

Ms. Harris lives in Summit, New Jersey. She is the mother of three adult children, eight grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

Madam Speaker, I would like to recognize my fellow social worker for all of her hard work and outstanding achievements.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to Petrucci E. Harris.

TRIBUTE TO OFFICER DOUG
BYRNE

HON. THOMAS G. TANCREDO

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 28, 2007

Mr. TANCREDO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a fallen policeman from Colorado, Doug Byrne.

Officer Byrne was killed earlier this week when he swerved to avoid a vehicle which stopped directly in front of him. At the time he was rushing to the aid of an individual in a life threatening medical emergency. He was just 37 years old.

Madam Speaker, Officer Byrne has a long and distinguished record of public service. Before becoming a police officer he was a member of the United States Marine Corps and a veteran of the first gulf war. Prior to working for the Aurora Police Department Doug Byrne was an officer for the Glendale Police Department for 6 years. He was awarded the Medal of Valor for rescuing several people from an apartment fire in 2003. After becoming an Aurora policeman, he was entrusted with the important task of training other officers.

Officer Byrne was a graduate of Gateway High School.

Madam Speaker, all Coloradans mourn the loss of such a good person and dedicated public servant. The loss of Officer Doug Byrne will be felt not only by those who knew and loved him, but the community as a whole.

RECOGNIZING TRENT HARRISON
FOR ACHIEVING THE RANK OF
EAGLE SCOUT

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 28, 2007

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Trent Harrison, 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 692, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Trent has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Trent 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 Trent Harrison 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 FIRE
SPRINKLER INCENTIVE ACT

HON. JAMES R. LANGEVIN

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 28, 2007

Mr. LANGEVIN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Fire Sprinkler Incentive Act, which will create expedited tax incentives for property owners to install automatic fire sprinkler systems.

Four years ago tragedy struck Rhode Island when a fire tore through the Station nightclub in West Warwick. That fire, which killed 100 people and injured 200 more, could have been prevented if fire sprinklers had been installed throughout the building. We all learned a very hard lesson on the importance of installing fire protection equipment—in our homes, our workplaces, our schools and recreational buildings. But with a renewed focus on installing fire sprinklers and other safety devices, we truly can prevent a tragedy like the one in West Warwick from ever occurring again.

The legislation I am introducing today will amend the Internal Revenue Code to provide an incentive to business owners for retrofitting existing buildings with life-saving sprinklers. Specifically, this legislation will reduce the tax depreciation time for retrofitting sprinklers in nonresidential real property from 39 years to only five.

Since January of this year 157 have died nationwide in fires where three or more people were killed, with over 50 percent of the fatalities being children. This is simply an unacceptable reality that could easily be changed with the installation of simple, lifesaving technology. The National Fire Protection Association has no record of a fire killing more than two people in a public assembly, educational, institutional or residential building with a complete and fully operational automatic fire sprinkler system.

Unfortunately, due to the high cost of installing these safety measures, property owners have faced tremendous financial burdens when considering the addition of sprinkler systems. Some states, including my home state of Rhode Island, have passed stricter fire codes requiring the installation of more sprinklers and alarms. While I applaud these efforts, the unfortunate reality is that many business owners simply cannot afford to comply. That is why my legislation is designed to provide a meaningful financial incentive for property owners, reducing any cost burdens they may incur, while significantly improving public safety throughout our country.

The need for enhanced fire safety incentives is certainly not new. In fact, similar legislation was introduced in both the 108th and 109th Congresses, where it garnered over 140 co-sponsors each time. Together, we can make a tremendous impact by providing a financial incentive to install sprinklers in every office, restaurant, and nightclub in the country. It is my strong hope that my colleagues will join me in supporting and quickly passing this important measure, before tragedy strikes another community.

U.S. TROOP READINESS, VET-
ERANS' HEALTH, AND IRAQ AC-
COUNTABILITY ACT, 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. ALBERT RUSSELL WYNN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 23, 2007

Mr. WYNN. Mr. Speaker, today, the House takes up the U.S. Troop Readiness, Veterans' Health, and Iraq Accountability Act, a bill that ensures that our troops are properly trained and equipped, that sets strong standards for accountability in Iraq, and that sets a date certain for the withdrawal of U.S. combat troops from Iraq.

Our servicemen and women have performed courageously in Iraq, and we are deeply grateful for their sacrifice and unflagging commitment. They have served our Nation admirably, despite inadequate planning and incompetent management by this administration. There is nothing more we could ask of them. They have risen to every challenge, and carried out their mission faithfully, in the highest traditions of military service.

This bill honors that service, by ensuring that our men and women in uniform are properly equipped, and properly trained, before they are deployed to combat duty. It sets strong readiness standards, to protect our troops by requiring that their deployment is consistent with Department of Defense guidelines for equipment and training, and that they are fully "mission-capable." It also ensures that they do not serve longer deployments than is the tradition of their service—while including provisions that grant flexibility in the case of a real national-security need.

The Bush administration has extended troop stays, brought back our troops for tour after tour, time and again. But the time for more tours, and more troops, and more war, is finished.

It is time to bring our troops home.

While I'd like to see our troops begin an immediate withdrawal from Iraq, concluding by the end of the year, I have become convinced that the bill before us is the best we can achieve. I commend Speaker PELOSI, for her hard work to build consensus in this House for a new direction in Iraq, and for her efforts to bring our troops home.

This bill is a historic step in the right direction in that it sets a date-certain for the withdrawal of troops. After four years of war in Iraq, it is evident that this conflict is not amenable to a military resolution. Rather, we must withdraw, and engage Iraq and its neighbors in the region in a diplomatic initiative, rather than a military conflict. I also believe we must give the Iraqi people an incentive to take responsibility for their own security, to disarm the militias and reduce sectarian violence. This bill gives them that incentive in no uncertain terms.

Under this bill Iraq, and the Bush administration, must begin to show real progress, and will be held accountable by this Congress for that progress. The bill requires the President to certify that the Iraqi government is meeting the political and military benchmarks he laid out in January, and hold the Iraqis accountable for making progress towards those benchmarks. The bill offered by this Democratic Congress requires the Iraqi government