

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

DEPARTING 2006 PAGES

HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 24, 2007

Mr. KILDEE. Madam Speaker, today is a day of mixed emotion for all of us who work with the Page Program. It is time to say good-bye to 26 young aspiring individuals who have served the U.S. Congress for the last 5 months.

On behalf of the U.S. House of Representatives, I would like to thank you all for your hard work, commitment and dedication to the Page Program.

I know you have made your families, friends and communities back home proud, and I am certain that they will be glad to get you back. As difficult as it is to say good-bye, I trust that you will take with you memories, experiences and friends that will last a lifetime. Take with you also our sincere thanks for a job well done. Your hard work and dedication have proven that you are young people with strength, courage and character. We look forward to hearing about all of your many future successes. Best wishes for safe travels home, luck in the rest of your Junior year, and much happiness always. There is no question that you are all destined for bright futures.

May God bless you all.

DEPARTING PAGES FOR 2006

1. Nicole Alexander—TX
2. Alexandra Beletic—UT
3. Chelsea L. Bryan—FL
4. Rebecca Dawson—AL
5. Christopher Day—FL
6. Austen Edwards—GA
7. Alex Finch—MI
8. Emily Hall—IA
9. Brittany Hatley—CA
10. Virginia Heppner—VA
11. Samuel Hocking—NJ
12. Xavier Jackson—FL
13. Chelsea Kerkstra—MI
14. Erica Kuhlman—PA
15. Chelsea Loehr—KS
16. Patrick McConlogue—CA
17. Jaime Mendal—FL
18. Jamie Morrisey—PA
19. Mariah Mumford—MI
20. Zachary Owens—IL
21. Erik Rison—VA
22. Arriel Rubinstein—NJ
23. Blaise Selby—CO
24. Kayla Smith—IA
25. Alex Vincent—PA
26. Adam Zeldin—AZ

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA AND UNITED STATES TERRITORIES CIRCULATING QUARTER DOLLAR PROGRAM ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. SPENCER BACHUS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 23, 2007

Mr. BACHUS. Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 392, the District of Co-

lumbia and United States Territories Circulating Quarter Dollar Program Act, introduced by the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia, Ms. NORTON.

We are all aware of the popularity of the 50-State quarter program, which will continue through 2008. The Treasury has benefited from more than \$6 billion worth of quarters taken out of circulation by serious and amateur collectors alike.

The gentleman from Delaware, Mr. CASTLE, deserves great credit for the State quarters program. He came up with the idea, worked tirelessly through two Congresses, and brought the Treasury Department on board back in the mid-1990s.

H.R. 392 would establish a quarters program for the District of Columbia and U.S. territories in 2009, after the 50-State program runs its course. This is actually the fifth Congress in which we've tried to pass this program. I managed consideration of the bill in the House in September 2000. It has passed the House in every succeeding Congress, but has never been taken up—even at the committee level—in the other body.

The quarters program has immense educational value. Teachers prepare lesson plans based on each new quarter, and parents save them and discuss them with their children. H.R. 392 is a way to recognize the contributions made to the United States by people from the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico and the territories.

Madam Speaker, this is good legislation, and I am glad we are taking it up as one of the first bills from the Financial Services Committee in the 110th Congress. This is bipartisan legislation, as much of the work product of the committee has been since I came to Congress, and I look forward to continuing that tradition with the new chairman, the gentleman from Massachusetts, Mr. FRANK. I only hope that this time, the legislation will win full congressional approval and be sent to the President for his signature.

Madam Speaker, I welcome this bill and urge its immediate adoption.

INTRODUCTION OF THE KEEPING FAMILIES TOGETHER ACT

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 24, 2007

Mr. STARK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to join Congressmen RAMSTAD and KENNEDY in introducing the bipartisan and bicameral "Keeping Families Together Act." This bill is a first step in ending the practice of custody relinquishment, which the President's New Freedom Commission on Mental Health called "appalling." Every year, families are forced to give up legal custody of their severely mentally ill children to State child welfare agencies in order get these children the health care they need. Senators SUSAN COLLINS (ME) and TOM

HARKIN (IA) are introducing companion legislation in the Senate.

Imagine being the parent of a sick child desperately in need of assistance. Your private insurance does not cover mental health care, yet you earn too much to qualify for Medicaid. If you want your child to get treatment you must turn over custody to the child welfare or juvenile justice agency. Now, imagine what affect this awful situation has on the child. The child is already battling mental illness and is now "abandoned" by their family and stigmatized as a "foster child."

These are horrible decisions that a family should never be forced to make. Yet, a 2003 GAO report, surveying 19 States, found that over 12,700 mentally ill children were placed with child welfare or juvenile justice agencies for the sole purpose of obtaining needed mental health care. The actual number of families torn apart is certainly much higher when all 50 States are taken into account.

The Bazelon Center for Mental Health Law has further elaborated on the situations that cause parents and guardians to have to give up their mentally ill children to State agencies. These situations include the following:

The family has either exhausted private health benefits, or the benefits did not cover the required services, such as residential treatment programs.

The family lives in a jurisdiction in which children are deprived of mental health services through the Individuals with Disabilities Act (IDEA) as a result of a restrictive definition of serious mental illness. For example, the school simply labels these children as "discipline problems" and do not properly identify their mental illness.

The family resides in a jurisdiction that falsely interprets federal child welfare law (Title IV-E of the Foster Care and Adoption Assistance Program) as requiring custody relinquishment even for temporary out-of-home placements.

Whatever the cause may be for the families' desperate situation, their nightmare is certainly real. The "Keeping Families Together Act" is a first step toward ending this nightmare and ensuring children get the care they need without being torn from their families.

This bill does two primary things:

It creates \$100 million in competitive State grants over 6 years to improve access to State mental health and family support services for families in danger of losing their children because they cannot afford mental health care. States are eligible if they are willing to end the practice of child custody relinquishment and create alternate avenues to getting children needed care while keeping them with their families.

It establishes a federal interagency task force, as recommended by the April 2003 GAO report, to monitor and evaluate the family support grants. The task force will make recommendations to Congress for improving mental health services and removing barriers that have caused child custody relinquishment. This will give Congress the information we

• 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.

need to take further action in the future to end custody relinquishment across the country.

This bill is a great start, however, the bill is only large enough to provide a handful of States with grants. Therefore, it is critical that we work with the aforementioned task force to examine what is working in the grantee States. We can then begin to implement those solutions in all States.

We have known about this problem for many years. Along with my colleagues, Senator COLLINS and HARKIN and Representatives RAMSTAD and KENNEDY, I have worked hard to educate the public and the Congress about this issue. Unfortunately, education and awareness are no longer enough. We first introduced legislation on this issue in 1995. Now is the time to act.

The "Keeping Families Together Act" is a crucial first step toward ending the barbaric practice of custody relinquishment. I hope my colleagues and I can work together to quickly implement this legislation. This bill will allow many, but not all, States to develop innovative new programs that address the mental health needs of children while keeping families intact. Once we have learned what succeeds at the State level, we must then return to this issue and enact legislation that will end the practice of custody relinquishment in all States.

COLLEGE STUDENT RELIEF ACT
OF 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 17, 2007

Ms. McCOLLUM of Minnesota. Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 5, the College Student Relief Act of 2007. I am proud to be a cosponsor of this important bill, and I congratulate Speaker PELOSI and Chairman MILLER for bringing this legislation to the floor in the first 100 hours. This action is a clear indication that the new democratic majority understands that college affordability is a key part of ensuring our global competitiveness in the future.

H.R. 5 will cut the interest rate on student loans in half over the next 5 years. This will save students an average of \$4,400 over the life of their loan. And because the effort is focused on subsidized loans, the relief will assist those who need it most—low and middle income families.

The cost of higher education is growing out of reach for too many Americans. Tuition has increased 60 percent at the University of Minnesota since 2000 and student debt loads are skyrocketing. A recent study showed that this debt load is causing graduating students to delay decisions such as buying a home, getting married, or having children.

The College Student Relief Act is important, not only for students and families, but for our country. If we do not address this problem, by 2020 the United States is projected to face a shortage of up to 12 million college-educated workers. Our strength as a nation has always been the talent and skills of our citizens. To ensure this continues, the most important investment this Congress can and must make is in the education of our people. Access to quality education, including vocational and tech-

nical training schools, will prepare a highly skilled workforce to compete in the growing global economy.

And today we can make an investment in our future without adding to the deficit. H.R. 5 meets the Democrats new pay-as-you-go requirements by increasing efficiencies in the current program and redirecting the savings back to students. This is in stark contrast to the Republican plan last year which cut \$12 billion from the student aid program and used those savings to pay for tax cuts for the Nation's wealthiest.

H.R. 5 is a promise kept and a first step in improving access to higher education. I look forward to working with my colleagues to continue this effort throughout the 110th Congress.

HONORING CAPTAIN ROBERT L.
CURBEAM

HON. C.A. DUTCH RUPPERSBERGER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 24, 2007

Mr. RUPPERSBERGER. Madam Speaker, I rise before you today to honor Robert L. Curbeam, Captain, United States Navy and National Aeronautics and Space Administration Astronaut. Over the years, Captain Curbeam has served his country to the best of his ability and deserves recognition for his leadership and accomplishments.

Captain Curbeam was raised in Turner's Station, and graduated from Woodlawn High School in Baltimore County, Maryland, in 1980. He received his bachelor of science degree in aerospace engineering from the United States Naval Academy in 1984. He received his master of science degree in aeronautical engineering from the Naval Postgraduate School in 1990 and a degree of aeronautical and astronautical engineering from the Naval Postgraduate School in 1991. He is currently a member of the U.S. Naval Academy Alumni Association and the Association of Old Crows. Captain Curbeam's numerous awards include Fighter Wing One Radar Intercept Officer of the Year for 1989 and the U.S. Naval Test Pilot School Best Developmental Thesis Award.

Upon graduation from the U.S. Naval Academy, Captain Curbeam commenced Naval Flight Officer training in 1984. In 1986 he reported to Fighter Squadron 11 and made overseas deployments to the Mediterranean and Caribbean Seas, and the Arctic and Indian Oceans on board the USS *Forrestal*. During his tour with Fighter Squadron 11, he also attended Navy Fighter Weapons School. Upon completion of Test Pilot School in December 1991, he reported to the Strike Aircraft Test Directorate where he was the project officer for the F-14A/B Air-to-Ground Weapons Separation Program. In August 1994, he returned to the U.S. Naval Academy as an instructor in the Weapons and Systems Engineering Department.

Selected to be an astronaut by NASA in December 1994, Curbeam reported to the Johnson Space Center in March 1995. After completing a year of training and evaluation, he was assigned to the Computer Support Branch in the Astronaut Office. A veteran of two space flights, STS-85 in 1997 and STS-

98 in 2001, Curbeam logged over 593 hours in space, including over 19 EVA hours during three spacewalks. Curbeam served as a spacecraft communicator (CAPCOM) responsible for relaying all voice communication between Mission Control and crews aboard the Space Shuttle and International Space Station. During the spring of 2002, he served as Deputy Associate Administrator for Safety and Mission Assurance, at NASA Headquarters, Washington, DC. Currently, Curbeam serves as the Safety Branch Chief for the Astronaut Office.

Captain Curbeam was named to NASA's most recent mission STS-116 in 2003. The mission launched on December 9, 2006. During Space Shuttle *Discovery's* 13-day mission to the International Space Station, the STS-116 crew continued construction of the station during the first of four spacewalks. The next two spacewalks rewired the station's power system, preparing it to support the station's final configuration and the arrival of additional science modules. A fourth spacewalk was added to allow the crew to retract solar arrays that had folded improperly.

As the only STS-116 crew member to participate in all four spacewalks, Captain Curbeam set a Space Shuttle Program record for the most spacewalks performed by one astronaut during a single mission.

Madam Speaker, I ask that you join with me today to honor CAPT Robert L. Curbeam. He is a remarkable leader and has served the citizens of Maryland and the United States exceptionally throughout his career.

TRIBUTE TO SAINTS PETER AND
PAUL CATHOLIC PARISH

HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 24, 2007

Mr. SHIMKUS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Saints Peter and Paul Catholic Parish in my hometown of Collinsville, Illinois, on their 150th anniversary. The parish is a part of the Diocese of Springfield, Illinois.

The first church was built in 1856 on the land that is still owned by the parish. The first pastor of the church, Father W. Repis, came in November 1857. The parish is currently ministered by Rev. John Beveridge, pastor since 1999, and Rev. Aloysius O. Ndeanaefo, parochial vicar.

In 1863, grounds for the cemetery were purchased. In 1879, the Parish school was opened, and it remains committed to a Christian education today.

On December 31, 2005, the parish began celebrating their sesquicentennial. After a full year of special events, a concluding mass will be celebrated by Bishop George Lucas on January 14, 2007.

I am pleased to congratulate Saints Peter and Paul Catholic Parish on this accomplishment. May God bless Saints Peter and Paul Catholic Parish.

TRIBUTE TO RODGER REEVES
MEIER

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 24, 2007

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to an admirable leader and beloved friend, Rodger Reeves Meier. As a dedicated hard worker, Mr. Meier was committed to his family, career, and community. His life exemplifies an attainable American dream. Mr. Meier was dedicated to balancing a life of family and career as he grew within the Dallas community and for this I commend his legacy.

As a young perseverant man, Mr. Meier completed high school in 1941. He then attended Texas Christian University where he met his partner for life. In 1946, Mr. Meier married Ms. Joyce Fowler. Shortly thereafter they both moved to Dallas, TX, to start the well-respected Meier family.

In 1952, Mr. Meier was appointed the first Dallas representative of the Cuban Tourist Institute. This accomplishment is one of many, as this allowed for him to continue to grow within the community. He was later named district agency and interline sales manager for the Cuban Tourist Institute. Continuing a path to a great career, Mr. Meier became a senior executive at the E.F. McDonald Company.

In 1969, a diligent Rodger Meier opened his Cadillac franchise on LBJ Freeway. Both he and his son worked together to expand the family owned business. In 1990, they added an Infiniti franchise and in 1994 an Oldsmobile brand. After years of dedication to his business, Mr. Meier sold his business and retired so that he could dedicate his time to charity work.

During his retirement, Mr. Meier became an outstanding community leader. He was chairman of the Dallas/Fort Worth International Airport board, the Dallas Chamber of Commerce, the National Conference of Christians and Jews, and the American Cancer Society. His work with the American Red Cross, Greenhill School, and Dallas Community College made an immeasurable impact to the Dallas community.

On behalf of the Dallas, TX, community, I am honored to commend the life of an astounding man and my dear friend, Rodger Meier.

CANINE DETECTION TEAM
IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 2007

HON. CHRISTOPHER P. CARNEY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 24, 2007

Mr. CARNEY. Madam Speaker, some of the nation's most dedicated citizens stand at the ready each and every day, working to detect and prevent the next terrorist attack on our soil. They are vital to our security and are to be commended. Often, they fulfill this critical homeland security work with significant help from what we have come to call "man's best friend." Canines trained to detect explosives and other dangerous materials regularly roam our nation's airports, subways, and ports, any-

where else that they are needed to deter, prevent, detect and respond to terrorist threats. U.S. Customs and Border Protection, the United States Secret Service, the Coast Guard, and the Federal Protective Service regularly use canine detection teams to secure National Special Security Events and to protect Federal buildings and their occupants.

As a consequence of September 11, demand for trained explosive detection dogs has increased dramatically. Today, there simply are not enough trained dogs to meet the demand. There also are no national standards to certify a dog as a capable bomb-sniffing dog or drug-sniffing dog. In the absence of national training and certification standards, there have been a number of cases of fraudulent operations and the use of inadequately trained canines and canine handlers. In one documented case, a Virginia man, Russell Lee Ebersole, was hired to protect several government buildings, including the Federal Reserve Board. In multiple tests his dogs failed to detect 50 pounds of dynamite, 50 pounds of TNT, or 15 pounds of C-4 in the agency's parking facilities.

The "Canine Detection Team Improvement Act of 2007," which Rep. MIKE ROGERS of Alabama is introducing today and on which I am the Democratic original cosponsor, will make the United States more secure by addressing the shortage of trained canine detection teams and establishing standards for canine detection teams and an accreditation process to assure Federal, State, local and tribal authorities that the dog they look rely on to help defend the homeland can get the job done.

Specifically, the bill directs the Secretary of Homeland Security to coordinate all training programs within the Department, including research and development of new canine training methods. The bill also directs the Secretary to consult on the use of canines with other Federal agencies, nonprofit organizations, universities, and private training facilities in order to increase the number of trained canines available to Federal, State, and local law enforcement. By coordinating all programs within the Department and working with outside resources, section 2001 empowers the Secretary to build upon the synergy of multiple resources to enhance dog training programs.

Section 2002 of the bill addresses canine procurement. It directs the Secretary to make it a priority to increase domestically bred canines used by the Department, and includes a provision encouraging the use of universities and private and non-profit organizations to accomplish this effort. This bill's section also directs the Secretary to consult with other public and private entities to not only encourage the use of domestic bred canines, but also to work with them to consolidate canine procurement wherever possible in the hopes to reduce the cost of purchasing canines across the Federal Government. Section 2003 of the bill is a "Domestic Canine Breeding Grant Program" for further encouragement of the development and growth of canine breeds best suited for detection training purposes.

However, perhaps the most significant accomplishment of this law is the establishment of an accreditation board, which will ensure proper certification standards. The board will consist of experts in the field of canine training and explosives detection from Federal and State agencies, universities, other research institutions, and the private sector. It is modeled

after the executive board of the Scientific Working Group on Dog and Orthogonal Detectors, or SWGDOG as it is popularly known. This group has already done a tremendous job in bringing together the major stakeholders in canine detection and I applaud them for their work on this issue. This law will build upon the success of SWGDOG in order to ensure the proper standards for voluntary certification are applied and maintained. The board will maintain a public list of accredited entities upon which other agencies, Federal, State, and local can rely for qualified canines. The aim of this board is to reduce misrepresentation, fraudulent or otherwise improper certification of dogs and their training organizations, but ultimately the board will ensure public safety and the safety of law enforcement.

Before closing, I want to personally thank MIKE ROGERS from Alabama. Under his leadership in the previous Congressional session, the Committee on Homeland Security began to address this issue. He held a hearing in the previous Congress entitled "Sniffing Out Terrorism: The Use of Dogs in Homeland Security." Many of the findings from that hearing were a source of guidance in writing this legislation and I thank him for his stewardship on this issue. I urge my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join me in passing this very critical legislation.

INTRODUCTION OF THE COMMISSION ON WARTIME RELOCATION AND INTERNMENT OF LATIN AMERICANS OF JAPANESE DESCENT ACT

HON. XAVIER BECERRA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 24, 2007

Mr. BECERRA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Commission on Wartime Relocation and Internment of Latin Americans of Japanese Descent Act. This bill would create a commission to review and determine facts and circumstances surrounding the relocation, internment, and deportation of Japanese Latin Americans, and subsequently recommend appropriate remedies.

This year marks the 65th anniversary of the day that then President D. Roosevelt signed Executive Order 9066 that led to the internment of 120,000 persons of Japanese ancestry. With the stroke of a pen, innocent men, women, and children became prisoners and were branded disloyal to the nation they called home. Lives were disrupted and homes were broken as these Americans were uprooted from their communities and locked behind barbed wire fences. Over the past years, the anniversary of this date has been nationally observed with educational events to increase public awareness about the World War II experience, recognize the unjust action, and to provide an opportunity for all people to reflect on the importance of justice and civil liberties during times of crisis and war.

The 1981 Commission on Wartime Relocation and Internment of Civilians concluded that the internment was the result of racism and wartime hysteria. Five years after publishing its findings, then President Ronald Reagan signed the Civil Liberties Act of 1988 that provided an official apology and financial redress

to most of the Japanese Americans who were subjected to wrongdoing and confined in U.S. internment camps during World War II. Those loyal Americans were vindicated by the fact that not a single documented case of sabotage or espionage was committed by a Japanese American during that time. The Civil Liberties Act was the culmination of a half century of struggle to bring justice to those for whom it was denied. I am proud that our nation did the right thing. But 19 years after the passage of this act, there still remains unfinished work to completely rectify and close this regrettable chapter in our nation's history.

Between December 1941 and February 1945, approximately 2,300 men, women, and children of Japanese ancestry became the victims of mass abduction and forcible deportation from 13 Latin American countries to the United States. The U.S. government orchestrated and financed the deportation of Japanese Latin Americans to be used as hostages in exchange for Americans held by Japan. Over 800 individuals were included in two prisoner of war exchanges between the U.S. and Japan, where many were deported to a foreign country that they had never set foot on since their ancestors' immigration to Latin America. The remaining Japanese Latin Americans were imprisoned in internment camps without the benefit of due process rights until after the end of the war.

Further study of the events surrounding the deportation and incarceration of Japanese Latin Americans is both merited and necessary. The 1981 Commission on Wartime Relocation and Internment of Civilians acknowledged the federal actions in detaining and interning civilians of enemy or foreign nationality, particularly of Japanese ancestry, but the commission had not thoroughly researched the historical documents that exist in distant archives pertaining to Japanese Latin Americans.

It is for all these reasons, Madam Speaker, that I rise today to introduce the Commission on Wartime Relocation and Internment of Latin Americans of Japanese Descent Act. We must review directives of the United States military forces and the State Department requiring the relocation, detention in internment camps, and deportation of Japanese Latin Americans to Axis countries and recommend appropriate remedies based upon preliminary findings by the original commission and new discoveries. It is the right thing to do to affirm our commitment to democracy and the rule of law.

I am proud that there are many Members of Congress and community activists who have come together in this continuous fight for justice. I especially thank Representatives DAN LUNGREN, MIKE HONDA, and CHRIS CANNON for their commitment to this issue and joining me in this effort. The Campaign for Justice and the Japanese American Citizens League have been the vanguard organizations driving this effort.

Madam Speaker, let us renew our resolve to build a better future for our community by dedicating ourselves to remembering how we compromised liberty in the past by passing the Commission on Wartime Relocation and Internment of Latin Americans of Japanese Descent Act. Doing so will help us guard it more closely in the future and help us commit ourselves to justice.

INTRODUCTION OF THE KEEPING FAMILIES TOGETHER ACT

HON. PATRICK J. KENNEDY

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 24, 2007

Mr. KENNEDY. Madam Speaker, imagine having a child with a potentially fatal disease. Imagine the pain of watching your child suffer, even while effective treatments are out there, only not available to your family. Now imagine that you had to choose between watching your child in agony, maybe even slowly dying, or getting her the care she needs but only by relinquishing your parental rights.

This kind of choice is barbaric, senseless, and common.

I rise in support of the Keeping Families Together Act, a collective effort initiated by myself, Representative RAMSTAD, Representative STARK, and Senator COLLINS dedicated to improving the lives of children and adolescents living with mental disorders. The time is now to close systemic shortfalls in our social service and health care systems that revictimize children who suffer from chronic mental health disorders.

Every year in this country, thousands of families are forced to relinquish custody of their children to the state in order to secure vitally necessary—even life or death—health care for their seriously ill children. These needed services are extremely expensive and private insurance often runs out prior to children being adequately treated. The financial burden of caring for a child with a chronic mental illness often exceeds what a family can bear. Many of these children remain Medicaid-ineligible because their parents' income and assets prevent them from qualifying for this assistance. These are not families who want to turn their children over to state authorities. These are reluctant families. Families who have suffered, and have arrived at the all too painful reality that they have exhausted all resources available short of turning their child over to the State.

The choice between custody and care is one that no parent should be forced to make. Clinical child experts tell us that the best place for a child to receive care is in the context of a supportive family relationship. Intuitively, we know this to be true. The family is the primary institution of care and nurturing for children, and families should be empowered to provide the needed care for their children through access and support.

The cornerstone of the Keeping Families Together Act is the provision of competitive grants to states, conditioned on the existence of state laws and policies to ensure that children receive appropriate mental health services and that their parents do not have to relinquish custody of their children. These Family Support Grants will in part: (1) establish interagency systems of care as an alternative to custody relinquishment, (2) facilitate the design of a statewide system of care which would involve collaboration between state child-serving agencies, parents, providers, and other stakeholders, (3) only fund activities which demonstrate benefit to children who are already in or are at risk for entering state custody solely for the purpose of receiving mental health services.

This bill would establish a federal inter-agency task force to examine mental health

issues in the child welfare and juvenile justice systems, make recommendations to Congress, and guide the implementation of the grant program. States will be required to report annually on the success of the programs and activities implemented by the State under the grant.

The Keeping Families Together Act seeks to redress the inexcusable emotional disruption that is inflicted upon thousands of children and their parents by maintaining a system of care that forces good families to relinquish custody of their children to the bureaucrats and institutions of the state. Nobody can think that kind of system is good for anyone, and it's no wonder this bill has broad bipartisan support. It is counterproductive, and clinically counter-indicated, to separate emotionally vulnerable children from their core system of nurturing and support. The Keeping Families Together Act provides the safety net that families need and deserve, because parental rights should never be a trade off for children's health care.

I look forward to working with my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to pass this law this year and keep these families together.

SOCIAL SECURITY AND MEDICARE IMPROVED BURN INJURY TREATMENT ACCESS ACT OF 2007

HON. RICHARD E. NEAL

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 24, 2007

Mr. NEAL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Social Security and Medicare Improved Burn Injury Treatment Access Act of 2007. This legislation provides a waiver of the 24-month waiting period now required before an uninsured individual becomes eligible for Medicare coverage for disabling burn injuries, as well as the five-month waiting period for Social Security disability benefits.

Each year an estimated 500,000 people are treated for burn injuries. Of these 500,000 injuries, about 40,000 require hospitalization. Fire and burn deaths average about 4,000 per year.

Burn care is highly specialized. While there are thousands of trauma centers in the United States, there are only 125 burn centers with a total burn-bed capacity of just over 1,800. These specialized burn centers treat about 25,000 or 200 admissions per year, out of the total 40,000 admissions, while the other 5,000 U.S. hospitals without burn centers average less than three burn admissions per year.

Medical care for serious burn injuries is very expensive, which places a great financial strain on burn centers, about 40 percent of whose patients are uninsured. Because of these financial challenges, burn centers in Pennsylvania, Mississippi, Iowa and South Carolina have closed in just the past two years.

This is occurring at a time when the federal government is asking burn centers to expand their capacity to deal with mass casualty scenarios. The Departments of Health and Human Services and Homeland Security have included burn centers in the Critical Benchmark Surge Capacity Criteria in the funding continuation requirements for state plans administered through the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA). HSS, in conjunction with the American Burn Association,

has created a real-time, web-based burn-bed capacity system in the national emergency preparedness center and funded Advanced Burn Life Support (ABLS) and clinical, on-site burn nurse training for 200 public health service nurses as a reserve capacity for potential mass burn casualty incidents, as well as supporting more than 20 ABLS courses with over 600 first-responders in ten key areas of the country.

The 9/11 terrorist attacks on New York City and Washington, D.C., and major accidents like the Rhode Island nightclub fire and North Carolina chemical plant explosions demonstrate the substantial number of burn injuries that can result from such events. Over one-third of those hospitalized in New York on 9/11 had severe burn injuries. The Department of Homeland Security has recognized that there would be mass burn casualties in terrorist acts, and there is a need for appropriate preparedness activities. For example, if the United States should suffer further terrorist attacks using explosions, incendiary devices or chemical weapons, most victims would suffer severe burn injuries.

Even a relatively modest number of burn injuries can consume large segments of the nation's burn bed capacity. For example, the victims of the Rhode Island nightclub fire absorbed the burn bed capacity of most of the northern East Coast of the United States. Mass burn casualties that reach into the hundreds or thousands would strain the system to the breaking point.

It is clear that burn centers are a national resource and a critical link to public health emergency preparedness. Medicare coverage for serious, disabling burn injuries would enable these burn centers to remain financially viable and preserve an essential component of our public health emergency infrastructure.

This legislation follows an approach already taken with respect to End Stage Renal Disease (ESRD) and amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS or Lou Gehrig's disease), both of which result in waivers of the 24-month waiting period for Medicare eligibility. While these two diseases tend to be progressive in nature, the very initial phase of a serious burn injury is when things are most acute.

Providing immediate Medicare coverage for uninsured patients suffering serious, disabling burn injuries is a fully justified and necessary step. Although not all hospitalized burn injuries would qualify as "disabling" and thus result in immediate Medicare coverage, this legislation is about providing coverage for the many uninsured patients suffering from serious burn injuries and ensuring the survival of a vital national resource that already is in jeopardy, a situation we cannot accept as we seek to prepare the nation to deal with potential mass casualty terrorist events.

PARAMOUNT 50TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 24, 2007

Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California. Madam Speaker, 50 years ago, on January 30, 1957, the village residents of Clearwater and Hynes, who shared a five-square mile area of Southeast Los Angeles, came together

to preserve a way of life by merging their communities into the City of Paramount.

Clearwater, first settled in 1886, and Hynes, settled in 1898, were two villages mutually bonded through their shared dairy and hay industries. The new city was named after the main boulevard that ran through the business district. At the time of Paramount's incorporation, the area was one of the Nation's largest dairy producers and the world's biggest receiving point for hay. Paramount began as home to more cows than people, with an estimated 25,000 cows in its city limits. During this time Paramount did \$1 million worth of business a month—\$150,000 from cream alone. As the dairies thrived, so did the banks, grocery stores, businesses, and restaurants downtown.

During the 1960s and 70s, Paramount transitioned into a more urban landscape with many of the dairies moving out to more rural areas, taking a large portion of the local workforce with them. Neighboring and nearby cities built suburban shopping malls and housing developments, which strained the small merchants of Paramount and aided in the City's loss of business revenue.

By the late 1970s, the major agricultural centers of Paramount, known for its dairies and hay market, fields and feedlots, were overtaken by concrete and asphalt. Unfortunately, county planners thought Paramount was better suited for auto repair shops and salvage yards. The following years brought uncontrolled growth and ultimately lead to an overbuilt environment that eventually deteriorated in many areas of town. Despite such challenges, Paramount's fate was not sealed.

Paramount became the exception to the rule. The City took heed of its "disaster area" status in the early 1980s and, rather than sink under the weight of its problems, chose a proactive plan to turn itself around. This eventually turned Paramount's "Rust Belt" status into "The Revitalization of Paramount."

The City launched a concerted effort to make physical improvements everywhere in town. By using municipal tools like zoning ordinances, planning regulations, design guidelines, redevelopment, and economic incentives, the City took it upon itself to inspire its residents and business owners to think big and reach for something more. Thus began Paramount's turnaround.

By confronting urban blight and providing exceptional city services, Paramount thrived economically and culturally. Paramount, California is now known for its successful transformation and its attractive business climate and quality of life. The City has received numerous awards for its forward thinking.

Today, Paramount is a growing community of landscaped boulevards, enhanced police service, parks, recreation programs, affordable housing, public art, and tree-lined neighborhoods with white picket fences.

I want to share Paramount's success with the rest of our Nation as a model of one city's can-do attitude and ability to overcome the destruction that urban blight can wreak on our most precious assets—our communities and the people that live in them.

TRIBUTE TO CARLOS LEZAMA, FATHER OF THE LABOR DAY CARNIVAL IN BROOKLYN

HON. YVETTE D. CLARKE

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 24, 2007

Ms. CLARK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay homage to a great American, a role model, leader, innovator and certainly one of the finest gentlemen in the history of my home state of New York.

I extend my deepest condolences to the family and friends of Carlos Lezama, the Father of Brooklyn's world-famous West Indian-American Labor Day Carnival.

Carlos Lezama was born of humble beginnings in the Caribbean nation of Trinidad & Tobago.

What is now the largest outdoor summer festival in the United States began over 40 years ago as a small celebration of Caribbean immigrants in Harlem. It was initially held each February to coincide with Carnival celebrations in Trinidad & Tobago. As the wintry weather typical of New York in February began to impact the nascent celebration, Mr. Lezama moved Carnival to Labor Day Weekend and relocated the festivities to Brooklyn, in the heart of the eleventh Congressional District. Under Carlos' guidance and innovation, Brooklyn's Labor Day Carnival has grown to attract more than four million participants every year from all walks of life across the city and across the Nation.

Carlos molded a nostalgic longing for "the old country" into an integral part of the fabric of New York City. For immigrant families like my own, Labor Day Carnival has always been a source of pride. Its very existence says there is a place for me in this great Nation; my parents are Caribbean-Americans who emigrated from Jamaica to this country in search of the American dream. The success of Labor Day Carnival and Mr. Lezama himself is a testament to the promise of America.

Carlos Lezama passed away on Tuesday, January 22, 2007. As he joins the ancestors, it is my honor to salute him. A great son of Trinidad and Tobago and a great American; Carlos Lezama will be sorely missed.

TRAVIS McCORMICK KLEENWOOD DAY

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 24, 2007

Mr. POE. Madam Speaker, Saturday, January 27, 2007, is not an ordinary day for the community of Kingwood, Texas. Before many people get out of bed, residents will be up armed with trash bags waging a war against litter.

The "Travis McCormick Kleenwood Day" is an annual event where people of all ages volunteer to clean up their neighborhoods. They don't do it because they have to; they do it because they have pride in their community.

This year will mark the fourth annual Kleenwood Day. This effort is spearheaded by Kingwood Chamber of Commerce President Sparky Nolan. Because of Sparky's determination and enthusiasm, the number of volunteers continues to grow exponentially.

This year, beginning at their neighborhood pools, residents will pick up thousands of pounds of litter near sidewalks, greenbelt trails and curbs.

These volunteer efforts are commendable and an inspiration for others to show pride in their communities.

I am proud to have Kingwood, Texas, in my district.

That's just the way it is.

THE COLLEGE STUDENT RELIEF
ACT OF 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. PETER HOEKSTRA

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 17, 2007

Mr. HOEKSTRA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to speak in opposition of H.R. 5.

Today we are considering the College Student Relief Act of 2007. Democrats have claimed that this legislation will provide relief to students going to college. However, what they have done is propose a classic bait and switch.

This bill will not improve access to higher education for low- and middle-income Americans nor will it provide relief for students in college today. This relief, when fully phased in, will benefit college graduates for only 6 months.

H.R. 5 reduces interest rates for only undergraduate subsidized loans over 5 years from 6.8 percent to 3.4 percent.

By the time the interest rate is cut in half, the 3.4 percent interest rate is only in effect for half a year. The student loan interest rate goes back to 6.8 percent permanently starting January 1, 2012. In other words, it snaps back just 6 months after it is fully phased in at a cost of \$7 billion.

The reality of the situation is that the Democrats could not follow through on their campaign promise to cut interest rates in half because they couldn't pay for it.

So first they narrowed the field down to one subset of student loans. Then, they phased the rate cut in. Then, they ended it after 5 years. What is left is this "bait and switch" benefit that will expire in a mere 6 months after it is fully phased in.

Democrats have talked about improving access to higher education for lower- and middle-income Americans. H.R. 5 does not provide relief to college students seeking to pay their tuition. It does not do anything to get more students into college.

This bill provides a back-end benefit to college graduates instead of a front-end benefit for those trying to get in the door of a university.

The bill will not help a single graduate student saddled with a heavy financial burden.

H.R. 5 is a boon to the Direct Loan Program. The Direct Loan Program's market share has fallen to 22 percent because schools have chosen FFEL. Cutting FFEL lenders is the only way to increase the competitive position of direct lending, a program that is withering on the vine through the voluntary attrition of colleges.

CBO estimates that cutting interest rates will cost taxpayers more than \$7 billion. In order to off-set the cost, the proposal before us will cut

government payments to loan providers. While reducing lender payments, I'm concerned that rate reductions, fee waivers, loan forgiveness and other benefits will be taken away from students seeking higher education loans.

Lowering interest rates for borrowers could result in schools increasing tuition. If that is the result, borrowers won't get any relief at all. The real issue is college cost, not student loan interest rates!

During the 109th Congress, we enacted policies that reduced student loan fees by allowing students to consolidate with lenders that best met their needs. Origination fees were reduced and loan limits were also increased, allowing more students to gain access to much-needed financial aid.

Supporting H.R. 5 will not help students achieve higher education affordability.

RECOGNIZING MS. SANDRA J.
ELLIS FOR HER SERVICE AND
DEDICATION ON THE OCCASION
OF HER RETIREMENT

HON. J. RANDY FORBES

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 24, 2007

Mr. FORBES. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Ms. Sandra J. Ellis for her loyal service to the United States of America.

Sandy's commitment to the armed services of our country and the Fort Lee community is to be highly commended.

Sandra J. Ellis was born in Petersburg, Virginia on June 16, 1948, which is Flag Day. The daughter of an Air Force officer, Sandy grew up in a military family that lived in Illinois, South Dakota, and years later returned to Virginia.

While Sandy's first roles at Fort Lee were as a stage performer with Special Services and as an entertainer at the hospital ward there, it was after high school that Sandy entered Petersburg General Hospital School of Nursing/Richard Bland College. In 1967 she decided to take a semester off and took a part-time position at Fort Lee. In a short while, she was offered a permanent position which she accepted. At a time when many young men and women were joining the Army during the build-up in Vietnam, Sandy chose to serve her country at Fort Lee; and so she did for 40 years.

Sandy began her dedicated service to the Army as a Military Personnel Clerk. During her career, she consistently earned more responsibility and took on positions as a Port Call Clerk, Secretary, Congressional Inquiry Specialist, Administrative Specialist, and Protocol Officer. Most recently, she has served as the Public Affairs Officer, where she has been the officer responsible for media and community relations at Fort Lee, an Army community of more than 12,000 and home of the Quartermaster Center and School. As the chief liaison to the surrounding community, Sandy played a central role in steering the installation and the community through the 2005 Base Realignment and Closure process.

Sandy Ellis has shown a demonstrated commitment to the Army, the Commonwealth of Virginia, and the nation that is rarely equaled. She has served during eight different Presidential administrations, and her loyalty to

the servicemen and women at Fort Lee deserves particular attention and admiration. Today, we salute her for her unwavering dedication to her profession and the American people. Furthermore, we salute her husband John Ellis, and her son, Jay, without whom Sandy's work would not have been possible nor as meaningful as it has been.

Madam Speaker, please join me in honoring Sandy Ellis on her retirement from Federal service in the United States Army.

A PROCLAMATION HONORING
HELEN BASS SMITH ON HER
90TH BIRTHDAY

HON. ZACHARY T. SPACE

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 24, 2007

Mr. SPACE. Madam Speaker, Whereas, Mrs. Smith has shown an extraordinary commitment to her community by volunteering at the Salvation Army in Cadiz, Ohio, and at the Harrison Community Hospital, where she has been president of the Hospital Auxiliary for 4 years; and

Whereas, Mrs. Smith has demonstrated values of hard work and service throughout her life, always maintaining a positive outlook; and

Whereas, Mrs. Smith has worked for the United States Department of Agriculture, the Scio Pottery Company, Lib Gray's Dressmaker Shop, and as a farmer for many years and still continues her active lifestyle by walking 2 miles every day; and

Whereas, Mrs. Smith's character has been praised by her hospital volunteer coordinator, who describes her as "nothing short of magnificent" and that her spirit is "not a day over 14;" Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, that along with her friends, family, and the residents of the 18th Congressional District, I wish Helen Bass-Smith a happy and healthy 90th birthday. We recognize the tremendous impact she has had in her community and in the lives of all those people she has touched.

NEW DIRECTION FOR IRAQ ACT OF
2007

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 24, 2007

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Madam Speaker, today I am introducing, along with Congresswoman TAMMY BALDWIN and Congressman SAM FARR, the New Direction for Iraq Act, the first legislation introduced in Congress to deal comprehensively with the military, diplomatic, political, economic and humanitarian strategies needed to move forward in Iraq.

On November 7th, the American people sent a strong and clear message that it's time to change the course in Iraq. Unfortunately, President Bush is proposing more of the same. Instead of listening to the majority of Americans, Iraqis, and military experts, the President's stubborn adherence to a clearly failed strategy is undermining our security and putting more of our troops and Iraqis at risk. Our troops have performed valiantly, but

progress in Iraq now depends on a political solution.

It's time for a new direction in Iraq and a comprehensive shift in our Iraq policy. My legislation will: Bring our troops home within approximately one year; Refocus our assistance on creating jobs for Iraqis, supporting grassroots multi-ethnic civil society, and disarming militias; Authorize more aggressive efforts to punish war profiteering and reconstruction fraud; Require a new comprehensive diplomatic effort—internal, regional, and international—to provide support in stabilizing Iraq and promoting ethnic reconciliation; Strengthen efforts to address the Iraqi refugee crisis.

This is now about making the best of a bad situation; our military is breaking and our presence in Iraq is doing nothing to ease sectarian tensions or promote a democratic future. We must leave Iraq and we are going to do so before it's fixed. It will be painful for everybody: the innocent Iraqi victims who will get caught up in the maelstrom, as well as Americans who will be less safe for years, if not generations, to come.

The final costs of this war are not yet fixed, but we have a chance to influence just how high and how horrible through our actions. At this point, we can only try to make this terrible situation no worse and hope that, at some point, it might become marginally better for both Americans and Iraqis. I urge my colleagues to support this bill and look forward to working with them to advance a comprehensive plan to change the course in Iraq.

HONORING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

SPEECH OF

HON. TIM MURPHY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 22, 2007

Mr. TIM MURPHY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased today to rise once again with my colleagues to recognize the students, teachers, faculty and graduates of our nation's Catholic Schools.

As Bishop Donald Wuerl has stated "Catholic schools are a tremendous asset to our Church and our nation." What graduates of Catholic Schools offer to society is not only a commitment to achieving academic excellence but also of service to the community. These are traits I learned at an early age as a student at St. Barnabas Elementary School and Walsh Jesuit High School and I greatly value both my Catholic and public school education.

For instance, 86 schools, along with parishes, youth ministry and CCD programs, raised more than \$300,000 over the last nine years in support of the "Kids Share A Lunch Nutrition Project" for the Pittsburgh diocesan mission in Chimbote, Peru.

This year's theme for Catholic Schools Week (January 28–February 3) is "Catholic Schools: The Good News in Education," and the good news is strong in Pennsylvania. With a 15 to 1 student/teacher ratio, more than 97 percent of high school graduates from Pennsylvania's Catholic Schools (including both Catholic and non-Catholics) went on to a post-secondary education following graduation.

This year, Catholic schools in the Diocese of Pittsburgh celebrate 178 years of quality

education. Pennsylvania alone, has 650 Catholic schools with over 180,951 High School and elementary students. (47,079 High School Students: 133,872 elementary students).

Dr. Robert Paserba, Pittsburgh diocesan superintendent of schools has stated "parents are choosing our schools because they teach strong moral values in a disciplined environment—clearly a recipe for helping all children in our schools achieve their highest potential. As with our schools themselves, our graduates become a source of hope for the world."

I believe Catholic schools do promote social awareness and help make the world a better place to live. I am pleased to commend all those who teach and are students of Catholic schools.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE RETIREMENT OF JUDGE SAM MONK

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 24, 2007

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Madam Speaker, I respectfully ask the attention of the House today to pay recognition to Judge Sam Monk who is retiring after 28 years of service. Judge Monk currently presides as Circuit Judge of the Seventh Judicial Circuit in Anniston, Alabama.

Judge Sam Monk graduated from the University of Alabama School of Law in 1975. Prior to law school, Judge Monk served in the United States Army. Judge Monk has worked in both private practice and has served as Presiding Judge for the 7th Judicial Circuit, Circuit Judge for the 7th Judicial Circuit, and as District Judge for Calhoun and Cleburne Counties.

Judge Monk will officially retire on January 15, 2007, but a reception in his honor will be held on January 12, 2007 at the Calhoun County Courthouse.

I salute Judge Monk and congratulate him on his service to the legal field over the past 28 years. I wish him all the best on this important occasion.

ACADEMY NOMINEES FOR 2007

HON. RODNEY P. FRELINGHUYSEN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 24, 2007

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Madam Speaker, every year, more high school seniors from the 11th Congressional District trade in varsity jackets for Navy pea coats, Air Force flight suits, and Army brass buckles than most other districts in the country. But this is nothing new—our area has repeatedly sent an above average portion of its sons and daughters to the nation's military academies for decades.

This fact should not come as a surprise. The educational excellence of area schools is well known and has long been a magnet for families looking for the best environment in which to raise their children. Our graduates are skilled not only in mathematics, science, and social studies, but also have solid backgrounds in sports, debate teams, and other

extracurricular activities. This diverse upbringing makes military academy recruiters sit up and take note—indeed, many recruiters know our towns and schools by name.

Since the 1830's, Members of Congress have enjoyed meeting, talking with, and nominating these superb young people to our military academies. But how did this process evolve? In 1843, when West Point was the sole academy, Congress ratified the nominating process and became directly involved in the makeup of our military's leadership. This was not an act of an imperial Congress bent on controlling every aspect of Government. Rather, the procedure still used today was, and is, a further check and balance in our democracy. It was originally designed to weaken and divide political coloration in the officer corps, provide geographical balance to our armed services, and to make the officer corps more resilient to unfettered nepotism and handicapped European armies.

In 1854, Representative Gerritt Smith of New York added a new component to the academy nomination process—the academy review board. This was the first time a Member of Congress appointed prominent citizens from his district to screen applicants and assist with the serious duty of nominating candidates for academy admission. Today, I am honored to continue this wise tradition in my service to the 11th Congressional District.

The Academy Review Board is composed of six local citizens, several of whom are distinguished veterans, who have shown exemplary service to New Jersey, to their communities, and to the continued excellence of education in our area. Though from diverse backgrounds and professions, they all share a common dedication that the best qualified and motivated graduates attend our academies. And, as true for most volunteer groups, their service goes largely unnoticed.

I would like to take a moment to recognize these men and women and thank them publicly for participating in this important panel. Being on the Board requires hard work and an objective mind. Members have the responsibility of interviewing upwards of 50 outstanding high school seniors every year in the academy review process.

The nomination process follows a general timetable. High school seniors mail personal information directly to the Military Academy, the Naval Academy, the Air Force Academy, and the Merchant Marine Academy once they become interested in attending. Information includes academic achievement, college entry test scores, and other activities. At this time, they also inform my office of their desire to be nominated.

The academies then assess the applicants, rank them based on the data supplied, and return the files to my office with their notations. In late November, our Academy Review Board interviews all of the applicants over the course of two days. They assess a student's qualifications and analyze character, desire to serve, and other talents that may be hidden on paper.

This year the board interviewed 38 applicants. Nominations included 19 to the Naval Academy, 9 to the Military Academy and 5 to the Air Force Academy—the Coast Guard Academy does not use the Congressional nomination process. The recommendations are then forwarded to the academies by January 31, where admissions staff reviewed files

and notified applicants and my office of their final decision on admittance.

As these highly motivated and talented young men and women go through the nominating process, never let us forget the sacrifice they are preparing to make: to defend our country and protect our citizens. This holds especially true at a time when our Nation is fighting the war against terrorism. Whether it is in Afghanistan, Iraq, or other hot spots around the world, no doubt we are constantly reminded that wars are fought by the young. And, while our military missions are both important and sometimes dangerous, it is reassuring to know that we continue to put America's best and brightest in command.

ACADEMY NOMINEES FOR 2007—11TH
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT, NEW JERSEY

Air Force Academy: Greg W. Bukata, Chatham, H.S. of the Chathams; David Lam, Lake Hopatcong, Jefferson H.S.; Melissa L. Marcial, Parsippany, Parsippany H.S.; Scott Pierson, Parsippany, Parsippany Hills H.S.; and Samantha J. Stibick, Somerville, Somerville H.S.

Military Academy: Brian C. Asman, Livingston, Livingston H.S.; Alexander Boroff, Chatham, H.S. of the Chathams; Hadley A. Johnson, Randolph, Pingry School; Vincent J. Lally, Sparta, Sparta H.S.; Dario Marcelli, III, East Hanover, Hanover Park H.S.; Alexander Z. Pytlar, Califon, West Morris Central H.S.; Jason S. Rothamel, Basking Ridge, Ridge H.S.; Quentin Sica, Stanhope, Lenape Valley H.S.; and Marianne R. Slotten, Mendham, West Morris Mendham H.S.

Naval Academy: Kelsey L. Bergh, Morristown, Academy of St. Elizabeth; Jeffrey R. Bland, Basking Ridge, Immaculata H.S.; David P. Bobo, Florham Park, Seton Hall Preparatory School; Jacob O. Bridge, Stirling, Watchung Hills H.S.; Jesse S. Cohen, Mountain Lakes, Mountain Lakes H.S.; Kevin A. Gaines, Wharton, Morris Hills H.S.; Peter S. Garber, Short Hills, Millburn H.S.; Matthew R. Gregory, Long Valley, Davidson College; Ralph N. Grossmann, IV, Green Pond, Morris Knolls H.S.; Andrew P. Hanko, Montville, Trinity Christian School; Steven R. Kline, Chatham, H.S. of the Chathams; Andrew M. Kramer, Oak Ridge, Jefferson H.S.; William J. Ludlow, Basking Ridge, Ridge H.S.; Jason Mariscal, Fairfield, West Essex H.S.; Nicholas A. Mikula, North Caldwell, Seton Hall Preparatory School; Steven B. Monin, North Caldwell, West Essex H.S.; Joseph P. Palamara, Denville, Morris Knolls H.S.; Christopher K. Schneider, Mendham, Seton Hall Preparatory School; and David R. Weller, Bridgewater, Bridgewater-Raritan H.S.

TRIBUTE TO MR. JAMES (JIM)
HODGE

HON. BART STUPAK

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 24, 2007

Mr. STUPAK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor an educator who spent nineteen years working in public schools, including those in my hometown, Menominee, Michigan. This weekend, Mr. James (Jim) Hodge will celebrate his retirement from a career of community commitment. I would like to commend him for his years of service to Menominee public schools and his long standing involvement in the Menominee community.

Jim is a native son of the Upper Peninsula or a "Yoooper" as we refer to them in our part

of the country. Like many Yooopers before him, he worked for some time for the U.S. Forest Service in Ottawa National Forest outside of Ironwood, Michigan. Also like many Yooopers before him, he spent time as a laborer at the Cleveland Cliffs Iron Mine. Jim attended one of the U.P.'s great educational institutions, Northern Michigan University in Marquette, before moving on to the University of Michigan.

Jim's appreciation for the importance of education in a community was fostered early when, through the Mott Foundation, he worked as an Administrative Intern in Flint Public Community Schools. One might say that program was his introduction to the field of education.

Jim returned to the U.P. in 1968 where he began a nineteen year stint in Menominee public schools. His first job in Menominee public schools was Community School Director and, for the next six years, Jim would hold a range of responsibilities in the school system, such as Athletic Director, Department Head of the Physical Education Department and City Recreation Director. During this six year period, Jim was also Principal of the Menominee Area Public Schools.

In 1976, Jim was promoted to Administrative Assistant to the Menominee Area Public Schools Superintendent. In this role, Jim performed a range of duties, supervising a variety of operational aspects of the Menominee school system. In 1985, Jim became Superintendent of Menominee Area Public Schools, a crowning achievement on a lengthy career with the Menominee educational system.

During his tenure in the Menominee public school system, Jim was honored with several awards, including the Jaycee Young Educator of the Year award; the U.P. Community Education Association's Outstanding Educator Award and Lifetime Member Award; and the Menominee Chamber of Commerce Educator of the Year Award.

In 1987, Jim left the Menominee school system, but he did not leave behind his involvement in the community. In 1988, Jim joined State Farm Insurance, establishing his own local business and providing insurance to many of the same people he had served for so many years as a school administrator. Working for State Farm, Jim earned numerous awards with the help of two faithful employees, Jane Yager and Mary Tickler.

Throughout his career, in both the private sector and public education, Jim has remained an active member of his community on many other levels. He served as President of the Emmanuel Lutheran Church Council and spent two terms as President of Big Brothers/Big Sister of Menominee. Jim was also a Trustee of the Greater Menominee & Marinette YMCA Board of Directors.

While Jim has enjoyed an active and successful career, he has always set aside time for family. He married Greta Theuerkauf in Menominee in 1970. Together, Jim and Greta raised three children, Wade, Tiffany, and Tarra.

Now that Jim has entered a well-deserved retirement, he will undoubtedly have more time to spend with Greta and his children. Hopefully, he will also be able to further indulge in his life long hobbies of skiing, camping and other outdoor activities, perhaps with his loyal dog and best friend, Reggie, at his side.

Madam Speaker, my father was a public school administrator. Therefore, I am well ac-

quainted with the dedication, commitment and time required for an individual to succeed in that field. Those who choose to pursue a career in public education do so less for personal gain and more to play a constructive role in their community. Jim Hodge clearly fits that description, having dedicated nearly two decades to Menominee's public school system.

As Mr. Hodge and the Menominee community celebrate his career and honor his retirement, I ask that the entire U.S. House of Representatives join me in thanking him for his service and in wishing him, Greta, their children, and their newest grand child all the best for many years to come.

HONORING THE DALE CITY
BENGALS

HON. TOM DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 24, 2007

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the Dale City Bengals, who on December 9, 2006, won the American Youth Football Pee Wee "AA" Division National Championship.

After a stellar regular season the Bengals advanced through local and regional qualifiers to gain a berth in the national tournament in Tampa, FL. Over a period of 5 days, the Bengals played against the best football teams in the Nation and emerged victorious with the "Taft" National Championship Trophy.

The tournament started with a seeding game, where the Bengals drew a match up against the Brooklyn Chiefs. The Bengals got off to a rocky start as they were routed 27-6. Their four coaches, Jim Spellman, Jovaire Yarbo, Joel Avent, and Moses Webb, knew it was time to refocus. Through an extra practice and a new attitude they were able to do just that.

In their next game against the Westchester Raiders the Bengals came out with a chip on their shoulder, and they were forced to invoke the mercy rule on the way to a 48-13 victory. In the meantime, Brooklyn had won their semifinal game as well, setting the stage for an epic rematch.

Prior to the final game, Assistant Coach Yarbo brought the team together and during an inspired speech told the players, "it doesn't matter how you get there—it matters what you do when you get there." Drawing on these words and a power ground game, the Dale City Bengals persevered to create a 13-6 lead late in the game. With the Chiefs driving on what would prove to be their final possession, middle line backer Jacob Spellman intercepted an errant pass that sealed the outcome of the game, earning him MVP honors.

In a truly inspirational story, the Dale City Bengals represent all that is great about youth sports. Drawing on the support of their parents, coaches and community, the Bengals' team performance shows that anything is possible when people come together to achieve a common goal. I honor the efforts of every player: Daniel Amendolaro, Jaylen Avent, Juan Bennett, Shakeem Copeland, GeJuane Dalrymple, Xavier Dashiell II, Typer Donnelly, Easton Hawk, Khalil Jackson, Jamil Jackson, Kinte Johnson, T.J. Middleton, Kamel Montgomery, Tariq Qawiyy, Darnell Rife, Michaiah

Smith, Jacob Spellman, Joseph Walker II, Moses Webb, Jr., and Ji Wright.

Madam Speaker, it is my pleasure to honor the Bengals on their championship and to wish them all the best in their future endeavors.

FREEDOM FOR VICTOR ROLANDO
ARROYO CARMONA

HON. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 24, 2007

Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to speak about Victor Rolando Arroyo Carmona, a political prisoner in totalitarian Cuba.

Mr. Arroyo Carmona is an independent journalist in a country oppressed by a regime that mandates official propaganda and prohibits news of the truth. He believes in writing and speaking the truth about the monstrous regime and that Cuba should and will be free from the totalitarian nightmare that is the Castro dictatorship. Because he believes in freedom for the Cuban people and because he actively and peacefully advocates for change, Mr. Arroyo Carmona has been repeatedly harassed and incarcerated by the tyrant's machinery.

According to Human Rights Watch, Mr. Arroyo Carmona has been detained numerous times for his pro-democracy activism. In January 1995, he was beaten and jailed for 9 days after organizing a ceremony commemorating the birth of Jose Marti. In January 2000, he was charged with "hoarding" and "sentenced" to 18 months in the hellish totalitarian gulag for organizing a toy drive and distributing toys to needy Cuban children. He served 6 months of his sentence before being released only to be severely beaten on three separate occasions in October of that same year.

Subsequently, on March 18, 2003, as part of the dictator's condemnable crackdown on peaceful pro-democracy advocates, Mr. Arroyo Carmona was arrested because of his belief in liberty over repression. In a sham trial, he was "sentenced" on trumped-up charges that he "undermined national independence and territorial integrity" to 26 years in the condemnable totalitarian gulag.

Mr. Arroyo Carmona has bravely participated in hunger strikes to protest the abhorrent conditions in the gulag and the depraved treatment of fellow political prisoners. Tragically, his daily struggle and suffering in an infernal roach infested gulag with hardly any contact with the outside world is not enough for the Cuban dictatorship, a regime of gangsters, by gangsters, and for gangsters, run by a gangster in chief. According to Reporters Without Borders, Mr. Arroyo is subjected to constant humiliation, physical torture and threats that he will never leave prison alive.

Mr. Arroyo Carmona is just one of the many heroes of the peaceful pro-democracy opposition on that oppressed island. Despite incessant harassment, incarceration and abuse, he remains committed to the conviction that freedom and democracy are inalienable rights of the Cuban people.

Madam Speaker, it remains categorically offensive that men and women who demand freedom from tyranny are locked in the dungeons of monsters. Here, under the dome that

represents representative democracy, we must demand the liberation of all who suffer in the darkness of totalitarianism. My colleagues we must demand the immediate release of Victor Rolando Arroyo Carmona and every prisoner of conscience in totalitarian Cuba.

TRIBUTE TO THE UNION MEMO-
RIAL AFRICAN METHODIST EPIS-
COPAL CHURCH

HON. FRED UPTON

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 24, 2007

Mr. UPTON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the Union Memorial African Methodist Episcopal Church in Benton Harbor, Michigan. On Sunday, January 28, the Union Memorial A.M.E. will be celebrating her 139th Anniversary.

Since the church's original dedication in 1868, the first African Methodist Episcopal Church in the Twin Cities of Benton Harbor and St. Joseph has stood as a symbol of faith, hope, and compassion for the citizens of Berrien County and the surrounding area. Its 139 years of commitment have had a tremendous impact on its congregation as well as the greater community.

The African Methodist Episcopal Church has had a proud history since starting in the home of Steven Busby in 1868. This small Christian assembly back then was known as the "House of Praise." The area was home to two A.M.E. churches in the 1890s, and in 1901 the church in Benton Harbor was destroyed by a fire. The church was rebuilt and in 1929 the Benton Harbor and St. Joseph churches united under the name Union Memorial African Methodist Episcopal Church. In 1969 the church moved to its current location at Empire and Crystal A venues.

In its 139 year history, the church has never wavered from the ministry of saving lost souls, preaching the gospel, feeding the hungry, helping the homeless, and reaching out and renewing the spirit of folks in need. I want to commend the members of Union Memorial African Methodist Episcopal on their anniversary and on their commitment in the future to serving the greater community.

TRIBUTE TO THE HONORABLE
MICHAEL ANDEREGG

HON. BART STUPAK

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 24, 2007

Mr. STUPAK. Madam Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to one of my constituents who has dedicated more than thirty years of his life to serving our justice system, Marquette County and the entire Upper Peninsula of Michigan.

The Honorable Michael Anderegg began his service to the Upper Peninsula in 1972 as a Staff Attorney for Upper Peninsula Legal Services. After a two-year stint with Upper Peninsula Legal Services, Judge Anderegg went on to become Assistant Prosecutor and Chief Assistant Prosecutor of Marquette County. In seeking his first elected office, Michael Anderegg was chosen as Marquette County Probate Judge in 1977.

Twenty years later, Michigan eliminated the Probate Court and Judge Anderegg became the Presiding Judge of the Family Division of the Marquette County Circuit Court. Judge Anderegg has become a national leader in developing new approaches to the closely linked problems of substance abuse, juvenile delinquency and repeat offenders.

In Marquette, Judge Anderegg has been one of the driving forces behind Reclaiming Futures Project WEAVE. WEAVE stands for Willingness to Explore Approaches that Validate and Embrace youth. Reclaiming Futures Project WEAVE is a unique program that is working in Marquette to improve the quality of alcohol and drug treatment services available to youth who are in the justice system. Reclaiming Futures Project WEAVE's cross-disciplinary approach pulls together varied partners from recovery and treatment centers, the Marquette Area Public Schools, law enforcement, the juvenile justice system and other cornerstones of the Marquette community to assist youthful offenders to become a contributing adult in our society. Together, through Project WEAVE, these institutions identify, assist, encourage and reclaim children struggling at home, in schools and in our communities.

Reclaiming Futures Project WEAVE's successes have become a model for other juvenile delinquency systems around the country. As Judge Anderegg and the Project WEAVE staff joke: "What happens in Alaska stays in Alaska and what happens in San Antonio stays in San Antonio, but what happens in Marquette is disseminated across the nation!"

The Michigan legal community, indeed legal professionals across the country, have benefited immensely from Judge Anderegg's sharp intellect, vast knowledge and wealth of experience. A graduate of Harvard College and the University of Michigan Law School, Judge Anderegg has served on Michigan Supreme Court Committees on: Juvenile Court Rules; Family Division Rules; and the Probate Court Academic Advisory Benchbook. He has lectured extensively, addressing the Michigan Supreme Court's Michigan Judicial Institute; the Federal Bar Association's Indian Law Section; and the Colorado Juvenile and Delinquency Prevention Council, to name only a few of the prominent organizations that have benefited from his insights. In 2001, he received the President's Award for meritorious service as a trustee of the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges.

Judge Anderegg spends a great deal of personal time traveling across the country in order to share his insights. The Project WEAVE staff estimate that he has easily traveled 150,000 miles in his quest to learn more, share more and improve America's juvenile justice system.

In many pursuits and professions it is often easy to accept the status quo and to resist new thinking. It is rare to find individuals who constantly challenge pre-conceived notions and basic assumptions in order to perfect more effective solutions to long standing problems. An outspoken advocate for bold, new approaches to solving juvenile delinquency, Judge Michael Anderegg is one of those rare individuals who embraces change.

Madam Speaker, Judge Anderegg has accomplished much in his thirty years of service. His parents, Robert and Anita were proud that he was elected a judge at the relatively young age of thirty. During his early years on the

bench, his parents were known to refer to him as "boy judge." Clearly, Madam Speaker, Robert and Anita's "boy judge" has come a long way and his parents have given Marquette County, the Upper Peninsula of Michigan and, indeed, the nation, a judge who is a national leader in reclaiming young lives.

As Judge Anderegg himself has noted, "The money we spend now on locating and providing the best possible treatment is money we will not need to spend later on prosecuting and incarcerating adult criminals. The financial and social costs of substance abuse are enormous, but they are avoidable." No truer words have ever been spoken.

This weekend, the people of Marquette come together to honor Judge Michael Anderegg. During this momentous occasion, I would ask the entire U.S. House of Representatives to join me in saluting Judge Michael Anderegg and in wishing him, his wife, Cheryl, and their children all the best for many years to come.

CLEAN ENERGY ACT OF 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 18, 2007

Ms. McCOLLUM of Minnesota. Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 6, the CLEAN Energy Act, which will end federal welfare for big oil companies and redirect billions of dollars towards investments in a cleaner, more secure energy future.

Less than two weeks into the 110th Congress, Democrats have already delivered real progress for American families by passing the six measures outlined in the 100 Hours Agenda with time to spare. The CLEAN Energy Act (H.R. 6) is one of these priorities. As a co-sponsor of H.R. 6, I was proud to vote for the bill when it passed the House 264-163 on January 18, 2007 with the support of 36 Republican members.

Over the past several years, U.S. taxpayer subsidies to oil companies have increased at a time of record-high energy prices for American consumers and record profits for oil companies. In 2006, the five largest oil companies operating in the U.S. received \$97 billion in profits—five times their earnings in 2002. In this economic environment, the oil companies themselves have said most federal supports are unnecessary.

The new Congress is ushering in new priorities. H.R. 6 repeals \$13 billion in subsidies that should never have been granted during a time of war and spiraling federal budget deficits. Specifically, the measure requires large oil companies that were awarded royalty-free federal drilling leases in 1998 and 1999 to pay their fair share or lose eligibility for future federal leases. It would also close loopholes and end giveaways for big oil in the tax code and in the 2005 Energy bill. In keeping with the Democrats' pledge to take America in a new direction, H.R. 6 reinvests these billions into a Strategic Renewable Energy Reserve that will be used to fund clean, renewable energy technologies such as home-grown biofuels.

H.R. 6 is an important first step in reducing America's dependence on oil. In this new era of global terror and global warming, energy

security is national security. Only by pursuing a bold new direction on energy policy will America achieve our three, interdependent goals of national security, economic strength and environmental protection. With an abundance of renewable energy sources in our backyard and clean energy technology companies across the state, Minnesota stands to reap more than its share of benefits from a new national push for clean energy.

One year ago, in his State of the Union Address, President Bush promised to end our oil addiction. Today, the new Democratic majority is helping the President make good on that promise and working to create a more secure and prosperous future for the next generation of Americans.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ELTON GALLEGLY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 24, 2007

Mr. GALLEGLY. Madam Speaker, I was unable to make the following rollcall vote on January 19, 2007:

H.R. 475, The House Page Board Revision Act (Rollcall vote 42). On the motion to pass the bill, had I been present, I would have voted, "yea."

H. RES. 51—HONORING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

SPEECH OF

HON. SCOTT GARRETT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 22, 2007

Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, the hallmark of Catholic schools is their ability to provide students with a well-rounded education. By focusing on academic excellence based on strong morals, Catholic schools consistently graduate ethical scholars.

I strongly support H. Res. 51 because it recognizes this distinguished ability of Catholic schools. New Jersey's fifth district is proud to be the home of numerous Catholic schools which are overseen by the dioceses of Newark, Metuchen and Paterson.

As we commend Catholic schools through this resolution and during next week's Catholic Schools Week, I would be remiss if I did not highlight the excellent administrators, teachers, parents, and students who make up the New Jersey Catholic School system. It is their dedication to their mission that has cultivated a lasting and celebrated program.

New Jersey's strong tradition of Catholic education can be traced back to the late eighteenth century when larger metropolitan areas started to erect schools which were supervised and supported by church authorities. Now, over 200 years later, Catholic schools can be found all over New Jersey, educating future leaders to serve their fellow statesmen and those who live far beyond our state line.

New Jersey Catholic Schools operate under the motto: "Learning to love. Loving to learn." This maxim pinpoints the consistent successful record of Catholic education: instilling a re-

spect and concern for others while simultaneously sparking a genuine curiosity and thirst for knowledge.

It is with these things in mind that I wholeheartedly support House Resolution 51 and look forward to hearing of the continued successes of the Catholic school system, in New Jersey and all over the world.

RECOGNIZING THE OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTIONS OF CAL RIPKEN, JR.

HON. C.A. DUTCH RUPPERSBERGER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 24, 2007

Mr. RUPPERSBERGER. Madam Speaker, I rise before you today to recognize a man who led by example not only on the field but continues to lead off the field as well. Cal Ripken Jr., a son of Maryland who is known to many as Baseball's "Iron Man", was inducted into the Major League Baseball Hall of Fame on January 9, 2007. He garnered 98.53% of the votes—the third highest total in Major League Baseball history.

Calvin Edwin Ripken, Jr. was born in Havre de Grace, Maryland on August 24, 1960. He has dedicated his entire baseball career playing for the Baltimore Orioles organization and contributing to life in Maryland.

Cal made his debut for the Orioles in August of 1981. He quickly impressed baseball fans and professionals alike with his play at the shortstop position, and was honored for his play by being named the American League's Rookie of the Year in 1982. His continuing excellence on the field led to many additional awards throughout his career. Cal was named the American League's Most Valuable Player in 1983 and 1991. He was a 19-time American League All-Star, winning Most Valuable Player awards in the 1991 and 2001 All-Star games. However, none of his career accomplishments matches his consecutive games played record, previously held by Lou Gehrig at 2,130 games. Cal broke the long-standing record on September 6, 1995, eventually playing 2,632 consecutive games, a record for which he was nicknamed "Baseball's Iron Man".

Cal Ripken, Jr. retired from professional baseball on October 6, 2001, but that was not the end of the Iron Man's service to baseball or Maryland. He has been an active member of the local community throughout his career and beyond. In 2001, Cal and other members of the Ripken family began the Cal Ripken, Sr. Foundation, which is dedicated to providing access to baseball and softball camps for underprivileged youth. He continued to support baseball in the community when he built a stadium in Aberdeen, MD, for the Aberdeen IronBirds, the Single-A affiliate of the Orioles, of which he is a part owner.

He is known as the "Iron Man" because of his dedication to the Baltimore Orioles and to baseball due to his consecutive games streak record. However, his efforts on and off the field for the Baltimore area, the state of Maryland, and fans of baseball everywhere are what really make him the "Iron Man" to all. Just as he could be counted on to show up every day on the field to play for the Orioles, he is counted on by the people of the Baltimore area and Maryland to show up off the

field, and I am proud to say that the "Iron Man" has always come through.

TRIBUTE TO DENNIS PETRY

HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 24, 2007

Mr. SHIMKUS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Dennis Petry for 30 years of service on the Triad School Board. He has served on the school board since 1977.

Mr. Petry served as secretary of the Triad School Board from 1981–1983 and served as president from 1983–1991. He was also named the recipient of the Those Who Excel Award by the Illinois State Board of Education.

A 1962 graduate of Triad High School, Mr. Petry earned a bachelor of science in business from Southern Illinois University at Edwardsville. He is married to his wife, Linda, and has three children, Jeff, Joel and Gina, and four grandchildren. Dennis is a mail carrier for the United States Postal Service. Aside from his duties with the Triad School Board, he volunteers his time with Knights of Columbus Council 9266 and the Saint Jerome Pastoral Council and Literacy Committee.

It is my honor to thank Dennis for his many years of service to the students of the Triad School District. May God bless him for his work.

IN HONOR OF STAFF SERGEANT
JAMES WOSIKA

HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 24, 2007

Ms. MCCOLLUM of Minnesota. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor the life of SSG James Wosika. Sergeant Wosika was killed on January 9, 2007 while on foot patrol in Fallujah, when an improvised explosive device detonated near him. Due to his bravery and self-sacrifice, the nine other soldiers in proximity to Sergeant Wosika were not injured.

Sergeant Wosika was serving his 10th month in Iraq with the Minnesota National Guard. He graduated from Highland Park High School in St. Paul in 2000. In school, he was a State champion wrestler and football player and he is remembered by his loved ones as a wonderful young man who would do anything for his friends and family.

Sergeant Wosika was warm, brave, and dependable. He loved his country and honored his family, many whom served in the military before him, when he enlisted in the National Guard after high school graduation. To his fellow soldiers, his friends, family and all Americans, Sergeant Wosika was a hero.

Madam Speaker, Minnesota has lost 49 soldiers since the beginning of this war. The Minnesota National Guard has also just been informed that their tour in Iraq has been extended by 4 months.

It should be the top priority of Congress to keep our families safe—in our communities, while serving our government, and while serving our country overseas. I will continue working with my colleagues on both sides of the

aisle to ensure this remains our focus throughout the 110th Congress.

Madam Speaker, please join me in honoring the life of this brave and honorable young man. Along with all Americans, I extend my prayers and deepest condolences to the friends and family of SSG James Wosika.

IN RECOGNITION OF ALAMEDA
COUNTY'S TOP COP, SHERIFF
CHARLES PLUMMER

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 24, 2007

Mr. STARK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Alameda County Sheriff Charles Plummer who spent his last day on the job as Alameda County's top cop on January 8, 2007. His retirement ceremony included helicopter flyovers, bagpipes and literally hundreds of handshakes. It was a fitting ceremony to a stellar 50-plus years in law enforcement.

A native of Fort Bragg, on the Mendocino coast, Charley Plummer worked as a shingle mill and as a lumberjack. One evening, hitchhiking back to Fort Bragg, a California Highway Patrol officer picked him up. The officer told him he had the right build and a good personality and should become a cop. Soon thereafter he left Santa Rosa Junior College and took an exam to become a Berkeley police officer and joined the force in 1952.

In 1973, Charley was named acting chief in Berkeley, a post he held for 9 months. He left Berkeley to become police chief in Hayward. He held this position for 10 years before friends convinced him to run for sheriff. He won the race for sheriff and the rest is history.

He changed the Alameda County Sheriff Department's culture by bringing a high level of discipline to the department. Under his leadership, the department has become the only law enforcement agency west of the Mississippi to gain accreditations in five different functions: bomb squad, health care, law enforcement, corrections and crime lab. He also entered the department into lucrative law enforcement contracts with AC Transit and BART.

Although Charley Plummer will no longer hold the title of Alameda County Sheriff, he will be known as Sheriff Emeritus and will devote his time to charity. He serves as a director or trustee on numerous boards and will continue his exemplary commitment and devotion to making a difference in the community.

Charley has never minced words nor failed to step up to the plate to take responsibility for activities or implementation of programs for the safety and welfare of residents in Alameda County. He leaves a legacy of commitment, straight-talk and no-nonsense service. He has cut to the chase and his accomplishments are beyond measure. I join his friends, colleagues and admirers in thanking Sheriff Emeritus Plummer for his exemplary track record and marathon of service.

SUPPORT A DISABLED VETERANS
MEMORIAL

HON. MARK STEVEN KIRK

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 24, 2007

Mr. KIRK. Madam Speaker, today Representative DENNIS MOORE and I introduced the American Veterans Disabled for Life Commemorative Coin Act, H.R. 634. This legislation seeks to recognize the sacrifices made by America's more than three million disabled veterans by building a memorial for them here in Washington, DC.

In 2000, Congress authorized the construction of the American Veterans Disabled for Life Memorial just south of the Rayburn Building. Last December President Bush signed into law a bill transferring control of the land for the memorial from the District of Columbia to the National Park Service. Now the American Veterans Disabled for Life Memorial Foundation needs to raise approximately \$65 million to cover the cost of construction.

This legislation will authorize the Secretary of the Treasury to mint commemorative silver dollars that will be sold with a surcharge that will help the American Veterans Disabled for Life Memorial Foundation raise the money needed to construct the memorial. Not only will these coins be collector's items, they will benefit a worthy cause.

With more than 3 million disabled veterans in the United States today, it is fitting that a memorial to their sacrifice be erected in Washington, DC. It is my hope that all my colleagues will join Congressman MOORE and me in supporting this legislation to help make the American Veterans Disabled for Life Memorial a reality.

THE CLEAN ENERGY ACT OF 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. DAVE CAMP

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 18, 2007

Mr. CAMP of Michigan. Madam Speaker, we all agree that reducing America's consumption of foreign oil and gas is important. But, sadly this legislation is a missed opportunity. In fact, it will likely increase the country's dependence on foreign fossil fuels.

H.R. 6 will increase taxes on domestic oil and gas producers and place the additional Federal revenues in a fund that will pay for future legislation to subsidize alternative energy programs. Imposing higher taxes one sector of the economy that is responsible for creating millions of jobs and accounts for 3.5 percent of total national employment is nothing short of terrible economic policy. H.R. 6 is a recipe for layoffs, lowered U.S. investment, and higher prices at the pump.

One of the main provisions in the bill is to deny tax benefits enacted in 2004 to oil and gas companies. The tax benefits in the 2004 bill did not single out the oil and gas industry. In fact, the 2004 legislation lowered the corporate tax rate for all domestic manufacturers. The goal of the bill was to encourage companies, from tool and die manufacturers to the film industry, to remain in the United States instead of moving operations to lower-taxed

countries. By singling out oil and gas companies and raising their taxes, H.R. 6 will have the effect of encouraging them to expand production overseas, limit U.S. investment, and cut their American workforce.

Another source of concern is the millions of Americans who invest their pension and retirement savings in the oil and gas sector. Many State and local pension funds, as well as individual stockholders, invest in these companies. Retirees and investors depending on high performing stocks will likely be negatively impacted by Congress's decision to single out this sector.

I am also concerned that H.R. 6 will force companies who signed leases with the Federal Government in 1988 and 1999 for drilling rights in the Gulf of Mexico to renegotiate the terms of the contracts they signed. Under the Clinton administration, the Department of Interior failed to insert a clause in these contracts that would require firms to pay royalty fees when the price of oil exceeded a certain amount. Now, realizing the mistake, the Government has begun to renegotiate the leases on a voluntary basis with the affected companies. Some of them have agreed to begin paying royalty fees while others have not. The Government should continue to voluntarily negotiate with these firms. But, for the Government to force companies to pay new, higher fees as a penalty for not renegotiating legitimate contracts seems akin to what a Russian, Venezuelan, or Bolivian government would do.

As a sponsor of legislation to expand tax incentives for solar energy and hybrid vehicles, I am committed to the improvement of energy conservation and new technologies. Reducing oil and gas consumption is important, but I do not believe H.R. 6 is not the right policy for achieving this objective. I urge my colleagues to resist policies like H.R. 6 that arbitrarily penalize American oil and gas companies and practically incentivize them to move operations overseas.

COLLEGE STUDENT RELIEF ACT
OF 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. BART GORDON

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 17, 2007

Mr. GORDON of Tennessee. Madam Speaker, the cost of college education continues to rise at an alarming rate. You may ask, "why does it matter?" The simple fact is that education is the single most important factor when it comes to equalizing opportunity and ensuring all students are able to achieve a better future and, of course, greater income. A well educated society is paramount to our global competitiveness and national security. Because education is so critical, I believe we have a duty to ensure it is available to all our citizens. The legislation before us represents an opportunity to assist borrowers with repayment of their student loan debt—a debt that is an investment in their future. While I support that goal, I also urge my colleagues to dig deeper into the problem, and take a hard look at the problem of rising tuition costs. After all, the debt incurred by students is the costs incurred to participate in postsecondary education. I would like to see us engage in a dia-

logue with the higher education community to understand why college costs are rising so rapidly and what can be done to assist students who are struggling to even enroll because the cost barrier is too high.

I would also like to speak for a moment about the cost of this proposal. I fully support a fiscally responsible approach, and our newly reinstated PAYGO rules demand that we offset the cost of this proposal. As such, this bill is being paid for through reductions in government payments to the private and non-profit lenders and guarantee agencies that provide student loans. I have some concerns about how the cost of this bill may affect student benefit programs now available. We need to invest in education and we all need to take a hard look at the programs now available to ensure they are efficient and effective. However, we must not lose sight of the strengths inherent in our current system. Students and families benefit greatly from solid competition within the student loan program, which today results in reduced fees, repayment incentives, and yes, lower interest rates. But there is more: student outreach, need-based scholarship programs and services, statewide career testing for 7th through 12th grades—all of which are helping to make college more affordable and accessible. We shouldn't neglect that. As we proceed with this and other higher education legislation, I want to protect students and families from a one-size-fits-all mentality and ensure these programs that have served so many will go forward in an efficient manner for the students and families they serve, as well as for the American taxpayers making this crucial investment.

I thank Speaker PELOSI and the Chairman of the Education and Labor Committee for including higher education in the First 100 Hours. It shows how important the issue is and that this Congress is committed to moving forward with an investment in our students and an investment in the future of our Nation.

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA AND
UNITED STATES TERRITORIES
CIRCULATING QUARTER DOLLAR
PROGRAM ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 23, 2007

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 392, which requires the Circulating Quarter Dollar Coin Program to honor the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, Guam, American Samoa, the United States Virgin Islands, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Madam Speaker, you will recall that in 1999, the United States Mint began circulating quarters in commemoration of each of the 50 States. The coin honoring my great State of Texas was issued in 2004. The coin, featuring the Lone Star of Texas, is the 28th in the series and commemorates Texas' admission to the Union as the 28th State on December 29, 1845.

To date, Mr. Speaker, 40 of the 50 State coins have been circulated. I look forward to seeing the last 10 States honored with their own special quarter-dollar coin.

Unfortunately, the beautiful city in which we stand today, our Nation's capital, has been thus far denied the opportunity to commemorate its vital importance as a part of our union, with a quarter-dollar coin of its own. Likewise, the United States territories have not had the opportunity to commemorate their important role in our nation. H.R. 392 would change this regrettable state of affairs.

I thank the delegate from the District of Columbia, Ms. NORTON, for introducing this legislation and urge my colleagues to vote in favor of it. I am, however, saddened that she herself cannot cast a vote in favor of this bill since she is not yet permitted a vote on the floor of the House or in the Committee of the Whole. I am optimistic that the new Democratic majority in this House will grant elected delegates the right to vote in the Committee of the Whole at the earliest possible opportunity. I remain a strong supporter of H.R. 328, the District of Columbia Fair and Equal Voting Rights Act of 2007, which will give the representative for the District of Columbia a full, fair, and equal vote on the floor of the House of Representatives.

As a supporter of freedom, democracy, and equality, I believe that it is long overdue for the citizens of the District of Columbia to have a representative in Congress who can vote on the vital legislation considered in this august body. It is wrong, Madam Speaker, that the citizens of the District of Columbia, who after all pay taxes to the United States, serve in the Armed Forces, and are subject to the laws and jurisdiction of the United States, are denied a vote in the body that imposes those taxes, raises and maintains the Armed Forces, and makes the laws that each of us must obey. Similarly, we cannot deny the territories of Puerto Rico, American Samoa, Guam, the Virgin Islands, and the Northern Mariana Islands the right to have a vote in Congress. Doing so denies the important relationships of these territories to our Nation and diminishes the contributions of their people to our country.

In light of this unfortunate situation, I commend the delegate from our Nation's Capital for introducing H.R. 392, to show the people of the United States capital and territories that we do indeed honor them. I urge my colleagues to pay tribute to them by voting in favor of this legislation to establish a quarter dollar coin program in their commemoration.

RETIREMENT OF SUPERVISOR
ILLA COLLIN

HON. DORIS O. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 24, 2007

Ms. MATSUI. Madam Speaker, I rise in tribute to Sacramento County Supervisor Illa Collin and her esteemed career. Supervisor Collin built a lasting legacy in Sacramento County and her presence on the board of supervisors will be deeply missed. As her friends, family and coworkers all gather to celebrate her career, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the dedicated service of one of Sacramento's finest leaders.

Illia Collin was first elected to the Sacramento County Board of Supervisors in 1978. She immediately made her presence known by tirelessly working to strengthen neighborhoods and revitalize urban corridors. Through

her 28 years on the board of supervisors, she has preserved much of Sacramento County's natural beauty and open space.

Supervisor Collin has consistently been praised for her environmental record and leadership. She helped create the Sacramento Tree Foundation and the American River Parkway Foundation. She has received the Outstanding Service Award from the California Parks and Recreation Society as well as the Outstanding Public Official Award from the National Association of County Parks and Recreation Officials. In 2005, Supervisor Collin received the Environmentalist of the Year Award from the Sacramento Chapter of the Sierra Club.

Supervisor Collin performed an instrumental role in the women's movement. From 1973 to 1975, Illa helped lead the League of Women voters in Sacramento and in 1977 she became the first woman to serve as the President of the State Reclamation Board. She has also received the Hannah G. Solomon Award from the National Council of Jewish Women for improving the lives of women, children, and families.

Prior to her service on the board of supervisors, Illa worked to improve Sacramento on a number of fronts, including social services and community planning. Now, after seven terms, Illa will be departing from the board of supervisors. The people of Sacramento will miss her leadership, experience and dedication. Our community has been fortunate to be graced by the presence of such an extraordinary woman.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to honor one of Sacramento's most distinguished citizens, Illa Collin. Her success and steady voice has been an inspiration to Sacramento residents throughout the years. I ask all my colleagues to join me in thanking Illa Collin and wishing her continued success and happiness in her future endeavors.

INTRODUCTION OF THE DRIVE ACT

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 24, 2007

Mr. ENGEL. Madam Speaker, last night the President made some bold statements about energy security. He pledged to reduce U.S. gas consumption 20 percent from projected 2017 levels. That amounts to 2 million barrels of oil saved a day. Well if he is serious about his words and he wants to reduce oil consumption just a little more he should take a look at the DRIVE Act Representative KINGSTON and I are introducing today.

The challenge we face is clear. In order to protect our Nation and our environment it is essential we use oil more efficiently and develop a domestic economy revolving around clean alternative fuels.

Madam Speaker, our country has become increasingly dependent on oil imports from countries who deny their citizens basic democratic freedoms and, in some cases, sponsor terrorism. In the 1970s, the U.S. imported one-third of its oil and we now import 56 percent. If the trend continues, we will be importing

nearly 70 percent of our oil by 2025. It is simply unacceptable for us to sit idly by while OPEC gains a stranglehold over our economy and our security. In addition, there is now an irrefutable scientific consensus that global warming is real, it is dangerous and it is caused by greenhouse gas emissions.

For these reasons, Madam Speaker, we must act now to provide funding, incentives and leadership to wean our economy off oil and transform it into one empowered by the use of domestic energy.

In the last Congress, Representative KINGSTON and I introduced legislation to do just that: the bipartisan Fuel Choices for American Security Act. Members of Congress from both sides of the aisle and in both chambers sponsored the bill and it emerged as the consensus plan to develop a broad array of reliable and clean domestic fuels. The bill has now been improved and will be reintroduced today as the DRIVE Act, the Dependence Reduction through Innovation in Vehicles and Energy Act with over 60 cosponsors from both parties.

The bill has four main parts:

First, the bill will require the U.S. to use less oil—starting with oil savings of 2.5 million barrels of oil per day by 2015 and 5 million barrels per day by 2025. The Office of Management and Budget (OMB) will design and monitor the plan and other Federal agencies will have the power to issue regulations to make the plan a reality.

Second, the legislation will renew Detroit by helping U.S. auto makers manufacture more efficient vehicles that provide the same performance consumers expect. It will do this by providing funds for automakers to retool factories and help them commercialize new efficiency technologies such as plug-in hybrids and light-weight materials. In addition, the bill will help bring fuel-efficient tires into the marketplace and give authority to set efficiency standards for new heavytrucks.

Third, the bill will help develop a domestic alternative fuel economy by mandating incentives for cellulosic biofuels, creating an alternative fueling infrastructure fund for installation of alternative fuel pumps, and providing further incentives to purchase fuel efficient vehicles.

Finally, the bill provides for a nationwide oil security public education campaign to be administered by the Secretary of Energy.

If we implement these policies today we can make America a safer, healthier, and cleaner place. But Madam Speaker, we cannot delay action any longer. The longer we wait, the longer we are at risk for an energy security crisis or irreversible global warming.

Madam Speaker, I urge you to pass the DRIVE Act as soon as possible.

TRIBUTE TO ALPHA & OMEGA CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 24, 2007

Mr. SHIMKUS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Alpha & Omega Christian Fellowship in Collinsville, Illinois. The church will cele-

brate their 25th anniversary with a special service on January 28, 2007.

The church was founded in January 1982 and Gary Anderson served as pastor. The first services were held in the State Park Community House. Later, that same year, the church purchased the former State Park School and has transformed it into a beautiful house of worship. In 1984 Ron Habermehl became the pastor of the congregation with his wife, Debi, as co-pastor and they still minister to the congregation today.

The congregation of Alpha & Omega Christian Fellowship lives out the words of Isaiah 58:12, "Those from among you Shall build the old waste places; You shall raise up the foundations of many generations; And you shall be called the Repairer of the Breach, The Restorer of Streets to Dwell In." (NKJV) Their food pantry which serves their community, as well as their focus on bringing up the next generation, fulfills the mission of these words.

I am pleased to congratulate Alpha & Omega Christian Fellowship on 25 years of service to the Lord. My prayers will be with them during this special time. May God bless Alpha & Omega Christian Fellowship.

LEGISLATION TO ADDRESS OUR NATION'S ENERGY NEEDS

HON. RON LEWIS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 24, 2007

Mr. LEWIS of Kentucky. Madam Speaker, I rise to inform my colleagues of legislation I have introduced today to address our Nation's energy needs through investment incentives for coal-to-liquid, CTL, technology.

The legislation that I have proposed will expand the Alternative Fuels Excise Tax Credit to include CTL technology, allow for the expensing of equipment used in the CTL process, and allow for enhanced oil, natural gas, and coalbed methane recovery credits.

My bill, identical to H.R. 5653 in the 109th Congress, has been supported by the Southern States Energy Board, a bipartisan, multi-state consortium dedicated to enhancing economic development through innovations in energy and environmental policies.

Our economic future and our national security now depend on unstable sources of foreign oil. Few realize the numerous possibilities for alternative oil and liquid transportation fuel production that lie right here within our borders. In fact, America has the world's largest alternative liquid fuels resource base of coal, biomass, and oil shale. Exciting technologies are now available to harness these resources in an environmentally responsible and economically rewarding way to substitute conventional oil use.

I believe the incentives offered by an expanded Alternative Fuels Excise Tax Credit will foster an environment where this important technology can become a viable production option. I ask my colleagues to consider their support for this bill in an effort to ensure that all necessary tools are in place to achieve energy independence in the years ahead.

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, January 25, 2007 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

JANUARY 26

9 a.m.
Armed Services
Strategic Forces Subcommittee
To receive a closed briefing regarding recent Chinese anti-satellite testing.
S-407, Capitol

JANUARY 30

9 a.m.
Environment and Public Works
To hold hearings to examine Senators' perspectives on global warming, focusing on Senators' views on global warming and what each Senator believes the nation's response should be to the issue.
SD-406

9:30 a.m.
Armed Services
To hold hearings to examine the nomination of Admiral William J. Fallon, USN, for reappointment to the grade of admiral and to be Commander, United States Central Command.
SD-106

10 a.m.
Budget
To hold hearings to examine long-term fiscal challenges.
SD-608

Energy and Natural Resources
To hold hearings to examine the status of Federal land management agencies' efforts to contain the costs of their wildlife suppression activities and to consider recent independent reviews of and recommendations for those efforts.
SD-366

Judiciary
To hold hearings to examine exercising Congress' constitutional power to end a war.
SD-226

2 p.m.
Foreign Relations
To hold hearings to examine the remaining options, alternative plans and the

Iraq Study Group relating to securing America's interests in Iraq.
SH-216

2:30 p.m.
Energy and Natural Resources
To hold hearings to examine transportation sector fuel efficiency, including challenges to and incentives for increased oil savings through technological innovation including plug-in hybrids.
SD-366

JANUARY 31

9:30 a.m.
Rules and Administration
Organizational business meeting to consider an original resolution authorizing expenditures for committee operations, committee's rules of procedure for the 110th Congress, and subcommittee assignments.
SR-301

Joint Economic Committee
To hold hearings to examine ensuring the economic future by promoting middle-class prosperity.
SD-106

9:45 a.m.
Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry
To hold hearings to examine the roles of Federal food assistance programs in family economic security and nutrition.
SR-328A

10 a.m.
Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs
To hold hearings to examine the Department of the Treasury's report to Congress on International Economic and Exchange Rate Policy (IEERP) and the U.S.-China strategic economic dialogue.
SD-538

Budget
To hold hearings to examine solutions to long-term fiscal challenges.
SD-608

Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions
Organizational business meeting to consider an original resolution authorizing expenditures for committee operations, committee's rules of procedure for the 110th Congress, and subcommittee assignments; committee will also consider the Genetic Information Non-discrimination Act.
SD-430

Judiciary
To hold hearings to examine the Iraq Study Group, focusing on recommendations for improvements to Iraq's police and criminal justice system.
SD-226

Small Business and Entrepreneurship
To hold hearings to examine Federal small business assistance programs for veterans and reservists.
SR-428A

10:30 a.m.
Aging
To hold hearings to examine if Medicare Part D is working for low-income seniors.
SD-562

2:30 p.m.
Commerce, Science, and Transportation
To hold hearings to examine economic and security concerns relating to promoting travel to America.
SR-253

Judiciary
To hold hearings to examine challenges and strategies for securing the U.S. border.
SD-226

Armed Services
Readiness and Management Support Subcommittee
To resume hearings to examine abusive practices in Department of Defense contracting for services and inter-agency contracting.
SR-222

FEBRUARY 1

9:30 a.m.
Energy and Natural Resources
To hold hearings to examine accelerated biofuels diversity, focusing on how home-grown, biologically derived fuels can blend into the nation's transportation fuel mix.
SDG-50

10 a.m.
Commerce, Science, and Transportation
To hold hearings to examine the communications marketplace relating to the Federal Communications Commission.
SR-253

FEBRUARY 6

10 a.m.
Judiciary
To hold hearings to examine judicial nominations.
SD-226

FEBRUARY 7

9:30 a.m.
Energy and Natural Resources
To hold hearings to examine the President's proposed budget request for fiscal year 2008 for the Department of Energy.
SD-366

FEBRUARY 8

9:30 a.m.
Energy and Natural Resources
To hold hearings to examine issues relating to labor, immigration, law enforcement, and economic conditions in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.
SD-366

FEBRUARY 13

10 a.m.
Energy and Natural Resources
To hold hearings to examine the "Stern Review of the Economics of Climate Change" examining the economic impacts of climate change and stabilizing greenhouse gases in the atmosphere.
SD-106

FEBRUARY 15

9:30 a.m.
Energy and Natural Resources
To hold hearings to examine the President's proposed budget request for fiscal year 2008 for the Department of the Interior.
SD-366