steps to ensure that the Administration, military and the intelligence community have the tools they need to fight the war on terrorism efficiently. The economy is growing at an unprecedented rate, home ownership is up, un-employment is at 4.4 percent, and the federal deficit has been cut in half three years ahead of schedule. The efforts of the 109th Congress have led us forward to solving and finding new solutions to the challenges America faces.

I would also like to take this time to thank my colleagues, many of whom will not be returning for the 110th Congress. It has been a pleasure to work alongside you to strengthen America and work on legislation to improve the lives of millions of Americans. I will truly miss working with you and wish you the best in your future endeavors.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank my colleagues for all of their hard work during the 109th Congress and I look forward to working together in the 110th Congress to continue to keep America on its prosperous path.

GULF OF MEXICO DRILLING BILL

SPEECH OF

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 8, 2006

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to the underlying bill. Once again the Republican Congress has used this horrendous martial law process to ram a bill through on the last day of session.

It is unclear what exactly is in this bill because none of us have had a chance to actually read it.

We do know at least that it represents a last ditch attempt by the Republican Congress to sell out to their friends in the oil and gas industry. This time they want to open up the Outer Continental Shelf in the Gulf of Mexico to new drilling—supposedly so they can help the Gulf Coast rebuild.

Are we really so cynical as to tie assistance for the gulf coast areas ravaged by Hurricanes Katrina, Rita and Wilma to new oil and gas drilling? Are we really going to equate the welfare of Big Oil companies to the needs of hurricane survivors?

It seems like every time we open the newspaper or turn on the news these days, the oil industry is announcing another record profit. Yet here they are again, hat in hand begging for another giveaway. Do they really need our help?

I firmly believe that we have a moral responsibility to help the gulf coast rebuild, but we should not condition any assistance on the future revenues of Big Oil.

If we really wanted to help the gulf coast, we should've been debating and passing H.R. 4197, the Hurricane Katrina Recovery, Reclamation, Restoration, Reconstruction and Reunion Act of 2005, introduced by the Congressional Black Caucus last year.

If we really wanted to stop our addiction to oil and produce a real national energy strategy we wouldn't be debating this sham idea to open the gulf to new drilling.

I urge my colleagues to vote "no."

OFFICE NATIONAL DRUG CONTROL
POLICY REAUTHORIZATION ACT
OF 2006

SPEECH OF

HON. MARK E. SOUDER

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 7, 2006

Mr. SOUDER. Madam Speaker, yesterday, we passed H.R. 6344, I took the opportunity to thank the various members of the House and Senate, without whom we could not have passed this important and long-overdue legislation. As a point of personal privilege, I want to take this opportunity to thank the many staff members who worked so long and so hard for us.

First, I must thank the Staff director of our Subcommittee on Criminal Justice, Drug Policy and Human Resources. Marc Wheat has been with us for over 3 years, and he has been relentless and energetic in pursuing this daunting project. There is no other staffer on the House or Senate side who deserves more credit.

Subcommittee counsel Dennis Kilcoyne, who joined our staff in February, has led the negotiations with the Senate for months and skillfully steered this legislation through the demands and critiques of the many competing parties in Congress, the Administration and private sector. It was a huge task requiring patience, skill and diplomacy, without which the effort would not have succeeded.

The bipartisan nature of this negotiation has been an inspiration, and that is represented on the House side by Tony Haywood, counsel to the minority staff of the Government Reform Committee, who has ably represented the interests of our ranking Subcommittee member, ELIJAH CUMMINGS. He has been a team player with our staff.

I cannot forget the role played by our former Staff Director Chris Donesa—now with the House Intelligence Committee—and our former Subcommittee counsel Nick Coleman. These men brought great insight and skill that has contributed much to this legislation.

And I would be remiss if I didn't thank Susie Schulte of the Government Reform Committee and Matt Miller of the Speaker's Drug Task Force, as well as his predecessor Andy Tionson. All of these people have been enthusiastic and resourceful partners in this fight.

Finally, I must mention all those staff members on the Senate side who responded so well to the hard work of our House Staff. First, I must thank Gavin Young—who represents Chairman SPECTER on the Judiciary Committee—and his predecessor Matt McPhillips, who just left last week to take up his FBI assignment in Denver. These two proved every bit as skillful in shepherding the bill in the last few weeks of maneuvering in that mysterious body we call the United States Senate. Caucus.

Also we thank Jeremy Mischler and Melissa Sandberg of the Senate Drug Caucus. They have worked long on behalf of Senator