

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

IN RECOGNITION OF ARTHUR A. JUTTON ON HIS RETIREMENT

HON. JAMES T. WALSH

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 7, 2007

Mr. WALSH of New York. Madam Speaker, I rise today with great pride, to honor someone who is very close to me and for whom I have the greatest respect; Mr. Arthur A. Jutton. Known as Art or Mr. Jutton to his colleagues, Art served as my Chief of Staff since my first day in office until his recent retirement this month. As one of the longest serving staff members here in the House of Representatives, there are very few Hill staffers and Washington professionals who did not know or have the utmost respect for him. I cannot begin to describe all the contributions that Art has made throughout what seems like an endless tenure here on Capitol Hill.

Art began his career working for former Congressman John Terry back in 1970. He served as Mr. Terry's District Representative until 1972. Art then worked for former Congressman Bill Walsh, my father, as his Field Representative from 1972 to 1978. In 1978, Art moved down to Washington D.C. to serve as the Administrative Assistant to former Congressman Gary Lee until 1982. In 1983, Art became the Administrative Assistant to former Congressman Gerry Solomon and served in that post until 1988 when he became my Chief of Staff. For the most part, all of the Members of Congress that Art has served have represented the Central New York region. As a Central Yorker himself, Art has helped all of us work diligently on behalf of the people of that region and also for the greater good of the country.

During his time in government, Art became a pillar of strength among those with whom he worked with. From his first days until his last minute, Art carried a work ethic second to none and was an everlasting source of knowledge. In the late 1970s, he started the New York State Republican Administrative Assistant Association. This group would meet once a month for a breakfast to discuss the issues that were not only on the political forefront, but primarily issues that affected the citizens of New York State. These meetings have since turned into the New York Republican Chiefs of Staff breakfasts that continue to this day. Over the years, Art became a mentor to all staff that was lucky enough to have worked with him. Though sticking true to his beliefs, he had an uncanny ability to maintain an open mind and adjust with the times as they changed.

Art not only created close relationships with staffers, but with all the employees of the House of Representatives. Every morning, bright and early, you could find Art in the Rayburn cafeteria sharing a cup of coffee with the Superintendent's staff. It was these early morning talks that Art credited as the source for the most useful information and inside tips.

Madam Speaker, I am happy for Art on his retirement and extremely proud of the 37

years of service he has given the people of Central New York. I know that although not here in Washington, Art will find a way to stay involved. The work he accomplished was done with the highest level of professionalism, a vigorous work ethic, and most importantly a loving heart. On behalf of my constituents, the constituents of the aforementioned former members and all of the wonderful staff with whom he worked with, I personally thank Art Jutton for all he has done. We will miss him.

RECOGNIZING THE 92ND BIRTHDAY OF DANNY QUILL

HON. PATRICK J. MURPHY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 7, 2007

Mr. MURPHY of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I am proud to rise before you today to recognize the 92nd birthday of Danny Quill, decorated World War II veteran and Sergeant of Arms for the Yardley VFW Post 6393. Mr. Quill is the oldest and longest standing member of the Yardley VFW Post and the Knowles-Doyle American Legion Post 317. His service to this country began in 1942, and ever since he has inspired generations of men and women who have had the privilege of knowing him.

Mr. Quill was originally assigned to Washington, D.C. with the 176th Infantry Division responsible for protecting President Franklin D. Roosevelt. Following this assignment, Private First Class Quill was transferred to Fort Benning, Georgia, where he served as a machine gun instructor. Mr. Quill began his tour overseas with the 91st Infantry Division in Africa, but was quickly transported to Italy.

Alongside Polish and English Army regiments, Mr. Quill, a member of the 5th Army, saw his first combat near Naples under the command of General Mark Clark. From there, Madam Speaker, PFC Quill engaged in heavy combat as a machine gunner during campaigns through Appennino Mountains and Po Valley. Madame Speaker, so extreme and deadly was the fighting there, PFC Quill suffered the loss of 13 assistant ammunition loaders, along with many other men serving beside him.

His bravery and courageous service earned Mr. Quill a Combat Infantry Badge, Three Bronze Stars, a European Campaign Medal, a European-African Campaign Medal, a World War Two Victory Medal, and a Good Conduct Medal.

When Mr. Quill returned home, his sense of duty held strong, so with the same passion he began serving his community, a role he has played now for the better half of a century. For such enduring commitment to his family, friends and neighbors; to the men and women of his community and his country, Mr. Quill deserves the utmost respect and unconditional admiration. Madam Speaker, Mr. Quill stands as an ever-steady example of the American

ideal of integrity and character he fought for then and inspires today.

INTRODUCTION OF BILL FOR COMMISSION ON UNFAIR TAX BREAKS AND SUBSIDIES

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 7, 2007

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Madam Speaker. I am today introducing another bill intended to help reduced waste and inequity in the Federal budget.

There has been much discussion of individual spending items—"earmarks"—requested by individual members. They are not all bad, but I agree that some need closer scrutiny. That's why I have introduced a bill, H.R. 595, the Stimulating Leadership in Cutting Expenditures, or "SLICE" Act, to give the President a constitutionally sound version of a line-item veto that can force Congress to reconsider individual spending items.

But we need to recognize that earmarks are not the whole story. Much waste and inequity in the budget results not from 1-year spending items, but from ongoing tax breaks and subsidies that are built into the budget and will persist unless and until there are changes in relevant law.

Like earmarks, not all tax breaks and subsidies are bad—in fact, I think many are good for our country and deserve to continue or even be expanded. One example would be the tax breaks and other provisions to promote renewable energy and to help Americans become more efficient in their use of energy. And there are other examples as well.

But there is also an array of direct subsidies, tax breaks and indirect assistance created for the special benefit of a relatively small number of beneficiaries, sometimes at the expense of others.

Too often, such provisions have persisted because of the phenomenon that once made it nearly impossible for Congress to close unneeded military bases—the cost of each one is relatively small in overall terms, but very important to a few States or Congressional Districts, with the result that the potential budgetary benefit of a reform is not great enough to overcome the strong opposition from its defenders.

So, the bill I am introducing today would resolve this dilemma in the same way that an earlier Congress resolved the similar problem of eliminating unneeded military bases. It would do that by establishing an independent, bipartisan, and expert commission to review special-interest tax breaks and subsidies to see which should be ended or revised.

But this would not be just another commission to produce another report fated only to gather dust on congressional shelves. Instead, like the special commissions that have reviewed military bases, it would be key to a

• 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.

process that would require Congress not just to read the report but to vote on whether to adopt its recommendations.

Here's how my bill would work:

BIPARTISAN CUTS COMMISSION

The Commission on Unfair Tax Breaks and Subsidies, or "CUTS Commission", would consist of five members. Its chair would be a person named jointly by the Speaker and the Senate majority leader. The Speaker and the majority leader of the Senate would each pick one other member, and so would the minority leaders in each Chamber. Members would be chosen on the basis of their expertise and to represent a fair balance of views.

The Commission's job would be to identify and evaluate payments, benefits, services, or tax breaks to see if they meet the test of a reasonable expectation that they will bring a return to the public at least equal to the value of the cost to the taxpayers.

SCOPE OF REVIEW

The scope of this review would not include payments made to or tax breaks benefiting individuals, to state or local government or Indian tribes, or Native corporations organized under the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act, or to nonprofit, tax-exempt organizations.

It also would not cover support for research and development based on peer-reviewed or other open, competitive and merit-based procedures where the subject is in the public interest and the work is not likely to be done, or done with equal benefit to the public, by the private sector.

Similarly, the review would not include payments or tax breaks primarily benefiting public health, safety or protection of the environment; the development and use of renewable energy; improved energy efficiency; or education.

Finally, the Commission would not review matters of national security, including homeland security, compliance with trade agreements or treaties, or procurement contracts—and could not propose new programs or taxes or the termination of federal agencies.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Commission would have a year to complete its work. Within that time, it would first prepare a preliminary report for review by the Government Accountability Office, GAO, and then a final report to Congress.

The Commission's report would specify which changes in subsidies the commission is recommending—and any recommendation supported by at least four of the five members of the Commission would be assured of prompt consideration by Congress.

LEGISLATIVE ACTION ON RECOMMENDATIONS

Under the bill, recommendations with that high degree of bipartisan support on the commission would have to be introduced as bills, and each committee to which they were referred would have a 20-day deadline to reporting them.

A committee could consider only amendments that would terminate or reduce an inequitable subsidy, except that the tax-writing committees could offset revenue increases with broad-based tax cuts, they could not use limited tax breaks of the kind that would have been subject to a line-item veto under the Line-Item Veto Act of 1996. If a committee failed to meet the deadline for reporting, it would be discharged.

Bills reported from committees would go to the Rules Committees of each Chamber. If

more than one bill is reported, Rules would consolidate them into one measure which would go to the floor. After 5 days, excepting weekends and holidays, a motion to proceed to its consideration would be privileged and not debatable and, if adopted, the bill would be considered under procedures limiting the time for debate. Similar procedures would apply to conference reports after each Chamber had acted.

In short, Congress could not ignore consensus recommendations by the Commission. It would have to debate them and then vote on whether to adopt them.

POTENTIAL FOR SAVINGS

It is not possible to say exactly how much this bill will save the taxpayers—that depends on what the Commission might recommend and how many of their recommendations Congress would approve. I have seen estimates that the kinds of subsidies and tax breaks covered by this bill could be costing tens of billions of dollars annually just in terms of special-interest spending programs, not to mention special tax breaks—such as provisions to suspend the tariffs on certain items—many of which are of particular benefit to just one or a few companies. So, I think the potential is considerable.

EQUITY AND ACCOUNTABILITY

And as important as the savings that could come from enactment of my bill is the increased budget equity and congressional accountability that it would promote. Special-interest subsidies, whether through spending or tax breaks, are great for the beneficiaries but they aren't always great for the taxpayers and they often are harmful to competing companies or other entities that don't get the benefit of the subsidies.

So, trimming or eliminating that kind of subsidies could save money and would remove inequities—and requiring those of us in Congress to stand up and be counted on whether to trim or eliminate some of them would increase our accountability to the taxpayers, to those hurt by the subsidies, and to the American people.

For these reasons, Madam Speaker, I think this bill deserves the support of our colleagues. For their benefit, here is an outline of its major provisions.

OUTLINE OF COMMISSION ON UNFAIR TAX BREAKS AND SUBSIDIES ("CUTS") BILL

Commission—5 members: chair appointed jointly by House Speaker and Senate Majority Leader, plus one each appointed by House Speaker, Senate Majority Leader, and House and Senate Minority Leaders. Members to be chosen on basis of expertise and to reflect diverse views. No Federal employees on the commission, but agencies can detail people to provide technical expertise.

Duration—Commission would have one year to complete its review and report to Congress.

Scope of Review—Commission would review payments, benefits, services, and tax breaks provided to companies, joint ventures, associations, etc. but not to individuals, state or local governments, Indian tribes and Alaska Native Corporations, or tax-exempt nonprofits. Review would not cover support for research and development based on open, merit-based competition if it is consistent with public interest and federal agency purposes and private sector cannot reasonably be expected to do it as well. Also outside scope of review: matters involving public health or safety or the environment;

development or use of renewable energy; greater energy efficiency; national security (including homeland security); or education. Review also would not involve matters needed to comply with international trade or treaty obligations or federal procurement contracts.

Report—Commission's preliminary report would be reviewed by GAO; final report would go to Congress with recommendations for changing or eliminating subsidies covered by commission's review. Any recommendation backed by at least 4 commission members would have to be introduced as legislation.

Action by Congress—Committees would be limited in amending bills to adopt recommendations by at least 4 of the 5 commission members and would have to report them for floor action with time limits on debate. So, Congress would have to act on those recommendations.

IN TRIBUTE TO FATHER ROBERT F. DRINAN: MAN OF GOD, POLITICAL LEADER, AND EDUCATOR

SPEECH OF

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 5, 2007

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the life of Father Robert F. Drinan, his enduring faith, and lifelong commitment to human rights. Father Drinan passed on January 28, 2007, at his residence in the Georgetown University Jesuit community in Washington, DC. He was 86 years old and had recently been ill with pneumonia and congestive heart failure.

Father Drinan was an unwavering defender of the civil and human rights of all Americans. His commitment to these principles was anchored by his religious conviction and a fundamental belief in the rights of all people to be respected and protected by their governments and elected leaders. It was this conviction that led Father Drinan to politics in 1970 when he sought a seat in the U.S. House of Representatives. During his tenure in Congress, Father Drinan was an outspoken opponent of the Vietnam war and was the first person to call for the impeachment of President Nixon. Father Drinan was re-elected four times, serving from 1971 until 1981. He stepped down in accordance with a directive from Pope John Paul II, barring priests from holding public office.

Father Drinan was the first Roman Catholic priest to serve as a voting member of the U.S. Congress. I had the honor of serving with him on the Judiciary Committee during the Watergate proceedings. He was a man of deep convictions, a passionate leader and a good friend. Long after he left Congress, Father Drinan continued to be a vocal supporter of human rights. Through his words and his actions he demanded morality in our political leadership. Ever committed to his work, Father Drinan spent the past 21 years as a professor at the Georgetown Law Center where he focused on legal ethics and international human rights.

We all mourn the loss of Father Robert F. Drinan, a man who committed his life to standing up for what he believed. He will be greatly missed.

RECOGNIZING GRANT SAMPSON
FOR ACHIEVING THE RANK OF
EAGLE SCOUT

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 7, 2007

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Grant Sampson, a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 314, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Grant has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Grant has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Grant Sampson for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

CELEBRATING THE MEMORY OF
BARBARA McNAIR

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 7, 2007

Mr. CONYERS. Madam Speaker, on Saturday, February 4, 2007, after a long battle with throat cancer, pioneering singer and actress Barbara McNair passed away. I rise today to remember and memorialize this important American.

Born March 4, 1934, in Racine, Wisconsin, Ms. McNair began performing at an early age. Encouraged by a family that saw her potential, Barbara McNair began singing at 5 years old in the local churches. She would later go on to study at the American Conservatory of Music in Chicago and thereafter attended the University of California, Los Angeles, before moving to New York City to pursue her dream of becoming an entertainer.

A 1957 engagement at New York's Village Vanguard earned her the notice which would eventually lead to her first Broadway performance in the play "The Body Beautiful" a year later. She went on to star in the Broadway musical "No Strings" in 1963. While Barbara McNair continued to gain a following as a nightclub singer throughout the early 1960s, her big break came with a win on Arthur Godfrey's television show, Talent Scouts. Her appearance on the show led to bookings at The Purple Onion and the Coconut Grove. Reviewing a nightclub appearance in late 1965, a New York Times writer commented that the "strikingly beautiful" McNair "does not have to depend on looks alone. She is a highly knowledgeable performer who projects an aura of beauty, a warm personality and an appealing sense of fun." She soon became one of the country's most popular headliners and a guest on such television variety shows as The Steve Allen Show, Hullabaloo, The Bell Tele-

phone Hour, and The Hollywood Palace, while recording for the Coral, Signature, and Motown labels.

Towards the end of the 1960s, as opportunities were opening up for African-American women in film and television, Barbara McNair made her Hollywood acting debut in 1968 in the film, "If He Hollers, Let Him Go." The following year she starred with Elvis Presley in his 1969 film "Change of Habit" and as Sidney Poitier's wife in the 1970 film "They Call Me MISTER Tibbs!" As she told the Washington Post in 1969, she found movie acting "a more rewarding kind of work than singing. When I'm working in a club, I must go from one song to another rapidly and I don't have much time to express myself emotionally. In a movie, you can concentrate on one scene at a time."

In 1969, Barbara McNair expanded her love of performing onscreen by becoming the host of her own syndicated variety series, The Barbara McNair Show. While the show was on the air for only two seasons, as one of the few television shows of the period to have a black host, it marked a tremendous step forward for African-Americans in general and African-American women in specific.

Barbara McNair retained a devoted following and continued to perform until shortly before her passing. While Ms. McNair is no longer with us, her music and contributions to breaking down the race and gender barriers on television live on.

BAINBRIDGE ISLAND JAPANESE
AMERICAN MONUMENT ACT OF
2007

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 6, 2007

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 161, to adjust the boundary of the Minidoka Internment National Monument in Idaho to include the Nidoto Nai Yoni ("Let it not happen again") memorial. This memorial commemorates the Japanese Americans of Bainbridge Island, Washington, who were the first to be forcibly removed from their homes and relocated to internment camps during World War II.

In 1942, 120,000 people of Japanese ancestry were forcibly removed from their homes and placed in internment camps—two-thirds of these were American citizens, none of which had ever shown disloyalty to the American cause. Forced to live under harsh conditions, the last internment camp closed 4 long years later.

These innocent Americans were treated unjustly by their own government during a time of war, simply because of their national origin, and such a crime against them must not go unnoticed. The memorial is rightly named with the words, "Let it not happen again," for it is important to remember the past mistakes of our government in an effort to avoid future ones.

As we recognize this, we must strive to ensure that all Americans know about these mis-

takes to prevent their repetition. H.R. 161 helps accomplish this by requiring the Secretary of the Interior to coordinate the development of interpretive and educational materials and programs regarding the Bainbridge Island Japanese Americans.

In times of war it may be easy to get carried away and put labels on those around us, assuming what their political ideals are based solely on their national origin or religious background. But as we have seen in World War II, such assumptions are unjust and can lead to disastrous consequences for a group of individuals.

I thank my colleague, Mr. INSLEE, for introducing this important legislation, to ensure that we never let such unjust practices occur in this great Nation again. I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this resolution.

HONORING THE TOWN OF WOLCOTT
ON ITS 200TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. JAMES T. WALSH

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 7, 2007

Mr. WALSH of New York. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the 200th anniversary of the town of Wolcott. This small town rests on the shore of Lake Ontario and currently has a population just under 4,700.

Named after Gov. Oliver Wolcott of Massachusetts, Wolcott was founded in 1807. The original town of Wolcott included what are now the present day towns of Huron, Rose, Butler, and Wolcott. At that time, the area was part of Seneca County.

In 1806, one of Wolcott's first settlers, Jonathan Melvin, purchased 500 acres in what would eventually become the village of Wolcott. Mr. Melvin built a gristmill and sawmill along with a frame house for his family, which he painted black. Known to be a very generous man, Mr. Melvin donated land for the construction of a local school and church.

One of the landmarks of Wolcott is the statue of Venus Rising from the Sea. In 1913 the statue was placed at the four corners in Wolcott at the site of the old town pump. Constructed of cast iron, the fountain has been a landmark in Wolcott for over eight decades. Venus Rising from the Sea is one of only eight such statues in America.

Production of iron was one of Wolcott's early main industries. The town was one of the two principle locations of the iron industry for western New York. The Wolcott furnace was located north of the village of Wolcott along the west bank of Wolcott Creek, on what is now Furnace Road. The Wolcott furnace was put into operation in 1821. The iron was formed into castings and hauled to Clyde, once the Erie Canal was constructed and began serving as the major transportation hub for bringing Wayne County products to market. The furnace remained operational until 1869 when the last run of iron making in Wolcott was completed. Today, Wolcott's main industries are fruit farming and food processing.

On behalf of the constituents of the 25th District of New York, I congratulate the town of Wolcott on its 200th anniversary.

HONORING JAMES A. MICHENER

HON. PATRICK J. MURPHY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 7, 2007

Mr. MURPHY of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to one of America's most prominent 20th century authors, James A. Michener.

Born on February 3, 1907 and raised in Doylestown, PA by his adopted family, this great man would have been 100 years old this weekend and I find it fitting to commemorate his great contributions to our society on this day.

The author of over 40 great works, Michener is one of the United States' most important literary figures and one of the 8th district's most notable sons. His most famous work, *Tales of the South Pacific*, was based on his experiences while serving in the U.S. Navy during World War II. This descriptive account of soldiers' lives during the war was awarded the Pulitzer Prize in 1948 for its great ability to show the human side of war.

Throughout his career, Madam Speaker, Mr. Michener continued to explore the human side of our American experience with many stirring novels, including *The Bridges at Toko-Ri*, *Alaska*, *Chesapeake*, and *Centennial*. These excellent glimpses into our national history and character illustrate the genius of Mr. Michener, who in 1977 was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom, our nation's highest civilian honor.

Although most of his works were literary, Mr. Michener was truly a man of the world, a citizen servant, and a promoter of the arts.

Madam Speaker, from running for Congress in 1962, to serving on the Advisory board for NASA, to his appointment as cultural ambassador to numerous countries, Mr. Michener has left an indelible mark on our Nation.

Indeed, he has also left a strong mark on the 8th district of Pennsylvania, where he donated large sums of money directed to the promotion of the arts. In 1988, the James A. Michener Art Museum opened in Doylestown, PA, promising to preserve and display the rich artistic heritage of the Bucks County region. With the help of many donors who shared in Mr. Michener's vision this museum stands today as one of the great collections of Pennsylvanian art.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in commemorating this fixture of American literary history. Truly, James A. Michener was an experienced traveler, a dedicated citizen and an inspiring writer.

In commemoration of the centennial of his birth, I am proud and honored to remind this body of his many contributions to our Nation.

REINTRODUCTION OF THE COLORADO NORTHERN FRONT RANGE MOUNTAIN BACKDROP PROTECTION STUDY ACT

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 7, 2007

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Madam Speaker, today I am again introducing the Colorado

Northern Front Range Mountain Backdrop Protection Study Act. I introduced similar bills in the 107th and 108th Congresses, and last year the legislation was passed by the House but the Senate did not complete action on it before the end of the 109th Congress.

The bill is intended to help local communities identify ways to protect the Front Range Mountain Backdrop in the northern sections of the Denver-metro area, especially the region just west of the Rocky Flats Environmental Technology site. The Arapaho-Roosevelt National Forest includes much of the land in this backdrop area, but there are other lands involved as well.

Rising dramatically from the Great Plains, the Front Range of the Rocky Mountains provides a scenic mountain backdrop to many communities in the Denver metropolitan area and elsewhere in Colorado. The portion of the range within and adjacent to the Arapaho-Roosevelt National Forest also includes a diverse array of wildlife habitats and provides many opportunities for outdoor recreation. The open-space character of this mountain backdrop is an important esthetic and economic asset for adjoining communities, making them attractive locations for homes and businesses. But rapid population growth in the northern Front Range area of Colorado is increasing recreational use of the Arapaho-Roosevelt National Forest and is also placing increased pressure for development of other lands within and adjacent to that national forest.

We can see this throughout Colorado and especially along the Front Range. Homes and shopping centers are sprawling up valleys and along highways that feed into the Front Range. This development then spreads out along the ridges and mountain tops that make up the backdrop. We are in danger of losing to development many of the qualities that have helped attract new residents. So, it is important to better understand what steps might be taken to avoid or lessen that risk—and this bill is designed to help us do just that.

Already, local governments and other entities have provided important protection for portions of this mountain backdrop, especially in the northern Denver-metro area. However, some portions of the backdrop in this part of Colorado remain unprotected and are at risk of losing their open-space qualities. This bill acknowledges the good work of the local communities to preserve open spaces along the backdrop and aims to assist further efforts along the same lines.

The bill does not interfere with the authority of local authorities regarding land use planning. It also does not infringe on private property rights. Instead, it will bring the land protection experience of the Forest Service to the table to assist local efforts to protect areas that comprise the backdrop. The bill envisions that to the extent the Forest Service should be involved with federal lands, it will work in collaboration with local communities, the state and private parties.

Madam Speaker, I strongly believe it is in the national interest for the Federal Government to assist local communities to identify ways to protect the mountain backdrop in this part of Colorado. The backdrop beckoned settlers westward and presented an imposing impediment to their forward progress that suggested similar challenges ahead. This first exposure to the harshness and humbling majesty of the Rocky Mountain West helped de-

fine a region. The pioneers' independent spirit and respect for nature still lives with us to this day. We need to work to preserve it by protecting the mountain backdrop as a cultural and natural heritage for ourselves and generations to come. For the information of our colleagues, I am attaching a fact sheet about this bill.

COLORADO NORTHERN FRONT RANGE MOUNTAIN BACKDROP PROTECTION STUDY ACT

Generally: The bill would help local communities preserve the Front Range Mountain Backdrop in the northern sections of the Denver-metro area in a region generally west of the Rocky Flats Environmental Technology site.

Front Range Mountain Backdrop: The backdrop consists of the mountainous foothills, the Continental Divide and the peaks in between that create the striking visual backdrop of the Denver-metro area and throughout Colorado. Development in the Denver-metro area is encroaching in the Front Range backdrop area, and thus adversely affecting the esthetic, wildlife, open space and recreational qualities of this geographic feature. Now is the time to shape the future of this part of the Front Range. There is a real but fleeting opportunity to protect both protect Rocky Flats—a "crown jewel" of open space and wildlife habitat—and to assist local communities to protect the scenic, wildlife, and other values of the mountain backdrop.

What the bill does:

Study and Report: The bill requires the Forest Service to study the ownership patterns of the lands comprising the Front Range Mountain Backdrop in a region generally west of Rocky Flats, identify areas that are open and may be at risk of development, and recommend to Congress how these lands might be protected and how the federal government could help local communities and residents to achieve that goal.

Lands Covered: The bill identifies the lands in southern Boulder, northern Jefferson and eastern Gilpin Counties in the Second Congressional District; specifically, an area west of Rocky Flats and west of Highway 93, south of Boulder Canyon, east of the Peak-to-Peak Highway, and north of the Golden Gate Canyon State Park road.

What the bill would not do:

Affect Local Planning: The bill is designed to complement existing local efforts to preserve open lands in this region west of Rocky Flats. It will not take the place of—nor disrupt—these existing local efforts.

Affect Private Property Rights: The bill merely authorizes a study. It will not affect any existing private property rights.

SUPPORTING THE GOALS AND IDEALS OF NATIONAL BLACK HIV/AIDS AWARENESS DAY

SPEECH OF

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 5, 2007

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to fully support the goals and ideals of National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day. In 2005, African Americans accounted for nearly 50 percent of all new HIV infections, despite representing nearly twelve percent of the total population. The HIV/AIDS infection rate among Black men is six times that of white

men and the rate among Black women is sixteen times that of white women. More children with AIDS are African American than all other race and ethnic groups combined. There is no question that we must continue to devote considerable attention and resources to support the efforts of National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day and its mission to build capacity and increase the awareness, participation and support for HIV prevention, care and treatment among African Americans in particular. For these many reasons, I urge you to support the passage of H. Con. Res. 35, National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day.

While a cure for HIV/AIDS remains just beyond our reach, there are many known factors that contribute to the devastating effects that HIV/AIDS continues to have in the African American community in particular. For example, we know that the stigmatization surrounding those with HIV/AIDS deters many from being tested and learning about treatment needed to prolong their lifespan. We also know that economic issues such as the need for more inexpensive housing, substantial increases in livable wages and affordable health care, weakens community ties making it difficult to build capacity, disseminate information and target interventions. It is also evident that funds are needed to support these initiatives, perform meaningful outreach and provide organizations with the resources necessary to serve this vulnerable population.

It is important for us to increase knowledge about preventative measures, educational techniques, capacity building and outreach to find targeted solutions to the problem of HIV/AIDS in the Black Community. In the State of New York alone there are 33,747 Black Americans living with HIV/AIDS. Sadly, this number will continue to grow at exponential rates without the attention, care and resources supported by the National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day. While it is important to direct resources to Black Americans and others who are disproportionately affected by HIV/AIDS, we must remember that HIV/AIDS does not discriminate. It is estimated that between 1,039,000 and 1,185,000 infected persons live in the United States and approximately 40,000 new infections occur each year. Those affected belong to all gender, racial, ethnic, religious, socio economic and regional configurations. Those affected are mothers and fathers, sisters and our brothers, bosses, friends, and children.

The devastating effect of HIV/AIDS impacts us all. Confronting this international crisis will require the collective efforts of researchers, legislators, clergy members, community activists and organizations, and all others committed to reducing the force of HIV/AIDS. We must work together to find solutions that are scaleable and make possible innovations that result in value adding and sustainable positive changes.

Observance of the National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day provides an opportunity for governments, national AIDS programs, churches, community organizations and individuals to communicate the importance of the fight against HIV/AIDS. If we have any hope of ending conversations about the injurious effects of HIV/AIDS, we must immediately devote the time, energy and resources needed to educate, treat and prevent against future transmission.

RECOGNIZING MATTHEW HELM
FOR ACHIEVING THE RANK OF
EAGLE SCOUT

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 7, 2007

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Matthew Helm, a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 138, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Matthew has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Matthew has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Matthew Helm for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

IN HONOR OF VERNA M.
WOOLFOLK-SLOAN

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 7, 2007

Mr. FARR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to speak in honor of Verna M. Woolfolk-Sloan, who passed away on Wednesday, January 31, at the age of 81. Verna lived in Central California's Monterey County for more than 50 years. In that time she built a great record of personal, professional, and community achievement in advancing equal employment opportunity for women and minorities.

Verna was born in Providence, Kentucky and received straight A's throughout school, indicative of professional successes to come. She graduated as class Valedictorian from Rosenwald High School. Verna married Sergeant First Class Robert D. Sloan and they traveled throughout the United States and Germany with their son Joseph. They first set down roots in Seaside with her husband's 1955 posting to Fort Ord. A lifelong learner, Verna studied at Monterey Peninsula College, was awarded high honors in a Masters Degree in Business Administration from Golden Gate University, and later completed a Ph.D. in Organizational Psychology from International University.

Verna's motivation for education and equal opportunity came from her paternal grandparents, former slaves, who established Woolfolk School as the first Black secondary school in Kentucky. These principles guided her civil service career, which she began in 1956 as a simple typist, before climbing the career ladder as an accountant, manager, and ultimately Director of the U.S. Army's Equal Opportunity Office, which monitored and oversaw equal employment opportunity programs at Fort Ord and Fort McArthur. Here, she was the highest-ranking civilian employee at these bases.

Retiring after forty years of civil service employment gave Verna an opportunity to be-

come ever more deeply involved in her local community as a volunteer. She was a Golden Heritage life member, Secretary and Executive Committee member of the Monterey Peninsula's branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, and held seats on the boards of many Christian, cultural, and women's organizations. Verna was a role model and inspiration to countless young women and minorities in her local Monterey County, and was recognized with a number of awards, including the Outstanding Woman of Achievement Award and the Outstanding Equal Opportunity Officer award.

She is survived by her sister Eloise Wells of Marina, her brother Thomas Woolfolk of Chicago, grandson Joseph Sloan, Jr. of Atlanta, along with numerous beloved family members, including two great great nieces, one great great nephew, and three godchildren. Many of her family are also based in Seaside or Monterey County, which will ensure her legacy is continued and her work remembered in the district.

Madam Speaker, on behalf of the House, I would like to extend our Nation's deepest thanks for Verna's service to the United States and her local community. Her dedication and commitment opened the door to equal opportunity for many to whom that door would have otherwise been closed, and I know that I speak for every member of Congress when I say that it is our honor to recognize her today.

TOM MARTIN

HON. JANE HARMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 7, 2007

Ms. HARMAN. Madam Speaker, every once in a while, someone great comes along who flawlessly fills a position and epitomizes the role he or she performs. Tom Martin, long-time aide and Field Representative to Los Angeles County Supervisor Don Knabe, is such a person.

Tom spent almost 35 years working in state and local government, retiring only after a serious health condition forced him from the job he loved. These many years of public service earned him the well-deserved nickname "Godfather of Field Deputies." It's widely acknowledged that few people in the region have done as much as Tom has for so many. And his upbeat demeanor is always matched with seemingly effortless action. For Tom, helping people has always been second-nature.

I do not think I have ever seen Tom without a smile on his face, or heard him say "no" to someone. From 1969 until his retirement in 2005, Tom worked to improve the lives of his neighbors and enhance the community. During that time, the South Bay saw many changes, but one thing remained constant: Tom was always there to listen and to assist those who came to him with their problems, concerns, and ideas.

No item was too small for Tom when it came to helping others and he seemed to involve himself in everything. He ensured that the lights would be promptly fixed in Marina del Ray. He made limiting growth at LAX and its modernization a priority. And he was instrumental in engineering the land swap that saved Los Angeles Air Force Base in the most

recent base closure round. Over the years, Tom worked closely with me and my office and grew to be a personal friend.

But I never saw 'working' with Tom as work. Each meeting, each conversation was more of an interaction with an old friend than official business. His personal generosity integrated itself into the way he approached his job and how he lives his life.

Today, I honor his career and his service to the community. And I wish Tom improving health and Jeri and Tom many, many more years of happiness together.

DEPARTMENT OF PEACE

HON. JOHN LEWIS

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 7, 2007

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to support the establishment of a Department of Peace and Nonviolence as a cabinet-level office of the executive branch of our government. I agree with Representative KUCINICH that war and the threat of war have dominated international relationships for much too long. As a participant in the Civil Rights Movement, as a human being who has faced the barrel of a loaded gun armed only with the philosophy of peace, it has been my belief for many years that war is obsolete as a tool of our foreign policy. But I realize that position may be too progressive for many of my colleagues to accept.

But maybe, just maybe at this moment in our nation's history, when we find ourselves struggling with the hopeless legacy of violence, maybe, just maybe we might be willing to consider the methods of peace as an intelligent, strategic alternative to war. At this very moment our sons and daughters are battling in the middle of an unnecessary war, a war we started, hoping that we could force democracy to grow.

But Mahatma Gandhi once said that violence begets violence. And a recipient of the Nobel Prize for Peace, Martin Luther King, Jr., once said if we as a people want peaceful ends, we must use peaceful means. When will the warring factions in Syria, Lebanon, Israel, Iran, Iraq, Afghanistan and the United States be willing to say they have spilled enough innocent blood? When will they say it is time for us to lay down the tools and instruments of war? Today, can we hear the words of Gandhi, perhaps stronger now than ever before, "We must choose non-violence or non-existence"?

Are we finally willing to hear the words of Martin Luther King, Jr., "We must learn to live as brothers and sisters or perish as fools"? Can we, the most powerful nation in the world, use our influence, to raise these questions and give peace a chance?

Madam Speaker, as a nation and as a people we have researched, written about, studied, constructed, deployed and spent trillions of dollars on the best ways to destroy humanity. We have used the power of fear to dominate world affairs. What would happen if the most powerful nation on earth took the lead and through this Department of Peace decided to put even half of those resources toward developing ways to sustain humanity, ways to keep the peace in spite of competing inter-

national interests, and ways to gain influence using the power of diplomacy and negotiation?

Without constructive, alternative policies, without viable tools that leaders of nations and leaders of human kind can reach for, peace will always be a vanishing ideal that holds no substance. If we truly believe that peace is our ultimate goal, then we must use the resources of this great nation to that end. We must use the brilliance of American intelligence to develop the methods and mechanisms of peace, even more actively than we develop the mechanisms of war. That's why we need a Peace Academy that will create a diplomatic corps armed with the tools of peaceful influence.

We are all one people, Madam Speaker. We are one family, the human family, and we must find a way to understand each other, to make peace, and learn to live together.

THE GLOBAL CHANGE RESEARCH
AND DATA MANAGEMENT ACT
OF 2007

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 7, 2007

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Madam Speaker, today I am pleased to introduce the Global Change Research and Data Management Act of 2007 with my colleague from South Carolina, Mr. INGLIS. This bill updates the existing law that formally established the U.S. Global Change Research Program (USGCRP) in 1990. This bill is also similar to the Global Change Research and Data Management Act that I introduced in the 107th and 108th Congresses.

Over the past decade, the USGCRP has significantly advanced our scientific knowledge of Earth's atmosphere and climate and has provided us with a wealth of new data and information about the functioning of our planet.

However, the program has not produced sufficient information, both in terms of content and format, to be the basis for sound decisions. The program has focused nearly all of its resources and efforts on scientific inquiry. Only one broad assessment of the impact of global change on society has ever been attempted by the program, and that assessment was completed nearly 7 years after its Congressionally mandated deadline. The local, state, regional, and national policymakers responsible for managing resources, fostering economic development, and responding to natural disasters need information to guide their decisions. In my view, it is critical that Congress reorient the USGCRP toward a user-driven research endeavor.

The recent release of the policy summary from the Fourth Assessment Report by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), Working Group I, has helped solidify the growing scientific consensus that our climate is changing. This international effort had government support from around the world, including strong involvement from the U.S., and is a summary of the latest science about our climate. It reports that the Earth is warming—sea temperatures are rising, glaciers are melting, and air temperatures worldwide are increasing.

Most of the public and policy makers also agree that the climate is changing, but dis-

agreement remains about how much is the result of human activities. I think this bill deserves the support of people on both sides of that argument.

We need to move beyond debates about whether global change is occurring and allocating responsibility for the changes. I continue to believe fervently that we must do all we can to soften our impact on the environment and to slow the pace of global change. But we are going to have to deal with climate change with some mix of mitigation and adaptation. We must acknowledge the interdependence of our social, economic and environmental systems and learn to anticipate and adjust to changes that will inevitably occur.

In its 2003 review of the Administration's draft strategic plan for the USGCRP, the National Academy of Sciences (NAS) acknowledged the need for research to evaluate strategies to mitigate and adapt to the impacts of global change, and the Academy recommended that the plan be revised to enhance efforts to support decision-making. The Global Change Research and Data Management Act of 2007 reorients the program to accomplish these goals.

The NAS praised the Administration for including the development of decision support tools in the strategic plan, but criticized the plan for its failure to "recognize the full diversity of decision makers" and for failing to "describe mechanisms for two-way communication with stakeholders."

The Global Change Research and Data Management Act would address these criticisms by requiring the Administration to identify and consult with members of the user community in developing the USGCRP research plan. The bill would also mandate the involvement of the National Governors Association in evaluating the program plan from the perspective of the user community. These steps would help to ensure that the information needs of the policy community will be met as generously as the funding needs of the academic community.

The 1990 law outlined a highly specific organizational structure for the USGCRP. Our bill would eliminate this detailed organizational structure and provide the President with the flexibility to assemble an Interagency Committee and organizational structure that will best deliver the products Congress is requesting. Our bill would, however, retain many of the key features of current law—the requirements for a ten-year strategic plan, for periodic assessments of the effects of global change on the natural, social, and economic systems upon which we depend, and for increased international cooperation in global change science.

Our bill would establish a new interagency working group to coordinate federal policies on data management and archiving. Advances in computer, monitoring, and satellite technologies have vastly expanded our ability to collect and analyze data. We must do a much better job of managing and archiving these important data resources to support the work of current and future scientists and policymakers.

I would like to thank Mr. INGLIS from South Carolina for cosponsoring of this bill. Crafting a new approach for the USGCRP is a non-partisan issue—increasing access to better and more relevant science is something that we all can agree will help us make better decisions.

As is clear from the current debate in response to the release of the IPCC report, we have yet to agree on how much more information, if any, is needed before we take actions to slow the effects of human activities on global change. These are tough policy questions that we will continue to wrestle with. This bill does not offer specific policy direction, but it does affirm the need for the continued strong federal support for global change research, and it does map out a new emphasis on the production of information needed to inform these important policy debates. As the world's leader in science and technology, it is incumbent on us to develop solutions that will protect our planet's resources and permit continued economic and social progress for our Nation and for the world.

UNITED STATES CARIBBEAN ECONOMIC RELATIONSHIP—ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF IMPORTANCE

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 7, 2007

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, I stand before you today to acknowledge the importance of the economic relationship between the United States and the Caribbean and to enter into the RECORD an article from the *Carib News* by Tony Best entitled "A Picture of U.S.-Barbados Trade."

For many years, the United States has cultivated a trade relationship with the Caribbean that goes far beyond rum. As a result, both the U.S. and the Caribbean have benefited. In recent years, trade in the areas of natural gas, garments, seafood, sodium hydroxide, peroxide, and textiles are noteworthy.

A focus on Trinidad and Tobago is particularly important because Trinidad and Tobago is an abundant energy producing nation with 60 percent of the oil reserves in the Caribbean. The U.S. receives the majority of its natural gas imports from this resource rich nation and imported over \$1.7 billion of various energy commodities in 2005. That is remarkable.

In turn, the U.S. has exported approximately \$491 million in industrial commodities such as computers, cell phone transmission equipment, and lab furnaces, just to name a few, to Trinidad and Tobago.

Another key trade area is with textiles. The nation of Haiti exported \$169 million in garments, while the U.S. reciprocated with imports of \$124 million.

The Caribbean U.S. trade relationship continues to grow and provide mutually beneficial benefits for both the U.S. and the Caribbean nations.

A PICTURE OF U.S.-BARBADOS TRADE

(By Tony Best)

How solid is your knowledge of U.S.-Caribbean trade? To find out take the trade test.

First question: Name the Caricom state which has a whopping \$6 billion trade surplus with the U.S.?

Second query: Identify the country which exports tens of millions of dollars in live crustaceans—mostly aquatic species with a hard shell and many legs, such as lobsters, crabs and shrimp—every year but ends up with a \$1 billion deficit with the U.S.

How about the nation whose beer exports went through the roof but its garment ex-

ports have fallen sharply in recent years. At the same time, this country bought large amounts of sodium hydroxide and peroxide from the U.S.

Then there is the coastal state, which often sells more sweaters, pullovers, vests and other garments to the U.S. than it buys American made T-shirts and tank tops?

Finally, list the island whose Cricket World Cup construction could boost its trade with the U.S.

If you identified Trinidad and Tobago as the Caribbean nation, one of the 16 Western Hemisphere nations with a healthy trade balance with the economic giant next door, you would be right on the money. But if your answer about the exporter of \$45 million in lobsters and crabs to Florida and other parts of the U.S. as the Dominican Republic you would be away off base. Actually, the country was the Bahamas.

On the other hand Jamaica's textile industry was not a strong exporter in 2005, the latest year for which there was trade data. Exports of Jamaica-made garments plunged to \$55.5 million down from \$82 million the year before. However, it did export \$23.5 million in beer, up by 82 percent over 2004 but bought \$113 million in sodium hydroxide and peroxide, a 119 percent jump. It exported 60 percent more aluminum ores and concentrate to the U.S. in 2005 than it did in 2004. Those exports amounted to almost \$69 million.

Like Jamaica, Haiti exports large amounts of textiles but unlike its Caricom partner, the French-speaking republic exported almost \$100 million more in garments to the U.S. than it bought, \$169 million in exports as compared with \$124 million in imports of T-shirts, tank tops and knit or crocheted items. But the U.S. turned around and sold an extra \$52.4 million in miscellaneous knitted or crocheted fabrics to Haiti.

Barbados, which will play host to the Cricket World Cup final in April, is experiencing a construction boom and analysts believe the major sporting event could trigger more trade with the U.S.

The picture of Caribbean-U.S. trade was sketched from U.S. Census Bureau data and published in a guide on U.S. trade in the Western Hemisphere distributed by World City, a journal that emphasizes global trade.

What the figures and analyses show, according to trade specialists, is that as Caribbean nations continue their efforts to diversify their economies, export trade with the U.S. hasn't come close to reducing the dominant role played by the U.S.

Energy-rich Trinidad and Tobago is by far the most successful Caribbean exporter and that's attributed to the fact that the twin-island nation is the largest natural gas supplier to the U.S., which bought \$3.3 billion in liquefied natural gas from the ethnically diverse country. Trinidad controls 60 percent of Caribbean's oil reserves. In 2005, for instance, it sold \$3.3 billion in petroleum gases to the U.S.; \$1.2 billion in ammonia; \$1.2 billion in crude oil; \$972 million in non-crude oil; \$714 million in acyclic alcohols; and \$101 million in nitrogenous fertilizers.

On the other side of the trade ledger, the U.S. exported almost \$250 million in machinery to Trinidad, over \$46 million in electrical equipment for line telephony; \$36 million in computers; and \$29 million in "transmission apparatus for cellular phones. Add another \$28 million in industrial or lab furnaces and ovens; \$84 million in low value shipments; and \$18 million in iron or steel tubes and pipefittings and it would become clear that Trinidad and Tobago's industrial base is expanding.

In much the same way that Jamaica's oil imports from the U.S. skyrocketed to unbelievable levels in 2005, Barbados saw its refined oil imports rise by 127 percent, going to almost \$18 million.

In the end, Barbados sold a mere \$32 million in goods to the U.S. while it imported close to \$400 million. Its deficit with the economic colossus in the north was \$360 million. Between them their trade rose by 10 percent, reaching \$424.7 million.

Guyana was another Caribbean state whose trade with the U.S. rose in 2005. Exports went up marginally, by less than two percent but the amount of U.S.-made goods jumped by 26 percent, reaching \$175 million, less than half of what Barbados bought and close to 10 percent of Jamaica's imports of American commodities, which were valued at \$1.6 billion.

Guyana's key exports were aluminum ores and concentrate valued at just under \$50 million; \$32 million in live crustaceans; and \$11 million in diamonds. Interestingly, the top U.S. commodity exported to Guyana was listed as "charitable items," with a value of about \$42 million.

As for Guyana's neighbors, the Census Bureau's data stated that in 2005:

St. Lucia-U.S. trade rose by almost 40 percent in 2005, reaching \$167 million. The U.S. had a surplus of \$107 million.

U.S. trade with Antigua jumped by almost 50 percent, reaching \$149 million. U.S. export went up by 51 percent and Antigua's by less than two percent.

St. Kitts-Nevis exported \$49 million to the U.S.

That was more than the combined totals of Dominica \$3.3 million, Grenada \$5.8 million; St. Antigua's \$4.4 million and Vincent's \$15.6 million.

It exported more than Barbados did to the U.S. Electrical supplies, transformers and other power supplies, electric motors, generators and sets accounted for more than \$36 million of the total.

The Bahamas, whose negative trade picture of \$1 billion made it Caricom's largest, was third on the list of Western Hemisphere countries with large trade deficits.

Barbados was fourth on the trade deficit ridden partners of the U.S. followed by Haiti, Antigua, Belize, St. Lucia, Suriname, Grenada, Guyana, St. Kitts-Nevis, and St. Vincent.

RECOGNIZING WILL GORMAN FOR ACHIEVING THE RANK OF EAGLE SCOUT

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 7, 2007

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Will Gorman, a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 214, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Will has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Will has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Will Gorman for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

RESOLUTION HONORING THE EMPLOYEES OF THE DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

HON. CHRISTOPHER P. CARNEY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 7, 2007

Mr. CARNEY. Madam Speaker, our Nation must remain vigilant against all threats to the homeland, including acts of terrorism and natural disasters. Department of Homeland Security employees stand willing, ready, and able to respond should catastrophe strike. They work long hours to deter, detect, and prevent acts of terrorism against the homeland.

As protectors of our Nation's borders, airports, seaports, rail lines, and other transit systems, they are always on call. Together with other agencies and departments of the Federal Government, they work with State, local, and tribal partners to enhance preparedness at all levels of Government.

On January 24th, the Department of Homeland Security marked its fourth anniversary. The Department, which has more than 208,000 employees, plays a vital role in ensuring the Nation's security and preparing the American people for future catastrophes.

In light of this anniversary, it is fitting and appropriate for the House of Representatives to take a moment to honor the employees of the Department for their contributions in protecting the homeland and the sacrifices they make to protect the American people.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY, MRS. PLACIDA PEÑA BARRERA

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 7, 2007

Mr. CUELLAR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Mrs. Placida Peña Barrera on her reaching the milestone of her 80th birthday. She is one of the most inspiring members of the community in the City of Laredo and in the State of Texas.

Mrs. Placida Peña Barrera was born on July 13, 1926, in the City of Guerra in the great State of Texas. She moved to Roma, Texas, and commuted to Rio Grande City to attend high school, where she graduated in 1945. Five years later, she met Raymundo Barrera and together they raised six children. She was committed to being the best mother for her children.

With her husband's retirement, she decided to work as a clerk for the Laredo Independent School District, while also taking classes at Texas A&M International University. Placida graduated from Texas A&M International University in 1978, at the age of 52 with a degree in teaching.

Mrs. Barrera has worked consistently to uplift the lives of children in Laredo, Texas, through her 22 years of teaching at United Independent School District. While there, she established the Laredo chapter of the NASA's Young Astronauts program. For her work, she was awarded certificates of appreciation. She and her husband were also recognized by the Department of Journalism at the University of Texas at Austin for their publication of "U.S.

Latinos and Latinas and World War Two Oral History."

After serving her community as an educator for nearly two decades, Mrs. Barrera retired in 2000, and is enjoying her time with her husband and their grandchildren. It is because of her work that the youth in the community were able to realize their potential to create a new and better future for themselves.

Madam Speaker, I am honored to have had the opportunity to recognize the dedication of Mrs. Placida Peña Barrera to her community, and ask you to join me in honoring her on her birthday. I thank you for your time.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MARY BONO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 7, 2007

Mrs. BONO. Madam Speaker, yesterday, February 6, 2007, I was unable to attend suspension votes due to personal illness.

Were I present for the rollcall votes, I would have voted in the following manner for the following votes:

1. Rollcall Vote No. 76, H.R. 161, the Bainbridge Island Japanese American Monument Act of 2007—Vote: "Yea."

2. Rollcall Vote No. 77, H.R. 386, the Yakima-Tieton Irrigation District Conveyance Act of 2007—Vote: "Yea."

HONORING BEST BUDDIES

HON. ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 7, 2007

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Madam Speaker, I would like to call your attention to Best buddies, an organization founded the same year I was first elected to Congress, in 1989. If Best Buddies has one message, it can be articulated by its founder, Anthony K. Shriver, who lives in Miami and has stated "that every person has a gift. And that every person can contribute." This message is emblematic of what makes America successful and, in turn, has made Best Buddies a thriving international organization serving thousands of deserving individuals every year.

The main concept behind this organization is simple, yet profoundly effective. Best Buddies establishes one-on-one friendships between people with and without intellectual disabilities. This simple concept allows those who are often excluded because of their differences, the opportunity to engage socially and become integrated into society. Best Buddies' efforts in our communities are commendable and I encourage all Americans to embrace this organization, its ideals and initiatives.

Best Buddies also opens doors and provides opportunities for people with disabilities. Through the support of this organization, many are able to attain jobs allowing them to earn an income, pay taxes and work alongside others in our workforce. For students, Best Buddies' initiatives at schools and colleges are helping the intellectually disabled integrate socially with their peers. In the past, many were

often separated into special education classes making their social life somewhat isolated. To address this issue, Best Buddies has established several programs at different levels, from Best Buddies Middle Schools and a Peer Buddy system in High Schools, to Best Buddies Colleges. All three programs use the founding principles of this organization, allowing students with and without intellectual disabilities to create friendships and bonds that will last a lifetime.

The success of Best Buddies can be attributed to the indelible experiences, not only for those with intellectual disabilities, but for the many volunteers and buddies involved with this tremendous program. I am proud that the main headquarters is located in South Florida, in my Congressional district, and I look forward to supporting Best Buddies as it continues to grow and positively affect so many lives.

IN RECOGNITION OF GILBERT RIVERA

HON. NYDIA M. VELÁZQUEZ

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 7, 2007

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Madam Speaker, I rise today on the floor of the U.S. House of Representatives to recognize the life and contributions of a tremendous community advocate, businessman, and cherished friend, Gilbert Rivera.

In 1957, Gilbert Rivera migrated from Puerto Rico with his mother, father and twelve brothers and sisters to Bedford Stuyvesant with little money, and a dream to one day own his own business.

After graduating from Automotive High School and serving in the U.S. Army, Gil started a small construction firm. But with his drive and determination, the company did not stay small for long and overtime grew to become one of the largest Hispanic owned contracting and building supply businesses in New York City. AM&G's diverse portfolio of projects includes landmarks admired by preservationists, such as Carnegie Hall, Erasmus Hall HS, and Columbia University as well as residential buildings on Fifth Avenue.

But despite his good fortune, Gil never forgot his roots. He stayed in Brooklyn, placing a premium on working to better neighborhoods and communities, and continuing to create jobs for young people.

One of the many things that made Gilbert Rivera unique was that he used his success to improve the lives of everyone he touched. He was a socially conscious, philanthropic man who was a loyal and generous supporter of the causes he believed in. He founded the Hispanic Business Group to advocate for greater business opportunities for Hispanic owned businesses with corporate America and was actively involved with numerous community organizations, including the Brooklyn Chamber of Commerce, Brooklyn Botanic Gardens, Brooklyn Bridge Park, and the scholarship fund for young Latinos.

During his time with us, he walked upon this earth and used the power of his beliefs and determination to instill hope and inspiration, not only to his family but in all who knew him. Therefore, Madam Speaker, I rise with my colleagues in the House of Representatives to

honor the life and contributions of Gilbert Rivera—a true American success story.

INTRODUCTION OF "MORE WATER
AND MORE ENERGY ACT"

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 7, 2007

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Madam Speaker, I am today again introducing legislation to facilitate the use of water produced in connection with development of energy resources for irrigation and other uses in ways that will not adversely affect water quality or the environment.

The bill is similar to one I introduced in the 109th Congress (as H.R. 5011) that passed the House last year but on which the Senate did not complete legislative action. It is cosponsored by Representative PEARCE of New Mexico, who is the ranking Republican member on the Natural Resources Committee's Subcommittee on Energy and Mineral Resources and also by Representative EDWARDS of Texas. I greatly appreciate their support.

The bill's purpose is to help change an energy-industry problem into an opportunity, not just for oil and gas producers but for everyone else who would benefit from increased supplies of usable water.

Especially in the arid west, that covers everyone—not least our hard-pressed ranchers and farmers.

The focus of the bill is what's called "produced water"—the underground water extracted in connection with development of energy sources like oil, natural gas or coalbed methane. It would do two things:

First, it would direct Reclamation and the USGS to identify the obstacles to greater use of produced water and how those obstacles could be reduced or eliminated without adversely affecting water quality or the environment.

Second, it would provide for federal help in building 3 pilot plants to demonstrate ways to treat produced water to make it suitable for irrigation or other uses, again without adversely affecting water quality or the environment.

At least one of these pilot plants would be in Colorado, Utah, or Wyoming. At least one would be in one of the three States of New Mexico, Arizona or Nevada. And there would be at least one each in California and Texas. This is to assure that, together, the plants would demonstrate techniques applicable to a variety of geologic and other conditions.

Under the bill, the federal government could pay up to half the cost of building each plant, but no more than \$1 million for any one plant. No federal funds could be used for operating the plants.

The bill's goal is reflected in its title—the "More Water and More Energy Act of 2006."

The extent of its potential benefits was shown by the testimony of Mr. David Templet at a hearing on the similar bill of mine the House considered last year.

Mr. Templet testified in support of that bill on behalf of the Domestic Petroleum Council and several other groups, including the Colorado Oil & Gas Association. He noted that produced water is the most abundant byproduct associated with the production of oil and gas, with about 18 billion barrels being generated by onshore wells in 1995.

And he pointed out that if only an additional 1% of that total could be put to beneficial use, the result would be to make over 75 billion gallons annually available for use for irrigation or other agriculture, municipal purposes, or to benefit fish and wildlife.

Now, remember that in the West we usually measure water by the acre-foot—the amount that would cover an acre to the depth of one foot—and an acre-foot is about 32,856 gallons, so an additional 75 billion gallons is more than 230,000 acre-feet—more water, indeed.

And at the same time making produced water available for surface uses, instead of just reinjecting it into the subsurface, can help increase the production of oil and gas.

At least year's hearing, this was illustrated by the testimony of Dr. David Stewart, a registered professional engineer from Colorado. He cited the example of an oil field in California from which an estimated additional 150 million barrels of oil could be recovered if water were removed from the subsurface reservoir. And he pointed out that where oil recovery is thermally enhanced, a reduced amount of underground water means less steam—and so less cost—is needed to recover the oil.

The potential for having both more water and more energy is also illustrated by the example of a project near Wellington, Colorado, that treats produced water as a new water resource. An oil company is embarking on the project to increase oil production while a separate company will purchase the produced water to supplement existing supplies, eventually allowing the town of Wellington and other water users in the area to have increased water for drinking and other purposes.

In view of its potential for leading to both "more water" and "more energy" I was pleased but not surprised that last year the Administration, through the Interior Department, testified that it "agrees that the goals of the bill are commendable and the needs that could be addressed are real" and that the roles the bill would assign to the Bureau of Reclamation and the USGS are consistent with the missions and expertise of those agencies.

In view of all this, Madam Speaker, I submit that this bill—and its promise of helping provide our country with both more water and more energy—deserves the support of the House.

For the benefit of our colleagues, here is a summary of the bill's provisions:

SUMMARY OF PROVISIONS OF THE "MORE
WATER AND MORE ENERGY ACT"

Section One—provides a short title (the "More Water and More Energy Act of 2007"), sets forth several findings regarding the basis for the bill, and states the bill's purpose: "to facilitate the use of produced water for irrigation and other purposes without adversely affecting water quality or the environment, and to demonstrate ways to accomplish that result."

Section Two—defines terms used in the bill.

Section Three—requires the Interior Department (through the Bureau of Reclamation and the U.S. Geological Survey) to conduct a study to identify the technical, economic, environmental, legal, and other obstacles to increasing the extent to which water produced in connection with energy development can be used for irrigation and other purposes without adversely affecting

water quality or the environment, and legislative, administrative, and other actions that could reduce or eliminate those obstacles. Results of the study are to be reported to Congress within a year after enactment.

Section Four—provides that within existing authorities and subject to appropriation of funds, the Interior Department is to provide financial assistance for development of facilities to demonstrate the feasibility, effectiveness, and safety of processes to increase use of produced water for irrigation, municipal or industrial uses, or other purposes without adversely affecting water quality or the environment. The section specifies that assistance is to be provided for at least one project in (1) Colorado, Utah, or Wyoming; (2) New Mexico, Arizona, or Utah; (3) California; and (4) Texas. Assistance to any facility cannot exceed \$1 million and cannot be used for operation or maintenance. The section specifies that assistance under this bill can be in addition to other federal assistance under other provisions of law.

Section Five—requires the Interior Department to—(1) consult with the Department of Energy, EPA, and appropriate Governors and local officials; (2) review relevant information developed in connection with other research; (2) include as much of that information as Interior finds advisable in the report required by section 1; (3) seek the advice of people with relevant professional expertise and of companies with relevant industrial experience; and (4) solicit comments and suggestions from the public.

Section Six—specifies that nothing in the bill is to be construed as affecting—(1) the effect of any State law, or any interstate authority or compact, regarding the use of water or the regulation of water quantity or quality; or (2) the applicability of any Federal law or regulation.

Section Seven—authorizes appropriation of—(1) \$1 million for the study required by section 1; and (2) \$5 million to implement section 4.

IN RECOGNITION OF RIGHTING
HISTORICAL UNTRUTHS, RUTH J.
SIMMONS FORCES BROWN TO
ATONE FOR INVOLVEMENT IN
SLAVERY

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 7, 2007

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to enter into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD an article in the Washington Post discussing a Brown University committee's call for the institution to make amends by building a memorial, creating a center for the study of slavery and injustice and increasing efforts to recruit minority students, particularly from Africa and the West Indies. It is good to see the subject of slavery and the question of reparations being addressed with integrity and grace.

The article announces the findings of the university's Committee on Slavery and Justice. Appointed three years ago by Brown's president, Ruth J. Simmons, the committee recently investigated Brown's historical legacy, focusing specifically on its involvement in the transatlantic slave trade. The descendant of slaves and the first African American president of an Ivy League institution, Ruth Simmons has been steadfast in her commitment to uncovering the truths of Brown's past in ways that are academically and historically rigorous and just.

Arguably one of the most traumatic events in western history, the issue of slavery continues to instigate debate. Most recently questions of reparations, repairing the lives of those forced into the barbarous institution of slavery, often discussed in the form of repaying debts owed to descendants of slaves, have proven divisive at best and controversial at least. Although not called reparations, as reported in the article, the committee's recommendations are substantive and represent a form of repair. The committee's findings offer an example of the many ways that conversations and inquiries around reparations may be had in intelligent and sensible ways.

As stated in the article, the argument around reparations is not about a simple monetary gain, rather at the core of the debate is the need to acknowledge a part of our history that not anyone has fully come to terms with. It is important that we recognize and champion Brown's lead. This issue is central to who we are as a people and to who we are as a country.

[From the New York Times, Oct. 19, 2006]

PANEL SUGGESTS BROWN U. ATONE FOR TIES TO SLAVERY

(By Pam Belluck)

BOSTON, OCT. 18.—EXTENSIVELY DOCUMENTING *Brown University's* 18th-century ties to slavery, a university committee called Wednesday for the institution to make amends by building a memorial, creating a center for the study of slavery and injustice and increasing efforts to recruit minority students, particularly from Africa and the West Indies.

The Committee on Slavery and Justice, appointed three years ago by Brown's president, Ruth J. Simmons, a great-granddaughter of slaves who is the first black president of an Ivy League institution, said in a report: "We cannot change the past. But an institution can hold itself accountable for the past, accepting its burdens and responsibilities along with its benefits and privileges."

The report added, "In the present instance this means acknowledging and taking responsibility for Brown's part in grievous crimes."

The committee did not call for outright reparations, an idea that has support among some African-Americans and was a controversial issue at Brown several years ago. But the committee's chairman, James T. Campbell, a history professor at Brown, said he believed the recommendations "are substantive and do indeed represent a form of repair."

The committee also recommended that the university publicly and persistently acknowledge its slave ties, including during freshmen orientation. Dr. Campbell said he believed that the recommendations, if carried out, would represent a more concrete effort than that of any other American university to make amends for ties to slavery.

"I think it is unprecedented," Dr. Campbell said, adding that a few other universities and colleges have established memorials, study programs or issued apologies, but not on the scale of the Brown recommendations. It was not clear how much the committee's recommendations would cost to carry out.

"We're not making a claim that somehow Brown is uniquely guilty," Dr. Campbell said. "I think we're making a claim that this is an aspect of our history that not anyone has fully come to terms with. This is a critical step in allowing an institution to move forward."

Even in the North, a number of universities have ties to slavery. Harvard Law

School was endowed by money its founder earned selling slaves for the sugar cane fields of Antigua. And at Yale, three scholars reported in 2001 that the university relied on slave-trading money for its first scholarships, endowed professorship and library endowment.

Dr. Simmons issued a letter in response to the report, soliciting comments from the Brown community and saying she had asked for the findings to be discussed at an open forum. She declined to give her own reaction, saying, "When it is appropriate to do so, I will issue a university response to the recommendations and suggest what we might do."

She said "the committee deserves praise for demonstrating so steadfastly that there is no subject so controversial that it should not be submitted to serious study and debate."

Initial reaction to the recommendations seemed to be appreciative.

"It sounds to me like this makes sense," said Rhett S. Jones, a longtime professor of history and Africana studies at Brown. "I did not expect the committee would emerge saying, Well, you know, Brown should write a check."

"I never thought that was in the cards. I'm not sure I think it's even appropriate that a university write a check, even though it's pretty widely agreed on that Brown would not be where it is if it were not for slave money. These recommendations seem to me to be appropriate undertakings for the university."

Brown's ties to slavery are clear but also complex. The university's founder, the Rev. James Manning, freed his only slave, but accepted donations from slave owners and traders, including the Brown family of Providence, R.I. At least one of the Brown brothers, John, a treasurer of the college, was an active slave trader, but another brother, Moses, became a Quaker abolitionist, although he ran a textile factory that used cotton grown with slave labor.

University Hall, which houses Dr. Simmons's office, was built by a crew with at least two slaves.

"Any institution in the United States that existed prior to 1865 was entangled in slavery, but the entanglements are particularly dense in Rhode Island," Dr. Campbell said, noting that the state was the hub through which many slave ships traveled.

The issue caused friction at Brown in 2001, when the student newspaper, the *Brown Daily Herald*, printed a full-page advertisement produced by a conservative writer, listing "Ten Reasons Why Reparations for Slavery Is a Bad Idea And Racist Too."

The advertisement, also run by other college newspapers, prompted protests by students who demanded that the paper pay "reparations" by donating its advertising fee or giving free advertising space to advocates of reparations.

The Brown committee was made up of 16 faculty members, students and administrators, and its research was extensive.

"The official history of Brown will have to be rewritten, entirely scrapped," said Omer Bartov, a professor on the committee who specializes in studying the Holocaust and genocide.

The report cites examples of steps taken by other universities: a memorial unveiled last year by the University of North Carolina, a five-year program of workshops and activities at Emory University, and a 2004 vote by the faculty senate of the University of Alabama to apologize for previous faculty members having whipped slaves on campus.

Katie Zezima contributed reporting.

TRIBUTE TO PHILLIP BRADLEY BELCHER FOR THE AWARD OF EAGLE SCOUT

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 7, 2007

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Phillip Belcher, a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 1433, and by earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Phillip has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the years Phillip has been involved in scouting, he has earned 31 merit badges and held numerous leadership positions, serving as Senior Patrol Leader and Den Chief for Cub Scouts. Phillip is a member of the Tribe of Mic-O-Say and is in the Order of the Arrow.

For his Eagle Scout project, Phillip built concrete stairs at the Rolling Hills Community Church.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Phillip Belcher for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

INTRODUCTION OF THE HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETICS ACCOUNTABILITY ACT

HON. LOUISE MCINTOSH SLAUGHTER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 7, 2007

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Madam Speaker, I am proud to rise today to introduce the High School Athletics Accountability Act. As opportunities for girls and women to participate in sports and athletics have been made increasingly available, women's participation has grown exponentially. Nearly 2.6 million high school girls now participate in organized sports, as opposed to 294,015 in 1971 before Title IX was enacted. Athletic participation has brought with it confidence and camaraderie among young women, giving them memories and friends that will last a lifetime.

Despite our progress, persistent attacks against equality for women's sports require that we continue to protect the rights our nation's young women deserve. Currently high schools are not required to disclose any data on equity in sports, making it difficult for high schools and parents to ensure fairness in their athletics programs. The High School Athletics Accountability Act requires that high schools report basic data on the number of female and male students in their athletic programs and the expenditures made for their sports teams. The data will help high schools improve opportunities for girls in sports, and thereby help high schools and parents of schoolchildren foster fairness in athletic opportunities for girls and boys. Ultimately better information will encourage greater participation of all students in athletics.

Without information about how athletic opportunities and benefits are being allocated at the high school level, female students may be

deprived of their chance to play sports. For many young women, sports are often their ticket to higher education. A survey conducted by the National Federation of State High School Associations indicates that female students receive 1.25 million fewer opportunities to play high school sports than do male students, which translate into many lost opportunities for athletic scholarships. Other studies show that student athletes tend to graduate at higher rates, perform better in school and are less likely to use drugs and alcohol. Women athletes also tend to have more confidence, better body image, and higher self-esteem than female non-athletes—critical attributes that help them succeed throughout their lives. We must give our schools the tools they need to identify inequities in their programs so that current and future generations of women can enjoy the benefits of sports.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in this effort to help girls move toward equality in athletics at every level and in every community across the nation.

INTRODUCTION OF THE LIBERTY AMENDMENT

HON. RON PAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 7, 2007

Mr. PAUL. Madam Speaker, I am pleased to introduce the Liberty Amendment, which repeals the 16th Amendment, thus paving the way for real change in the way government collects and spends the people's hard-earned money. The Liberty Amendment also explicitly forbids the federal government from performing any action not explicitly authorized by the United States Constitution.

The 16th Amendment gives the federal government a direct claim on the lives of American citizens by enabling Congress to levy a direct income tax on individuals. Until the passage of the 16th amendment, the Supreme Court had consistently held that Congress had no power to impose an income tax.

Income taxes are responsible for the transformation of the federal government from one of limited powers into a vast leviathan whose tentacles reach into almost every aspect of American life. Thanks to the income tax, today the federal government routinely invades our privacy, and penalizes our every endeavor.

The Founding Fathers realized that "the power to tax is the power to destroy," which is why they did not give the federal government the power to impose an income tax. Needless to say, the Founders would be horrified to know that Americans today give more than a third of their income to the federal government.

Income taxes not only diminish liberty, they retard economic growth by discouraging work and production. Our current tax system also forces Americans to waste valuable time and money on complacency with an ever-more complex tax code. The increased interest in flat-tax and national sales tax proposals, as well as the increasing number of small businesses that questioning the Internal Revenue Service's (IRS) "withholding" system provides further proof that America is tired of the labyrinthine tax code. Americans are also increasingly fed up with an IRS that continues to

ride roughshod over their civil liberties, despite recent "pro-taxpayer" reforms.

Madam Speaker, America survived and prospered for 140 years without an income tax, and with a federal government that generally adhered to strictly constitutional functions, operating with modest excise revenues. The income tax opened the door to the era (and errors) of Big Government. I hope my colleagues will help close that door by cosponsoring the Liberty Amendment.

HIRE A VETERAN WEEK

HON. TODD TIAHRT

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 7, 2007

Mr. TIAHRT. Madam Speaker, I rise to support H. Con. Res. 5, a resolution supporting "Hire a Veteran Week." Supporting our troops should not be confined just to the battlefield; supporting our troops extends beyond their time in active duty. The liberties we enjoy today were earned through the bravery and sacrifice of patriotic Americans. America must never turn her back on her veterans.

Historically, unemployment of veterans is higher than in the civilian populations. This is a national tragedy. Veterans are hard-working, self-sacrificing patriots. Unfortunately, many employers simply do not understand the skills, capabilities, and tremendous value that veterans bring to any workplace. Through efforts such as "Hire a Veteran Week," coupled with those of the Departments of Defense, Veterans Affairs and Labor, Veteran Service Organizations, and various non-profit groups, we will bring attention to the benefit of hiring veterans.

I am very pleased to see that the unemployment rate for veterans has fallen by one-third since 2005. Although the unemployment rate is still higher than the civilian population, these new numbers are clear evidence that progress is being made. As with most progress, we must not be content to rest on past accomplishments. I will not be happy until every veteran who wants to work is able to make a good living for themselves and their families.

To those companies that have hired a veteran, I say, "thank you." I have never met a business owner who has regretted hiring a veteran, and appreciate their willingness to understand the value of our veterans and make room for them in their organization.

While I say it all the time, I can never say it enough. "Thank you" to the men and women of our Armed Forces for guaranteeing freedom for all Americans. May God bless you, and may God bless America.

IRAQ POLICY

HON. PETER HOEKSTRA

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 7, 2007

Mr. HOEKSTRA. Madam Speaker, I believe that Congress should continue to encourage an open and robust debate about its Iraq policy. I found former Speaker Newt Gingrich's recent testimony before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee on the situation in Iraq of

particular interest. I would like to share it with my colleagues.

[From Gingrich Communications, Jan. 23, 2007]

THE COST OF DEFEAT IN IRAQ AND THE COST OF VICTORY IN IRAQ

TESTIMONY TO SENATE FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE

(By Newt Gingrich)

Chairman Biden, Ranking Member Lugar, and members of the committee: Thank you for allowing me to testify.

This is an extraordinarily important series of hearings on a topic of enormous national importance.

The United States finds itself in a global struggle with the forces of Islamic fascism and their dictatorial allies.

From a fanatic American near Chicago who attempted to buy hand grenades to launch a personal Jihad in a Christmas mall, to 18 Canadians arrested for terrorist plots, to the Scotland Yard disruption of a plot in Britain to destroy ten civilian airliners in one day that if successful would have shattered worldwide confidence in commercial aviation and potentially thrown the world into a deep economic contraction.

We are confronted again and again with a worldwide effort to undermine and defeat the system of law and order which has created more prosperity and more freedom for more people than any previous system.

The threats seem to come in four different forms:

First, from individuals who are often self recruited and randomly inspired through the internet, television and charismatic social and religious friendships.

Second, from organized non state systems of terror of which Al Qaeda, Hezbollah and Hamas are the most famous. Additional groups have sprung up and provide continuity, training, and support for terrorism.

Third, from dictatorships in the Middle East most notably Iran and Syria who have been consistently singled out by the State Department (including in 2006) as the largest funders of state supported terrorism in the world. These dictatorships are investing in more advanced conventional weapons and in chemical and nuclear weapons.

Fourth, from a strange assortment of anti-American dictatorships including North Korea, Venezuela and Cuba.

This coalition of the enemies of freedom has growing power around the world. Its leaders are increasingly bold in their explicit hostility to the United States.

To take just two recent examples: Ahmadinejad of Iran has said "[t]o those who doubt, to those who ask is it possible, or those who do not believe, I say accomplishment of a world without America and Israel is both possible and feasible." He has also said that Israel should be "wiped off the map." Chavez of Venezuela, just last week in a joint appearance with the Iranian leader in Latin America, announced a multi billion dollar fund to help countries willing to fight to end "American imperialism."

Both of these statements were on television and are not subject to misinterpretation.

Similarly there are many web pages and other public statements in which various terrorists have described in great detail their commitment to killing millions of Americans. I described these publicly delivered threats in a speech on the fifth anniversary of 9/11 which I gave at the American Enterprise Institute. The text of this speech is attached as an appendix to this testimony.

These threats might be ignored if it were not for the consistent efforts to acquire nuclear and biological weapons by these enemies of freedom

I first wrote about the extraordinary increase in the threat to our civilization from nuclear weapons in the hands of terrorists in *Window of Opportunity* in 1984. Attached to this testimony is a copy of the relevant pages from this book.

It is not accurate to suggest today that people were not aware of terrorism or were not warning about the threat to America's very survival prior to 9/11.

Many sophisticated observers and professional military and intelligence officers have been issuing these warnings for two decades.

What has been amazing to watch has been the absolute inability of our system of government to analyze the problem and react effectively.

It is this collapse of capacity for effectiveness which is at the heart of our current dilemma.

The United States is now in a decaying mess in Afghanistan and an obviously unacceptable mess in Iraq.

While this language may seem harsh to defenders of the current policy, it is sadly an accurate statement of where we are.

Efforts to think through and solve the problems of Afghanistan and Iraq have to be undertaken in a context of looking at a wider range of challenges to American leadership around the world and potentially to our very survival as a country. These larger challenges are described in my attached presentation entitled "The Real World and The Real War".

With these caveats I want to focus on the challenge of Iraq.

TWO VERY HARD PATHS FORWARD IN IRAQ

America is faced with two very hard paths forward in Iraq.

We can accept defeat and try to rebuild our position in the region while accommodating the painful possibility that these enemies of freedom in Iraq—evil men, vicious murderers, and sadistic inflictors of atrocities will have defeated both the millions of Iraqis who voted for legal self government and the American people and their government.

Alternatively we can insist on defeating the enemies of America and the enemies of the Iraqi people and can develop the strategies and the implementation mechanisms necessary to force victory despite the incompetence of the Iraqi government, the unreliability of Iraqi leaders, and the interference of Syria and Iran on behalf of our enemies.

Both these paths are hard. Both involve great risk. Both have unknowable difficulties and will produce surprise events.

Both will be complicated.

Yet either is preferable to continuing to accept an ineffective American implementation system while relying on the hope that the Iraqi system can be made to work in the next six months.

THE INHERENT CONFUSION IN THE CURRENT STRATEGY

There are three fundamental weaknesses in the current strategy.

First, the strategy relies on the Iraqis somehow magically improving their performance in a very short time period. Yet the argument for staying in Iraq is that it is a vital AMERICAN interest. If we are seeking victory in Iraq because it is vital to America then we need a strategy which will win even if our Iraqi allies are inadequate. We did not rely on the Free French to defeat Nazi Germany. We did not rely on the South Koreans to stop North Korea and China during the Korean War. When it mattered to American vital interests we accepted all the help we could get but we made sure we had enough strength to win on our own if need be.

President Bush has asserted that Iraq is a vital American interest. In January 2007 alone he has said the following things:

But if we do not succeed in Iraq, we will leave behind a Middle East which will endanger America in the future.

[F]ailure in one part of the world could lead to disaster here at home. It's important for our citizens to understand that as tempting as it might be, to understand the consequences of leaving before the job is done, radical Islamic extremists would grow in strength. They would be emboldened. It would make it easier to recruit for their cause. They would be in a position to do that which they have said they want to do, which is to topple moderate governments, to spread their radical vision across an important region of the world.

If we were to leave before the job is done, if we were to fail in Iraq, Iran would be emboldened in its pursuit of nuclear weapons. Our enemies would have safe havens from which to launch attacks. People would look back at this moment in history and say, what happened to them in America? How come they couldn't see the threats to a future generation?

The consequences of failure are clear: Radical Islamic extremists would grow in strength and gain new recruits. They would be in a better position to topple moderate governments, create chaos in the region, and use oil revenues to fund their ambitions. Iran would be emboldened in its pursuit of nuclear weapons. Our enemies would have a safe haven from which to plan and launch attacks on the American people. On September 11th, 2001, we saw what a refuge for extremists on the other side of the world could bring to the streets of our own cities. For the safety of our people, America must succeed in Iraq.

Iraq is a central component of defeating the extremists who want to establish safe haven in the Middle East, extremists who would use their safe haven from which to attack the United States, extremists and radicals who have stated that they want to topple moderate governments in order to be able to achieve assets necessary to effect their dream of spreading their totalitarian ideology as far and wide as possible.

This is really the calling of our time, that is, to defeat these extremists and radicals, and Iraq is a component part, an important part of laying the foundation for peace.

The inherent contradiction in the administration strategy is simple. If Iraq matters as much as the President says it does (and here I agree with the President on the supreme importance of victory) then the United States must not design and rely on a strategy which relies on the Iraqis to win.

On the other hand if the war is so unimportant that the fate of Iraq can be allowed to rest with the efforts of a new, weak, untested and inexperienced government then why are we risking American lives.

Both propositions cannot be true.

I accept the President's analysis of the importance of winning in Iraq and therefore I am compelled to propose that his recently announced strategy is inadequate.

The second weakness is that the current strategy debate once again focuses too much on the military and too little on everything that has not been working. The one instrument that has been reasonably competent is the combat element of American military power. That is a very narrow definition and should not be expanded to include the non-combat elements of the Department of Defense which also have a lot of difficulties in performing adequately.

The great failures in the Iraq and Afghanistan campaigns have been in non-combat power. Intelligence, diplomacy, economic aid, information operations, support from the civilian elements of national power. These have been the great centers of failure

in America's recent conflicts. They are a major reason we have done so badly in Iraq. The gap between the President's recent proposals and the required rethinking and transforming of our non-combat instruments of power is simply breathtaking.

No military leader I have talked with believes military force is adequate to win in Iraq. Every one of them insists that the civilian instruments of power are more important than the combat elements. They all assert that they can hold the line for a while with force but that holding the line will ultimately fail if we are not using that time to achieve progress in nonmilitary areas.

This failure of the non-combat bureaucracies cannot be solved in Iraq. The heart of the problem is in Washington and that brings us to the third weakness in the current strategy.

The third weakness in the current strategy is its inability to impose war-time decision-making and accountability in Washington.

The interagency process is hopelessly broken.

This is not a new phenomenon. I first wrote about it in 1984 in *Window of Opportunity* when I asserted:

[W]e must decide what sort of executive-branch planning and implementation system are desirable.

At a minimum, we will need closer relationships between the intelligence agencies, the diplomatic agencies, the economic agencies, the military agencies, the news media and the political structure. There has to be a synergism in which our assessment of what is happening relates to our policies as they are developed and implemented. Both analyses and implementation must be related to the new media and political system because all basic policies must have public support if they are to succeed.

Finally, once the professionals have mastered their professions and have begun to work in systems that are effective and coordinated, those professionals must teach both the news media and the elected politicians. No free society can for long accept the level of ignorance about war, history, and the nature of power which has become the norm for our news media and our elected politicians. An ignorant society is on its way to becoming an extinct society.

In 1991 my concern for replacing the broken interagency system with an integrated system of effective coordination was heightened when General Max Thurmond who had planned and led the liberation of Panama told me unequivocally that the interagency process was broken.

In 1995 that process was reinforced when General Hartzog described the failures of the interagency in trying to deal with Haiti.

As early as 2002 it was clear that the interagency had broken down in Afghanistan and I gave a very strong speech in May 2003 at the American Enterprise Institute criticizing the process.

By the summer of 2003 it was clear the interagency was failing in Iraq and by September and October 2003 we were getting consistent reports from the field of the gap between the capability of the combat forces and the failure of the civilian systems.

No senior officer in the Defense Department doubts that the current interagency cannot work at the speed of modern war. They will not engage in a fight with the National Security Council or the State Department or the various civilian agencies which fail to do their job. But in private they will assert over and over again that the interagency system is hopelessly broken.

It was very disappointing to have the President focus so much on 21,500 more military personnel and so little on the reforms needed in all the other elements of the executive branch.

The proposals for winning in Iraq outlined below follow from this analysis.

KEY STEPS TO VICTORY IN IRAQ

1. Place General Petraeus in charge of the Iraq campaign and establish that the Ambassador is operating in support of the military commander.

2. Since General Petraeus will now have responsibility for victory in Iraq all elements of achieving victory are within his purview and he should report daily to the White House on anything significant which is not working or is needed

3. Create a deputy chief of staff to the President and appoint a retired four star general or admiral to manage Iraq implementation for the Commander in Chief on a daily basis.

4. Establish that the second briefing (after the daily intelligence brief) the President will get every day is from his deputy chief of staff for Iraq implementation.

5. Establish a War Cabinet which will meet once a week to review metrics of implementation and resolve failures and enforce decisions. The President should chair the War Cabinet personally and his deputy chief of staff for Iraq implementation should prepare the agenda for the weekly review and meeting.

6. Establish three plans: one for achieving victory with the help of the Iraqi government, one for achieving victory with the passive acquiescence of the Iraqi government, one for achieving victory even if the current Iraqi government is unhappy. The third plan may involve very significant shifts in troops and resources away from Baghdad and a process of allowing the Iraqi central government to fend for itself if it refuses to cooperate.

7. Communicate clearly to Syria and Iran that the United States is determined to win in Iraq and that any further interference (such as the recent reports of sophisticated Iranian explosives being sent to Iraq to target Americans) will lead to direct and aggressive countermeasures.

8. Pour as many intelligence assets into the fight as needed to develop an overwhelming advantage in intelligence preparation of the battlefield.

9. Develop a commander's capacity to spend money on local activities sufficient to enable every local American commander to have substantial leverage in dealing with local communities.

10. Establish a jobs corps or civil conservation corps of sufficient scale to bring unemployment for males under 30 below 10 percent (see the attached oped by Mayor Giuliani and myself on this topic).

11. Expand dramatically the integration of American purchasing power in buying from Iraqi firms pioneered by Assistant Secretary Paul Brinkley to maximize the rate of recovery of the Iraqi economy.

12. Expand the American Army and Marine Corps as much as needed to sustain the fights in Iraq and Afghanistan while also being prepared for other contingencies and maintaining a sustainable rhythm for the families and the force.

13. Demand a war budget for recapitalization of the military to continue modernization while defeating our enemies. The current national security budget is lower as a percentage of the economy than at any time from Pearl Harbor through the end of the Cold War. It is less than half the level Truman sustained before the Korean War.

14. The State Department is too small, too undercapitalized and too untrained for the demands of the 21st century. There should be a 50 percent increase in the State Department budget and a profound rethinking of the culture and systems of the State Depart-

ment so it can be an operationally effective system.

15. The Agency for International Development is hopelessly unsuited to the new requirements of economic assistance and development and should be rethought from the ground up. The Marshall Plan and Point Four were as important as NATO in containing the Soviet Empire. We do not have that capability today.

16. The President should issue executive orders where possible to reform the implementation system so it works with the speed and effectiveness required by the 21st century.

17. Where legislation is needed the President should collaborate with Congress in honestly reviewing the systems that are failing and developing new metrics, new structures and new strategies.

18. Under our Constitution it is impossible to have this scale of rethinking and reform without deep support from the legislative branch. Without Republican Senator Arthur Vandenburg, Democratic President Harry Truman could never have developed the containment policies that saved freedom and ultimately defeated the Soviet Empire. The President should ask the bipartisan leaders of Congress to cooperate in establishing a joint Legislative-Executive working group on winning the war and should openly brief the legislative branch on the problems which are weakening the American system abroad. Only by educating and informing the Congress can we achieve the level of mutual understanding and mutual commitment that this long hard task will require.

Thank you for this opportunity to share these proposals.

HONORING FORT WORTH HISPANIC CHAMBER OF COMMERCE PRESIDENT ROSA NAVEJAR

HON. KAY GRANGER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 7, 2007

Ms. GRANGER. Madam Speaker, today I'm honored to recognize the accomplishments of Rosa Navejar, winner of the 2006 Coors Hispanic Leader of the Year Award.

This wonderful award goes to a good woman who has had a great career. Thirty years ago, Rosa Navejar's professional journey began in the banking industry where her command of Spanish and her commitment to all customers set her apart. She always viewed her work as not just a job but as a mission. Throughout her career, she took time to mentor young people many of whom are now leaders themselves.

In 2001, Rosa left banking to make history as the first female Hispanic to lead the Fort Worth Hispanic Chamber of Commerce. She helped revitalize and reshape the Chamber as a force for good throughout the community. Under her leadership, the Fort Worth Hispanic Chamber has grown in size and influence. Perhaps the greatest example of this is the Hispanic Leadership Development Course. This unique program trains today the Hispanic leaders of tomorrow.

In life, there are those who seek to make a profit. And then there are people like Rosa Navejar: those who seek to make a difference. Thanks to her life, legacy and leadership, our community is stronger, better and more united than ever before.

Rosa Navejar truly represents the spirit of engagement, passion and success.

I congratulate my friend Rosa for this award. And I thank her for her efforts.

IN HONOR OF D. WAYNE HOLDEN & SHERMAN L. TOWNSEND

HON. MICHAEL N. CASTLE

OF DELAWARE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 7, 2007

Mr. CASTLE. Madam Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to recognize Mr. D. Wayne Holden and Mr. Sherman L. Townsend for their distinguished contributions to my home state of Delaware. In 2001, the Delaware Community Foundation established an award, now known as the Allen Cup Award, in order to honor the achievements of philanthropic leaders that possess the vision and drive to affect meaningful change throughout Delaware, and more specifically in the central and southern regions of my home state. I cannot think of two more deserving recipients.

Wayne Holden, a Dover, Delaware native, has always been deeply passionate about improving his community. Many of his philanthropic projects are carried out through The Thank You Fund, a donor-advised fund that he and his wife, Betsy, started through the Delaware Community Foundation (DCF). The Holdens are responsible for supporting numerous charitable organizations ranging from the Nature Conservancy to the DCF Youth Philanthropy Board.

Wayne has also played a pivotal role in preserving the quality of Delaware's communities. At a time when the Schwartz Center for the Arts and the Dover Art League experienced serious financial instability, Wayne donated his own leadership skills and financial resources in order to save these organizations. Through his work as First Vice President at Merrill Lynch in Dover, Wayne has been able to inspire others to create charitable legacies and thus furthered his own philanthropic mission of improving Delaware.

Sherman Townsend, has worked alongside Wayne on the Board of the Delaware Community Foundation and also in business as the First Vice President for Investment at Merrill Lynch. Throughout his many endeavors, Sherman has been successful at building a legacy of leadership and charity within his community. As an active board member of the DCF since 1986, he has helped the foundation grow and flourish. His noble efforts have secured \$2 million grants, established a \$3.3 million endowment and lead to partnerships with organizations such as the United Way.

Sherman's philanthropic spirit shines brightly in all aspects of his life. In addition to advising and helping his clients build charitable legacies, he and his family have established a fund which supports many important organizations such as, the Children's Beach House, Meals on Wheels, and the Bayhealth Foundation. Sherman has further demonstrated his dedication to the community through his involvement on the University of Delaware Board of Trustees, paying particular attention to the development of scholarships for students and the School of Nursing.

I could speak for hours and still not do these two men justice. Their contributions will

have a lasting impact upon our state and I am truly grateful for all they have done. I cannot think of two men more fit to receive the Allen Cup Award. I wish the Delaware Community Foundation warm wishes as they bestow this honor upon such deserving recipients.

INTRODUCTION OF THE OGLALA SIOUX TRIBE ANGSTURA IRRIGATION PROJECT REHABILITATION AND DEVELOPMENT ACT

HON. STEPHANIE HERSETH

OF SOUTH DAKOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 7, 2007

Ms. HERSETH. Madam Speaker, today I am pleased to introduce the Oglala Sioux Tribe Angostura Irrigation Project Rehabilitation and Development Act. This legislation authorizes much-needed efficiency improvements to the irrigation facilities at the Angostura Unit, a Federal Bureau of Reclamation dam on the Cheyenne River in South Dakota. These improvements will restore critical water resources and promote economic development on the nearby Pine Ridge Indian Reservation.

This bill provides important resources to the citizens of South Dakota and the Lakota people of the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation. It authorizes funds to carry out the Bureau of Reclamation's recommended improvements to the irrigation facilities at the Angostura dam. The dam provides substantial economic benefits to many South Dakotans. It provides irrigation to 12,218 acres of land which benefits ranchers and agricultural producers in the area, and it supports an important recreational boating and fishing industry which is enjoyed by many of our citizens.

Until now, however, the Angostura dam has failed to provide any of these economic benefits to the members of the Oglala Sioux Tribe who live just 20 miles downstream of the dam on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation. The Oglala Sioux Tribe has long relied on the resources provided by the Cheyenne River, which forms part of the northern boundary of its reservation. Long before the dam was constructed as part of the Pick-Sloan Missouri River Basin Project, the tribe relied on the river as an important economic resource. Since it was completed, however, the dam has taken an enormous toll on the tribe. The dam curbed the Cheyenne River's natural flow, reducing water quality on the reservation, diminishing natural riparian habitats, adversely impacting fish and wildlife and forcing important tribal agricultural enterprises to shut their doors.

The bill implements the Bureau of Reclamation's preferred alternative in its revised water management plan for the Angostura Unit, which calls for improved efficiencies in irrigation operations that will free up additional water resources for both existing water users and the tribe. In addition, the legislation would authorize the creation of a trust fund to compensate the tribe for the devastating economic impacts and loss of natural resources caused by the operation of the dam. The fund will be used to promote economic and infrastructure development on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation and enhance the education, health

and general welfare of the Oglala Lakota people.

I hope that my distinguished colleagues will take up and pass this legislation quickly. It will allow all of us in South Dakota to better use our natural resources, while keeping our solemn commitment to deal fairly and honorably with the Oglala Sioux Tribe and the Lakota people of the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation. I ask for your help and support in moving it forward.

McCLATCHY COMPANY SESQUICENTENNIAL ANNIVERSARY

HON. DORIS O. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 7, 2007

Ms. MATSUI. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the McClatchy Company's 150 years of journalism in Sacramento. On this date in 1857, the first issue of the Daily Bee was published in Sacramento marking the historic establishment of what is now the second largest newspaper company in the United States. Headquartered in Sacramento, the McClatchy Company and the Sacramento Bee have earned a legacy of providing reliable news for Sacramentans and the nation.

The rise of the McClatchy Company began with founding editor James McClatchy who moved west from New York during the height of the Gold Rush. The company's newspapers would be owned and operated by McClatchy family members for the next 130 years. James McClatchy helped craft the company's values of quality journalism, free expression and community service.

The Sacramento Bee was one of the first newspapers on the West Coast. In the newspaper's first editorial, McClatchy explained the name of the newspaper: "The name of The Bee has been adopted as being different from that of any other paper in the state and as also being emblematic of the industry which is to prevail in its every department." Over the years, the McClatchy Company expanded on that name and characterization by establishing the Fresno Bee in 1922 and acquiring the Modesto Bee in 1927.

In recent times, the McClatchy Company has continued to expand its portfolio. In 2006, it acquired 32 daily newspapers when it purchased Knight Ridder. Today, the McClatchy Company is the second largest newspaper company in the United States and publishes 32 newspapers in 16 different states with unparalleled market success. These achievements were evident in 1999, when the McClatchy Company revenues exceeded \$1 billion. By 2004, the McClatchy Company entered its 20th consecutive year of daily circulation growth, an achievement unmatched by any other newspaper company in the United States.

Throughout the decades, the McClatchy Company newspapers have been honored for their journalistic integrity through numerous awards. McClatchy's flagship newspaper, the Sacramento Bee, has earned numerous distinctions, including Pulitzer prizes for Editorial writing, Beat Reporting and twice for the Public Service Gold Medal.

Madam Speaker, I am honored to pay tribute to the McClatchy Company for its distin-

guished commitment to journalistic integrity and success throughout the years. As the McClatchy Company's colleagues and friends gather to honor their 150th anniversary, I ask all my colleagues to join me in wishing them continued prosperity.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO WHMI RADIO, HOWELL, MI, ON ITS 50TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 7, 2007

Mr. ROGERS of Michigan. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor the accomplishments of WHMI radio in Howell, Michigan, on the occasion of the station's 50th anniversary celebration scheduled for one week from today, on February 14, 2007.

Serving Livingston County since Valentine's Day, February 14, 1957, WHMI has grown through the past five decades into a modern broadcast station serving the fastest-growing county in Michigan.

Awards for broadcast excellence and community service fill a wall at the station's state-of-the-art facility, exhibiting innumerable testimonies to the commitment of WHMI and its service to its community, listeners, and supporters.

Today, under the ownership of Greg and Marcia Jablonski, WHMI broadcasts a classic rock hits format with local news, sports, traffic, and weather via a signal that covers all of Livingston County and reaching into the outskirts of the Detroit, Ann Arbor, Flint and Lansing markets.

When the station was launched in 1957, the Valentine's Day start-up was very fitting as the call letters, WHMI, stand for "Heart of Michigan." The theme was drawn from an advertising campaign of the late 1950s that promoted Livingston County as a good place to live. WHMI has grown with the community and today reflects the pulse of Livingston County life. Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring WHMI's 50th anniversary and in recognizing the station's contributions to the community it serves. The station, its owners and its staff are truly deserving of our respect and admiration.

INTRODUCTION OF THE STUDENT LOAN SUNSHINE ACT OF 2007

HON. GEORGE MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 7, 2007

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Madam Speaker, I rise to introduce the Student Loan Sunshine Act of 2007, a bill that aims to protect students and families from the predatory practices of unethical student loan lenders.

This comes on the heels of an announcement made last week by the Attorney General of New York, expanding an ongoing investigation into the activities of lenders and their relationships with colleges and universities across the country.

The allegations are quite troubling and are worthy of the attention of every state as well

as the Federal government in the interest of protecting students and limited taxpayer funds.

At issue here, Mr. Speaker, is the practice of lenders buying their way into colleges and universities through excessive "inducements," or what some might term bribery.

Over the last year stories have surfaced with lenders offering exotic vacations to employees of colleges as well as offering to run student aid offices during high volume times.

These activities often result in lenders securing a coveted place on a college's "preferred lender list."

While some may see this as not so troubling or not the business of government, I beg to differ. When these activities directly result in limited options for students and families in deciding how to pay for college, I believe it is not only our business but our responsibility to do something.

Preferred lender lists are, for the most part, a non-issue with some colleges and universities. These institutions have indeed done the work of looking for the best deal in the interest of students and families and can justify why lenders have a place on their preferred lender list.

But this is the exception rather than the rule. Entry into a school's preferred lender list means more than just having a coveted spot and a near guarantee of business, it means there are opportunities for lenders to prey on students and families and offer them private loans.

This problem is exacerbated by the fact that students are taking out loans in record number and doing so before having exhausted all of their options with federal student loans.

Why is this a problem? Private loans carry interest rates as high as 19 percent—compared to federal loans that are offered at 6.8 percent.

Something must be done about the practices by lenders to limit choice for students as well as encourage students to take out high-interest and risky private loans before exhausting all of their borrowing options through the federal programs.

To begin the process of addressing this, I join my colleagues from the Education and Labor Committee, RUBEN HINOJOSA, TIM BISHOP, JOE COURTNEY and JOHN YARMUTH in introducing the Student Loan Sunshine Act. The legislation: Requires full disclosure of special arrangements that lenders and institutions of higher education have to offer loan products at the institution; Bans lenders from offering gifts worth more than \$10 to college employees, including travel, lodging, entertainment, and in-kind services that lenders provide to college financial aid offices; Requires full disclosure of the reasons why an institution of higher education has selected a lender for its "preferred lender" list, including any special arrangements the lender has with the school; Encourages borrowers to maximize their borrowing through the government's loan programs before taking out alternative loans and direct-to-consumer loans with higher interest rates.

The legislation has also been introduced by Senators EDWARD KENNEDY and RICHARD DURBIN in the Senate.

It is clear that we need to take steps to address the complex activities of lenders and their relationships with institutions. The Student Loan Sunshine Act is a necessary first step in starting the dialogue at the national level.

HONORING CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 7, 2007

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, the theme of the 33rd annual Catholic Schools Week is "Good News in Education," and there is much good news to share. There are over 7500 Catholic schools nationwide educating over 2 million students. Catholic high schools have an impressive graduation rate, with 97 percent of students going to college. Chicago boasts the second largest Catholic school system in the country, with 102,000 students and 5,400 teachers in 258 schools. In Chicago, as in other urban areas, Catholic schools play an important role in providing quality academic training to children and youth.

Yet, Catholic schools do more than educate, they emphasize discipline and service—two critical elements to raising responsible youth. In a society where many individuals place primacy on their personal needs, Catholic schools focus on preparing students to contribute to society by considering the needs of others. The close involvement of parents, a cornerstone of Catholic education, makes clear that education is not something that occurs only within the school house.

From Chicago to across this nation, Catholic schools have provided education and service to those who have been traditionally left behind in our society. They have taken in poor and neglected children and released to the nation leaders and champions. For this I want to commend the Catholic school system in America. It is a beacon of hope to neighborhoods and communities throughout the nation.

Catholic schools, however, like all other components of education, Madam Speaker, are facing difficult times. I would hope that as the year goes on and as we discuss and debate education, we commit to putting as many resources into education as we possibly can, ensuring the vitality of the institution, knowing that the investment secures the success of the future generations.

So I graciously thank our teachers, counselors, nuns, and priests in our Catholic schools for their years of dedicated service. I offer heartfelt appreciation for their enormous dedication to our nation's children, and I urge them to continue to strive for excellence as they prepare our young people's hearts and minds to lead the nation.

Again, I salute the Catholic schools for their outstanding contributions, and I would like to recite for the record those in my district, which are as follows:

Chicago Jesuit Academy, Divine Infant Jesus School, Divine Providence School, St. Bernardine School, St. Edmund School, St. Jerome School, St. Stanislaus Kostka, St. Elizabeth School, St. Helen School, Children of Peace School, Santa Lucia School, St. Pius V School, St. Therese School, Visitation School, St. Domitilla School, Ascension School, St. Giles School, St. Luke School.

St. Vincent Ferrer School, Old St. Mary's, St. Angela School, St. Malachy School, St. Nicholas Cathedral, San Miguel-Corner Campus, Frances Xavier Warde, Our Lady of the Westside, St. Catherine/St. Lucy, Immaculate Conception School, Archbishop Quigley Pre-

paratory, Fenwick High School, Holy Trinity High School, St. Ignatius College Prep., St. Joseph High School, Trinity High School.

TRIBUTE ON THE RETIREMENT OF JUDGE DIANE KARPINSKI

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 7, 2007

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Judge Diane Karpinski of Ohio's 8th District Court of Appeals who is retiring after a long and illustrious career. Actually, Judge Karpinski has had two careers. After earning both bachelor's and master's degrees in English from Ohio State University, she taught for 19 years, first at Ohio State and later at Cleveland State University. Then, upon graduation from Cleveland-Marshall College of Law in 1980, Judge Karpinski worked for thirteen years as an Assistant Attorney General for the State of Ohio, trying more than 1600 cases at the trial level and practicing extensively in the appellate courts of five different districts in northern Ohio and at the Ohio Supreme Court. She was elected in 1995 to a six-year term as judge in the Court of Appeals of the 8th District of Ohio and subsequently re-elected to a second term. She was appointed as a visiting judge on the Ohio Supreme Court for a series of significant cases on automatic license suspension.

Judge Karpinski has demonstrated a strong commitment to her professions, first as a teacher and also as an attorney. Active in the Cuyahoga County Bar Association, she served on its Certified Grievance and the Court of Appeals Committees. Since 1998 she has been a Trustee of the Cuyahoga Bar. She is also a member of the Cleveland Bar Appellate Court Committee. In 2001, she was the first to chair a new committee of the Ohio State Bar Association: On the Independent Judiciary and Unjust Criticism of Judges. Because of her dual professions, she is often invited to lecture on appellate writing.

Judge Karpinski values her community and her Polish ethnic heritage. With her two sisters, Mercedes Spotts and Gloria Joy Battisti, she was a founding trustee of the East Side Catholic Shelter for the Homeless. For years she has sung in Our Lady of Peace Church Choir, and for one summer was its interim organist. After studying Polish at the Alliance of Poles for three years, she joined a team of teachers who traveled to Gdansk to teach English in the summer of 1993. Continuing her mother's interest in ethnic affairs, especially in the Cleveland Cultural Garden Federation, Judge Karpinski volunteered her services as its counsel. She was a long-time member of the American Polish Women's Club, has chaired the Budget and By-Laws Committees at Alliance of Poles Conventions, and served as Treasurer of Group 88 of the Polish Women's Alliance. For two years she was a judge for the Polonia Foundation Scholarship Committee and currently is a member of the Foundation Board.

Madam Speaker and colleagues, please join me in recognizing the great accomplishments of Judge Diane Karpinski and her tremendous commitment to the people of Northeast Ohio. Let us wish her tremendous success in her

upcoming third career as retired citizen, where she is sure to continue serving the people with energy, distinction, and talent.

SUPPORTING THE GOALS AND IDEALS OF NATIONAL BLACK HIV/AIDS AWARENESS DAY

SPEECH OF

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 5, 2007

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in support of H. Con. Res. 35—Supporting the goals and ideals of National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day. While we do not yet have a cure, and HIV/AIDS continues to consume the lives of Black people, their values and their worth here in the United States and in other parts of the world, we know Black AIDS Day can help to mobilize our communities to help shift and turn this epidemic around.

In the past decades and sadly still today, HIV infection rates continue to escalate at an alarming pace among Black men and women as shown by reports year after year. Although Blacks make up around 13 percent of the population of the United States, they represent 49 percent of the total AIDS cases reported in this country, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Sixty-four percent of all American women living with HIV/AIDS are black, and this disease has become the leading cause of death for black women ages 25 to 34. Every day, 72 African Americans are infected with HIV in the U.S.

While poverty plays a role and access to health care and lack of information are factors, we cannot deny that the main reason for this plague is the silence, the closed-mouth social conservatism, of a people still ill at ease discussing sexuality, homosexuality, drug use and other realities. Instead, we mouth piety, prayers and platitudes.

We now recognize National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day, as declared six years ago by the Community Capacity Building Coalition, an affiliate of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and we cannot remain still. We must work together to ensure that programs for prevention remain adequately funded and that programs such as Ryan White CARE Act can be used for early detection of HIV so we can use all tools available to us to fight this epidemic. Everyone should be encouraged to get tested for HIV, learn more about the disease and how it is transmitted, seek medical advice if infected, and become involved in local community efforts to educate people and fight this disease.

It is also important that Blacks are at the forefront of clinical research to achieve culturally appropriate results for treatment in our communities. Some of the biggest challenges we face, particularly in the Black community today are the misperceptions of and lack of knowledge about HIV/AIDS, and fear related to clinical research.

I encourage my colleagues in the Congressional Black Caucus and the rest of Congress to stay committed in their effort in whatever way possible to combat this epidemic which has taken too many lives, too early, and unnecessarily.

INTRODUCTION OF ROCKY FLATS SPECIAL EXPOSURE COHORT ACT

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 7, 2007

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Madam Speaker, I am today again introducing a bill to make it more likely that red tape and missing documents will not frustrate Congress's attempt to provide compensation and care for some nuclear-weapons workers made sick by on-the-job exposure to radiation.

The bill is cosponsored by my colleague from Colorado, Mr. PERLMUTTER. I appreciate his support and that of Senator KEN SALAZAR, who is introducing a similar bill in the Senate.

The bill would revise the part of the Energy Employees Occupational Injury Compensation Act ("the Act") that specifies which covered workers are part of what the law designates as the "Special Exposure Cohort."

The revision would extend this "special exposure cohort" status to Department of Energy employees, Department of Energy contractor employees, or atomic weapons employees—all terms defined by the current law—who worked at the Rocky Flats site, in Colorado, for at least 250 days prior to January 1, 2006.

The result would be to help provide the Act's benefits to any of those workers who contracted a radiation-linked cancer specified in the Act after beginning employment at Rocky Flats.

As the law now stands, before a Rocky Flats worker suffering from a covered cancer can receive benefits, it must be established that the cancer is as likely as not to have resulted from on-the-job exposure to radiation.

That sounds like a reasonable requirement—and it would be appropriate for Rocky Flats if we had adequate documentation of radiation exposures for the years when it was producing nuclear-weapons components as well as for the more recent time when DOE and its contractors have been working to clean it up and prepare it for closure.

However, in fact there were serious shortcomings in the monitoring of Rocky Flats workers' radiation exposures and in the necessary recordkeeping—to say nothing of the slowness of the current administrative process for making the required determinations concerning links between exposure and employment.

So there is a risk that a significant number of Rocky Flats workers who should be able to benefit from the Act will not obtain its benefits in a timely manner or will be denied them entirely.

The bill would prevent this miscarriage of justice, by recognizing that Rocky Flats workers have been plagued by the same kinds of administrative problems that entangled workers at some other locations—administrative problems that were addressed through inclusion in the Act of the provisions related to the "Special Exposure Cohort."

My understating of the need for this bill came from meeting with Rocky Flats workers and their representatives and by consulting experts. I have particularly benefited from the great experience and expertise of Dr. Robert Bistline. Dr. Bistline has served as Program Manager of the Energy Department's Oversight of Radiation Protection Program at the

Rocky Flats field office and has few if any peers in terms of his understanding of the problems addressed by the bill.

In particular, the bill reflects these aspects of Rocky Flats history—

Many worker exposures were unmonitored over the plant's history. For some, estimated doses were assigned, and radiation exposures for many others are missing. As a result, there are at best incomplete records and many inaccuracies in the exposure records that do exist.

No lung counter for detecting and measuring plutonium and americium in the lungs existed at Rocky Flats until the late 1960s. Without this equipment the very insoluble oxide forms of plutonium cannot be detected and a large number of workers had inhalation exposures that went undetected and unmeasured.

Exposure to neutron radiation was not monitored until the late 1950s and most of those measurements through 1970 have been found to be in error. In some areas of the plant the neutron doses were as much as 2 to 10 times as great as the gamma doses received by workers but only gamma doses were recorded.

As a result of these and other shortcomings, some Rocky Flats workers have been denied compensation under the Act despite having worked with tons of plutonium and having known exposures leading to serious health effects.

Since early in my tenure in Congress I have worked to make good on promises of a fairer deal for the nuclear-weapons workers who helped America win the Cold War. That was why enactment and improvement of the compensation Act has been one of my top priorities. I saw this as a very important matter for our country—and especially for many Coloradans because our state is home to the Rocky Flats site, which for decades was a key part of the nuclear-weapons complex.

Now the site's military mission has ended and the last of the Rocky Flats workers have completed the job of cleaning it up for closure. And just as they worked to take care of the site, we in Congress need to take care of them and the others who worked there in the past.

That was the purpose of the compensation act. I am very proud that I was able to help achieve its enactment, but I am also aware that it is not perfect. The bill being introduced today will not remedy all the shortcomings of the current law, but it will make it better.

For the benefit of our colleague, I am attaching an outline of the bill's provisions.

OUTLINE OF ROCKY FLATS SPECIAL COHORT BILL

Section 1: Short Title, Findings, and Purpose

Subsection (a) provides a short title, "Rocky Flats Special Cohort Act."

Subsection (b) sets forth several findings regarding the need for the legislation.

Subsection (c) states the bill's purpose: "to revise the Energy Employees Occupational Illness Compensation Act of 2000 to include certain past Rocky Flats workers as members of the special exposure cohort."

Section 2: Definition of Member of Special Exposure Cohort

Subsection (a) amends section 3621(14) of the Energy Employees Occupational Injury Compensation Act (EEOICPA). The effect of the amendment is to provide that a person

employed by the Department of Energy or any of its contractors for an aggregate of at least 250 work days at Rocky Flats before January 1, 2006 would be a "member of the Special Exposure Cohort." Under EEOICPA, a member of the special exposure cohort suffering from one of the cancers specified in the Act is covered by the Act if the cancer was contracted after the person began employment at a covered facility.

Subsection (b) provides that someone employed by the Energy Department or any of its contractors for an aggregate of at least 250 work days at Rocky Flats before January 1, 2006 may apply for compensation or benefits under EEOICPA even if the person had previously been denied compensation or benefits under the Act. This is to make clear that the subsection (a)'s change in the law will apply to people who had applied previously.

COMMISSION TO STUDY THE POTENTIAL CREATION OF THE NATIONAL MUSEUM OF THE AMERICAN LATINO ACT OF 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. SILVESTRE REYES

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 6, 2007

Mr. REYES. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 512, a bill introduced by my good friend, Rep. XAVIER BECERRA (D-CA), expressing Congressional support for the establishment of a commission to study the potential creation of a National Museum of the American Latino.

As a Hispanic American and a former chair of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus, I know the importance of creating a museum to honor and preserve the history of Latino Americans. We need to celebrate the diverse history, art, music, and literature of the Latino culture. We also need to make strides in increasing public awareness of the important contributions that Latino Americans have made in the United States. The establishment of this commission and subsequent museum would be an important step towards reaching this goal.

Mr. Speaker, as you are well aware, according to the United States Census Bureau, Hispanic Americans constitute fourteen percent of the total United States population and are the largest growing minority with a current population of 41.3 million Americans. In fact, the 16th Congressional District of El Paso, Texas is eighty-two percent Hispanic American. El Pasoans have a rich history which contributes to the tapestry of American culture.

The establishment of a National Museum of the American Latino is important to my constituents and Hispanics across the nation.

Mr. Speaker, I ask all my colleagues to join me in supporting this important bill.

CONGRATULATING LORRAINE C. MILLER ON HER APPOINTMENT AS CLERK TO THE U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 7, 2007

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate

Lorraine Miller on her years of outstanding service and much deserved appointment as Clerk to the U.S. House of Representatives. I have known Lorraine Miller a number of years, and am certain that she will prove to be an outstanding Clerk.

On February 15, 2007, Lorraine Miller will be sworn in as the 35th Clerk of the House, and notably the first African-American Clerk. In this position she will be responsible for the legislative operations of the House floor, the voting system, oversight, and supervision of more than 100 staffers.

A native of Forth Worth, and a fellow Texan, Lorraine Miller began her career with the U.S. House with the office of then Majority Leader, Jim Wright. Following her service with Speaker Wright, she went onto serve on the staffs of Speaker Foley and Congressman JOHN LEWIS. In addition, during the Clinton Administration she served as Deputy Assistant to the President for Legislative Affairs for the House. She has also held high-level positions at the Federal Communications Commission and the Federal Trade Commission. Currently, Lorraine Miller serves as a Senior Advisor to Speaker PELOSI, and president of the Washington D.C. chapter of the NAACP.

Lorraine Miller has dedicated her career to public service and I can think of no one better to serve as Clerk. I am certain that she will serve the House with distinction. The recognition she is receiving is imminently well deserved, and I wish her all the success in the years ahead.

HERMOSA BEACH TURNS 100

HON. JANE HARMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 7, 2007

Ms. HARMAN. Madam Speaker, many congressional districts have fine beaches, but the town of Hermosa Beach in my district is the official birthplace of surfing in California.

Originally purchased in 1900 by the Hermosa Beach Land and Water Company, the area consisted of little more than giant sand dunes and grain fields. It has since developed into a serene beach community with a population of over 18,000 residents, hundreds of shops, fine restaurants and a quiet, laid-back beach atmosphere.

Hermosa Beach celebrates its centennial this year, and will observe this most important milestone with a series of events, including a ribbon cutting-ceremony for the newly expanded Museum of the Hermosa Beach Historical Society; a luncheon in honor of long-time Hermosa Beach residents; a car show displaying automobiles from each decade, and the on-going "100 Acts of Beautification" Project—chaired by Public Works Commissioner and former member of my staff Michael DiVirgilio.

Hermosa Beach is the site of the Surfer's Walk of Fame, where the sport's pioneers and innovators are honored. I am a proud member of the Congressional Surfer Caucus and display my local "Jane's" surfboard in my Washington office. As the Beach Boys sang in 1963, "Catch a wave and you're sitting on top of the world / Don't be afraid to try the greatest sport around."

Jazz music is also a key component of Hermosa Beach's culture. In the 50's and

60's, the Lighthouse Cafe on Pier Avenue was the premier jazz club in the Los Angeles area. It attracted fans and performers from all over the world, including some of the foremost interpreters of the West Coast school of cool jazz like Chet Baker and Gerry Mulligan. The Hermosa Beach Jazz Walk is a living, breathing standing ovation to those legendary artists who enriched the region with their mellow sounds. This historic musical heritage is celebrated each year with the Annual Jazz Stroll Dedication and concert.

But Hermosa Beach is much more than the sum of its remarkable parts, it is also home to many hardworking, talented and conscientious individuals and families. I am thinking of people like the kids from Hermosa Valley School—now college age!—who joined me in Manhattan shortly after 9/11 to present a memorial quilt at the New York Firefighters Museum, or civic leaders like retiring Mayor Sam Edgerton, Councilmember and former Mayor J.R. Revitzsky, the police and firefighters, and so many others whose thoughtful planning and vision have allowed the city to flourish year after year.

It is an honor for me to represent this remarkable coastal community, and a privilege to celebrate 100 years of Hermosa Beach history.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 7, 2007

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Madam Speaker, on Monday, February 5, I was unavoidably detained in Colorado and so was not present for two votes:

Rollcall No. 74, on passage of H. Res. 94—Supporting the goals and ideals of National Consumer Protection Week; had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

Rollcall No. 75, on passage of H. Con. Res. 35—Supporting the goals and ideals of National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day; had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

HAPPY NEW YEAR TO THE ORGANIZATION OF CHINESE AMERICANS

HON. JASON ALTMIRE

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 7, 2007

Mr. ALTMIRE. Madam Speaker, I would like to wish the membership of the Organization of Chinese Americans a healthy and happy New Year for the year 4705, the year of the pig.

The New Year is a time for reflection and thanksgiving for the joys of life and loved ones and I am thankful for the richness that this organization brings to my region. Chinese Americans have made great contributions to western Pennsylvania and to our Nation as a whole and I am honored for this opportunity to wish them a wonderful year in 4705.

I ask my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives to join me in wishing the members of the Organization of Chinese Americans a very happy and prosperous New year.

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, February 8, 2007 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

FEBRUARY 9

9:30 a.m.

Armed Services

To receive a briefing on the Department of Defense Inspector General's report on the activities of the Office of Special Plans prior to the war in Iraq; to be followed by a closed session in SR-232A.

SR-222

FEBRUARY 12

2:30 p.m.

Energy and Natural Resources
Energy Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine recommendations on policies and programs to improve the energy efficiency of buildings and to expand the role of electric and gas utilities in energy efficiency programs.

SD-366

FEBRUARY 13

9:45 a.m.

Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry

To hold hearings to examine challenges and opportunities relating to rural development.

SR-328A

10 a.m.

Budget

To hold hearings to examine the President's Fiscal Year 2008 budgetary proposals for the Department of Health and Human Services.

SD-608

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

Environment and Public Works

To hold hearings to review and report the recommendations of the United States Climate Action Partnership Report.

SD-406

Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

To hold hearings to examine The Healthy Families Act, focusing on safeguarding Americans' livelihood, families and health with paid sick days.

SD-430

Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

To hold hearings to examine the Homeland Security Department's budget request for Fiscal Year 2008.

SD-342

Appropriations

Interior and Related Agencies Subcommittee

To hold oversight hearings to examine the Outer Continental Shelf oil and natural gas royalty management by the Department of the Interior.

SD-124

Small Business and Entrepreneurship

To hold hearings to examine alternatives for easing small business health care costs.

SR-428A

FEBRUARY 14

10 a.m.

Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs

To hold hearings to examine the semi-annual monetary policy report to the Congress.

SD-106

Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

Business meeting to consider Mental Health Parity Act of 2007, Head Start for School Readiness Act, and any pending nominations.

SD-430

Judiciary

To hold hearings to examine judicial security and independence.

SH-216

Commerce, Science, and Transportation
Trade, Tourism, and Economic Development Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine overseas sweatshop abuses, focusing on their impact on U.S. workers and the need for anti-sweatshop legislation.

SR-253

2:30 p.m.

Commerce, Science, and Transportation
Fisheries and Coast Guard Subcommittee

To hold an oversight hearing to examine recent setbacks to the Coast Guard Deepwater Program.

SR-253

FEBRUARY 15

9:15 a.m.

Foreign Relations

To hold hearings to examine the nominations of Ryan C. Crocker, of Washington, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Iraq, and William B. Wood, of New York, to be Ambassador to the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan.

SD-628

9:30 a.m.

Armed Services

To hold hearings to examine the current and future readiness of the Army and Marine Corps; there is a possibility of a closed session in SR-222 following the open session.

SH-216

Commerce, Science, and Transportation

Aviation Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine the Administration's proposal to reauthorize the Federal Aviation Administration (Part 1).

SR-253

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

10 a.m.

Finance

To hold hearings to examine the Administration trade agenda for 2007.

SD-215

FEBRUARY 28

2:30 p.m.

Commerce, Science, and Transportation
Science and Space Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine the President's budget for the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA).

SR-253